Winter 2017–18

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- Juliette Finzi-Hart '96's virtual tour of the Santa Monica beach

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### THE LATEST

#### TAKE FIVE | DEC. 1

"How many followers would Julius Caesar or Pliny the Elder have on Instagram?"

> - Director and photographer Mike Mellia '02

#### LION'S DEN | NOV. 16

"These two [Thanksgiving] celebrations at opposite ends of the Black experience centered my identity and made me the cook I am today. The differences between them could be tasted in the macaroni and cheese."

- Food blogger Robyn Burgess '10, from "Rewriting the Rules of Mac and Cheese"

#### LIKE MINDS | NOV. 28

"I've never been able to compose on a keyboard of any kind. I still don't have email. I don't have a cellphone. I'm making a stand. I want to be a dinosaur."

- Author Paul Auster '69

## Message from the Dean

## The Importance of Student Wellness

ince I became dean in 2011, I have been hosting "Dine with Deantini" lunches — opportunities for groups of students to join me for lunchtime conversations about their lives, their intellectual pursuits and what they like best (and least) about Columbia College. At many of those gatherings, students have talked about the stresses of college life and what kinds of institutional support they need for their well-being.

This is not just a Columbia issue — and it is not new. As this issue's cover story explains, nearly a quarter of college students nationwide experience anxiety, and institutions of higher education have been grappling with how to better prioritize student health and wellness.

Columbia has been focusing attention on our wellness efforts for a long time and we have a strong system in place, including professional Residential Life staff and student RAs in all of our residence halls; academic, study abroad, fellowship, financial aid and student organization advisers; and access to University resources such as Columbia Health, and Counseling and Psychological Services. Even so, we continually strive to enhance and expand our support.

In fall 2016, the College created a director of student be wellness position, which focuses on the one job that the title clearly conveys. Last spring, we augmented gatekeeper training to help all College staff — including me — recognize and respond effectively when students are in distress. And each year we update our New Student Orientation Program to create more ways for students to find community as soon as they arrive on campus and to prepare them for satisfying and rewarding lives at Columbia.

In recent years, we have also expanded support --including creating a Deans' Student Assistance Fund for unanticipated personal expenses - for students who might face additional challenges. Columbia Dining is now open 24 hours and during all school breaks to ensure students have a friendly and comfortable place to go when they want to be with others. We provide subsidized travel to attend scholarship interviews and awards ceremonies, as well as funding for unpaid and low-paid internships and research opportunities. Since academic year 2016-17, we have been waiving our fees for students on financial aid who take laboratory, language, film, writing and visual arts courses to allow students to choose the courses that interest them most without regard to cost. We also offer graduation caps and gowns at no cost to students with the highest financial need,



and provide funding to make Senior Week more accessible to all students.

And during the past few months, we have been working intensely with The Jed Foundation, the nonprofit founded by Phillip Satow '63 and his wife, Donna Satow GS'65, and directed by John A. MacPhee '89, PH'12, to review, assess and enhance our campus wellness efforts. This past fall, members of our Mental Health Steering Group, which includes students, faculty and staff, spent a half-day with JED representatives and heard their evaluation of our selfassessment materials. JED found that we have many effective programs and policies, but identified several areas where they could help us to develop, expand or strengthen our efforts. We are working with JED to develop a strategic plan to accomplish that. I will keep you posted on our efforts.

Aentini James J. Valentini

James J. Valentini Dean

Dean James J. Valentini speaking at Low Rotunda in November.

## Letters to the Editor



VOLUME 45 NUMBER 2 WINTER 2017–18

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## A Lion-Hearted Escapade

While I was reading the article on the Big "C" in the Fall 2017 *CCT* ["Roar, Lion, Roar"], I was surprised to find my own name staring back at me from the page with the allegation that I had written an "outraged" letter in the 1980s deriding the repainting of the "C" as a "harebrained stunt."

I have no recollection of having written such a letter, but if I did I hereby



wish to retract it. This was clearly not a harebrained stunt but rather a Lion-hearted escapade, worthy of all praise and admiration. In this case, what was written in the 1980s stays in the 1980s.

Edward R. Green '79, SEAS'83 Brooklyn, N.Y.

#### Ah, Memories

After reading "Oh, Say Can You 'C'?" in the Fall 2017 issue, I find myself reflecting. During 1956–57, I was a 16-year-old, 115lb. freshman coxswain. As a part of my crew "initiation"— sitting on a narrow board — I was lowered to, and painted (simply using a bucket and brush), a long segment of the "C" equal to my arm span. One row was quite enough! My children, grandchildren and friends have been suitably impressed on seeing the site. Ah, memories ...

> **Michael L. Gelfand '60, PS'64** Niskayuna, N.Y.

Regarding the Big "C," I joined the freshman crew team in Fall 1957 and Spring 1958, and continued for the next two years (1958–59 and 1959–60). The "C" was complete when I started. I think some refurbishment painting occurred in 1960 or 1961. I did not participate in any painting, but the "C" was awesome from the time I started. It was visible from Baker Field, but it was just across the Harlem River from the boat dock and Columbia boathouse. I saw it every day as we launched our shells and as we came to dock every evening.

Also, a coda to the item about the closing of West 116th Street [in "Alumni News"]: Uniting the Columbia campus continued in 1962–63 with the "bridge" from the main campus to the Law School over Amsterdam Avenue between West 116th and 117th streets. Interestingly, the concrete for the supporting pillars did not meet specifications and jackhammers had to break the concrete out of the reinforcing rod so that the supporting pillars could

## Contact Us

CCT welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not CCT, the College or the University. Please keep letters to 250 words or fewer. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and CCT style. Please direct letters for publication "to the editor" via mail or online: college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus. be poured again. I worked in an office on the east side of Amsterdam between West 117th and 118th streets. I lived in an apartment on West 113th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam. It was a long, hot, dusty, noisy summer!

*CCT* staff: You do generate a lot of memories and a lot of thoughts!

Bernie Muench '61, SEAS'62, BUS'65 Beverly Hills, Mich.

I appreciated your excellent piece on the great story of West 116th Street ["Alumni News," Fall 2017]. I spent some time shortly after the street's closing as a guest at a private party where Mayor Robert Wagner Jr. was present. In my conversation with him I spoke words of appreciation for his role in the dramatic event. Wagner, a Yale alumnus, responded to me warmly by calling upon our respective school colors: "It was just a case of Dark Blue helping Light Blue." His wonderful explanation of his good deed has clung to me all my long life.

Henry F. Graff GSAS'49 Professor Emeritus of History New York City

#### A Bold Statement

Kudos on the latest [Fall 2017] issue of *CCT*; which is one of the best I've seen, in terms of graphic design. I especially liked the concept of focusing on one specific person for the cover, which is compelling (I think you should do that every time!). It is a simple concept, but people, after all, are what the alumni magazine is about,





An image from the project "Signs of Your Identity," by Daniella Zalcman '09.

and by showcasing one individual it makes a bold, strong statement. I think it is more effective than showing multiple people, or a photo of campus, or a picture of NYC or whatever — all of which are less personal.

*Time* magazine, of course, on a much grander scale, used this concept for decades and it was an effective way to make the entire country suddenly seem intimate through one face on the cover.

Adam Van Doren '84, GSAPP'89 New York City

#### Exposing Buried Pasts

When the past is toxic waste we must not bury it, but rather we must keep seeing it long enough to learn not to make more of it. I thank Daniella Zalcman '09 — and Rose Kernochan BC'82 and *CCT* — for unburying and examining the violently silenced stories of Canada's genocidal Indian residential schools ["Columbia Forum," Summer 2017].

As Zalcman's double exposures starkly, luminously mask survivors' faces with brick walls, broken glass and trembling leaves, the subjects' singly gazing eyes bespeak knowing and living beyond arrangements for death.

When it comes to unhealthily buried toxic history of this continent, there is so much yet to unearth and face. California's Gold Rush genocide of Indigenous peoples proceeded apace as Abraham Lincoln gave his second inaugural address — that most extraordinary presidential naming of the robbery and brutality foundational to American slavery and the very development of the nation. But in sharing his realization, in exposing this truth, Lincoln simultaneously, implicitly endorsed through his silence about the Indigenous blood flowing at his back — the ongoing American genocide of Indian peoples under his watch at that very moment.

This history has only begun to be uncovered and considered (helped greatly by the recent scholarship of Brian Lindsay, Andrés Reséndez and Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, to name a few), but it provides a welcome mirror to recognize our national depredations, both past and present, potentially motivating us to change our ways. By not turning away, not plugging our ears or stopping our noses to the horrors of Canada in the 20th century, California from the 1840s to 1870s, and after, and Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Palestine, Yemen and Puerto Rico today, settler and colonial and neocolonial imperialism need not remain our destiny. To choose a new way, we must fully see where we stand. As "Columbians," perhaps we have a special responsibility here: Our very namesake was a founder of genocide.

> Jonas LaMattery-Brownell '98 Oakland, Calif.

## RHAPSODY IN (COLUMBIA) BLUE

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The Lions rejoice after defeating Penn 34–31 at Homecoming 2017 on October 14.

MIKE MCLAUGHLIN / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS





BEN HIDER

## New Holder Initiative Tackles the "Quiet Prejudice of Inaction"



At top, Alondra Nelson, professor of sociology (far left), moderates "Living the Core and Advancing Justice," a discussion with (left to right) Ai-jen Poo '96, executive director of the Domestic Workers Alliance; Danielle Allen, director of Harvard's Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics; former U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, LAW'76; and Bernard E. Harcourt, the Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law and professor of political science. n November 17, Columbia College announced the Eric H. Holder Initiative for Civil and Political Rights. Named for former U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, LAW'76, the Holder Initiative will carve out a distinctive experience for undergraduate students through a focus on historical, contemporary and future visions of justice. An anonymous donation of \$10 million has put the initiative halfway toward its \$20 million goal of becoming an institute.

"From the moment Eric and I discussed this idea two years ago, we knew that the initiative would build on the foundation of our Core course Contemporary Civilization, in which students engage with fundamental issues of justice, of citizenship, and of rights and responsibilities," Dean James J. Valentini said, speaking at an event at Low Library celebrating the launch of the initiative. "Today marks the culmination of our combined commitment to provide College students opportunities to turn their intellectual learning into action that will advance civil and political rights for all citizens."

The initiative will sponsor courses, public events, student internships and fellowships that extend the Core Curriculum's themes and questions regarding justice and civil and political rights. Discouraging retreat into what Holder calls "the quiet prejudice of inaction," the initiative will encourage students to "live the Core" by supporting their civic action on and beyond campus.

Initial support for the initiative came in part from a three-year grant from the Ford Foundation, whose mission is to seek to reduce poverty and injustice, strengthen democratic values, promote international cooperation and advance human achievement.

"Columbia College generated in me a real desire to explore the underlying truths to the human rights issues that have confronted our nation for so many years," said Holder, the third longest-serving U.S. attorney general and the first African-American to hold the office. "It is my hope that the initiative will be a means by which — through research, dialogue and practical experience — these issues can be understood and, most importantly, real progress made. I am especially excited that students will be an integral part of the effort and will carry the work of the initiative forward for years to come." A former University trustee, Holder is also a 1996 recipient of a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement and the 2015 recipient of the Alexander Hamilton Medal.

Among its first works, the initiative will sponsor The American Voter Project, a sixpart series that will explore the state of voting in the United States today. It also will offer a new capstone course during the Spring 2018 semester, "Power, Rights, and Social Change: Advancing Justice," which will bridge the Core and contemporary issues of social justice. And it will offer undergraduates access to a summer internship program, which provides financial support for work in civic and community engagement projects at Columbia and other educational institutions, and with NGOs, businesses and community groups.

"Columbia College generated in me a real desire to explore the underlying truths to the human rights issues that have confronted our nation for so many years." – Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, LAW'76

Bernard E. Harcourt, the Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law, professor of political science and director of the Columbia Center for Contemporary Critical Thought, will be the initiative's executive director. At the launch, along with Holder, Harcourt participated in the panel "Living the Core and Advancing Justice." The conversation was moderated by Alondra Nelson, professor of sociology and president of the Social Science Research Council, and also featured Mac-Arthur "genius" grant recipients Ai-jen Poo '96, executive director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance, and Danielle Allen, the James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard and director of Harvard's Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics.

To learn more about the initiative, go to holder.college.columbia.edu.

## Damon Rich '97 Named 2017 MacArthur "Genius"

When designer and urban planner Damon Rich '97 received the call from the John D. and Catherine T. Mac-Arthur Foundation telling him he'd been awarded one of this year's 24 fellowships, he didn't pick up the phone.

"These days, you don't really answer strange numbers," he says with a laugh. "The number kept coming so eventually I picked up, and it started like all those calls you wish you hadn't picked up: *'Congratulations*!" Weeks later, Rich says receiving the award still feels "pretty unreal."



The MacArthur fellowships, also known as "genius grants," award each

recipient \$625,000, paid quarterly over five years, as "seed money for intellectual, social and artistic endeavors." The foundation lauded Rich's "vivid and witty strategies to design and build places that are more democratic and accountable to their residents." The award has no reporting requirements and no applications; because nominations are made to the foundation confidentially, Rich does not know who suggested him. "[I] have to treat everyone as though they are my guardian angel," he says.

Rich is a co-founder and partner at Hector, an urban design, planning and civic arts studio in Newark, N.J., and is also an adjunct associate professor at the Architecture School. "In architecture [the fellowship] has always been a huge deal," he says. "When I was in school, Liz Diller and Rick Scofidio [of the firm Diller Scofidio + Renfro] were recipients, and the message was: 'You can see that architecture is important because they got this award."

After working in the public sector as chief urban designer and director of planning for the city of Newark from 2008 to 2015, Rich has found that Hector's work in the private sector can have its difficulties. "Having the ability to put together complex clients and coalitions that actually produce the most beautiful and interesting work is a little more challenging," he says. "So the foundation support is a dose of freedom as we try to figure out how to make those coalitions work. They are critical to the kinds of success that we and the people we work with want to see."

## New Stephen Donaldson Lounge Opens

**On September 27**, more than 100 students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered in Schapiro Hall to celebrate the opening of a new lounge for LGBTQ students and to commemorate the anniversary of the dedication of the original Stephen Donaldson Lounge in Furnald Hall. Both the original and the new spaces are named in honor of "Stephen Donaldson," the alias of Robert Martin '69, who founded Columbia's then-named Student Homophile League in 1966. In 1971, students began unofficially meeting in the Furnald basement and, in 1972, the group lobbied for and was granted a permanent meeting space, making it the first LGBTQ student lounge on a college campus. In 1996, the Furnald space was renamed the Stephen Donaldson Lounge. School of General Studies Dean Peter Awn, who was present at the 1996 naming of the original lounge, joined students in cutting the ribbon at the new space.

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# the Essentials Zoë Crossland

As a mid-term study break on Halloween, Associate Professor of Anthropology Zoë Crossland took some of her students to see *Night* of the Living Dead at a Washington Heights theater — a cheeky outing for a class called "Corpse Life." The popular undergraduate course (there's a waiting list!) takes on the history of death and the practices around human remains, one of Crossland's specializations. As a historical archaeologist, her focus has been on Madagascar and the 19th-century relationships between the island's highland natives and Welsh missionaries. On an unseasonably chilly November day, Crossland spoke with *CCT* about the rituals around dying, the mountains of Madagascar and the excitement of excavation.

**CROSSLAND IS FROM** the Cotswolds in England, near Bath. In the United Kingdom, students make a decision about their major while applying for college; Crossland enjoyed studying history but thought archaeology would allow her to be outdoors more. Before starting university at Cambridge in 1990, she spent a year volunteering on digs and traveled to Peru. She loved the work. "Archaeology is an incredibly expansive discipline," she says. "It's impossible to reach the limit of what you can do."

AS A GRADUATE STUDENT at the University of Michigan, Crossland planned to return to South America to do fieldwork, but after taking a class with renowned archaeology professor Henry T. Wright, she volunteered to work with him in Madagascar. As she says, "That was it." She surveyed with Malagasy archaeologists and students, looking for traces of fortifications and remains from earlier civilizations. Crossland earned an M.A. in 1995 and a Ph.D. in 2001, both from Michigan.

HER PARTNER, BRIAN BOYD, also works at the College, as the director of museum anthropology. After they met at an archaeology conference, Crossland went to Wales, where Boyd was teaching, to work on her dissertation. She soon realized she was living a village away from where the first missionaries to highland Madagascar had been raised and trained. "In the 19th century, these four missionaries established the Protestant church in Madagascar, and they were incredibly influential," she says. Crossland applied for a post-doc fellowship at Cambridge to further study the relationships between the missionaries and the Malagasy, and in 2014 she wrote the book *Ancestral Encounters in Highland Madagascar: Material Signs and Traces of the Dead*.

IN 2006, A FRIEND from Michigan who was teaching at Barnard let Crossland know there was a visiting professorship open at the College. She applied and got the job, leaving the Welsh countryside for the city. "When you walk out of the archaeology department in Wales, you see hills and sheep," she says. "I wondered how we would manage in New York! But we got here and we just loved it." She became an assistant professor the following year.

"CORPSE LIFE: Anthropological Histories of the Dead" is Crossland's largest undergraduate class. The theme is how people in other times and places approach death through practical activities and mortuary ritual. "We examine archaeological evidence of sacrifice, relics and mummies, drawing on anthropological literature," she says.

FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY and the treatment of skeletons as forensic evidence is a subject Crossland became interested in as an undergraduate. "I went to Argentina to volunteer on an excavation; the student who met me at the airport was working in Buenos Aires exhuming remains



JILL SHOMER

of people who were 'disappeared' during the Dirty War in the '70s," she says. The student brought Crossland to the grave site to see the work in progress. "Seeing something like that is pretty forceful," she says. Crossland is working on a new book, *The Speaking Corpse*, which explores the establishment of the forensic corpse and the ways in which bodies are portrayed in situations of dissection or autopsy.

IN SPRING 2017, Crossland taught the class "Science and Art in Archaeological Illustration (AI)." She got a grant from Columbia's Center for Science & Society to hire an artist friend, Tracy Molis SOA'11, to teach with her. "I wanted to train the students in techniques of AI, but I also wanted them to think more broadly about the work of representation and how certain conventions became sedimented in practice," Crossland says.

"ONE OF THE THINGS I wanted the students to explore in the illustration class was, 'Why, when we describe our archaeological results, do we rely on text? Why not more imagery?" she says. [View the students' artwork at scienceartarchaeology.wordpress. com.] "Some of the excitement evaporates when a found object gets described in a dry, clinical way," Crossland adds. "And it's incredible, when you scrape back the dirt and realize you're the first person to see this thing since somebody dropped it hundreds or thousands of years previously."

— Jill C. Shomer



## In Memoriam



University Professor **Ronald C.D. Breslow,** a trailblazing chemist who led the creation of the field of biomimetic chemistry and developed the cancer drug Zolinza, died on October 25, 2017. He was 86. Breslow was a Columbia College instructor for more than 60 years and was instrumental in the College's move to coeducation. Born on March 14, 1931, Breslow grew up in Rahway, N.J., and earned an A.B. in chemistry,

an A.M. in biochemistry and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry, all from Harvard. He did his doctoral research with renowned chemist R.B. Woodward and spent a postdoctoral year in Cambridge, England, as a National Research Council Fellow with Nobel Prize-winning chemist Lord Alexander Robertus Todd before coming to Columbia in 1956. Breslow became the Samuel Latham Mitchill Professor of Chemistry and chaired the Department of Chemistry 1976–79. In 1992, he was named University Professor, the University's highest academic honor, granted in recognition of exceptional scholarly merit and contributions to Columbia. Breslow was the 1969 recipient of the Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching, a 1980 recipient of a Great Teacher Award, a 2016 recipient of an Alexander Hamilton Medal and the 2016 recipient of the Michael Pupin Medal for Service to the Nation in Science, Technology or Engineering. A memorial service was held in NYC in October.

Read more about Breslow: college.columbia.edu/alumni/content/ ronald-breslow.

.....



## Danielle Haase-Dubosc

BC'59, GSAS'69, executive director of Reid Hall, now the Columbia Global Center | Paris, 1990–2017, and director, 1976–90, died in Paris on November 12, 2017. Haase-Dubosc was also associate provost of the University 1987–2010. Born in Paris on April 19, 1939, Haase-Dubosc earned a doctorate in 17th-century comparative literature from GSAS. As an assistant pro-

fessor of French and Romance philology at Barnard, she was asked in 1975 to manage Columbia programs at Reid Hall. At the time, the 18th-century Paris building, left to Columbia in 1964, had not been well integrated into the Columbia curriculum and its sale was actively envisaged. Haase-Dubosc set up programs of study in a wide range of subjects. A believer in cultural immersion, she had her students admitted to Paris university courses and eased transitions with special mentoring. The success of these programs spared Reid Hall from sale and enriched generations of Columbia students intellectually and culturally. Haase-Dubosc, who was bilingual and held joint citizenship, dealt adroitly with both French and American academia. She maintained an active scholarly life as well, publishing and speaking on literary and gender subjects. She is survived by her husband, Dominique Dubosc; brother, Gerald Haase-Dubosc; children, Oliver Gloag and Vanessa Delvaux; stepdaughters, Sophie Dubosc and Anna Dubosc; and three grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Reid Hall in December. A service will be held on Columbia's campus at a date to be announced.

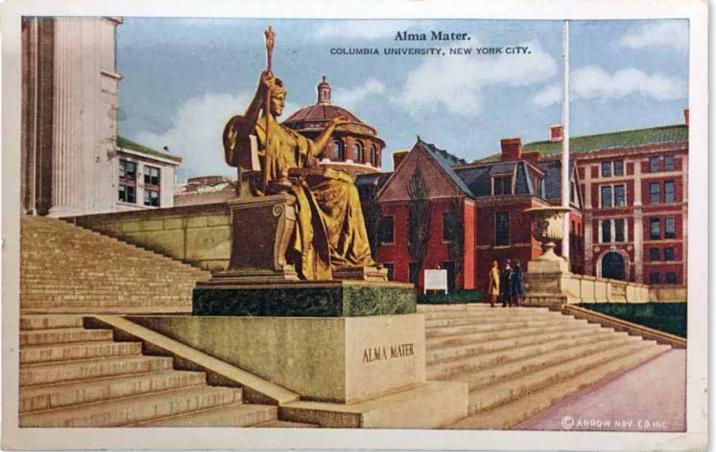
Read more about Haase-Dubosc: french.columbia.edu/content/ danielle-haase-dubosc-1939-2017.



Peter V. Johnson, who worked at Columbia for more than 35 years and most recently was director of enrollment group special projects and special assistant to the dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid for Columbia College and Columbia Engineering, died on November 6, 2017. Johnson's career in higher education began in 1971 at his alma mater, Earlham College, where he worked

with the Upward Bound program. He was at Hampshire College for a decade, serving in Residential Life before beginning his career in college admissions. He came to Columbia in 1982 to be assistant dean of student affairs for the College; through seven years in that role, he established his reputation as an educational leader and mentor. Service to others was the hallmark of his 27 years in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, especially in his commitment to lifting up under-resourced and under-represented students. In 2016, Johnson received the Black Alumni Council Heritage Award, which honors individuals who have made considerable contributions to the community and to their respective fields. Johnson was a fervent supporter of the Lions for many years. As an athletics liaison, he worked closely with coaches, supported prospective athletes through the admissions process and was Columbia's representative to the Ivy League. Johnson is survived by his wife, Jo, and daughters, Zenzele Johnson and Joya Powell '01. A memorial service was held on campus in December.

Read more about Johnson: college.columbia.edu/news/columbia-collegemourns-loss-peter-v-johnson.



## Did*You*Know? Alma Mater Used To Be Gold

*Alma Mater* has watched over campus from her perch on Low Steps for more than 100 years. Created by sculptor Daniel Chester French, she was a gift to Columbia from Harriette Goelet, the widow of Robert Goelet (Class of 1860). But *Alma Mater* looks different today than she did upon her installation in 1903, when the four-ton sculpture arrived with gold layered over her bronze. The exterior chipped off over the years, leaving behind the patina we see today. In 1962, *Alma* was briefly painted a gleaming bronze, but the color was so unpopular it was removed just four weeks later.



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# Kenny Ridwan'21

By Nathalie Alonso '08

n the fifth grade, cast as Belle's father in his elementary school's production of *Beauty and the Beast*, **Kenny Ridwan '21** first became smitten by the stage. Within two years of that performance, he had found an agent to represent him and moved with his family from the Seattle area to Los Angeles to pursue acting professionally.

"That process of learning my lines and then performing them on stage made me fall in love with acting," he recalls.

Ridwan's first gigs were commercials — he has appeared in ads for Nintendo, AT&T and Exxon — but he soon made his way into sitcoms. His biggest role to date has been on *The Goldbergs*, an ABC show set in the 1980s that follows the daily lives of the title family through the eyes of its young son (the show also features George Segal '55). Ridwan has played the main character's best friend, David Kim, since 2014 — he's appeared in more than 40 episodes — and considers it his favorite role to date because of the extent to which he's been able to develop it.

"With more episodes, your character gets more fleshed out and you're able to add more of the backstory," says Ridwan, who also had a recurring supporting role as an amateur musician on Nickelodeon's *The Thundermans*, a sitcom about a family of superheroes attempting to lead normal lives in a fictional town.

The third of five children and the only member of his family in show business, Ridwan has put auditioning on hold as he adjusts to life at the College; however, he travels to L.A. once every three or four weeks to film new episodes of *The Goldbergs*. He plans to use his time at Columbia to explore other interests he's pondering a major in political science — but sees himself eventually returning to L.A. to continue his career in the entertainment industry.

Ridwan, who also has appeared on *The McCarthys, Modern Family, Bones, House of* 



DENVER BLEVINS '21

*Lies* and other shows, is open to directing or producing but would ideally prefer to remain in front

of the cameras. "There's something really special about making someone laugh or

### **CCT** Print Extras

To view Ridwan's demo reel, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.

inducing any kind of emotion in anybody," he says. "That's what's kept me acting."

Nathalie Alonso '08, from Queens, is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer for LasMayores.com, Major League Baseball's official Spanish language website.

## CCAA Launches Alumni Mentoring Program

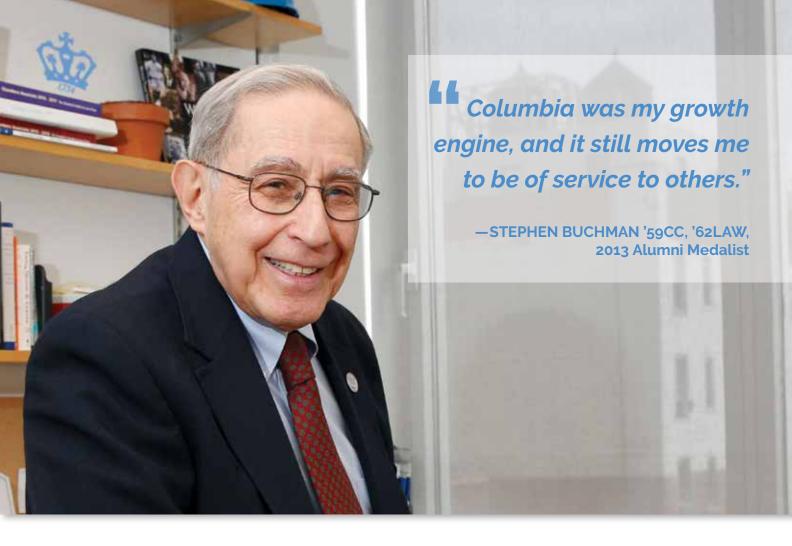
The Columbia College Alumni Association has launched the Odyssey Mentoring Program, which offers students and alumni an easy way to connect for career guidance, life advice, networking and more.

Given the College's network of more than 50,000 alumni worldwide, Odyssey — the name is a nod to the Lit Hum anchor text, in which the goddess Athena disguises herself as the character Mentor in order to advise Odysseus' son — aims to engage alumni mentors across all industries, backgrounds, perspectives and locations. "I believe that our alumni are one of the greatest resources that Columbia College has. I want students to be able to learn from their extraordinary and diverse experiences," says Dean James J. Valentini.

Odyssey is flexible; participants can engage in long-term mentoring relationships or short and informal connections. To start, students and alumni create a profile on the Odyssey website; Odyssey then recommends connections based on profile similarities, though members also can search for mentoring matches based on their interests, region, major, gender, profession and student activities.

Odyssey is powered by the mentees, who choose whom to message or request mentorship from. Young alumni have the option of being both mentees and mentors, and all alumni can use the community to expand their professional networks.

As a complement to the online community, events will be held throughout the school year to connect alumni and students in person. Since the program launched in September, more than 1,200 people have created profiles but students outnumber alumni by two to one. More alumni volunteers are urgently needed; to sign up, go to odyssey.college.columbia.edu.



## Gifts to Columbia College. Income for life.

When Steve Buchman recalls the major pivot points in his life, attending Columbia College and joining the fencing team top the list. His giving reflects that. In addition to annual gifts and a gift in his will supporting Columbia College, Steve has established several tax-advantaged **charitable gift annuities** that will pay him income for life and then support the Buchman Family Scholarship at Columbia College and Columbia Athletics.

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CORE TO COMMENCEMENT Columbia College

# ROAR, LION, ROAR

# Football's Remarkable Reversal: Lions Go 8–2, Finish Second in Ivies

1 Bagnoli came to Columbia in February 2015 vowing to "make football fun again" and create "a cultural change." After three seasons, the veteran coach is well on his way. The Lions, just 3–7 overall and 2–5 in the Ivy League a year ago, enjoyed their best season in more than two decades by compiling an 8–2 record and a 5–2 mark in Ivy play, matching the record of the 1996 team and earning Ivy Coach of the Year honors for Bagnoli. Columbia tied with Dartmouth for second place in the league, one game behind Yale, after posting only its fifth winning record since the league was formed in 1956.

The joyous throng of players, students, alumni and fans who frolicked on the field following Columbia's dramatic 34–31 overtime win over Penn at Homecoming on October 14 is evidence that there's fun to be found on autumn Saturdays at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium. As for reversing the culture of losing that had vexed so many of Bagnoli's predecessors, team co-captain and defensive back Landon Baty '18 says, "For so long, [football] has been a blemish on Columbia University. But now, it's something to take pride in."

Columbia football has undergone an epic transformation in the four years Baty and his classmates have been on Morningside Heights. The Lions were 0–10 in Baty's freshman year, part of a losing streak that lasted 22 games, and were outscored by a whopping 389–103.

Enter Bagnoli, with a commitment for a fundamental change in the program from President Lee C. Bollinger and the University's Board of Trustees. The budget was increased and more convenient housing was made available for the football staff. A year-round prac-



Anders Hill '18 led football's renaissance, setting a Columbia season record for passing accuracy.

tice facility was created by erecting a bubble over the soccer field, complementing the training and learning facilities at The Campbell Sports Center. Steps also were taken to integrate the football program with the Morningside community; several Friday walk-throughs were held on South Field and free bus service was provided from campus not only to home games but also to several road contests.

Despite all that, no one expected the Lions to start the 2017 season by reeling off six consecutive victories. The highlight was the Homecoming game against Penn before a crowd of 13,081, the largest for a Lions home game since 2003. Columbia trailed 21–7 in the fourth quarter, then scored three touchdowns to take the lead, only to have Penn come back and score with 1:21 to play, forcing overtime. Columbia's defense held Penn to a field goal, then Anders Hill '18 completed a pass to Josh Wainwright '20 for a 24-yard touchdown — and the win.

There were several other dramatic finishes. Hosting Wagner in the season opener, Columbia blocked a late field goal attempt and drove 54 yards to set up Oren Milstein '20's 29-yard field goal as

time expired for a 17–14 win. Against Princeton, Ronald Smith II '20 caught a short pass from Hill and raced 63 yards for a touchdown with 1:12 to play for a 28–24 victory. At Dartmouth, Colum-



bia built a 15-point lead and then held off a late Dartmouth comeback, with Mike Hinton '19 coming up with a sack on the final play of the game to secure a 22–17 win.

Columbia's seven-game winning streak, including a win at Brown in the final game of 2016, was its longest since 1935. But it came to an end with a 23–6 loss at Yale, and the following week the Lions dropped a 21–14 heartbreaker to Harvard in a game in which Columbia drove deep into Crimson territory six times, but failed to turn the opportunities into points. The Lions bounced back with an 18–8 win over Cornell and completed their successful season with a 24–6 triumph over Brown. Afterward, Bagnoli singled out the team's 31 seniors for special praise: "The seniors have been awesome. This is a fitting way for them to leave the field, with eight victories under their belt, playing meaningful games and coming up big when they had to. I'm very proud of them."

"We came a long, long way," said defensive back Cameron Roane '18. "The reason I came here was to turn this program around, change the culture, and we definitely did that. You always want to leave the program in good hands so the young guys can pick up where we left off. I hope we taught them well and they can continue moving forward." Wainwright set a school record for receiving yards in a season with 1,001, topping the previous mark held by Don Lewis '84 (1,000 in 1982). Hill set a school record for season completion percentage (63.4 percent), completing 206 of 325 passes for 2,407 yards and 16 touchdowns, and punter Parker Thome '18 led the Ivy League with a 42.9-yard average and placed 23 inside the 20-yard line.

A school-record 12 players received All-Ivy honors. Wainwright, Roane, Thome and defensive lineman Lord Hyeamang '18 were named to the first team; Baty, Hill and offensive lineman Bewley Wales '18 were chosen to the second team; and honorable mention went to Smith, offensive lineman Markham Paukune '18, defensive lineman Dominic Perkovic '18, linebacker Michael Murphy '20 and kick returner Will Allen '21.

As for Bagnoli, he said after the Brown game that he would savor the season for 24 hours and then get back to recruiting and planning for 2018. "The trick — and hard part — once you've established a good program is to keep it," he said. "That to me is going to be our true barometer." — Alex Sachare '71

## Women's Cross-Country Wins Ivy Heps Title

**Columbia's women's cross country team** took the crown in the Ivy League Heptagonal Championships on October 27 in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. It was Columbia's first women's team title since 2005 and the first time that a team vaulted from last place to first in the league in the course of one year. The Lions earned their first berth in the NCAA Championships since 2005 and finished 28th of 31 teams to qualify.

"It's a tribute to what the girls have done," said Coach Daniel Ireland, who was chosen the Ivy League women's Coach of the Year. "We sat

in the tent a year ago at

Princeton after we didn't

run well, and we were

really disappointed. I told

them right then, 'If we're

going to do better next

Nell Crosby '18 led the

way in the six-kilometer

race for the Lions, finish-

ing fourth. After that it was a team effort as run-

ners Erin Melly'18, Fiona

Danieu'20, Erin Gregoire

'19, Bianca Alonzo '20

year, it starts now."



Women's cross country earned its first Ivy Heps title in more than a decade.

and Sarah Hardie '18 crossed the finish line 14th through 18th. Crosby was named to the All-Ivy first team and Melly to the second team.

On the men's side, Ryan Thomas '18 won the individual championship as the Lions finished second behind Princeton in the team competition. Thomas completed the five-mile race in 24:57, 1.7 seconds ahead of Noah Kauppila of Princeton, the first of three Tigers who finished second through fourth. Thomas was named to the All-Ivy first team along with Kenny Vasbinder '20, who finished fifth, and Brian Zabilski '19, who came in seventh. Lucky Schreiner '19 crossed the line in eighth place to earn All-Ivy second team honors.



Second-team All-American Arthur Bosua '18 celebrates one of his career-high four goals against Harvard on November 5.

## Soccer Enjoys Strong Men's, Women's Seasons

Second place finishes in the Ivy League highlighted strong 2017 seasons for both Columbia's men's and women's soccer teams. The men's team won 12 games overall and earned a berth in the NCAA championships, with Arthur Bosua '18 repeating as Ivy Offensive Player of the Year, while the women's team garnered a programrecord eight All-Ivy honors with Natalie Ambrose '18 being named Ivy Defensive Player of the Year.

Both teams excelled at the defensive end of the pitch, with the women allowing just one goal and the men two goals in seven Ivy League matches. But those goals, plus a tie by each team, were enough to keep them from wearing Ivy crowns.

The men finished at 12–3–3 overall and 5–1–1 in the Ivies, with an outstanding 21–2 goal differential against league opponents. But after a scoreless tie at Princeton, the Lions allowed both those goals in a 2–1 road loss against league champion Dartmouth and ended up a half-game behind the Big Green. They received an atlarge berth to the NCAA tournament, where they beat William & Mary 2–1 in double overtime on November 16 before losing 1–0 at Wake Forest three days later.

The team was led by Bosua and goalkeeper Dylan Castanheira '19. Bosua topped the Ivies with 12 goals and 29 points, while Castanheira posted 11 shutouts and compiled a goals-against average of 0.43, thirdbest in the nation. Bosua and Castanheira were joined on the All-Ivy first team by defender Alex Bangerl '18, midfielder/forward John Denis '20 and midfielder Vana Markarian '20, while defender Blake Willis '21 was a second team choice and midfielder Danny Laranetto '20 received honorable mention.

The women compiled a 9–5–2 overall record and 5–1–1 league mark. They lost to Yale 1–0 on October 28, and a scoreless tie against Harvard the following week left the Lions a half-game behind Princeton.

Ambrose, the first player in school history to garner Ivy Defensive Player of the Year honors, was joined on the All-Ivy first team by midfielder Natalie Neshat '18, Columbia's leading scorer with nine goals. Second-team honors went to forwards Emma Anderson '19 and Amaris Hemmings '19, defender Amalya Johnson '20 and goalkeeper Sophie Whitehouse '19. Forward Emily Koe '20 and defender Reilly Lucas '19 received honorable mention.

### ROAR, LION, ROAR

# That Championship Season

## Fifty years ago, the Lions were kings of Ivy basketball

By Alex Sachare '71

n a country that was becoming increasingly divided by a war on the far side of the globe, on a campus that would soon erupt in unprecedented chaos, one group brought the Columbia community together in early 1968: the Lions basketball team, which won the Ivy League championship for the first time in school history by beating Princeton in a one-game playoff.

"The spring of 1968 was a dramatic time in our country," recalls Jonathan D. Schiller '69, LAW'73, a reserve forward who played regularly on that team and who is now a prominent attorney and chair of Columbia's Board of Trustees. "In our race to the championship, everyone tried to attend our games regardless of politics or degree of activism. It was a thrill to have everybody's support. It was fast becoming a very difficult time on campus, but it was great to have this unity in a dysfunctional time."

Since the Ivy League began men's basket-

ball competition in 1956-57, the 1967-68

team holds the distinction of having won

Columbia's only men's basketball Ivy League

championship. It's something that the members of the team don't necessarily dwell on, but

"I try not to let it be one of the high points

of my life, because you don't want to be one

of those ex-athletes who is living in the past.

And yet, it is something I'm very proud of,"

in which they nonetheless take great pride.

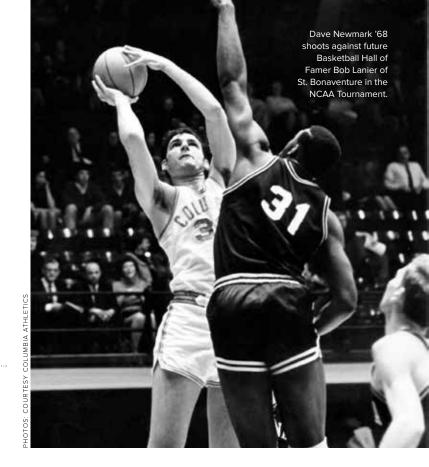


Coach Jack Rohan '53

says Larry Borger'68, the team's 6-foot-6-inch captain and sixth man, who had careers as an educator and corporate trainer before retiring in 2003 from a Phoenix utility company. "Every now and then I'll bump into someone who asks me if I played basketball, and if I find out they played collegiately,

I'll weave in a little braggadocio about our championship."

"You don't really reflect on what happened until years later," says Roger Walaszek'69, LAW'73, a starting forward on that team who



became an attorney in western Massachusetts. "It was a tremendous year."

The star of the Lions was Jim McMillian '70, a 6-foot-5-inch forward who went on to play nine NBA seasons and won a championship with the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers. He led the Columbia team with 22.3 ppg and earned the first of three consecutive All-Ivy first team honors. Walaszek recalls McMillian as "an incredibly talented athlete, a great shooter and team player with great basketball instincts." Borger agrees, "A great team player, on and off the court - we all liked him."

Joining McMillian on the All-Ivy first team (and several All-America teams as well) was 7-foot center Dave Newmark '68, a presence in the pivot with a feathery jump shot. Walaszek earned All-Ivy second team honors as did Heyward Dotson '70, LAW'76, a solid all-around guard who would win a Rhodes Scholarship. Rounding out the starting five was point guard Billy Ames '68, who was backed up at the playmaker spot by Bruce Metz SEAS'69. Columbia was coached by Jack Rohan'53, a fine tactician who is the school's all-time leader with 198 wins in two stints as head coach, 1961-74 and 1990-95.

Columbia at the time played its home games in University Hall, now known as the Blue Gym, a band box with a seating capacity of 1,754 (the year Columbia was founded, presumably no coincidence). Its eccentricities included two huge tiled pillars at courtside between the teams' benches and an overhead running track that often was used by fans for standing room. By midseason every game was sold out, with students often lining up for hours to get tickets. The band was a boisterous presence at every game, and their songs and the fans' cheers reverberated in the confined quarters, providing the Lions with a solid home-court advantage - Columbia's home record was a perfect 12-0.

"I can't say enough about the tremendous support we received," says Walaszek. "People were caught up with the team the entire year - not just sports fans but also other students, faculty, the entire academic community."

After cruising past their first four opponents, the Lions suffered successive losses to Cornell, Georgetown and Fordham and went into the Holiday Festival at Madison Square Garden — then the premier midseason tournament in the country — with a 4–3 record. Columbia, just 11–14 the previous season, had a revamped lineup built around two sophomores, McMillian and Dotson, who were playing their first season of varsity ball (freshmen were ineligible at the time), and Newmark, who was returning after a year's leave of absence for health reasons.

"We were a very young team and it took us a little while to gel," says Walaszek. "That tournament brought us together as a team. That was the turning point. We went from nowhere to a place in the top 10 national rankings."

The Lions did so by beating national powers West Virginia 98–71, Louisville 74–67 and St. John's 60–55 in a span of five days between Christmas and New Year's. The victory over Louisville was particularly impressive, as the Cardinals featured All-Americans Wes Unseld and Butch Beard and were expected to contend for the national championship.

"That was an unbelievable experience," says Schiller. "After we beat nationally ranked Louisville, we rode the IRT back to campus with the band and they played 'Who Owns New York?' the whole way. It was the greatest subway ride in history."

The Lions returned to Ivy League play on January 5 with a 100–72 thumping of Yale and did not lose again until the season finale on March 2, a 68–57 defeat at Princeton that left the Lions and Tigers tied atop the Ivy League with 12–2 records. That forced a one-game playoff for the Ivy title and a berth in the NCAA tournament. The game was to be played on March 5 at a neutral site, and to the delight of Columbia supporters, the site chosen by the Ivy League was St. John's University Alumni Hall in Queens, N.Y.

"The Columbia fans got there hours before the game and were a great help in motivating us," says Walaszek. "It was pretty incredible. It was just like a home game." Indeed, the game story in *Spectator* noted that the attendance was a capacity 6,005, "most of them Columbia partisans."



The Columbia Lions were ranked in the AP's top 10 for 10 consecutive weeks during the 1967–68 season. They peaked at Number 6 for three weeks during February 13–27 and finished the season ranked Number 7.

Newmark, who had missed the final four games of the season with a severely sprained ankle and was considered doubtful for the playoff, managed to play and scored the first basket of the game on a drive to the hoop that sparked Columbia to a quick early lead. The Lions never looked back, taking a 41–33 margin into halftime and extending it to double digits by outscoring Princeton 13–7 to start the second half en route to a 92–74 victory. McMillian was at his best, leading all scorers with 37 points. Walaszek added 20 and Dotson contributed 19 plus outstanding defense against Princeton's star guard, Geoff Petrie.

"After we beat nationally ranked Louisville, we rode the IRT back to campus with the band and they played 'Who Owns New York?' the whole way. It was the greatest subway ride in history."

- Jonathan D. Schiller '69, LAW'73

When the team bus got back to campus, says Borger, "I remember there being a whole bunch of people out there celebrating. They celebrated long into the night."

Columbia went on to defeat LaSalle 83–69 in the first round of the NCAA tournament before suffering a 61–59 overtime loss to Davidson on March 15 at Raleigh, N.C., in what was then the round of 16. They finished the season with a 23–5 record after beating St. Bonaventure and their All-American center, Bob Lanier, 95–75 in the consolation game.

Rohan's contributions in shaping the team's success cannot be overstated. The Lions' played an aggressive pressing defense and an offense that stressed ball movement and teamwork to produce open shots. "Basketball is designed to be played by five people who play together and work hard to get the best shot, and that's the way we played under Jack Rohan," says Walaszek. "He was a taskmaster, but that's why he was a great coach, the NCAA Coach of the Year. Execution was his strength and that's what he drilled in us."

Schiller, who describes that squad as "a very intelligent team," recalls how Rohan had the 1968–69 team, which was headed to Hawaii to play in the Rainbow Classic, stop in Los Angeles to attend a UCLA practice under legendary coach John Wooden. "He modeled our press on the UCLA press and he wanted us to have that experience of seeing firsthand how Coach Wooden taught discipline and movement to his team."

Rohan died in 2004 and McMillian in 2016. The Athletics Department is planning a reunion for the team — the first to be inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame, in 2006 — to be held the weekend of February 2–3.

Former CCT editor-in-chief Alex Sachare '71 sat in the front row at St. John's and cheered throughout the Lions' playoff victory over Princeton.



risten Scully Kromm, dean of undergraduate student life, has worked at Columbia for 18 years first for Barnard, and now at the College. Since 2006 she has lived with her husband and family (two children and a rescue pup) in an apartment on the ninth floor of Wallach Hall. This means she also lives alongside approximately 240 under- and upperclassmen. Her presence has a certain warmth; she hosts dinners and study breaks and, every October, goes door to door with gift bags: tea for a cold day, a granola bar for a healthful snack.

On the day I visited Kromm's office in Lerner Hall, in early September, she and Matthew Patashnick, assistant dean for student and family support, were recovering from the rigors of Orientation the prior week. Helping close to 1,100 first-years adjust to life at the College — along with helping families adjust to a life that doesn't involve seeing their teenagers every day — is no mean feat. An abridged list of student activities includes meetings with residence hall and Orientation group leaders; group trips to Bed, Bath & Beyond; a campus resource fair; the first Lit Hum lecture; financial aid 101; lessons in library use; a cross-borough tour to Brooklyn; a Yankees-Red Sox game.

Of all the moving parts of Orientation, what the pair is most concerned with is perhaps the least visible: how students are faring in mindset and mood. The transition from high school to college can be fraught, rife with opportunity for expectations to clash with reality, and students can

be sent reeling. "The message that we made clear throughout was 'Ask for help when you need it," Kromm says. "It is OK to not have everything the way that you wanted it or thought it would be all of the time."

The challenges extend into every corner of a new student's experience. By and large they are living independently for the first time, responsible now for the instrumental decisions of daily life — when to wake up, what to eat, when to study, with whom to socialize. They might feel pressure to compete academically. They might feel pressure to load up on extracurriculars. They might feel lonely. Such massive change can be stressful to manage in and of itself; add to that the fact that 17- to 22-year-olds are developmentally at an age when mental health issues can start to manifest. "It's this interesting moment in time when all of these things collide, and it's right when they're here and right when their parents are not," Patashnick says.

That we are even having this conversation reflects a shift that's occurred not just at the College, but also nationwide, as increasing numbers of college students grapple with mental health issues. And it's not limited to first-years. The National College Health Assessment (NCHA) — the most comprehensive known survey on the health of college students — in spring 2017 found that nearly a quarter of all college students experienced anxiety that affected their academic performance; almost 16 percent cited depression. More than 10 percent had seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months, and 1.5 percent attempted it.

These statistics and others like them cap almost two decades of rising anxiety and depression rates in college students. The timing suggests a generational phenomenon one that maps to the Millennials as they began arriving on campuses, in the late 1990s, and has continued with their

successors, the so-called iGeneration. The possible reasons for their struggles are complex, involving the times these students were raised in, the way they were raised and changes in how we communicate. Colleges and universities, meanwhile, are being called on to understand and evolve to meet the needs of their newest charges.

Anxiety on campus is a national concern. How are colleges supporting students' emotional well-being?

UNIC AND ER RESSURE

BY ALEXIS BONCY SOA'11 ILLUSTRATIONS BY SCOTT BAKAL



At the College, expanding support for students and encouraging a culture of wellness has been a priority in recent years. "It feels like students are paying more attention to one another," Kromm says. "With mental health [issues], they want to know how to help. That hasn't always been a conversation here; the students can get very self-focused and driven; they have their small niche and their small community, and that's who really matters. Now, for really the first time, it has seemed like people care beyond their own little bubbles."

Still, the challenges are many. "There's this stigma that a lot of our students feel — if you admit weakness, if you admit that something isn't going right, then you're different from your peers," says Patashnick. "One of the hardest things to teach, and that we strive to encourage, is that asking for help isn't a sign of weakness — asking for help is a sign of strength."

The research field of campus mental health has largely emerged in the past 20 years. Prior to that, college counseling services were generally smaller operations, thinly staffed and with less funding. In 1964, psychiatrist Dana Farnsworth — director of Harvard University Health Services from 1954 to 1971 and an authority on students' emotional problems — notably estimated that of the millions of college students in the country, one in 10 had emotional problems severe enough to warrant professional help. Farnsworth's work, however, didn't focus on direct research. And while there are exceptions, minimal analysis was done prior to the early aughts.

That's when psychologist Sherry Benton, then at Kansas State University, authored a study that cracked open the field. Conversationally, people had been talking about "how 'the problems are getting worse' — noticing they were seeing more severe pathology in college counsel-

## "ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS TO TEACH, and that we strive to encourage, is that asking for help isn't a sign of weakness asking for help is a sign of strength."

ing centers — since the late 1990s to 2001," Benton says. "But no one had any actual data to verify it."

Speaking by phone from Florida, where she is now the chief science officer for Therapy Assistance Online counseling, Benton also recalls a prevailing attitude toward student mental health that at the time was limited to homesickness, relationships and career decisions. "That was the illusion out there, that that's what you got if you worked in a counseling center," she says. "But if you think about it, most college mental health centers or counseling centers are basically serving the population of a small city, especially on larger campuses — so you see the full range of problems that you would anywhere else."

Benton and her colleague Fred Newton analyzed more than a decade of data about students who visited Kansas

State's counseling center between 1988 and 2001 — more than 13,000 students, making it then the largest study of its kind. The findings, published in 2003 and widely reported in the media, were eye opening: In 13 years, the number of students seen with depression doubled, while the number of students with suicidal thoughts tripled. (Notably, instances of problems like substance abuse, eating disorders and chronic mental illness remained relatively stable.) Until 1994, relationship problems had dominated as the most frequent issue among students; in the years after, stress and anxiety issues prevailed. As a microcosm of college students nationwide, the findings suggested a trend worth examining further.

By the time Benton's work was making headlines, the American College Health Association was a few years into administering its NCHA to college students nationwide, although it would be some time before its semi-annual collection of data could be parsed for trends. As more funding became available, other organizations affirmed and expanded what Benton uncovered.

Today's leaders in campus mental health research include the Healthy Minds Network, a consortium of scholars working in public health, education, medicine and psychology, and the similarly multidisciplinary Center for Collegiate Mental Health (CCMH). HMN launched its Healthy Minds Study nationally in 2007; like the NCHA, it asks about a range of health issues — topics like eating disorders, drug use, sexual behavior, nutrition and exercise — and seeks input from a general population of college students nationwide. CCMH, on the other hand, gathers input from college and university counseling centers, which means it focuses specifically on students who have sought treatment. It began gathering annual data sets during the 2010–11 academic year.

The research accumulated by these organizations paints a picture of college students' increasing struggles with anxiety and depression. Take the NCHA: In spring 2009, almost 50 percent of students reported overwhelming anxiety, compared with 60.8 percent in spring 2017. (The survey was revamped in fall 2008, so earlier data can't be used for comparison.) In 2009, nearly 31 percent of students said they were so depressed "it was difficult to function"; by 2017 that number had climbed to 39.1 percent. The number who seriously considered suicide rose from 6 percent to 10.3 percent in the same time frame.

CCMH, meanwhile, has seen slow but steady increases in the intensity of students' self-reported anxiety and depression every year from 2010–11 to 2015–16 (the most recent data available) and the two were the most common concerns for students in 2015–16. CCMH also has seen slow increases each year in "threat-to-self" characteristics such as non-suicidal self-injury and suicidal ideation. The number who seriously considered attempting suicide — 23.8 percent in 2010–11 — reached 33.2 percent in 2015–16.

#### o, how did we get here?

The answer is complicated. Cause is difficult to prove, though correlations can be found. Still, during the course of my conversations with experts and college administrators, several factors came up again and again — a stew of forces that have been at work on today's college students since they were very young.

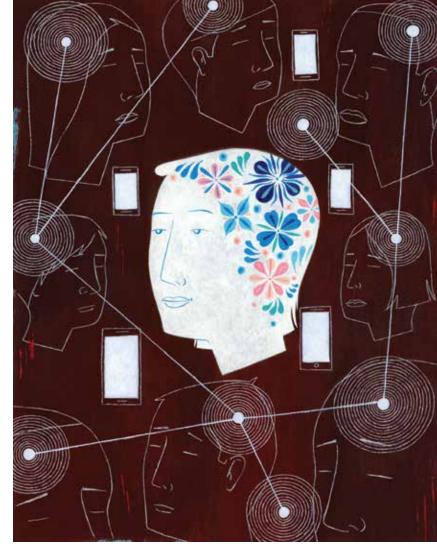
There is, to begin, the effect of large-scale societal events. These young adults, Benton says, experienced the 2008 recession through the prism of their families and came of age in a country that has frequently been saturated with news of terrorism and violence: "It's those kinds of things that yank away people's sense of predictability in the world," she says. Benton's Kansas State study bears out this point, with bumps in students' anxiety and depression following the floods and foreclosures that consumed the region in 1993, and again after the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. The confluence of events in the early aughts is even more extreme. "You have a generation who grew up with less of a sense of safety and security than a generation ago," she says.

They are also a generation that grew up with more parenting - the phenomenon of the so-called helicopter parent — a cultural shift that continues today. Julie Lythcott-Haims, a former Stanford administrator and author of How to Raise an Adult, has explored the subject for more than a decade. As she describes it, overparenting takes many forms, from hypervigilance around safety and intervening in playground squabbles when kids are young, to managing the constellation of hobbies, sports, academics and extracurriculars that make up their teenagers' lives. Such pervasive control, she has found, deprives children of a chance to build life skills and develop confidence in their ability to be self-reliant; it also correlates with higher rates of anxiety and depression. "If we're overhelped our psyche seems to know, 'Hey, I didn't do that myself. I'm not sure I'm capable,' or 'I might not have chosen that if it were up to me," says Lythcott-Haims.

Especially toxic, she notes, is a widespread culture of competition, exacerbated by a too-narrow definition of success: "A childhood that is about accumulating accomplishment and achievement in furtherance of getting into the 'right' college, which is heavily managed by parents who have those goals in mind, ends up being a childhood that deprives a young person of developing a self," she says. "However accomplished these kids are on paper, however magnificent their achievements, they are thin at an existential level. They have not been permitted to be themselves; they have been honed into a champion human who looks a certain way outwardly but might be feeling pretty bewildered inside." What's more, if they haven't had experience with failure, they might have trouble coping with setbacks.

Lythcott-Haims references her home community of Palo Alto, Calif., which is struggling to combat a youth suicide rate four to five times higher than the national average. "I think what we're seeing with this helplessness and hopelessness that leads a young person to do the unthinkable — to have a sense of, Tm not sure this life is worth living' — I think it is related to, Tm not sure this life is even mine."

Then there is the smartphone. The now-ubiquitous technology has fundamentally changed the shape of young adulthood, from the way teens talk to one another



to how they spend their free time. Jean Twenge, a professor of psychology at San Diego State University, examines the "earthquake" it and social media have unleashed in her recently published *iGen*. (The book's title comes from the term she coined for the swath of young adults, born between 1995 and 2012, who will have spent the entirety of their adolescence in the age of the smartphone.) While the full psychological effects are still being determined, Twenge's analysis, summed up in a September article in *The Atlantic*, suggests they are undermining teenagers' well-being.

Among other things, Twenge cites the Monitoring the Future study — funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse — which asks teens about happiness and how much of their leisure time is spent on both non-screen activities (exercise, in-person social interaction) and screen activities (social media, texting, web browsing): "There's not a single exception," she writes. "All screen activities are linked to less happiness, and all non-screen activities are linked to more happiness."

Her indictment continues: Loneliness is more common in teenagers who spend more time on smartphones and less time on in-person social interactions; the more time teens spend looking at screens, the more likely they are to report symptoms of depression; teens who spend three hours a day or more on electronic devices are 35 percent more likely to have a risk factor for suicide. Social media,



meanwhile, has levied a psychic tax both on those who create posts (anxiously waiting for affirmation) and those who read them (who wind up feeling left out). The result, Twenge concludes, is a cohort of young adults who are "on the brink of the worst mental-health crisis in decades."

Have we really reached a crisis moment? Benjamin Locke, executive director of the Center for Collegiate Mental Health, pushes back against that characterization. He sees the statistics — at least in part — as a reflection of education around these issues, from the elementary school level on up, that has taken place during the last decade. "We've fundamentally changed the culture about mental health, help-seeking and stigma reduction," he says. "And as a consequence of that we're seeing growing demand."The statistics also could reflect the fact that advances in diagnosing and treating mental illness have made it possible for more students with these struggles to attend college in the first place.

Locke resists the idea that students today are less resilient. "If you think about it, the students who are landing on



campuses have been living in a competitive, self-comparative mindset for longer and more intensely than probably any prior generation of students," he says. "They're unbelievably resilient. But college is a massive life adjustment, and if there was anything that would bring out these maybe previously managed, normative experiences of depression and anxiety, it would be college."

The college experience itself also brings stresses that students might feel more acutely today than in the past. Many face uncertainty around job prospects and what the economy will look like going forward. First-generation and low-income students might feel added pressure to succeed because of their backgrounds. High achievers, especially at top universities, can find themselves unmoored by the discovery that their intelligence and talent — an exception among their high school peers — is now the norm. The realization can set off something of an identity crisis: If I'm not "the smart one," who am I? What do I have to offer?

As researchers continue to explore what's influencing the well-being of our young adults, colleges and universities face an even more pressing question: What can they do to help?

So is wellness itself — an idea that encompasses all the ways people nourish their physical and mental health. For college students, yes, that can mean talking with a counselor when they feel overwhelmed — but also anything from eating right, exercising and getting enough sleep, to finding the right balance of studying and social time, to having a network of friends and engaging in positive relationships. Increasingly, Columbia and other colleges are looking holistically at how they can educate students about self-care, encourage them to prioritize it and create a culture that supports them in it.

"This growing concept of campus wellness is really about articulating value around all of the activities that we know promote wellness and helping students to value those because — historically — they probably haven't been encouraged to value them," Locke says. "They've been encouraged to value competition and taking on more and doing more and being successful, but actually, those things don't lead to wellness."

Confronted with a tide of anxiety and depression that has yet to turn, schools are responding in many ways. Some institutions have developed programs that teach students how to cope not only with academic stress, especially around failure, but also simpler setbacks like roommate difficulties or relationship frustrations. Examples include The Resilience Project at Stanford, Smith College's Failing Well, the Princeton Perspective Project, Harvard's Success-Failure Project and Penn Faces.

At Columbia College, a director of student wellness position has been created, and all staff now receive gatekeeper training, which teaches members of a community — including and especially non-health professionals — how to spot and respond to the warning signs of a mental health crisis. It also has partnered with The Jed Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting emotional health and preventing suicide among college students — founded by Phillip M. Satow '63 and Donna Satow GS'65 — to review its undergraduate wellness services and programming, and develop a strategic plan for enhancing these efforts.

While programs like these allow students the opportunity to air out self-doubt, talk about their struggles and get out from under the façade of perfection, just as important is helping students understand that it's normal to use mental health services when they're having a hard time. "Nobody gets a clear sail through their entire life, at least no one I've ever met," says Richard Eichler '75, TC'87, executive director of Columbia's Counseling and Psychological Services. "Stress can be associated with positive events as well as negative ones. Getting married, getting a new job, starting college, moving, having a baby - everything I've named is basically a wonderful thing, but they're stressful in the sense that they place demands on a person. They challenge us. Some of what we [CPS] want to communicate is, it's fine to get help if you're dealing with those sorts of challenges, there's nothing abnormal about it."

Eichler has a long perspective on college student mental health, having worked at Columbia since 1986 and as the director of CPS — the only director it's ever had — since its founding in 1992. In addition to its roster of psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers who meet with students, the center runs support groups and sponsors workshops that promote resilience and healthy coping strategies.

Eichler notes that the number of students who use the center's services has more than tripled since its inception, but resists drawing a conclusion about whether that means students are more anxious or depressed today. "My strong sense is that whatever trends might exist in the general population, a big part of that [the increase] is people are willing to get help in a way that they weren't 25 years ago, and the resources are much more robust and much more accessible ... We — not just Columbia but all of our peer institutions and schools across the country — have devoted a lot more resources to building up these services and making them visible to students."

CPS, for example, has established practice groups based on areas of special interest — topics like sexual and gender identity issues, multicultural concerns and trauma support. It has also made clinicians' biographies available online, so students can easily read about their backgrounds and expertise. "All of this is a way of trying to be more responsive to students but also sending the message: 'No matter who you are, you're welcome here, and we have people who are likely to be able to understand your experience,"" Eichler says.

Though expansion and awareness of wellness-related services is critical, many health organizations believe that the psychological well-being of a campus is not the sole province of its mental health and counseling services. This more comprehensive, or "ecological," approach calls for helping students develop independent living, social and emotional skills; fostering connectedness and belonging on campus; and reducing the sense of shame or secrecy that can come with personal struggle.

Eichler endorses the ecological model and sees it already in action around Columbia. "We want for everyone on campus to think that there's a mutual responsibility to one another's well-being," he says. "And we want people on campus who become aware of a student in distress to feel that they have an awareness of the resources and the confidence to talk to that student about seeking out the resources they need."

At the College, increased emphasis has also been placed on fostering connectedness. The Residence Hall Leadership Organization, for example, gives students an opportunity to get involved from the moment they arrive on campus, which can be especially important for first-years.

## "WE WANT FOR EVERYONE ON CAMPUS to think that there's a mutual responsibility to one another's well-being."

And the group's programming, in partnership with Alice! Health Promotion, includes social events on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to help with community building.

"Small gestures of humanity and connection really go a long way," Eichler says. "That's some of what we're talking about with a healthy campus. They can make people feel more at home and more connected."

Back in Lerner Hall, the importance of helping the College's newest students feel at home is acutely top of mind for Kromm and Patashnick. "We've been trying to build more programs that get smaller groups of students together during Orientation," Kromm says. "So if you haven't made your connection from your Orientation group or your residence hall floor, there might be another way to connect you." She notes that the number of social identity mixers and "Community Unscripteds" — gettogethers focused around specific interests like music, activism or politics — both have been expanded.

Kromm also describes changes to the way the Orientation groups themselves work. In the past the small breakout groups met only twice; this year, they met six times, on the last day doing a reflection exercise. "These things aren't mandatory, so you never know how many students are going to stick it out," she says. "But on Friday as I was crossing campus, every group still had 10 or 11 students. It was a nice feeling of students really *wanting* to be part of that community."

Feeling at home also means feeling supported, Patashnick says, pointing to the impact of gatekeeper training. "All our staff engage students on some level, so it's important to us to make sure that everyone feels comfortable getting students connected to the right resource," he says. "It's a whole-community effort to care for the students."

Kromm nods. "It has to be everyone."



## **STEPHANIE STEBICH '88 BOLDLY STEPS INTO HER** NEW ROLE AS A SMITHSONIAN DIRECTOR

# THE WORK OF ART by anne-ryan heatwole JRN'09

tanding in the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) in front of Nick Cave's *Soundsuit*, a striking eight-foot-tall amalgamation of doilies collected from flea markets and estate sales, Director Stephanie Stebich '88 launches into an explanation about which parts draw the eye and how Cave's background as a dancer influences his work. In front of Mickalene Thomas' colorful *Portrait of Mnonja*, she draws comparisons to Manet's *Olympia* and notes influences from Matisse. Moving toward a piece by Roger Shimomura (*Diary: December 12, 1941*), she points out graffito, preserved from 1864, that had been scratched into the nearby wall during the building's time as a war hospital.

This route had not been the plan. When I met Stebich (her full title is The Margaret and Terry Stent Director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Renwick Gallery) in September for an early morning tour, we were waylaid from our carefully pre-selected path by our photographer's interest in outrageous and eye-catching works; Stebich gamely changed direction. The ease with which she unspooled stories at these unexpected stops points to how quickly she's become familiar with the works in her care.

The museum's director as of April 3, Stebich is passionate about making the Washington, D.C., institution a destination for art lovers and neophytes alike. Her role is varied — hiring curators and staff, raising funds and managing donor relations, keeping the museum running and creating a cohesive experience for visitors. The common threads are a love of art and a deep knowledge built on a long, country-crossing career: "As I look back — and forward — in my career, what type of museums have I been attracted to?" she asks. "I'm a civic art museum kind of girl; my museums have the name of the city in them: Brooklyn, Cleveland, Minneapolis, Tacoma. Now I've got the nation to serve."

Stebich comes to the Smithsonian from Washington State's Tacoma Art Museum (TAM), a mid-sized museum known for its comprehensive Western and Northwestern art collections. During her 12 years there she made significant changes, raising \$37 million in a capital campaign - \$20 million beyond the goal - and adding more than 2,000 works to the collection. She also was instrumental in acquiring the Haub Family Collection, which in 2012 brought more than 300 works of Western American art to the museum, solidifying its position as a leader in Western American art. "Stephanie is a force of nature," says Laura Fry, the former Haub Curator of Western American Art at TAM. "She is one of the most driven people I've met; she will have a vision and will work tirelessly to execute it. Her leadership was what really made the Tacoma Art Museum."

At SAAM, Stebich is eager to continue taking risks and pushing things forward. "I like to say I inherited well," she says of assuming the role vacated by Betsy Broun, who had held the position since 1989. Six months into the job when we first spoke, Stebich already had big plans, envisioning two new curator positions, one to focus on media art and one for

PORTRAITS BY JÖRG MEYER



#### Portrait of Mnonja, 2010 Mickalene Thomas

SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, MUSEUM PURCHASE THROUGH THE LUISITA L. AND FRANZ H. DENGHAUSEN ENDOWMENT.

© 2010 MICKALENE THOMAS

African-American art; developing a strategic collecting plan focused on filling gaps in the museum's collection (she mentioned starting with the minimalism movement); and building out digital interactive resources for guests. She was also excitedly prepping for "No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man," which will bring the ephemeral, large-scale nature of the Nevada desert festival to the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, with immersive pieces built exclusively for the space. It's scheduled to be on display beginning in March. Stebich had attended the West

Coast festival in the past and was eager to share its aesthetic with a new audience.

"My challenge is to remind people that there is a vast country beyond the Eastern Seaboard that we need to be in conversation with, and we need to reflect [those areas'] creativity, inspirations and aspirations," Stebich says.

**B**orn in Germany and raised in Scarsdale, N.Y., the daughter of an art historian and a businessman, Stebich says that becoming a museum director was an obvious choice — "a happy combination of the business of museums and the joy of being with works of art."

Still, although Stebich knew from an early age that she wanted to work in the arts, she credits the College for giving her the background to make it happen. "I'm going to posit that Columbia is the best place to study art history; when you ask what my extracurricular was, it was New York City," she says. "If you think about being an undergraduate, particularly in the field of art history, your resources are unparalleled — you've got unbelievable faculty who are involved in the cultural life of the city, you've got these amazing resources … And of course, you were one bus or subway ride away from all these fabulous museums."

After graduation Stebich had a fellowship at the Guggenheim and an assistantship at the Brooklyn Museum. "It was an exciting time," she says of New York in the late '80s. "I was a member of the Women's Action Coalition and I thought, 'When I become a museum director, I want to make sure women are better represented in all that we do.' Being in the second class of women at the College made that visible to me — that it was a privilege to go there, that this was a different moment."

Electronic Superhighway: Continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, 1995 Nam June Paik

SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, GIFT OF THE ARTIST. © NAM JUNE PAIK ESTATE





Stebich's work in civic art museums across the country has well prepared her for being SAAM's director. As the assistant director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, where she worked from 1995 to 2001, she coordinated a major facilities renovation and headed the renovation's architect selection, which she describes as "a fascinating process of planning for new spaces and dreaming of who could imagine [them]." At the Minneapolis Institute of Art, where she was assistant director from 2001 to 2004, she co-led a \$500,000 project to link staff and databases to better serve museum visitors; she was also responsible for visitor services, public programs and special events, and interactive media.

In Tacoma, Stebich grew the museum as a community resource. In 2005 she launched the Día de los Muertos Free Community Festival, which initially welcomed 400 visitors; by 2016 it had more than 4,000 visitors a day. She takes pride in presenting what she calls "provocative and important exhibitions," such as "Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture," which explored the fluidity of sexuality and gender in modern America portraiture; the exhibit caused controversy and protests in D.C. and Brooklyn before she brought it to TAM.

"Stephanie wasn't afraid to have the museum take some risks with the content we presented and what we were willing to do," Fry says. "She was very nimble and forward-thinking in many ways and let the Tacoma Art Museum have a presence and a significance that most museums that size do not. I admired her ability to make bold decisions, to set a direction and not play it safe."

Her time at these varied museums has put Stebich in touch with the pulse of American art and given her a firsthand look at the diversity of the United States. "Civic art museums reflect the cities and communities in which they sit. They are democratic, welcoming and collaborative in spirit," she says. "Their collections and programs reflect the local histories and communities." Now Stebich is ready to take that city-centric focus national. **S** tanding in front of Nam June Paik's *Electronic Superbighway: Continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii* a riot of color and sound with neon tubes highlighting film and TV clips looping on a 40-foot map of the U.S. — it's easy to get lost in the work as media blares and bright lights trace familiar paths along state lines. Stebich points out that such a daring piece "invites you to look." And it's her job to make sure guests have plenty of American art to keep looking at. "We want people to see us as their favorite Smithsonian, the one they want to bring people to, that they think of when they think about the American experience and American identity," she says.

Stebich's museum draws many local visitors (she says that 53 percent of visitors are repeats) and she wants to make sure that residents of what she calls "the DMV" (D.C., Maryland, Virginia) continue to be as thrilled by the museum as visitors from further reaches. "I think that's a great testimony to people falling in love with this museum, having their favorites that they visit again and again, and also trusting us to do interesting and surprising exhibitions and stay fresh and relevant," she says. Going forward, the goal is to cultivate "a sense of wonder" for both new and returning guests. To that end, the museum hosts live music nights in the galleries, film screenings and lecture series, and encourages locals to spend time in the stunning Kogod Court-

yard, a 28,000-square-foot open space with a glass ceiling at the entrance of SAAM.

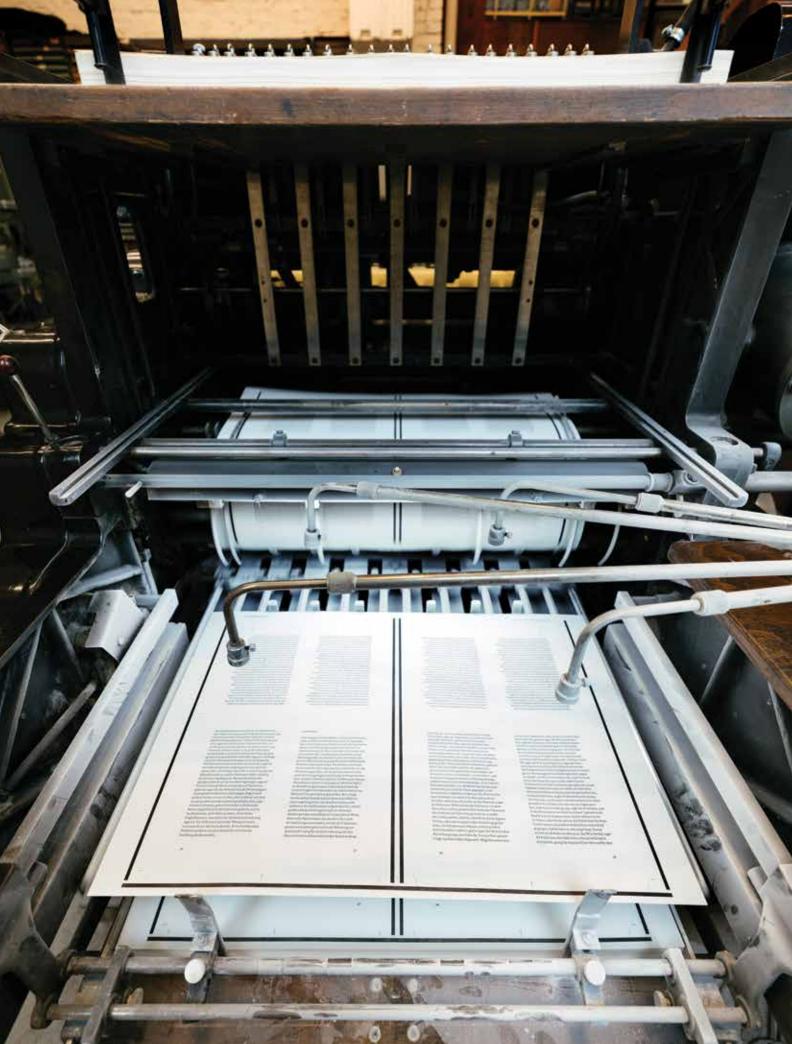
We end our tour at the Galleries for Folk and Self-Taught Art, home to the showstopper *The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations' Millennium General Assembly* by James Hampton. The kaleidoscopic, multi-

level piece is huge, with altars and thrones meticulously crafted from cardboard, plastic and found objects covered in metallics. Above it all, sculpted in foil are the words "FEAR NOT." As we pause to take it in, Stebich says, "Fear not' — how's that for a mantra in life? I always like to think 'Fear not; art will save you." Stebich in front of The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nations' Millennium General Assembly, ca. 1950–1964 James Hampton

SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM, GIFT OF ANONYMOUS DONORS.

#### PLAY IT AGAIN, SAAM

See additional highlights from the museum at college.columbia.edu/cct/ latest/feature-extras.



# THINK INK

Publisher Louis Rossetto '71 kicks off a new book venture – with an old-fashioned twist

By Boris Kachka '97, JRN'98

ou don't need a business degree to know that printing a novel on an antique press and selling it on Kickstarter is not a sure path to riches. But Louis Rossetto '71, BUS'73 has never been led astray by his irrepressible optimism. In 1993 he launched *Wired*, the world's first consumer tech magazine, with \$900,000 and no conventional backers. He sold its properties five years later for \$390 million. Now he's decided to publish his second novel, *Change Is Good*, in much the same spirit: as a wild grassroots experiment.

This time, Rossetto enlisted his friend Erik Spiekermann, a German design guru turned inventor, to create more of a proof of concept than a conventional book, a product that melds digital tools with centuries-old technology (call it Letterpress 2.0). Rossetto took their idea straight to the people and, again, found his optimism vindicated — 18 times over. In just one month, the *Change Is Good* project barreled past a \$10,000 Kickstarter goal to raise more than \$180,000, enough for a healthy print run of 2,500 copies.

On a crisp day in October, after visiting his daughter, Zoe Rossetto Metcalfe '21, Rossetto sat on the Low Steps to recount his latest career twist. In 1974, the newly minted M.B.A. published *Take-Over*, a thriller about a fictional Nixon-era government coup,

> before moving to Amsterdam and working on trade magazines. A quarter of a century later, the sale of *Wired* made Rossetto an unemployed millionaire. After a few years raising Zoe and his son, Orson, with his life partner (and *Wired* co-founder), Jane Metcalfe, Rossetto started to think of telling a story closer to home: the San Francisco tech scene in 1998, gripped by the IPO fever that turned would-be revolutionaries into wannabe billionaires.

> *Change Is Good* was born a dozen years ago as a detailed movie treatment, complete with illustrations and casting ideas. Rossetto bought two digital cam-

eras and started planning the movie himself. "But then I ended up being the CEO of a chocolate company," he says, "and there went seven years." [Editor's note: See "Louis Rossetto '71 Goes from *Wired* to Chocolate," Summer 2013.] An early investment in the luxury chocolatier TCHO had quickly turned into a full-time startup job. By the time he handed over the reins, Rossetto felt less keen on producing a movie. "Serial television had become the center of creativity," he says, "but I can't do television because I'm a nobody in that sector. How do I get past the gatekeepers?"

Since *Wired* had rapidly expanded from print to the web and even TV, why not launch *Change Is Good* the same way — text first, other media later? During the couple of years it took to turn his movie treatment into a proper novel, Rossetto queried one literary agent, who gave him valuable advice. But then he started



talking with his old friend Spiekermann, who was in the middle of his own late career twist. Spiekermann had founded Meta Design, Germany's largest international branding firm, with a specialty in typeface design. But in his youth, he'd been obsessed with a much older form of printing. In 2014, after retiring from marketing, Spiekermann went back to his first love, founding the Berlin letterpress workshop p98a.

Anyone who's been invited to a wedding in the past decade will recognize the vogue for letterpress printing. Not unlike artisanal chocolate, the process caters to consumers nostalgic for old-fashioned, small-batch, high-quality products. Typically, letterpress uses a 1950s-era machine — imagine a giant steampunk office printer that's just eaten an old typewriter - to physically impress letters and shapes into paper, creating borders that seem to pop out of the surface (but actually pop in). These antique presses are too cumbersome to produce much more than cards and posters and the occasional pricey art book. But Spiekermann had spent the last few years incorporating new technology with the aim of making beautiful and readable books cheaply enough to build a viable publishing business. His plates are made of lightweight polymer instead of metal, carved by lasers that translate digital fonts into physical type.



Rossetto founded Wired in 1993; its ink-saturated design was an inspiration for Change Is Good.



Spiekermann was still perfecting his Letterpress 2.0 process in January 2017 when Rossetto approached him about *Change Is Good.* Together they hatched a plan to use the novel as a test case, and to use Kickstarter to drum up both funds and publicity. "My intention was never really to make this a publishing hit," says Rossetto, "and even if I did, the best way to do it is to go direct."

Spiekermann estimates that every copy of *Change Is Good* costs just over \$40 to produce — half of that spent on its die-cut, foil-stamped cover and slipcase. The books sold on Kickstarter for up to \$98 apiece. It's easy to see where the money goes: Though the text between *Change*'s fancy covers isn't illustrated or formatted much differently from your average book, it looks and feels sharper, more permanent. The gap in quality between conventional offset printing and letterpress is "the difference between water and oil, Wonder Bread and whole grain," says Spiekermann. "Our ink is really thick and black. The register is incredible."

Six-hundred-year-old technology might seem like an odd vehicle for a history of the digital revolution. But Rossetto has always been obsessed with physical objects, or "going from bits to atoms," as he puts it. The influential look of the old *Wired* — ink-saturated and almost phosphorescent — was crafted on a rare sixcolor press. "We got more ink on the paper and sub-



Rossetto partnered with German designer Erik Spiekermann to create an artisanal look for his new book.

consciously that comes across," he says. Today, "there are things that still deserve to be on paper — but if you go to paper, you should try to do the best you can."

Change Is Good's story kicks off at a massive and decadent San Francisco tech party in 1998, on the eve of the IPO of a hot search engine called Gnuhere. (Google was incorporated the same year.) Following six characters - including Gnuhere's hacktivist founder, his artist girlfriend, a banker about to take them public and the party's DJ-slash-Ecstasy dealer — the novel chronicles a generation on the verge of selling out. "The tech industry itself plateaued a long time ago," Rossetto says, but its idealism is still alive — at least in him. The novel's tone is more nostalgic than ironic and, ultimately, as stubbornly sunny as its author. "I'm trying to reconnect people to the sense of wonder and optimism that was abroad at the time," he says. "These were pioneers, the young people who went out into the unknown and came back with all the things that shaped the present."

Rossetto agrees we've come a long way from the days when it looked like technology would make the world kinder and more democratic, "but I don't think you can be an entrepreneur and not be an optimist," he adds. His hopes for the novel itself are a little more down to earth. "I'm just happy to break even," he says. "And if there's money left over, we'll have a party."

Boris Kachka '97, JRN'98 is a contributing editor to New York magazine. He has also written for The New York Times, GQ, Condé Nast Traveler, Elle and other publications, and is the author of Hothouse: The Art of Survival and the Survival of Art at America's Most Celebrated Publishing House. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and son.



The gap in quality between conventional offset printing and letterpress is "the difference between water and oil, Wonder Bread and whole grain."

# Columbia Forum

# As "Beautiful" as She Wants To Be

Morgan Parker '10's new book of poetry is "a love letter to black women"

Browsing Morgan Parker '10's poems, one might assume she has been scribbling free verse since childhood. Her style is easy, imagistic and fluid; Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith calls Parker's writing "acrobatic." The turbo-charged speed of Parker's literary rise only increases the sense of a discipline derived, like athleticism, from a hardcore, lifelong practice. Parker has already published two books and was selected for the all-star lineup in The Best American Poetry 2016, as well as for a prestigious 2017 NEA Literature Fellowship. Her



celebrity fans include Lena Dunham and counterculture poet Eileen Myles.

But poetry is a genre Parker fell into as a College student. She grew up in Highland, Calif., a conservative suburb of Los Angeles, the child of a firefighter and a county employee ("really, really regular people," she told The New Yorker in

April). Parker wrote stories and essays and daydreamed about moving to New York City and becoming a writer — but not, ugh, a poet, she recalled for CCT: "Poetry is a weird genre, and I didn't feel like it was for me." That all changed in a creative writing seminar taught by visiting poet Josh Bell. The class read contemporary poems, not the "horrible" works from her high school syllabus. Parker wrote a poem each week, responding to different prompts.



THERE ARE MORE BEAUTIFUL THINGS THAN BEYONCÉ MORGAN PARKER

She made jokes and talked about herself — "things I wouldn't say out loud." Something opened up for her.

She still talks about the oddness of poetry, but now it's with affection. It's clear how much the genre has given her — how it allows her to reach out and self-reveal in a way that's both extroverted and inclusive. When Parker's poems are described in interviews or reviews, the word "invitation" recurs. "I'm trying to invite the reader to get to the thing with me ... creating a space where they're feeling what I'm feeling," she says. She praises poetry's flexibility and its ability to pinpoint the inexpressible. "A really successful poem you almost can't put your finger on what's so good," she adds. "You're not saying the thing, you're swirling around it."

The works in her latest book, There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé (Tin House Books, \$14.95), combine vivid life observations and pop references from a young New York City woman's point of view, spiraling them into expressive, emotionally rich designs. Twelve poems about the many-faceted Beyoncé — a celebrity who represents, for Parker, "every black woman" — blend with more personal riffs on love, race, therapy, martinis and music. Parker sees her new book as, ultimately, a "love letter to black women." Poem after poem depicts their strength, their potential, their fatigue and anger — "everything they have been and are and will be and could be." As she told New York magazine last spring: "I just want this to be a reminder that, look, you have permission to be as dope, as fly, as beautiful, as naked, as sad, as fucked up as you want to be."

- Rose Kernochan BC'82

#### The President Has Never Said the Word *Black*

To the extent that one begins to wonder if he is broken.

It is not so difficult to open teeth and brass taxes.

The president is all like five on the bleep hand side.

The president be like we lost a young boy today.

The pursuit of happiness is guaranteed for all fellow Americans.

He is nobody special like us. He says brothers and sisters.

What kind of bodies are moveable and feasts. What color are visions.

When he opens his mouth a chameleon is inside, starving.

#### Another Another Autumn in New York

When I drink anything out of a martini glass I feel untouched by professional and sexual rejection. I am a dreamer with empty hands and I like the chill. I will not be attending the party tonight, because I am microwaving multiple Lean Cuisines and watching Wife Swap, which is designed to get back at fathers, as westernized media is often wont to do. I don't know when I got so punk rock but when I catch myself in the mirror I feel stronger. So when at five in the afternoon something on my TV says time is not on your side I don't give any shits at all. Instead I smoke a joint like I'm a teenager and eat a whole box of cupcakes. Stepping on leaves I get first-night thrill. Confuse the meanings of castle and slum, exotic and erotic. I bless the dark, tuck myself into a canyon of steel. I breathe dried honeysuckle and hope. I live somewhere imaginary.

#### Columbia Forum

#### Lush Life

The most beautiful hearseI have ever seenis parked in front of my stoopPerchedhands folded for six to eight weekstwinkling like a sirena new idea of love

Trees are planted but don't exist yet They are leaning non-existent into us A trough of hearts meets me in the anxious sun I could rot here

Something likethe holy spiritpours you over bruised iceThere isn't anythingmore to say than holyBeautiful men never looking upon me

I take music self-stirred and sleep alone curve into the morning like an almond My shoulders lush as romantics You wash up on a barstool smooth heartache black sand

#### 13 Ways of Looking at a Black Girl

Queen Latifah Nikki Giovanni at risk pretty Ma Tina Turner sex Dyke ugly bitch sex Mamma Nene Leakes Sally Hemings t.h.o.t. Erykah Badu easy sex kitchen bipolar Beyoncé rape wifey Nina Simone Nicki Minaj sex sex Whitney Houston Toni Morrison I am hungry Grace Jones for myself diva slut thong darkie Michelle Obama flawless Audre Lorde high yellow nappy Lena Horne lips Sandra Bland sex strong sex sister Wanda Sykes sassy witch low-income sex booty well-spoken Issa Rae less hotep beautiful Hottentot Venus sex chickenhead thick Alice Walker queen dead just a friend sex Shonda Rhimes trouble sick sex mean hair bell hooks single dying tragic help carefree chocolate sex special exotic sex ratchet Felicia loud lost

#### Please Wait (Or, There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé)

Please wait to record Love Jones at 8:48 Saturday on BET Until your life is no longer defined by Beyoncé Ants crawling over fallen leaves and little pieces of dog shit Empty chicken boxes glowing with the remembrance of grease There are more beautiful things than Beyoncé: self-awareness, Leftover mascara in clumps, recognizing a pattern This is for all the grown women out there Whose countries hate them and their brothers Who carry knives in their purses down the street Maybe they will not get out alive Maybe they will turn into air or news or brown flower petals There are more beautiful things than Beyoncé: Lavender, education, becoming other people, The fucking sky It's so overused because no one's sure of it How it floats with flagrant privilege And feels it can ask any question Everyday its ego gets bigger and you let that happen But one day your shit will be unbelievably together One day you'll care a whole lot you'll always take vitamins And exercise without bragging and words will fit perfectly Into your mouth like an olive soaked in gin The glory of an olive soaked in gin & its smooth smallness A gloss will snowfall onto your cheeks, the top of your lip The sidewalks will be the same, evidenced Combing your records you'll see the past and think OK Once I was a different kind of person

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### THE GODDESS OF WISDOM

Students in Butler Library pass under the watchful eye of Athena, depicted in Eugene Francis Savage's *Videbimus Lumen*. The book *A Guide to Columbia University With Some Account of Its History and Traditions*, published in 1937 and edited by John William Robson '35, says of the 1934 mural, "A figure of Athene in white is depicted warding off two devils, symbolic of malevolent influence and disorder. The flying figures at the right represent divinity, the sciences, and the arts. Below is a group symbolic of modern occupations: agriculture, industry, and intellectual endeavor. Behind the figure of Athene is the skyline of lower Manhattan."

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### Building a Stronger Community Through "Odyssey" Mentoring

By Michael Behringer '89

n the musical *Hamilton*, the Schuyler sisters sing of the wonders happening in New York City in Summer 1776:

#### Look around, look around at how

Lucky we are to be alive right now! History is happening in Manhattan and we just happen to be In the greatest city in the world!

While the reference is to New York's role in the birth of our nation, Lin-Manuel Miranda's lyrics make me think of the exciting things happening at Columbia today.

By all measures, Columbia is on a roll. This fall, Columbia College claimed the number 2 spot in the 2018 *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education* College Rankings report. In October, the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Joachim Frank, professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics and of biological sciences. In Manhattanville, the first buildings have come to life on our new 17-acre campus. The Class of 2021, with a 5.8 percent acceptance rate, is a testament that Columbia is one of the most desirable places for undergraduate study in the world. And of course, many of us enthusiastically followed the renaissance of our football team under Coach Al Bagnoli. They finished the year with an 8–2 record and the number 2 spot in the Ivy League — their best season in more than 20 years!

How lucky we are to be Lions right now!

Alumni play an important role in Columbia's continued successes. Our engagement and financial support directly help our students and faculty and advance the College's mission. (Indeed, alumni engagement is one of several factors evaluated in some college rankings.) Thank you all for your support for and involvement with alma mater. Your efforts have an impact.

While we have much to celebrate, it's worth noting that today's undergraduates face a unique set of challenges and obstacles, far different than we experienced while on campus.

At the October Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors' meeting, members met with John MacPhee '89, PH'12, executive director and CEO of The Jed Foundation. The foundation is a nonprofit established by Phillip Satow '63 and his wife, Donna Satow GS'65, whose mission is to protect the emotional health of and prevent suicide among our nation's teens and young adults. The foundation is working closely with Dean James J. Valentini to develop a comprehensive strategic wellness plan for Columbia undergraduates. The statistics reported by The Jed Foundation are alarming. Nationwide, one of every four young adults has struggled with an anxiety disorder; depression rates among teens are up 37 percent since 2005; and suicide and accidental overdose are the lead-

Jaime Prieto '83, of Ogilvy & Mather, talks with students at the Odyssey Mentoring Program kickoff.

ing causes of death among young adults, taking 44 lives per day. Columbia students are not immune to these trends.

Fostering connectedness and belonging on campus is one of the cornerstones of the foundation's approach to promoting mental health. In that vein, the CCAA board believes that regularly creating the opportunity for more meaningful alumni and student connections is a way to strengthen the sense of Columbia community. And one of the College's most recent initiatives — the Odyssey Mentoring Program — does precisely that.

Odyssey, which launched in September, seeks to connect our 50,000-plus alumni in an easy and dynamic way with students and fellow alumni for long-term mentoring relationships or short and informal connections. It is a valuable resource for both alumni and students. Through Odyssey, students can leverage our diverse and vibrant alumni community for advice on academics, career and/or basic life choices, while alumni can foster and maintain connections with students and fellow alumni, thereby creating a stronger community as a whole.

As CCAA president, I am regularly asked how alumni can get involved and meaningfully connect with fellow alumni and/or students. Odyssey is just such an opportunity. Hundreds of alumni have signed up so far, but we currently have more students than available mentors. Plus, with a student population as diverse as ours, we need as many mentors as possible to ensure that every background, profession and interest is represented. Your involvement will not only enrich the College community but also make a difference in the lives of individual students. It's a tangible way you can help the College remain a top institution for generations to come while contributing to the dean's priority of supporting students in all facets of their lives.

More on the Odyssey Mentoring Program can be found at odyssey.college.columbia.edu. You also can reach out to Alumni Mentoring Committee co-chairs Scott Koonin'02 (scott.koonin@ gmail.com) and Sherri Wolf'90 (sherriwolf@alum.mit.edu). They, and I, welcome your involvement.





Six College alumni made this year's Forbes "30 Under 30" list. In the Finance category are Lalit Gurnani '11 (associate at Goldman Sachs) and Salim Hirji '11 (principal at Apollo Global Management); in Social Entrepreneurs is Ebele Ifedigbo '10 (cofounder of The Hood Incubator, which "helps transition underground cannabis sellers to legal markets" as cannabis becomes legal across the country); in Media is Peter Sterne '14 (senior reporter for the Freedom of the Press Foundation); in Marketing/Advertising is Shirley Chen '10 (founder of Narrativ, a startup that uses "artificial intelligence to enable retailers to bid for clicks on product links in editorial content") and in Hollywood & Entertainment is Sabaah Folayan '13 (a director and producer who co-directed the police brutality documentary Whose Streets?).



Playwright **Terrence McNally '60** and his husband, Tom Kirdahy, were featured on November 15 in *The New York Times*' new series "It's No Secret," which highlights couples "who share thoughts about commitment and what they have learned about themselves and each other along the way."

College alumni also appeared on televisions across America this past fall. **Meghan McCain '07** joined the cast of *The View* as a co-host on October 9. On October 20, Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91, PS'00, HN'16 was named chief medical correspondent for ABC News. Cara Buono '93 appeared on the hit Netflix series *Stranger Things*, which debuted its second season on October 27. And on November 17, Buzzy Cohen '07 won the *Jeopardy!* Tournament of Champions, taking home the \$250,000 grand prize. In music news, producer and former Vampire Weekend band member **Rostam Batmanglij '06** released his debut solo album, *Half-Light*, in September and **Nico Muhly '03**'s new opera, *Marnie*, opened at the English National Opera on November 18.

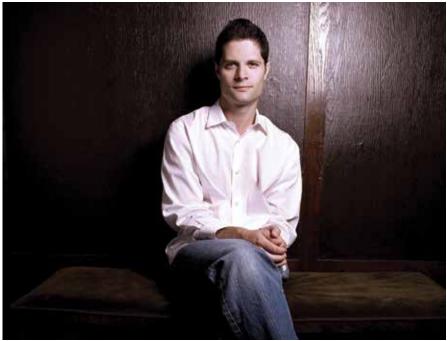
*New York Times* reporter Jodi Kantor '96 made headlines when she broke the October 5 story "Harvey Weinstein Paid Off Sexual Harassment Cases for Years," exposing decades of accusations against one of Hollywood's top producers. Kantor also appeared on The Daily (a *Times* podcast) to discuss the story. Since then, she has filed several articles uncovering more allegations tied to Weinstein and other high-profile figures.

The National Institute of Social Sciences, one of the nation's oldest honorary societies, presented former University president Michael I. Sovern '53, LAW'55 with a National Institute Gold Honor Medal on November 14.

Broadway is currently home to quite a few Lions: **Tom Kitt '96** did the orchestrations, arrangements and music supervision for the Broadway musical *SpongeBob SquarePants*, which began performances on November 6 and officially opened on December 4. HUAN NGUYEN



Jin Ha '13 stars as Song Liling in the Broadway revival of *M. Butterfly*, directed by Julie Taymor and written by Professor David Henry Hwang, head of the School of the Arts' playwriting concentration; the show opened October 7. Playwright (and *House of Cards* creator) **Beau Willimon '99**, **SOA'03**'s new work, *The Parisian Woman*, opened on Broadway on November 30 and stars Uma Thurman and Josh Lucas.



# bookshelf

### A Street Burns in Brooklyn

By Jill C. Shomer

t would be a bold choice to unpack topics like gentrification, white privilege and police brutality in your first novel at any time; at this particular moment, it's downright audacious. But **Brian Platzer'04** went there, and his debut, *Bed-Stuy is Burning* (Atria Books, \$26), has drawn praise for walking a fine line. *Kirkus* called it "eminently readable" while *The Wall Street Journal* noted his deft navigation of clashing points of view. Author Alice McDermott even declared the book "a *Bonfire of the Vanities* for Millennials."

*Bed-Stuy is Burning* tells the story of the escalating tensions that follow the fatal police shooting of an unarmed 12-year-old in the eponymous Brooklyn neighborhood, in the voices of a mixed group of residents: Aaron and Amelia, brownstone owners new to the block; their tenant, Daniel; their nanny, Antoinette; a neighbor, single father Jupiter; and rebellious local teenager Sara. Though it's a work of fiction, actual streets, subway stops and restaurants are named; writer and educator Ta-Nehisi Coates is referenced; and former NYPD commissioner William Bratton even narrates a few chapters.



The real-life inclusions came naturally to Platzer, who lives in the neighborhood he's writing about and was motivated by what he saw happening around him. "Around 2010 I began to notice black teenagers, with increasing frequency, being handcuffed by police on the subway platform near my home," he says. "I couldn't shake the thought that something was going to explode out of these fraught interactions." Though he is outwardly most like his character Aaron, a lapsed rabbi, Platzer spent two years doing extensive research to ensure he could properly speak in other voices.

The background work included interviews with a diverse group of neighbors, police, local high school kids and teachers.

Still, the book has raised a few eyebrows, and Platzer has had to respond to pushback that he isn't the right person to tell this story. "I get that people don't want a white person to tell the story of groups that white people have oppressed," he says. "I respect that argument but I disagree — to say that there is a certain story that only a certain type of person is qualified to tell, you're creating divides. That someone is so much the 'other' that I can't invent or imagine their thoughts — it strips the humanity away from them. That would mean literature can't be an exercise in empathy, that you're forced just to focus on your own experience." Platzer, a native New Yorker, deferred Columbia for a year after high school and spent six

months teaching English in Thailand and six months working at a fashion magazine in Paris. He found that city "devastatingly lonely"; to pass the time, he wrote.

At the College, he double-majored in French lit and English lit and continued to write. "The intellectual excitement was unbelievable," he says. "It was a wonderful time. I've tried to prolong that life as a creative person." He read constantly; he says he particularly enjoyed contemporary American fiction. "A lot of people read books to escape and experience other worlds," he says, "but I like novels that describe people and worlds I know, and that get deep and honest into people's minds. I fell in love with James Baldwin, Dave Eggers, Denis Johnson, Philip Roth."

Platzer found focus in a personal essay class taught by Leslie Sharpe GSAS'73: "I wrote from the standpoint of a distorted version of me, and it opened my eyes to the way I wanted to be writing. I am interested in fictional characters that are slightly more extreme in their decision making." To that end, some of his *Bed-Stuy* characters could be considered unlikeable; or as he says, "not the type of likeable that people who are accustomed to reading first novels written by Brooklynites are anticipating.... But I wanted everyone to be recognizably selfish. The ugly hidden thoughts interest me more."

Platzer met his wife, Alexandra Hardiman '04, in his first year at the College, when they were both living in John Jay. They have two children, ages 2 and 4.

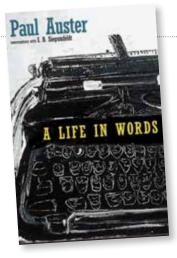
Platzer teaches part time, at the Grace Church School in Manhattan. His students are middle schoolers, ages 12–14; he says he especially enjoys teaching that age group. "They are the most excited to be taught," he says. "They want to be taken seriously and I present them with serious material. Right now I'm teaching them *Night* by Elie Wiesel."

He is also at work on a new novel; like *Bed-Stuy is Burning*, this tale takes place close to home — in his own body. In 2010, Platzer started experiencing constant dizziness; a year later he was diagnosed with vestibular migraines. Though his symptoms are mostly relieved with medication, he still struggles and can only write for short periods. The novel, to be published by Simon & Schuster, is told from the point of view of the wife of a man dealing with a debilitating neurological disorder.

When not writing or teaching, Platzer has been doing readings from *Bed-Stuy* in schools, bookstores and Jewish centers. "This whole thing has been a dream," Platzer says. "I've been trying to create the architecture for this life for more than a decade."







### A Life in Words: A Conversation with Paul Auster '69 and Dan Simon '79

By Jill C. Shomer

n October, *Columbia College Today* spoke with author **Paul Auster** '69, publisher **Dan Simon**'79 and former College professor of English and comparative literature Michael Wood in the green room of the Union Square Barnes & Noble. The three men were connected by Auster's newest release, *A Life in Words*, a written conversation about Auster's art and craft, compiled from three years of dialogue with University of Copenhagen Professor I.B. ("Gitte") Siegumfeldt. The book was published by Simon's company, Seven Stories Press, and Wood was to interview Auster about the work that evening at the bookstore. At the time, Auster's novel *4321*, which follows main character Archibald Ferguson along four synchronous but different life paths, had recently been short-listed for the Man Booker Prize.

What follows is an excerpt of the conversation; the full story can be read on The Latest's "Like Minds" at college.columbia.edu/cct/ latest/minds, and the interview at Barnes & Noble can be viewed at facebook.com/sevenstories/videos.

### **CCT:** Paul, in 2010 you told *The Telegraph*: "Unless it's absolutely urgent, there's no point in writing."

**Paul Auster '69:** That's true! I've been saying that since I was 16 years old!

#### CCT: What felt urgent for you about your most recent books?

**Auster:** It's not something you can actually articulate. It's something that grabs hold of you — it's as if an invisible phantom has his hands around your throat and he's telling you you've got to do this or else you're going to die [laughs].

#### CCT: [Laughs] So how long was the phantom of 4321 on you?

Auster: I spent only about three years on this enormous book. I was expecting six or seven when I launched into it. I was so dug in; I did the whole thing in a trance, I realize. I look back and I can barely believe I did it. It's as if those three years are erased from my life.

**Michael Wood:** Did you go through each "life" of your character [in the novel] sequentially?

**Auster:** The way you read the book is how I wrote the book. I can't write a book out of sequence because I don't know what I'm doing. I have to write the first sentence, then the second, then the third,



Left to right: Former College professor Michael Wood, Paul Auster '69 and Dan Simon '79.

all the way to the last. I can't jump around, because everything that has led up to the sentence I'm writing at that moment is important.

#### **CCT:** Is it the same when you're writing a memoir?

**Auster:** Yes, everything is the same. Find that first sentence. It's usually the way in.

#### Dan Simon '79: And many, many drafts? Or no?

**Auster:** No, not so many. I work paragraph by paragraph. I work in a notebook with a pen and I keep writing the paragraph over and over until I'm happy with it. Or seem to be. And then I type it up on my typewriter and I look at it clean, and I start attacking it again. Fixing, crossing out, changing. And when I can't do any more with it, I put the typed page in the folder with the other typed pages, then I go back to the notebook and write the next paragraph.

**Wood:** There's a great passage in *A Life in Words* about writing being a job you can't take breaks from.

**Auster:** It's the only way to justify this to myself. Why would anyone want to do this? Sit alone in a room all day every day for your whole life. I think writing literature of any kind, you have to give everything all the time. You can't hold back. In most professions, you don't have to give a maximum effort all the time. But as an artist, you do. There's a moral quality to it, giving that effort, that makes it feel like you're not wasting your time. I'm still learning and trying to figure it out.



MARK RIGHTMIRE / ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## Oceanographer Juliette Finzi Hart '96 Shows the (Virtual) Reality of Climate Change

By Nathalie Alonso '08

magine seeing your favorite beach swallowed by the ocean. Your distress — the visceral kind of reaction that spurs people to action — is what oceanographer **Juliette Finzi Hart '96** is looking to elicit from residents of Southern California through the use of virtual reality.

Hart, director of outreach at the U.S. Geological Survey's Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center, films 360-degree videos that show SoCal beaches as they are expected to look with higher sea levels. During king tides — the highest tides of the year, which serve as proxies for future everyday conditions — she captures dramatic images of flooded beaches using a device equipped with 16 GoPro action cameras, and then uploads the videos to YouTube. Using an inexpensive virtual-reality headset, viewers can feel as though they are standing on their local beach some 30 years from now.

Hart, who joined USGS in July 2016, also helped create a temporary virtual-reality installation on the Santa Monica Pier. Known as The OWL, it consisted of two free-standing viewers, similar to coinoperated binoculars, each containing a tablet. From November 2016 to January 2017, visitors were able to peer into the viewer to see how sea level increases will transform the iconic area.

Patrick Barnard, research director for the Climate Impacts and Coastal Processes Team at USGS, lauds the way Hart has embraced technology and innovation. "She immerses the audience in the challenges our coastal communities face, making it personal," he says. "These VR experiences burn into people's memories and move them toward understanding and action far better than any flat map or bullet point on a PowerPoint slide can."

Hart's outreach efforts also include more conventional methods. She regularly speaks to government agencies, city councils, citizen organizations, students and other groups about the dangers of climate change. Her presentations are based on USGS's Coastal Storm Modeling System, or CosMos, which projects coastal flooding and erosion in California.

While the audiences change, the message is the same: Climate change and rising sea levels call for immediate response. For homeowners, that might involve flood-proofing their properties, while for city planners, it might mean updating infrastructure. As part of those conversations, Hart often finds herself clarifying the connection between climate change and extreme weather events like Harvey, Irma and Maria,

the powerful storms that devastated communities in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, respectively, during the 2017 hurricane season.

"While you can't say a specific event is due to climate change," says

#### **CCT** Print Extras

To see the Santa Monica Pocket OWL and king tide videos, go to college.columbia.edu/cct.

alumninews 🔮

Hart, "you can say the observed intensity of the recent 2017 hurricane season is consistent with what climate scientists have been predicting for years." Hart, who lives in Manhattan Beach, Calif., with her husband and two young daughters, majored in art history at the College and spent her first year after graduation working for an art consultant in London. Unfulfilled in that field and long interested in science, she started volunteering on whale-watching boats off Cape Cod, Mass., a place she frequented in the summertime while growing up in New Jersey.

A research position at the local Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies followed. There, in an effort to understand why endangered right whales were not better protected against ship strikes and entanglements, Hart discovered a disconnect between policymakers and scientists. With the goal of helping to bridge that gap, she earned a Ph.D. in ocean science at the University of Southern California. "Ultimately, I didn't want to be just in the lab," she says. "I wanted to be out there taking available science and helping people understand it."

Hart began working in outreach as an assistant research professor with USC's Sea Grant Program, which studies the interaction between the ocean and other bodies of water and the urban areas that surround them. It was there that she began dabbling in VR with the help of her husband, a web professional and gaming enthusiast.

Regardless of the medium, for Hart, making science accessible is the most rewarding part of her work. "It's always a really great feeling when I finish a presentation in which I feel I've connected with people and helped bring the science into their world," she says.

**Nathalie Alonso '08,** from Queens, is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer for LasMayores.com, Major League Baseball's official Spanish language website. She is a regular contributor to CCT.

### K-Beauty Queen Alicia Yoon '04 Reigns Supreme

By Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09

amboo water. Fermented lotus. Snail secretions? Korean Beauty — also known as K-beauty, the term for skincare products from South Korea — is shaking up the skincare industry with innovative ingredients and formulas, and **Alicia Yoon '04** has staked out a place at the forefront. The mogul behind K-beauty retailer Peach & Lily has focused on bringing the best products to the Western market since 2012. Last year, after turns in stores like Sephora and Urban Outfitters, Yoon brought K-beauty fully into the mainstream by partnering with pharmacy giant CVS, launching Korean products into more than 2,100 stores across the United States.

"One of the biggest ways that [K-beauty] is different," Yoon says, "is that it's all about the philosophy. In Korea, people know that you don't get beautiful skin overnight. It's something you need to work on over time. So a lot of the products are about a gentle, long-term approach that seeks to improve the skin from the inside out."



Yoon is not only the founder and force behind Peach & Lily, she's also the brand's social media face. Her Instagram account has more than 15,000 followers clamoring for a glimpse at her life (Peach & Lily's account has more than 78,000 followers). The Peach & Lily YouTube channel shows Yoon demonstrating products and giving tutorials; and pibuu, Peach & Lily's blog, tackles reader questions and details everything from Yoon's prewedding beauty regimen to her travel skincare routine. Yoon has especially focused on community building, noting that digital channels have transformed the beauty industry: "Before, it wasn't as easy for customers to talk to one another, and we're seeing that's something our customers really love

"I would give my friends facials and talk about skincare, even when I was at Columbia."

to do. Categories like K-beauty have really benefited, as people share info about products they've discovered and what they love."

At the time of the company's founding as an online-only retailer, K-beauty wasn't a well-known category. "It took about a year and a half for there to be a tipping point," Yoon says. "At first it was all about the marketing and the education ... but after that, because the products are so different and work so well and people really like them, [Peach & Lily] took off." Yoon has become a respected industry leader, offering beauty tips in *Vanity Fair*, having Peach & Lily products touted in *Allure* and, most recently, being named in *Marie Claire*'s 2017 Power Issue as one of 50 women changing the world.

Born in Korea but raised in the United States, Yoon and her family moved back to Korea during her high school years. She attended esthetician classes after school for fun, and there she learned how to manage her eczema. From that experience her passion for Korean skincare methods was born. "I would give my friends facials and talk about skincare, even when I was at Columbia," she says. Yoon went into finance after graduation and earned an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 2010, but remained a self-professed "product junkie," eventually deciding to combine her interests in business and skincare to bring Asian products to new markets.

Yoon travels to Korea several times a year for in-person meetings with new companies' research and development teams, and personally tests all Peach & Lily products. The K-beauty maven is determined to help people achieve what she calls "that glow, that translucent radiance that only comes with healthy skin," by spreading her passion for innovative, long-term skincare solutions. And now you can get those results from a store near you.



### David Heim '68 Turns Wood and Phrases

#### By Kate Antoniades

f David Heim '68, JRN'75 were to see you cutting down a tree in your yard, he might politely ask you for some of the wood to turn. He likes maple "because it's easy to work with and it finishes beautifully." Cherry, too. He avoids tropical hardwoods, many of which contain the mineral silica, because, he says, "they're murder on tools" - and they're expensive.

Turning is shorthand for woodturning, and Heim has been an avid practitioner for almost 15 years. The craft involves attaching a rough piece of wood to a lathe, which rapidly spins the wood while the turner uses a sharp chisel to shape it. Heim made his first bowl in 2003. Curious about turning, he visited a lumbervard, bought some basswood and brought it to his father-in-law's workshop. "He's not a



bowl-turner, so he didn't have the right tools, but I managed to make a bowl-shaped object nonetheless," Heim says. He was hooked.

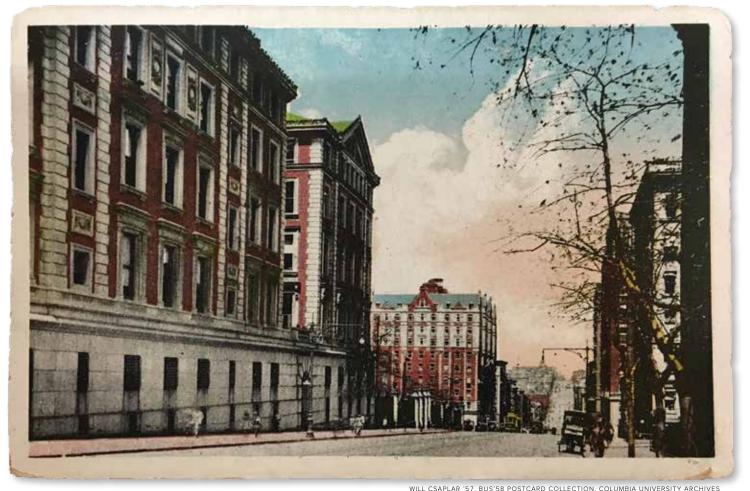
Today, Heim — who lives in Oxford, Conn., with his wife, Kate, and 34-year-old son, Theodore - spends 15-20 hours a week in a small shop above his garage (now equipped with all the right tools, including three lathes, a table saw, a drill press and a bandsaw). Bowls are his favorite things to make, and he points to one in particular - made of beech — as an example of what he loves about turning. The surface is covered with jagged, dark lines and looks like an old map of the world. "I knew that the wood was spalted — used as a cafeteria by various fungi but I had no clue it would produce such a wonderful pattern until I had shaped the bowl," Heim says. "Surprises like that keep me going."

Heim sells some of his creations on Etsy (etsy.com/shop/davidheim), offering bowls, serving platters, shaving kits, vases and other items. His is a hobbyist operation, though his work doesn't take him far: He freelances for woodturning publications and has written two books: Woodturning Patterns: 80+ Designs for the Workshop, Garden, and Every Room in the House (2017) and SketchUp Success for Woodworkers: Learn the Basics for Quickly and Accurately Creating 3D Designs, due out this year. Now retired from a full-time career, Heim spent 28 years at Consumer Reports in various editor roles before his love of his craft took him to Fine Woodworking from 2005 to 2009. (His journalism roots lie with Spectator, for which he was managing editor and even helped to scoop The New York Times with a special issue on the Vietnam draft.)

Heim, who is on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Woodturners, has different ways of working with words and wood. "When I'm at the computer, writing something or editing, I've got a pretty good idea of what the finished product will be, and I have a pretty good idea of the path I have to follow," he says. "If I mount a piece of wood on the lathe, I have a vague idea of what's going to happen, but I have to let the wood guide me. I can't force a shape into a piece of wood sometimes because there's a flaw in the middle of the piece of wood and I have to work around that."

Kate Antoniades is a freelance writer and editor in Rochester, N.Y.





#### **UPTOWN VIEWS:**

How things have changed! Amsterdam Avenue looking north from 117th Street on a vintage postcard.

#### 1941

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

Dr. Sherwin Kaufman sent a note: "I entered Columbia College in 1937 as a pre-med, but in time discovered that my musical background as a serious classical pianist would take over. After I became an accompanist for the Columbia Glee Club, the director asked me to become a piano soloist on many of its programs! I soon found myself alone on stage, playing classical pieces such as Chopin's *Fantaisie-Impromptu* in large auditoriums. The totally unexpected experience was so terrifying that I quickly signed

up for more pre-med courses. But music remained an integral part of my life. After retiring from the gratifying practice of infertility years ago, I became a songwriter, with awards for both music and lyrics."

Please consider sharing your story, news or even a favorite Columbia College memory by sending it to either the email address or postal address at the top of the column. Classmates would be pleased to hear about you!

#### 1942

Melvin Hershkowitz 22 Northern Ave. Northampton, MA 01060-2310 DrMelvin23@gmail.com

I am sad to begin these notes with the death of my lifelong friend

Arthur Wiswall Wellington PS'43

on July 29, 2017, at the hospice care unit of the Community Living Center in Bath, N.Y. I had a phone chat with Art on June 17, when he recognized me and sent greetings to surviving classmates. (See my Class Note about Art in the Fall 2017 issue.) Art was born in Troy, N.Y., in 1920 and graduated from Central H.S. in Syracuse, N.Y., in 1938. After graduating with our class in 1942, he earned an optometry

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. degree from Columbia in 1943 and then enlisted in the Marine Corps. He served in the Saipan and Okinawa campaigns as an artillery officer, with occupation duty in Nagasaki before his discharge with the rank of captain in 1946.

In May 1944, Art married his brilliant and devoted high school sweetheart, Marilynn Davidson. They settled down in Elmira, N.Y., in 1948, where Art began his lengthy and distinguished optometry practice, and with Marilynn raised four children: David, Sara, Steve and James. Art was president of the Elmira baseball team, the Pioneers, and was a part-time Major League scout and president of Kiwanis. He liked to act, and appeared in the Elmira Little Theatre productions of Inherit The Wind and The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial. He drove for Meals on Wheels, and in retirement he and Marilynn enjoyed many happy summers at their cottage in Tenants Harbor, Maine, where this writer and his wife, Leslie (now deceased), enjoyed a wonderful vacation with them in August 2003.

Art had very little money when he came to Columbia. He was a waiter in the legendary Chemists luncheonette on Amsterdam Avenue, in which this writer had breakfast for four years (a small OJ, a donut and a cup of coffee), and solidified my lifelong friendship with Art. We called him "Wizzer," a phonetic derivation of his middle name, Wiswall. He was indeed a Wiz as a horse racing handicapper, joining other horse-player classmates in the Certified Degenerate Horseplayers Club, placing wagers at an illegal bookie room in the back of a candy store at 106th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Other members of this club were **Don** "Dickie-Bird" Dickinson, Don Mankiewicz, Charles F. "Chic" Hoelzer (all deceased) and this writer. In his nonagenarian retirement, Art was a skilled handicapper, often cashing long-odds exotic wagers such as exactas, trifectas and parlays at the Elmira OTB.

Art was predeceased by his loving wife, Marilynn, and is survived by his four children, seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. In a letter I wrote to Art's daughter, Sara, on August 13, I expressed my gratitude for my wonderful friendship of 79 years with Art, a rarity in anyone's life. Condolences and best wishes to all members of the Wellington extended family.

Dr. Gerald Klingon celebrated his 97th birthday on September 22 with his daughter Karen, his son-in-law Jerry and his son Robert. An honored guest was old pal Ray Robinson '41. They had a gala dinner at a local Chinese restaurant in Manhattan, where Gerry enjoyed his favorite dish, orange beef. Congrats to Gerry as he wends his way toward the centenarian society.

As I write these comments, the Columbia football team has won four consecutive games to open the 2017 season, defeating Wagner, Georgetown, Princeton and Marist. Our win over Princeton was the first since 1996. The rest of the Ivy League appears to be erratic and competitive, with Dartmouth looking like our best remaining opponent. Columbia appears to have a real chance to win the championship. Our Homecoming game vs. Penn on October 14, followed by Dartmouth in Hanover, N.H., on October 21, will be critical. [Editor's note: Columbia won both games!] We have a potential All-Ivy Quarterback in Anders Hill '18, an excellent passer with several gifted receivers, and a nationally ranked field goal kicker, Oren Milstein '20 (he kicked two 39-yarders vs. Marist). Compliments to Coach Al Bagnoli, his staff and our talented players as the season unfolds.

Best wishes and kind regards to all surviving classmates.

### 1943

#### REUNION 2018 MAY 31-JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact Merideth Kerby ccaa-events@columbia.edu 212-851-7776 Development Contact Erin Zyko Hussein eez1@columbia.edu 212-851-7452

G.J. D'Angio 201 S. 18th St., #1818 Philadelphia, PA 19103 dangio@earthlink.net

Michael F. Forlenza '78 reports that he enjoyed a relaxing seaside visit in September with his father, **Gerard A. Forlenza** SEAS'43, SEAS'48, in Southern Shores, N.C. Gerard, who goes by Jerry, splits his time between the family beach house he built on the Outer Banks and a home in Montclair, N.J.

Born in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, in 1923 to Italian immigrant parents, Jerry was raised in New Hyde Park on Long Island, N.Y., with five siblings. New Hyde Park was still a rural area during the Great Depression, with small farms and dirt roads. He recalled swimming in the sand pits excavated for aggregate for his father's construction business. In the summer, they would buy crates of grapes to press and make wine in the basement.

Jerry originally enrolled in the College in 1940 with the Class of 1944. After the Pearl Harbor attack and the start of WWII in December 1941, Columbia went to a trimester schedule to accelerate students toward graduation. Jerry was a letterman on the wrestling team in the 128- and 135-lb. weight classes. He wrestled for three years and was an Amateur Athletic Union champion.

Accelerated to graduate with the Engineering Class of 1943, Jerry earned a B.S. in chemical engineering. After trying unsuccessfully to join the Navy, he joined the Army and moved through a number of stateside locations during training, including Camp Upton in Yaphank, N.Y., Fort Leonard Wood in Pulaski County, Mo., and Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, Va., for Officer Training School. As a lieutenant in the Army with the Corps of Engineers, he was sent to the West Coast by train for deployment. He recalled the train making a late-night stop in North Platte, Neb., where the citizens turned out with cake, coffee and sandwiches for the troops for what later became known as the North Platte Canteen. A touching experience.

After time at Camp Stoneman and Camp Beale in California, Jerry was deployed to New Guinea in the South Pacific. A series of assignments took him to Morotai, Leyte and Luzon when the war ended. On Luzon, in the Philippines, the troops had been preparing for the invasion of Japan when the war ended in August 1945 after the use of the atomic bombs. He recalled receiving the news of the end of the war with relief.

Jerry left the Army as a captain and returned to New York and Columbia to earn a master's in chemical engineering in 1947. While living in John Jay Hall, it was in Johnson Hall that he met Grace Caskin GSAS'48 from Danvers, Mass. Grace was studying history at Columbia under her adviser, Richard Hofstadter GSAS'42. Jerry and Grace married in 1950 and moved to Manhasset, N.Y., and later to Montclair, N.J., with five children. Grace, Jerry's wife of 58 years, passed away in 2008.

Jerry enjoyed a successful career as an executive in chemical engineering starting with Chemico, a worldwide engineering firm, in New York City in 1947. In 1950, he was recalled to duty by the Army during the Korean conflict. He received several temporary deferments, and finally a permanent deferment, due to his work as an engineer on a project for the Atomic Energy Commission.

Jerry worked at American Cyanamid for 30 years, becoming the president of several divisions, including the industrial chemicals division and the organic chemicals division. Later, he became president of Beker Industries in Connecticut. Subsequently, he was a joint founder with Robert Schubert SEAS'48 of Relectronics, a joint venture with Siemens AG of Germany, and was involved in numerous other ventures. He still is a private consultant through his corporation, Forge. The Forge name uses the first three letters of Forlenza and the initials of his wife, Grace Eleanor. Jerry is a board member of Adhesives Technology in New Hampshire.

Active for many years with Columbia alumni organizations of both the College and Engineering,



#### 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. Jerry was a founding member of the North New Jersey Columbia Alumni Association. Several of the first meetings were held in his living room in Montclair. He was for many years on the Engineering Development Council and chaired fund drives for both schools.

While on the Outer Banks this summer, Jerry enjoyed visits from his five children, Gerard Jr. '76, Michael '78, Francis, Grace and Catherine, and his five grandchildren.

Son Michael reports that Jerry is doing well, having only recently retired his unorthodox tennis game due to achy knees. He remains active by reading, consulting and rendering his opinion on a variety of subjects from politics to science, from weather to history. He is the prime agitator at weekly lunch gatherings in both North Carolina and New Jersey.

If there are any of the old guard out there, Jerry would love to hear from you. He can be reached by email at gforlenza@aol.com.

**G.J. D'Angio:** "Last summer was marred by my successive minor aches and pains in a peculiar distribution. It was further marred in July by my wife Dr. Audrey Evans' painful three broken ribs after a fall, aggravated by coughing episodes. Another bummer: My ocular inflammation and my store of prednisone tablets played yo-yo every two weeks during those months. Not the best times of the year.

"Otherwise, we had a most pleasant family gathering — seven adults and two great-grandchildren — for a week here in Philadelphia in late July/early August. Later, I was found to be profoundly anemic. Another bummer. Visits to the hematologist ensued. Rapid improvement after treatment with a bone marrow stimulant. Sense of well-being gained overnight, and sustained.

"Our plans for October included a trip to Washington, D.C.; Audrey and I [were] each to receive an award from the International Society of Pediatric Oncology.

"A Columbia nugget — Columbia greats in sport include, in football, Cliff Montgomery '34 (quarterback of the winning 1934 Rose Bowl game against favored Stanford [7–0]), Sid Luckman '39 and **Paul Governali**. In baseball, there was of course Lou Gehrig '23 but also Eddie Collins (Class of 1907). A baseball Hall of Famer, Eddie was the starting quarterback of the football team, too, until the sport was dropped in 1906. The great pitcher Sandy Koufax (né Sanford Braun) was another Lion. Any '43-er ever see Sandy pitch a no-hitter? Or any other great game? Let us hear."

Bernard Weisberger: "Shakespeare wrote, 'Summer's lease hath all too short a date,' and it surely does. I filed my previous CCT letter on July 17, and here I am almost precisely three months later, trying to recall the events of what seems to have been not only a very condensed but also uneventful summer. Nothing particular occurred in my life in July, but August yielded my 95th birthday. The oldest of my two daughters, Lise, who lives in and practices family medicine in nearby Skokie, Ill., granted my request that instead of a gift she invite her two siblings, their spouses and their children, i.e., my grandchildren, all seven of them grownups, here for a party. The target date I had in mind was the weekend closest to August 15 that they would all be available. That she did, and only one grandson and one son-in-law were unable to make it. The party was to be an outdoor picnic on the bonny banks of Lake Michigan. The only hitch was that I must have offended the gods in some way. No sooner were the franks, burgers and vegetables taken off the grill and the other goodies laid on the tables than it began to rain. It continued to do so until we gave up and transferred all of it back to Lise's home. It all nonetheless remained very edible, right down to the crowning touch of her strawberry shortcake, my annual favorite.

"The highlight of my September was a visit to Chicago's historic Auditorium Theater for a private reception and screening of excerpts from Ken Burns' latest documentary, The Vietnam War, done in collaboration with Lynn Novick. The entire show, 10 hours long, ran on PBS during all the rest of the month. I can't recommend it highly enough, but make it plain here that I am not unbiased. I have known and worked with Ken for more than 30 years. I have been one of his historical advisers and script writers on such presentations as Statue of Liberty, The Congress, The National Parks, The Civil War and Baseball, and it was a delight to see and hug him at the reception.

"And here we are on Columbus Day, and if I didn't feel sufficiently

#### COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

ancient already, two days ago my son turned 65.

"I intended to fill out this letter with some reminiscences of great Columbia teachers, but have recently participated in a new *CCT* online feature, 'Take Five,' that invited me to answer five questions about my experiences at Columbia, one of which asked for my most memorable classes, so I will pay my tributes there. [Editor's note: Go to bit.ly/2AujfJxto read it online.] Goodbye for now."

#### 1944

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

Dr. Daniel Choy PS'49, director of Choy Medical Technologies and consultant to the Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, writes: "Since graduation: P&S; USAF, Wright-Patterson AFB; invented Aeroplast (see Fall 2017 Class Notes); invented laser knife; ultrasound imaging; laser coronary angiogenesis (performed world's first such eight cases at the University of Toulouse); met Prime Minister Deng Hsiao Peng on transfer of laser technology trip, sponsored by President Carter to China, 1988; invented percutaneous disc herniation, did 8,000 cases. wrote textbook; invented an artificial heart sold to Dr. Eric Rose '71, chief of cardiac surgery at P&S; growth of coronary arteries in rabbits, dogs and pigs with a two-week infusion of basic fibroblastic growth factor in 1988 (to my knowledge this has not been replicated anywhere); invented a compression frame for X-rays of the spine; wrote an autobiography, Choy's Luck: Shanghai to New York, a Life of Inventions, Medicine, and Adventure: invented the first and only cure in 5,000 years for tinnitus and started this program at P&S, about to teach this technique to 2,251 medical schools worldwide for the treatment of one billion patients; offered to the VA with sponsorship from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) for the Rx of its 170,000 veterans with blast-induced tinnitus, which costs the VA \$2 billion a year; invited by Dr. Lawrence Lustig, the Howard W. Smith Professor of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery and chair, Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at P&S, to join him in sponsoring a new professorship in the use of stem cells for age-related deafness.

"Also am writing a biography of my father, Jun Ke Choy (Class of 1915), who was invited by President Gravson Kirk to contribute to Columbia's oral history on 'From Farm Boy to China's Envoy,' plenipotentiary to London and Paris to negotiate the return of the Boxer Indemnity Scholarship Program, after the rebellion; and a second career as a San Francisco banker - he was awarded a Certificate of Honor by then-president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Dianne Feinstein in 1971. I hope this book will be published by Columbia University Press."

*CCT*, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you, too. Please consider sharing news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory. Please contact us by using either the email address or postal 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

No news to share this quarter! *CCT*, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you. Please consider sharing news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory. Please contact us by using either the email address or postal address at the top of the column.

## Contact CCT

Update your contact information; submit a Class Note, Class Notes or wedding photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at **college.columbia.edu/cct.** 

### 1946

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

Happy 2018, Class of '46. Please send your news to the addresses above. I hope you have a wonderful start to the new year.

### 1947

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

No news to share this quarter! *CCT*, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you. Please consider sharing news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory. Please contact us by using either the email address or postal address at the top of the column.

#### 1948

#### **REUNION 2018** MAY 31–JUNE 2

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A note from former class correspondent **Durham Caldwell**, with some thoughts on the Fall 2017 column: "Nice to read **Ed Paul**'s long treatise in the Fall issue. Congratulations to Ed on resurrecting his dream of becoming an architect and for doing it so successfully— and to his wife, Judy, for her role in getting him back on track.

"I may be wrong. Memory fades. But I think I was in a Colloquium class with Ed (Professors Szathmary and Frame) in the Fall semester of 1946. The way I remember it, Ed was absent from class one evening but sent along with a classmate the paper he was due to read. I can't remember whether the classmate or Professor Szathmary read the paper, but I do remember Szathmary picking it apart, Ed (I think it was Ed) arriving late and identifying the paper as a typed version of the scholarly printed introduction to the book that was the subject of the evening's discussion and Szathmary becoming close to speechless.

"Ed, am I remembering that episode correctly?

"Also congratulations to **Dick Hyman** on his honorary doctorate from Juilliard. Nice to have classmates aside from the late **Allen Ginsberg** getting academic attention.

"And a comment on **Sylvain Bromberger**'s remark that he 'had no real sense of belonging to a specific class. Most of us were veterans,' trying to make up for time spent in the armed forces. When I was writing this column 14 or 15 years ago, I referred to us as a 'bastard class' for that very reason."

Dr. **Robert Feulner** writes: "I have eagerly awaited the arrival of the quarterly issue of *CCT* for years and would like to be a contributor to the magazine.

"My education at Columbia University and its college are responsible for all I have been able to achieve since graduation.

"While attending the High School of Music & Art, then on West 135th Street, I played trumpet in New York City professionally. This included employment in the Columbia University orchestra and band. Most memorable are performing in the 'pit' orchestra for the initial performances of Gian Carlo Menotti's opera, *The Medium*, at Columbia.

"Perhaps my years at Columbia College are most memorable because of the companionship made available to me by older and more mature members of the student body, many of whom had served the country in the Armed Forces during WWII. Most important is the education I received after my education at Columbia. I obtained my M.D. from the NYU/Bellevue Medical Center. Shortly after graduation, I was hospitalized and treated with medicine and surgery for pulmonary tuberculosis. This led to training in the less physically demanding specialty of radiology. After 25 years

of practice at Waukesha Memorial Hospital and 10 years at Froedtert Memorial Hospital/Medical Hospital of Wisconsin, I retired from medical practice in 1995.

"My wife, a retired nurse anesthetist, and I have raised five children. We have traveled extensively and I am a Three Diamond Class Sailplane pilot.

"To this day, I am extremely grateful for all Columbia has done for me and for the wonderful job you are still doing — refreshing my memory of times gone by, the education I received and the friendships that have made my life so fruitful."

*CCT*, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you, too. Please consider sharing news about yourself, your family, your career and/ or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory. Please contact us by using either the email address or postal address at the top of the column.

### 1949

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

This all began in September 1988, when my phone rang and a voice I instantly recognized — despite not having heard it for 40 years — said "Moe, how are you. This is Marv …"

Allow me to recall this event because I want to share with you all how meaningful this moment was. It is impossible for me to understand how Marvin Lipman's voice was so recognizable after all the years. I like to think that the environment in which we were all so nurtured for those four years at college made an imprint far more profound than we were able to understand at the time. Marv invited me to attend the initial planning meeting for our 40th reunion, in May 1989. It was the beginning of my involvement, which has been uninterrupted ever since. And the privilege I enjoy as your class correspondent has only enhanced the significance of that phone call.

And now Marv has done it again. It began with his email simply asking us (several classmates in the address line) if we were planning to attend the Homecoming game this past fall. The call generated responses from



classmates who, while not planning to attend the game, did provide us with an update on their lives. It was a reassurance that the best effort to make this a better world is a pursuit we are all following.

Your correspondent was prepared to write another plea for responses from classmates, until Marv popped up with his inquiry. Instead, the following email exchange was joyfully received.

From **Bill Lubic:** "Hi all. Had we known of a plan earlier, we may have joined in. We gave it a try at the 'virtual' Dean's Day (now called All-Class Reunion) last spring, but couldn't make it. Back a couple of football seasons ago I attended a D.C. dinner benefit for the 'Bubble' with Coach Al Bagnoli, local CCs and **Gene Rossides**. We all decided to help and were happy with the enthusiasm and the enormous (green) place with think tanks galore. A boon is C-SPAN — thank Bob Rosencrans BUS'52 for his foresight — there are three channels. D.C. is at our political core and current events seem to daily beat harder here with increasing gravitas. Sadly, not alone, we both have come to the conviction that the world and democratic institutions we have known are in a stage of monumental crises. Now in our 90s, and having fulfilled obligations to those nearest and dearest, we intend together to continue our long pro bono commitment to public service and advancing public good, and then some.

"No, we are definitely not announcing the intention to run for or seek public office, and any such offer will be respectfully declined." From **Joe Russell:** "Bill, it was a delight to hear from you today

Dr. Robert Feulner '48 says, "My education at Columbia University and its college are responsible for all I have been able to achieve after graduation."

courage required for a football rehab, although a little less sanguine about prospects. Certainly our recruitment success since has been amazing. Football is not everything by any stretch, but in our country it's important to be respectfully competitive, at least from time to time. I must add that it was pure genius to recruit the team's leading scorer from the Florida Swampland! Although I am a Penn Law grad, my stripes are still blue and white.

"My wife, Ruth, and I are bumping along fine. She manages her Type-2 diabetes nicely but can't fly (Eustachian tube issues), so we have entrained to New York often, and throughout the East and as far as Chicago. We planned to be in New York City at a CC dinner on October 26. As Ruth is considered 'inspirational,' the Yale School of Nursing-Midwifery invited her to do a class session in New Haven. Who remembers the Forty-Niner 30th Reunion (1979) when Ruth gave her patented N-Midwiferv lecture to a section of our class, with curious attention?

"Living in Washington, D.C., has been fine. It is a busy, lovely

(and thereby my only notice that the Homecoming game was coming up, on a day not free), and regret that we no longer get to see each other and hoist a glass together, so this evening my wife, Charlotte, and I will raise one to you and Ruth. Meanwhile, in our 10th decade, we are quite limited in what we can do about it, and I keep moderately busy as a securities arbitrator for FINRA, now in my 29th year of post-retirement activity that I began with its NYSE predecessor and still find sufficiently stimulating to keep me on my lawyerly toes. The only annoying part is the subway trip to lower Broadway each way during the rush hours; the crowds have gotten far worse than you might remember, and train delays occur too often; you might have read of that lately.

"Our older son (64) has entered a phased retirement from his Harvard professorial duties and moved to Fresno a bit more than a year ago, where he has added gardening to his active study and writing of academic papers on a variety of subjects close to his heart. He also spent the month of September giving a series of lectures at the University of St. Petersburg, followed by a week as an invited lecturer at the University of Moscow, a most fruitful and enjoyable visit for him. Our grandson, his nephew, will soon apply to various colleges, Columbia high among them, and we quietly hope for many reasons it will be where he will go. Join me in the hope — he has been a brilliant student all the way. His father, our younger son (60) remains a busy and beloved middle school history teacher who keeps his students alive with close interest and discussions; many of them come back to visit long after graduation.

"So life has its compensations for age, no? With warmest wishes for your continued good health and lives, Joe Russell."

From Marvin Lipman: "Not to be outdone by the rhetoric and brilliant prose of my esteemed classmates, I herewith submit a few well-chosen words. I will be the lone representative of our class at Homecoming if I can make it up the hill from where the Columbia-hired bus leaves us (my wife, Naomi Lipman BC'51, GSAS'52 would never let me go alone — not the world's most rabid football fan, she brings The New York Times crossword puzzle with her) at the corner of Broadway and West 218th Street. The so-far record of 4-0 has renewed my interest and has confirmed my thoughts about what a good coach can do.

"Meanwhile, in my real life, I continue to practice (it's impossible to ever think of being perfect) medicine with the Scarsdale Medical Group, just as I have done for the last 56 years. Of the six founding fathers (no founding mothers in those days), I am the last man standing. The group has now expanded to well over 50 members.

"New York Medical College, where I am a professor of clinical medicine, some time ago granted me emeritus status, so I have been relieved of my teaching obligations. My work with Consumer Reports, as chief medical adviser for the magazine, the monthly health letter and its large online presence, goes on and on, what with writing, editing and, of course, advising. Our magazine recently won a coveted award from Folio for a 2016 cover story, 'Supplements: A Complete Guide to Safety.' Our reporting on health and medicine reaches millions of people each month.

"Naomi keeps busy as a freelance copyeditor. Her major opus is the program for each of the several concerts sponsored by the Westchester Chamber Music Society. She and I take great delight in our three grandchildren: a budding cellist, a way-aheadof-his-time composer and recorder artist, and the oldest, a percussionist, who recently started college at The Berklee College of Music in Boston. Well, that's about all I can muster for the present. Go Lions!"

From me: I continue my work with the nonprofit PortSide New-York. We are berthed in the Atlantic Basin in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Headquartered on the retired coastal tanker Mary A. Whalen, we continue our efforts on behalf of New York's waterfront and waterways. Our internships and school visits bring kids from grade 2 through high school, where they learn about the working waterfront and ship restoration, and they are introduced to marine career opportunities in a hands-on experience. Among our most proud achievements is the growing NYC ferry effort, for which we were strong and successful advocates. I invite you all to visit our website (portsidenewyork.org) to learn more about our endeavors.

Keep the cards and letters coming. By the time of this reading we imagine Winter is here. Stay warm and give a thought to 2019; it will be our 70th!

#### 1950

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From Hubert "Buddy" Brandt:

"Still the tax assessor's nemesis. More and more I hear, 'Are you still around?' Glad I can hear at all. I have to work to pay off my student loans — tuition was \$15/point when I was on campus. I head three generations of Columbia College alumni — the fourth is nearly 1. I wonder what her tuition will be?

"Got a thrill last winter at seeing my granddaughter inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame (Jenny Brandt '09, for the 2006 women's soccer team).

"Yea for our football team! Almost as exciting as when Gene Rossides '49 and Bill Swiacki '49 snapped Army's streak. That dates me. I wonder how many of us '50s are still around? Call me: 212-563-2200.

"Go, Light Blue!"

#### 1951

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David Zinman JRN'52 writes: "News stories reporting the turmoil over U.S.-Russia relations recall the fiery emotions that blazed during the first school integration in the Deep South.

"It happened in 1960 in New Orleans. It made front-page headlines. Centuries-old southern tradition — segregation — was under attack.

"All the white parents but two — a young Methodist minister and an immigrant lady from Central America — withdrew their kids after a federal judge ruled that two black first-graders could attend the all-white school.

"As a cub reporter with the Associated Press, I covered the story. I walked alongside the minister and his 5-year-old daughter. I had no idea what would happen. But we got a lucky break. The Korean War was ending and I had just been discharged from the Navy. I wore my dark navy raincoat and a black fedora. Protesters mistook me for a priest and let us pass.

"I was not surprised that the minister had the courage to defy



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. "Neighbors change,' she said. 'Principles don't."

[Editor's note: You can view a photo of David walking with the minister and his daughter on the AP website: bit.ly/2hgy/Tjt.]

*CCT*, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you, too. Please consider sharing news about yourself, your family, your career and/ or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory. Please contact us by using either the email address or postal 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

Joseph Di Palma reports that he was named a Lifetime Achiever in the 2017 *Marquis Who's Who*, the world's premier publisher of biographical profiles.

Howard Hansen writes, "See the nearby photo taken at Naval Amphibious Training Base in Little Creek, Va., in 1953, featuring Capt. Phil Bucklew SIPA'48 (former Columbia assistant football coach), me, Gerry Audette, Bill Wallace, Vern Wynott, Gerry Cozzi and Wes Bomm. Bill and I were both lieutenant JGs at Little Creek and we put together the 'Shipwreck Sand Festival,' inviting Columbia friends. Vern and Bill were teammates of mine at Little Creek under football coach Phil for another two years in the Service League Football, which was bigtime during those years."

Bucklew was a talented football player, playing with the Cleveland Rams 1937–39, then founding and playing for the Columbia Bulldogs until the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was one of the first 10 Scouts and Raiders and assisted in leading the invasion of North Africa in November 1942, the invasion of Sicily in July 1943, the invasion of Italy at Salermo in September 1943 and the D-Day invasion in Normandy in June 1944. He served as commanding officer of Beach Jumper Unit TWO at NAB Little Creek 1951–56.



A 1953 photo taken at NAB Little Creek, Va. Standing, left to right: Phil Bucklew SIPA'48, Howard Hansen '52, Gerry Audette '52 and Bill Wallace '52; and kneeling, left to right: Vern Wynott '52, Gerry Cozzi '52 and Wes Bomm '52.

Says Hansen, "Bucklew brought Wallace, Wynott, John Guerriero '53 and me to Little Creek. After his Little Creek assignment he was sent to South Korea as commander in organizing Chinese guerrillas to offset Japanese infiltration (he masqueraded and was known as 'Big Stoop,' with a tin can hat when needed for survival)."

Bucklew served in the Navy until 1969 and was twice awarded the Navy Cross. He commanded SEAL Team One, formed in 1962, and is known as the "Father of U.S. Naval Special Warfare." The Phil Bucklew Naval Special Warfare Center, in Coronado, Calif., is named after him and it is the home of Naval Special Warfare training (including SEAL training). A bronze plaque in front of the building says, "Dedicated in honor of Captain Philip H. Bucklew for his heroic and lasting contributions to the inception and permanence of naval special warfare. This center of excellence is a lasting monument to his courage, foresight and leadership."

### 1953

#### **REUNION 2018** MAY 31–JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact Merideth Kerby ccaa-events@columbia.edu 212-851-7776 Development Contact Erin Zyko Hussein eez1@columbia.edu

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

On July 6 I received the following letter from our distinguished classmate **Ed Robbins:** "It's been a long time since we have been in contact. I thought I would bring you up to date about my family and me.

"Beverly and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary last summer with a dinner dance at the Harmonie Club in New York City. Joining us were **John Marchesi** and his wife, Rosanne, and **Marty Saiman** and Barbara Sheib.

"This past winter my family and I celebrated my 85th birthday with a similar party in Palm Beach, where we were again joined by John and Marty, as well as Rhoda and **Dick Kleid**.

"I retired from my business interests 24 years ago. However, I am still with the Skadden Arps law firm in New York, where I have been of counsel for almost 50 years.

"I am delighted to report that we have three children and 16 grandchildren, including two adopted and three step-grandchildren. One of my granddaughters graduated from the College in May 2016, after having been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship. It was particularly important to me that as a University trustee emeritus, I was part of the president's procession at Commencement.

"I would love to hear from any of our classmates."

**Gus Fulk** sent the following note about his life in Little Rock, Ark.: "I was born and reared in Little Rock, an only child of Gus and Lois Fulk. I dated my future wife, Anne Bass, in high school; she graduated from Vassar and we were married soon after college. We had four children. Anne died in 2017. I served three years in the Navy in the Pacific Fleet. I'm a member of Christ Episcopal Church. My current hobbies include hunting, fishing, tennis and bridge.

"Even though I live in a retirement complex, I haven't given up my work as an investment broker with Stephens,

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having spent more than 50 years in the investment business. I walk to work every day and return to be with friends during happy hour and dinner."

In a brief handwritten addition, Gus revealed that he gambles every day on the stock market and indicated that he is not pleased with his doctor's refusal to allow him to drive any longer.

Our 65th reunion is Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2. It's hard to believe! Please let me know if you would like to join our Reunion Committee for planning another wonderful event. We are hoping to duplicate our spectacular 60th reunion.

#### 1954

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

Happy 2018, men of '54: Our 65th reunion is NEXT YEAR! As your "permanent" class president, as well as reunion chair "for life," while the pay has never been that good, I humbly request all of your input — suggestions, questions, Reunion Committee participation, critiques — on how to make our 65th the best ever. My mailbox awaits.

This past September, I (Bernd Brecher JRN'55, along with my wife, Helen, and one of our granddaughters, Maya) spent a week in Halberstadt, Germany, where I was born and later left as a child, participating in an unusual project called "Open Jewish Houses" (rough translation from the German). Before WWII the city had several thousand Jewish residents, but none following the Holocaust. About 25 years ago an organization comprising non-Jews, under the sponsorship of the Moses Mendelssohn Akademie, was formed to devote itself to keeping alive the history, culture and contributions of Germany's Jews. Members of several families whose homes were not destroyed were invited back - along with those now living there ---- to host afternoon open houses to share their experiences with guests; the event was widely advertised and covered by the media. I was interviewed by the local NPR station, covered by the local newspaper and even had my 10 seconds of fame on television. Locals, as well as attendees who drove from several hours away, spent a very open give-and-take with me in the garden of a birthplace that I hardly remembered. No topic was sacrosanct, including the murder of my father by a Nazi firing squad.

While this was a learning experience for us all, the most significant part for me was conducting two coeducational classes of 17- and 18-year-old students at Halberstadt's Kathe Kollwitz Gymnasium. The students asked some significant questions about history, bigotry and the Holocaust and got (I hope) some meaningful responses from me. No one held back; it was a revelation. I reminded them that they are not only the future of their country but - given what was happening in my country and just about everywhere - also of Europe and of the world. (Whew!) Even a meeting with the mayor — who asked about Trump - paled next to meetings with the students. As I told them all, paraphrasing the Washington, D.C., Holocaust Memorial Museum's message: "Never stop asking why."

Now for news about some classmates: **Edward Raab** says he is "still practicing, teaching, lecturing in my field of pediatric ophthalmology. I'm completing a six-year term on the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons. I organized the ophthalmology portion of its Annual Congress last year and this year. Also, I delivered the 2016 invited honor lecture at my specialty society's annual meeting."

Ed sends his best wishes to us all. And back to you, Ed.

Stan Datlow writes, "This 84-yearold Columbia Lion is still chugging along despite ill health. My spirits have been lifted by Columbia football and damaged by the current occupant of the White House. Best wishes to all, and I'm proud to be of your number."

Thanks, Stan, be well and remember that 85 is the new 65.

To which our class' David Letterman adds, "At the age of 85 I learned the difference between old and very old," writes Saul Turteltaub. "Old is when you have to get up three times during the night to pee. Very old is when you have to get up three times during the night to pee and you only get up twice. Old is when you can't remember your wife's maiden name. Very old is when you can't remember your wife's married name. And from reading the obituary columns first thing every morning hoping not to find friends in there I learned one of the greatest causes of death: loved ones. So many people died while surrounded by their loved ones. Stay home and give the sick a chance.

"And as a Christmas/Chanukah gift to my deeply missed classmates I give you a new word: A convert to or from Judaism is a *Transgentile*. Happy and healthy New Year to all of you."

Thanks, Saul, and to you and yours. A sense of humor, if not laughter, is listed as a requisite on most job descriptions these days; and do we need it.

Joel West (né Weinstein) writes, "Since you ask for comments on current politics, I thought I may have something to contribute. Democracies have historically been relatively short-lived, to be replaced by aristocracy and ultimately dictatorship. Witness the Roman Empire. I believe our democracy is becoming an aristocracy controlled by such rich people as the Koch brothers and their allies. To me the most serious change is the dismissal of scientific and factual reality, to be replaced by 'fake news.' Perhaps more serious is like Lionel Trilling '25, GSAS'38. I skipped so many basic courses and instead took [so many] graduate-level courses that I think I was responsible for Columbia ending that program. Such a shame."

Joel, you missed part of the Core; come back.

"My wife, Ann Louise, and I in September began a road trip from our place in northern New Hampshire to Bozeman, Mont., and back to our home in Washington, D.C.," writes Edward Cowan. "When friends in Montana invited us to visit, we saw that as an opportunity to add northern tier states to our ongoing 'See America' campaign (between 2000 and 2012 we saw baseball games in each of the 30 Major League ballparks). After spending several days with old friends in Toronto (where I was The New York Times correspondent 1967-72), we cut across southern Ontario, re-entered the United

After a fall visit to South Dakota, Ed Cowan '54 has now visited all 50 states, capping a count that began in June 1954.

the undermining of efforts to protect against climate change in order to protect quarterly stock profits.

"Probably few in the Class of '54 remember me, as I transferred from the Class of '55 after my second year. I am a psychoanalyst, one of the rare breed of psychiatrists who still practice it. My daughter Laura (a Harvard grad) is a psycho-pharmacologist at Kaiser, and gave up her aspiration to become a psychoanalyst. My daughter Anne '90 is a graduate of UCLA Law. Both my daughters have a son and a daughter. My oldest granddaughter is graduating from Penn. Aside from advancing macular degeneration, my health remains stable. I learned of a treatment for the dry M.D. used in Parkinson's disease (Sinamet), which has led to significant improvement in my near vision and has slowed the progression of M.D.

"I think Columbia was truly transformative for me. A program in my year allowed me to take a proficiency exam and skip the basic courses. Thus I was able to obtain a broad-based education through graduate level courses with professors States in Michigan and drove north. We took the ferry (passengers only, no cars) to Mackinac Island in Lake Michigan and explored on foot.

"From there our westward route took us across Michigan's Upper Peninsula and through rural Minnesota. On to Bismarck, N.D., then west on Interstate 94 for a brief overview of Theodore Roosevelt National Park; two days later in our friends' home north of Bozeman, in the foothills of the Bridger Mountains, we awoke to a mid-September dusting of snow.

"The return leg of our trip took us through Cody, Wyo., up and over a 9,000-ft.-high mountain pass that was fogged in, to the elongated town of Sundance, Wyo., and into South Dakota. That was state number 50 for me, capping a count that I began in June 1954 when, with Dick Evans and Dave Gerstein, we drove a car for an auto dealer from Detroit to Los Angeles. The Black Hills of South Dakota were stunning, and the driving on narrow, serpentine roads was challenging. Mount Rushmore, difficult to get to, looked just like the photos and I was underwhelmed.

We then drove through Badlands National Park — and were rewarded handsomely. The jagged Badlands were the scenic highlight of the trip.

"Then on to Omaha, followed by Hannibal, Mo., where we soaked up Mark Twain and saw Tom Sawyer's picket fence (so to speak). After a night with friends in tranquil New Harmony, Ind., we arrived at Mason, Ohio, for dinner with Brian Tansey, his daughter, Eira, and her husband, Justin Levy. From Mason, we drove to Washington, D.C., in one long day, enjoying anew the green and rolling highway I-68, from Morgantown, W.Va., to Hancock, Md. (Way better than the Pennsy Turnpike.) In all, 25 days and 5,360 miles. In a year or two, we might drive out to L.A. to see our son Jeffrey and his twin boys, Matt and Jason (12), and deliver all the books Jeffrey left with us 30 years ago."

Edward, thanks for great tourguiding. I've been to 46 of the 50 states — and to our Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico (and even to New Harmony, Ind., and Washington, D.C.) — and will be sure to check with you before we set our feet in North and South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana.

Family members informed us about the passing of **Keith Krebs** in Walla Walla, Wash., in October. Our sincere condolences to them.

An update from **Arnold Tolkin:** "The Tolkins are doing fine. We now have three great-granddaughters, two from a Columbia College grandson. My wife had open heart surgery and while it was scary for a little bit, she is making an excellent recovery. We are still planning to do a lot of traveling, and I am still active and running my business. I even got a new booking from a classmate. I keep working and initiating projects to keep me busy and I exercise daily. Life is good and I intend to keep living it."

Y'all hear that, men of destiny? Good for you, Arnie, and all our good wishes for your wife's quick recovery.

That's it for 2017, gentlemen. Some good news, some not so, mostly revealing something to share with best friends and cohorts we shared our lives with a lifetime ago. I get pure joy in writing this column — whatever the news — in getting your mail, and in knowing that 85 is the new whatever we individually are blessed to make of it. Until the next issue, be well, write often and continue to help cure the world. Excelsior!

### 1955

Gerald Sherwin 181 E. 73rd St., Apt. 6A New York, NY 10021 gs481@juno.com

There were 13,000 fans (including President Lee C. Bollinger) at the Homecoming game. It was an incredible sight as the Lions beat Penn in one of the more exciting games in football history. In addition to the spectacle there was a special Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting involving the dean in the 1929 Boathouse.

The 2017 Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner honored Jonathan Lavine '88 on November 16.

What's happening with our classmates? Your trusted correspondent made a slight error regarding **Allen Hyman.** He did not receive an alumni medal. He was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree. Alumni medals go to those who have given 10 or more years of service to the College. An honorary degree is awarded for contributions in science. In Allen's case, it was for medical science.

We received a note from Michael Goldstein SEAS'55, who was a good, close friend of Ted Baker. Michael was looking to contact Ted, as both were both Ford Scholars. He also referred me to Peter Pressman, who received an award.

From the West Coast, we received a note from Lee Rogers, who (with his family) has moved from his home. Lee was trying to contact Norman Goldstein. The surprise birthday party was held downtown. Ron McPhee and Jack Freeman unfortunately could not attend. Maybe next year.

Involved in Columbia Giving Day activities were Nick Avery, Charles Barnett, Larry Cove, Marty Dubner, John Helmers, Millard Ingraham, Dick Kuhn, Lew Mendelson, Neil Opdyke (who should be proud of his football guys), Anthony Viscusi and Ralph Wagner. If I left out any names, please contact me.

Also on the West Coast, Jack Stuppin had a showing in Northern California.

**Bill Langston** and his wife recently purchased, along with his

daughter and her husband, a house in Hamilton Heights, Manhattan. He expects to finish the conversion on the apartment and move in by June. Bill will definitely be attending the 65th. We hope our noted Atlantan will be there as well.

Columbia now shares a club with Penn in New York City. To get more information on membership, contact your class correspondent, who will forward information to you.

Try to take long walks, and watch your food intake. You want to be ready for the 65th.

Love to all! Everywhere!

### 1956

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

It has been a busy couple of months. We had a great (but slightly pricey) lunch at the Penn Club, where nine of us were graced by Victoria Bonfante and Elke Easton (up from North Carolina for the occasion). Elke and Steve Easton report that they like to play golf, and have no difficulty finding places to play. Present were Jordan Bonfante, Stephen Easton, Bob Siroty, Ralph Kaslick, Jerry Fine, Dan Link, Al Franco SEAS'56, Alan Broadwin and Stan Soren. Our guest was David Silver, the Columbia College Fund's assistant director of class giving (and our class liaison from the Alumni Office). David was instrumental in arranging the Lou Hemmerdinger scholarship fund (31 donors, \$35,000). Steve asks that you note his email address change to tball8000@gmail.com. Dan reports that he is now a greatgrandfather, and enjoying the title.

Prior to that we assembled at Bonnie Brae Country Club in Larchmont, N.Y., courtesy of Dan, for tennis (three of us) and lunch. Great fun talking old times, and new ones. We were back on campus in October.

I had dinner with Beverly and Bill Fischer. Their son Wade is chief of cardiac surgery at a hospital in Orlando, and their son Bradley '98 is a producer in Hollywood. He produced the movie *Truth* about the life of Dan Rather, starring Robert Redford and Cate Blanchett.

**Ron Kapon** celebrated his 25th year as adjunct professor at Fairleigh

Dickinson University, running the wine and spirits program.

I don't remember a course like that at Columbia, or did I miss something?

**Buz Paaswell** is back from San Diego after attending his granddaughter's bat mitzvah.

On a sadder note I received notice of the death of Lary Faris '55, SEAS'56. Lary was a member of both the national and international shuffleboard halls of fame; he had won more titles than any other male player. **Herb Kutlow** reports the passing of his best friend, **Fred Lane**, in October last year in Virginia. Lynne Vernick reports that her husband, **Arnold Vernick SEAS'56**, died in July. He was a well-recognized engineer with many awards to his name.

Keep in touch, guys. Periodic luncheons in the New York metro area are fun, and we will have one in Florida in February. There is a lot to report on and to remember (keep sending me info). Stay smart, and stay fit.

### 1957

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

Alfred Daniel Fierro: "The same month I graduated I was married, and on June 29 I celebrated my 60th wedding anniversary. My wife and I had four children, three boys and one girl. For approximately 20 years I lived in Tenafly, N.J. Thereafter I downsized and built a smaller house in Old Tappan, N.J.

"We became parishioners of Our Lady of The Sacred Heart Church in Tappan, N.Y., which is immediately adjacent to Old Tappan, N.J. My wife, being a daily communicant, would always see a professor come to daily Mass, first alone, then with an aide, then with two aides, and finally in a wheelchair.

"The week of July 16 I finally ascertained the name of the professor, Wm. Theodore de Bary'41, GSAS'53. Unfortunately it was only after Professor de Bary's demise that I learned his name. On July 23 I took my yearbook to Mass and showed Father Dwyer and Father Francis Professor de Bary's faculty picture. It's a small world." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," Fall 2017.]

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#### A. Malcolm "Mac" Gimse

submitted this poem tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "A Stone of Hope"; he performed a reading of the poem at Arcadia Charter School, Northfield, Minn, in January.

### "Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope."

You begin me wind, the trees mime your gallop as you race across the crouching hillside, gathering into great thunderheads of power, to send lightning-grabs of pent up torrents crashing down

into the chaos of my unsuspecting world, to violate

my innermost sacred chamber, and crush every

arm-in-arm march to be free at last, ... without my permission.

### "Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope."

Ah wind...you stir the waters with *Holy Spirit* sounds to breach wombs of readiness, that will deliver children of mercy to be nurtured by us, to grow in wisdom and strength, and lead us onto common ground, where soils are saturated by every mix of human blood, and soaked down by human tears, that we might learn to sow our seeds of peace into fields of a

gentler faith ...asking the God of all religions for permission.

### "Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope."

We lean against our moral obligations to friend and foe alike, bracing up each bridge of passage

that leads us to our most urgent quest. *"I have a dream."* Upon this

rock we will create love, not hatred. *"I have a dream today.*"

Upon this rock we will offer mercy, not revenge.

*"I have a dream that one day"* Upon this rock we will build peace, not anger,

until together we pronounce a verdict of mutual respect between the powerful and the powerless

for all future generations to follow, ...making peace their only permission.

### "Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope."

Somewhere in the vastness of our separations we hear cries to steady the trembling foundations of our fragile homeland; to set down our weeping weapons on screaming streets of rage;

to circle our sanctuary against the sting of ethnic cleansing; to bind up wounds laid bare by warring creeds;

to tame, to calm, to quiet the loudly crowd in order to hear our freedoms ring. Then lift up our

next born "as a joyous daybreak to end the long night" and declare "Out of the mountain of

despair, a stone of hope." ...using all humanity's permission.

Stephen Fybish died on August 30, 2017. *The New York Times* obituary appeared on September 8 (read it online at nyti.ms/2las0VB). I asked classmates for recollections of him; the responses follow.

Richard Berger: "While I remember him, especially that we were on *Spec* and used to talk about one thing or another, I don't have anything [specific] to contribute. I recall he was very smart, well read and seemed rudderless."

Alan Brown: "Steve was an American Original. It is hard to capture him in words but those who knew him [will] understand this."

Dick Effros: "I have many fond memories of Stephen, who always seemed to be everyone's friend. We were both in the Columbia University orchestra ... he was certainly more talented than I. He was interested in just about everything and at one point considered medicine as a possible career. He will be missed."

Ludwig Gelobter: "I have faded memories of Steve, sharing some classes at Stuyvesant H.S. and then seeing him occasionally at Columbia. Years later, when I lived on the West Side, I would see him walking on Broadway, lost in thought, muttering to himself. Did he not play the flute as well? I actually thought of reaching out to him months ago, on one of my trips to NYC. Now it's too late."

Mac Gimse: "I remember Stephen as a very bright classmate who always had an interesting, informative comment in any conversation. I sought him out in the caf because sitting near him was a learning experience. Whenever I needed a synopsis of a CC or Humanities reading, he had it ready and was, thankfully, generous with his encyclopedic information. He and I met often on the elevator and in the restroom, because we lived on the same floor for at least a year. It was never dull. Am I correct in saying that he was the top scholar in the Class of '57?

"A few years ago I had an exhibit of my bronze sculpture in a gallery in West Chelsea and invited classmates to visit. Stephen went around all 20 pieces, each with extensive descriptions and half of them with poetry attached. He responded to the 'Please Touch' signs and ran his hands over each piece. After he finished, he had questions and obviously remembered what he had read. He asked if I would recite some of the poetry; [he had] perceptive and sensitive comments afterward.

"He said he enjoyed his 'weatherwatching career' because it was palpable. His body responded to a change in in the atmosphere. He got wet and could feel ice and eat snow. At my exhibit he was happy to touch what the sculptor [had] Planetarium. After transporting the large device via the subway, complete with the tripod mount, from Manhattan to an open lot in Jackson Heights, I saw the rings of Saturn for the first time. I was a friend of Steve's as we traveled together from grade school through high school and college. Steve continued to amaze me with his knowledge, and he tried to impart some of his wisdom to me.

"I was saddened to learn of Steve's passing. My sympathy goes out to his stepdaughters, whom I never met, and younger brother, Ira, whom I knew as a child. My hope is that the pleasant memories we have of this brilliant man will sustain all who mourn his loss. He was one of a kind, and I say that with great affection for this remarkable friend."

John Norton: "It is with great sadness that I read of the passing of

Ron Kapon '56 celebrated his 25th year as an adjunct professor at Fairleigh Dickinson, running the wine and spirits program.

shaped, which was not [allowed] in museums. That brief encounter made me wish he had been my elementary [school] teacher.

"At the 60th reunion last June, Stephen led the group in singing *Sans Souci*. I'm so glad I got to hear him sing over the phone because it was a valiant effort ... even a tender rendition. He was up for doing almost anything. He was truly a likeable guy. He [is] missed already."

Alvin Kass: "I was deeply saddened to hear of Steve's death. He was extraordinarily intelligent and I was dazzled by his expertise in the domain of weather. He demonstrated how often major events could be influenced by weather in either a positive or negative way. He would have been an important and eloquent voice in the current argument over human-caused climate change. I will miss him."

Ronald Maenza: "Steve and I were friends from the time we were elementary school classmates. We were the founding (and only) members of the Jackson Heights Junior Astronomy Club. Our prize 'possession' was a large refracting telescope loaned to us by the Hayden Steve, a classmate from Stuyvesant H.S. and the College. At Stuyvesant, Steve was one of our brightest classmates and a participant in science, music and a multitude of other activities. He loved to talk about interests and share insights he discovered. At Columbia he demonstrated intense excitement in many areas of academic interest, from medicine to law to teaching. In his approach to analyses of large data sets he showed fascination about global trends that could be derived from weather bureau reports. His enthusiasm was ever-present. It is with wonderful memories that I recall Steve. He was really very smart — if a tad eccentric. I'm surprised he became an elementary school teacher and 'avocational weather researcher' instead of a theoretical physicist."

Gabriel Pinski: "Steve was a close colleague since early in our freshman year. The preponderance of our interactions related to the pursuit of females."

"Steve had scored first in the city in the State Scholarship exam. Every year *The New York Times* published, in descending order for each borough, the scores of the winners. These scores for many years, [by use of] Steve's encyclopedic memory, served as a bottomless pit of worthy contacts. His cold calls resulted in many dates. In Spring '56 he highly recommended two Music and Art lovelies for me to address. For various reasons they both declined; nevertheless, they turned out to be classmates of my eventual wife, Avivah. I see them frequently at M&A get-togethers. I can't see them without thinking of Steve.

"I visited Steve during our first postgraduate year when I was at Rochester and he was at Cornell. He fixed me up with a cute young lady; I don't remember her State Scholarship pedigree. I was so impressed with the Cornell campus that I was sorry I hadn't gone there for grad school.

"Over the years Steve would tell us about his ongoing participation in the Columbia orchestra and the Balalaika orchestra. I remember visiting his apartment on West 93rd Street, where we had to walk between towering stacks of newspapers. Avivah and I met his wife, Peggy, and Avivah once went to a museum with her. It is hard to think of being around Columbia without Steve."

Yitzhak Sharon: "Sandy, Dina and I were deeply saddened when we heard of Steve's untimely death on August 30. We feel fortunate to have spent time with him at our reunion last June. One of the most striking and endearing aspects of Steve, who was a teacher, was his outgoing nature; not only was he so knowledgeable about so many areas, but he was also so eager to engage others and share his knowledge with them.

"Steve was a refreshing spirit among us. His childlike delight in his hobbies and interests always brought a smile to our faces. Why, given your birthdate, he could tell you on what day of the week you were born in a minute; he did the calculation in his head. He knew so much about the weather history of New York City. His passion for books almost got him evicted from his apartment, because he had so many, stacked all over it. Indeed, Steve was an intelligent, lovable, colorful and free-spirited Columbian and friend.

"After the Sunday brunch at reunion, we took a picture of Steve waving goodbye to our family. Alas, it turned out that he was also waving farewell to his classmates and to Columbia. We will miss him sorely. He will always be in our thoughts."

### 1958

#### REUNION 2018 MAY 31-JUNE 2

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Barry Dickman 25 Main St. Court Plaza North, Ste 104 Hackensack, NJ 07601 bdickmanesq@gmail.com

We are sorry to report the deaths of two classmates. Michael Lesch died on August 21, 2017, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was predeceased by his wife, Judith, and is survived by his daughter, Sara '89, LAW'93; son, Benjamin; and five grandchildren. After graduating from Harvard Law School, Mike spent his entire career as a litigator in New York City, first with the firm that eventually became Shea & Gould and then with LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, which ultimately merged with Dewey Ballantine to became the ill-fated Dewey LeBoeuf. His accomplishments included arguing a case before the United States Supreme Court.

Dick Bakalor LAW'61 was killed on July 14, 2017, when he was run over by a car while crossing the street outside his law offices in Garden City, N.Y. He is survived by his wife, Julie, and children, Donna and Joseph. Henry Solomon PS'62, ZBT fraternity brother and College roommate who notified us of Dick's death, said it was particularly unfortunate because Dick had been making an excellent recovery from open-heart surgery and had returned to work. In fact, he was on his way to a deposition when he was struck. As an undergraduate, Dick was a varsity wrestler. A founding member of Quirk & Bakalor, Dick had a diverse litigation practice and was also a lecturer at St. John's University School of Law.

As for **Henry Solomon**, he is the chief medical officer/senior medical

adviser of the American College of Cardiology, and chief continuing medical education reviewer for *Med-Page Today*. He added, "My work for the American College of Cardiology keeps me traveling quite a bit, especially to Asia — I will have been in China and Japan seven or eight times in 2017 by the end of the year, as well as in Europe twice."

Steve Jonas unsurprisingly reported that he too is keeping busy: "I am competing in my 35th season of triathlon/duathlon racing and have done 255 races. In the 2017 USA Triathlon Age Group Sprint-Triathlon National Championships at Omaha, Neb., I had a podium finish (fourth) in the 80-84 age group. Thus I qualified to go to the 2018 International Triathlon Union Age Group Sprint-Triathlon World Championships at Gold Coast, Australia. Also, I was first (and only) in my age group at the New Jersey State Triathlon, held in Princeton, N.J.

"On the academic side, I presented a paper based on my book, *Ending*  mentioned a consultation with an infectious disease doctor, who turned out to be Fred Silverblatt. A little further research revealed that not only is Fred still practicing at South County Hospital in East Greenwich, R.I., but he also was the oldest competitor in last July's New York City Triathlon. Fred was on the swim team as an undergraduate. According to wpri.com, Fred took up running after college, competing in more than 30 marathons before deciding (when he was 65) to move to triathlons (inspired, no doubt, by Steve Jonas). He was hoping to qualify for the U.S. Triathlon Team that will compete at the 2018 World Championships in Denmark and plans to continue to race as long as he can inspire others to increase their physical activity.

Harvey Feuerstein's son, Mark, is starring on a new CBS series, *9JKL*, based on his own life. The title refers to a row of apartments where Mark's character lives between his parents (played by Elliott Gould and

Steve Jonas '58 is competing in his 35th season of triathlon/duathlon racing and has done 255 races.

the 'Drug War:' Solving the Drug Problem: The Public Health Approach, at the 2017 annual meeting of the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research, held in Savannah, Ga., and at the third annual International Conference on Public Health of the Athens Institute for Education and Research. I was a session chair at the 2017 annual meeting of The International Society for the Study of Drug Policy, held in Aarhus, Denmark. Finally, I continue publishing my political columns most weeks on OpEdNews and several other leftwing web magazines."

Despite his alleged retirement, Steve is active as professor emeritus in the family, population and preventive medicine department and the program in public health at Stony Brook University.

And speaking of triathlons, a "Diagnosis" column in *The New York Times Magazine* involving a woman in Rhode Island with a mysterious and painful condition Linda Lavin) and his brother and sister-in-law. Does this make Harvey Barbra Streisand's ex-husband? Mark previously played the lead role in the long-running USA series *Royal Pains*.

Occasionally this column mentions a non-classmate with a connection to '58. Stephen Fybish '57, who died on August 30, 2017, was a member of Spectator's managing board the year before '58 took over, and we were all familiar with his quirky views. Sadly, he never achieved his goal of attending every Ivy League school - your reporter encountered him at Harvard and my sister ran into him at Cornell, but that was about it. However, he did satisfy his peripatetic urges by becoming a substitute teacher and making the rounds of New York City's high schools. He also became a self-taught freelance weather expert, who was often quoted in The New York Times, supplying an obscure snowfall or windstorm record, which might date back to 1877!



We'll miss those odd encounters; he was one of a kind. [Editor's note: See the 1957 column for classmates' memories of Steve.]

The Class Lunch is held on the second Tuesday of every month in the Grill of the Princeton Club, 15 W. 43rd St. (\$31 per person). Email **Art Radin** if you plan to attend, up to the day before: arthur.radin@ janoverllc.com.

### 1959

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

Many of us have new email addresses since we have retired or moved. I encourage all of you who are not getting email from me to send me your email address. I promise not to share it with anyone without your permission, including Columbia. [Editor's note: If you would like your address updated with *CCT* and the Alumni Office, please go to college.columbia. edu/cct/update\_contact\_info.]

We heard from **Steve Trachtenberg** who, as you might suspect, has been very busy writing. He has also been fishing, successfully if the picture that he sent me is correct. Since the fish does not qualify as a College graduate, *CCT* will not include the photo, but I can tell you that it is a big fish.

**Steve Kallis** reports: "Probably the most interesting experience I've

had is sitting through Hurricane Irma in Tampa. I took precautions, such as throwing all of the lawn furniture into the pool, so that nothing could become a projectile. My next-door neighbors armored their house and invited me to go through the storm there, which I (and my cat) did. Winds were fierce, but the following morning, though trees on my lawn lost limbs, the house was undamaged and the forecasted storm surge didn't reach it. Fortunately, we retained power."

I am glad to hear that things worked out so well. Any reports from others who had experiences with hurricanes or other natural disasters (such as wildfires)? Let your classmates share your experience.

David Horowitz LAW'62 writes, "Just when I thought I had retired - sort of — and was never going to write another book, I got a call before the presidential election asking me if I would write a book called Big Agenda about what to expect of the new administration. The call came from Chris Ruddy, Newsmax's founder and creative publisher, who told me to write it as though Hillary was going to win and to have it ready for the printer on November 9, three and a half weeks away. The book, whose full title is Big Agenda: President Trump's Plan to Save America, was published three days before Trump's inauguration, as Ruddy had planned, and instantly became a bestseller, making The New York Times list 11 weeks in a row. Of course, it was never reviewed by the Times or any of the 'fake media' (a not-inappropriate title for a

Norman Gelfand '59 submitted this photo of a 1958 Columbia football game.

hyper-partisan press). I don't expect *Columbia College Today* to review it either, which is a sad commentary on the partisan institutions our once great schools have become. I have submitted this 'news' to our Class Notes not to hype the book — as I suspect few of my classmates will be inclined to read it — but to encourage you all to embrace the idea that life isn't over at 78."

From **Bernie Pucker**: "We began celebrating the gallery's 50th anniversary year in September 2017 with major shows by important gallery artists, starting with Brother Thomas Bezanson (porcelain potter), Paul Caponigro (a master photographer) and Samuel Bak (an artist who continues to raise important visual and moral questions). In late September we hosted a celebration for artists and patrons and staff to say thank you.

"In November, my wife, Sue, and I planned to go to Rwanda to celebrate the high school graduation of the Maranyundo Girls School that Sue and 14 women in Boston founded. Then on to Vilnius to celebrate the opening of a Bak museum."

Bernie sent me a copy of the remarks that he made at the reception to celebrate the 50th anniversary. I have excerpted the following for our enjoyment: "When we moved to Boston in 1961, it was far from clear that we would be devoting these decades to founding and guiding a gallery on Newbury Street. Brandeis, Jewish Studies and the Hebrew Bible seemed to be my direction and gradually the art took over and, in Fall 1967, we opened the below street level space at 171 Newbury. The landlord, John Priestley, also the architect and building owner, worked with Richie Bertman of the newly founded CBT Architects to create an environment much like a home to exhibit our primary collections. The sole source was the Safrai Fine Art Gallery of Jerusalem. Dov and Shoshana Safrai trusted and encouraged us to open our gallery. They had befriended us in 1959-60, when we lived there during our first year of marriage, on Rehov Salant in Jerusalem. During that year, Sue's aunt Saidy gifted us \$300 designated to the purchase of Israeli art. This was the beginning of our journey ... From the art of Israel, aka modern masters of Israeli art, to modern masters (Chagall, Picasso, Matisse)

to artists from New England and around the globe and eventually, in 1982, to ceramics .... And a second very special thank you to John for making the move to the renewed, beautiful space at 240 Newbury."

Eric Jakobsson SEAS'60 writes, "Snippets: Traveled this summer with my wife, Naomi, and Columbia alumni and friends to Iceland. Wonderful trip! Highly recommended. Odyssey is a great travel company and when it teams up with the Columbia Alumni Association it produces great experiences and memories. The country is spectacularly beautiful and successful and interesting, all at once.

"Also went to Costa Rica to give a talk, 'Science Denial in the United States,' trying to help them and me understand how we went off the rails and how to get back on. Acquired a new grandson, Luke. Recently got a comprehensive review of lithium in biological systems accepted in the Journal of Membrane Biology. Was working on three papers that I hoped to get accepted or at least submitted before the turn of the year. Took two lobbying trips to Washington, D.C., one with the Union of Concerned Scientists to lobby for sensible climate policies and support for climate research, and one with the Biophysical Society to lobby for biomedical research funding. Memorial Sloan Kettering continues to tell me that something else will almost certainly kill me before my prostate cancer gets really dangerous; next checkup was to be in November to see if this continues to be their view. Assuming no unforeseen catastrophes, I will come to reunion in 2019!

"In my life at work, I am a research scientist. Most recently I had papers on ACS Nano (gene expression patterns in yeast cells encapsulated in silica matrices) and Langmuir (distortion of structure of phospholipid membranes by lithium ions).

"In my life as a citizen, I have embarked on another term on the Urbana City Council. A lot of this is mundane (although important). Some is not so mundane, such as working on issues related to social services, criminal justice and helping to draft and pass a resolution declaring Urbana a Sanctuary City.

"Because of the emergency state we are in due to the elections, I have decided to move some of my thinking and activity toward mitigating climate change. I have become active in the Union of Concerned Scientists, including visiting Congressional offices in Washington and trying to organize a group of folks to actively confront science denial.

"In order to be credible in issues advocacy, I am steering clear of partisan politics. Naomi, however, is working for the election of a smart and good reform candidate for Illinois governor, Daniel Biss.

"Family milestones keep coming. Our granddaughter Farrah graduated last spring from Ohio State in political science. My health is great except for usual accretions of age — glaucoma, cataracts, prostate and skin cancer, and a pinched nerve in my lower back. I also suffer from moderate depression, so do not feel as lucky as I should."

From a long communication with Paul Kantor I extracted the following: "Once again there's been a fair amount of travel. In October, we (Carole and I) went to New Jersey for a symposium at the New Jersey Center for Biomaterials and had a most pleasant visit with Sheila D'Atri. In November I was in North Carolina for a meeting about floods and resilience, and had a wonderful supper with Carol and  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Lowell}}$ Goldsmith, who were in the planning stages of 'downsizing.' Later in November we visited New York City, staying in the fabulous apartment owned by one of Carole's colleagues and his husband. Last but not least, at Thanksgiving, Bill Zangwill and his wife, Julia, visited from Chicago, and we swapped thoughts about the astonishing election outcome. ... In January we were off to Israel. My brother, Fred Kantor '64, traveled with us ... We spent time in Jerusalem, in funky rooms, and took some of our meals in the Shuk, which was right across the street. But mostly we visited with my Aunt Sue. Then back to Madison, Wis., for the annual Folk Ball - a huge room filled with dancers, sometimes with the music of Dave's Bulgarian ensemble Veselka - and we were able, with our new bionic parts, to do much more dancing than in recent years."

More in future issues of *CCT*. I encourage you to write about your doings and reflections. If you got this far you are interested in reading about your classmates. They would like to hear from you.

#### 1960

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

Syd Goldsmith GSAS'65 — diplomat, businessman, novelist, flutist - has written a memoir, Hong Kong on the Brink: An American Diplomat Relives 1967's Darkest Days. Syd relates his experiences as a newly minted Foreign Service officer posted to Hong Kong in 1965; he was the only Cantonese-speaking non-Chinese officer at the American consulate. Covering a pivotal period in Hong Kong's history, fraught with social unrest, conflicts and riots, rumors and threats of a Chinese takeover, Syd finds himself in the center of intrigue and violence. Hong Kong is beset by a feckless British colonial administration, volatile industrial strife, and strikes and demonstrations fueled by intolerable working conditions that combine to threaten the colony's existence. In the opening chapter, Syd is dispatched by the deputy chief of the consulate to observe and report on conditions in one of the areas experiencing industrial unrest. Unfamiliar with the district and unprepared for what he will find. Syd walks into a spontaneous volcanic eruption of chaos and rioting, is surrounded and suffers a relentless, ferocious pummeling. Hong Kong barely survives the '67 upheaval, and modern Hong Kong emerges. Read Syd's book for his observations, insights and experiences.

**Bill Tanenbaum** is passionate about travel and encourages others to follow his sense of wanderlust. He is equally passionate about staying in contact and visiting with a number of members of the class. Combining these two passions, Bill reports on the recent trips far from home of several members of CC'60, and on his own travels with his wife, Ronna.

Dick Caldwell and his wife, Ellen, presently residing in Winchester, Va., took a tour of Alaska. The Caldwells were not the only travelers to Alaska. Bob Levine and his wife, Agy, who live in Los Angeles, embarked on an Alaskan cruise. Richard Dorazio and his wife, Sharon, living in Heath, Texas, spent a month at a home north of Rome, Italy. Ernie Kaiman and his wife, Faye, living in Sarasota, Fla., took a tour through the Canadian Rockies. As for Bill and Ronna, living in Boca Raton, Fla., they enjoyed visits to London, Edinburgh and Jerusalem, and spent August hiking and sightseeing in Beaver Creek, Colo. On a personal note, I was grateful to receive Bill's recommendations on sights to see in Edinburgh (a city Bill has visited several times and which is one of his favorites) when my wife, Cheryl, and I and our son, Ethan, traveled through Iceland and Scotland and spent several days in Edinburgh.

Every year on October 5, **Tom Hamilton** faithfully recalls and memorializes the "Anniversary of Theft," an event to which he was a witness as a member of the staff of WKCR. He includes WKCR and *Spectator* as recipients of his report of the incident. You can read it here: "Sixty years ago yesterday,"Tom writes, "the Soviet Union placed the first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, in orbit around the earth. Its only jobs were to report its location and onclass president and formed a Latin-American band called the Carlos Ota Band, in which he sang and played guitar and percussion. After Columbia he moved to Spain to pursue graduate studies at the Menéndez Pelayo International University in Santander. There he started one of the first chain self-service laundromats, with locations in various parts of the country. Carlos met his wife, Sonia, in Madrid and started their family of six children. He returned to the United States with his family in 1976. Carlos taught at Tulane University while also working night shifts at the university as a custodian to support the six kids. He later worked for Merrill Lynch, first in New Orleans where he became a top producer, and then in Florida, where he spent the rest of his life. In Miami, Carlos worked for Bear Stearns, Shearson Lehman and other financial services firms, using his expertise in Latin-American markets, before starting his own firms, most notably, one of the first online broker-dealers,

Phil Brady '61 was featured prominently in the 10-part documentary The Vietnam War, which aired on PBS in September.

board temperature. The first radio station in North America to rebroadcast its signal was Columbia University's WKCR (89.5 FM), which taped its first pass at the campus ham station, W2AEE. The next morning, 60 years ago today, at 9:05 a.m., two FBI agents came to the station and stole the audio tape of Sputnik's signal. The FBI has never returned, replaced or paid for the tape. This is theft, as I pointed out to my astronomy classes during 34 years of teaching."

Two sad notes: David Kirk and Carlos Otalvaro BUS'61 were high school classmates and roomed together when they entered with the Class of '60. David and Carlos maintained contact after graduation and David advised of Carlos' recent passing.

Carlos was born in Bogota, Colombia, and came to New York with his parents during his youth. When he entered the College he always joked about being the only Colombian at Columbia. He was a member of the wrestling team, was WallStreet\*E, in collaboration with his sons. With his wife, he started another family business in the 1990s: a luxury transportation company that used vintage Rolls Royce limousines.

Carlos maintained his passion for Latin-American music and dance throughout his life. He was an avid tennis player and coached all of his children in the sport. He passed away peacefully in his home on August 19, 2017, after a courageous 13-year battle with Parkinson's disease. His family remembers him for his verve for life, his hearty laughter, his salsa dancing, his generous, creative and entrepreneurial spirit and his ability to address an audience and capture their attention. He is survived by Sonia; their six children; sons- and daughters-in law; and 10 grandchildren.

And, then, another loss to the class. I was informed by **Vince Russo** that **Frank Siracusa** of Seaford, N.Y., died in February. Frank and Vince were part of a close-knit group that included **Tom Palmieri, Fred** 



### Gordon, Elliot Olstein, George Camarinos and Ernie Kaiman.

They lunched regularly at the Lions Den. Lunches that were filled with laughter, lots of stories and the sharing of plans for careers and life goals. Frank was in retirement as a professor at Hofstra and had taught chemistry for 33 years at Franklin K. Lane H.S. Vince notes, "Frank was enjoying his well-deserved retirement and he told me [at our 50th reunion] that rather than buying new cars he and his wife, Frances, would take exotic trips. It was while on one of those trips that he died suddenly of a heart attack."

Frank is survived by Frances; their two daughters; and five grandchildren.

To the families and friends of Carlos and Frank, the Class of '60 sends its deep condolences.

One final note. Vince, with his wife of 54 years, Sheila Kay, still holds the class record for most grandchildren, numbering 15, ages 8–26. If there are any contenders with more, please let me know. Vince also advises, "After retiring from practicing general surgery, I was with The Joint Commission for 12 years and have recently started consulting with hospitals to improve clinical outcomes. While with The Joint Commission I met **Dan Schwartz**, who had retired from ob/gyn, and we worked together frequently."

### 1961

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

Tom Lippman and his wife, Sidney, treated themselves to a trip to London in September to celebrate their 50th anniversary. They hadn't been there in many years. The food is much better now! Tom writes that you can still eat bangers and mash, but you don't have to.

Ben Gerstein, an avant garde jazz trombonist and the younger son of **Larry Gerstein**, performed at Lincoln Center on September 23 with a group headed by Henry Threadgill, the 2016 winner of the Pulitzer Prize in music. The concert was part of the Jazz at Lincoln Center series.

**Stuart Newman** LAW'64 writes that, on October 4, following a trial that concluded in June resulting in a judgment in favor of his firm's clients, "the United States Marines killed or wounded in the 1983 Beirut bombing, and of other claimants with judgments against Iran, U.S. District Court Judge Katherine B. Forrest entered final Order awarding the claimants possession of 650 Fifth Avenue and several other Iranianowned properties in Texas, California, Maryland, Virginia and New York. The Order authorized the immediate sale of the properties, provided that the proceeds be held and not distributed until all appeals are exhausted.

"This action, involving the building where our class holds its regular New York monthly meetings, is the second of three cases Stuart's firm is pursuing to enforce judgments on behalf of the Beirut Marines aggregating \$2.7 billion. Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the award of a \$2.0 billion bank account to the claimants. A third action, against another bank account, is awaiting a decision from the Second Circuit Court of Appeals."

Gerry Brodeur is recovering well from his broken femur. He is back playing golf!

Marty Sheller is the composer and arranger of the musical group "The Marty Sheller Ensemble."The group's album *Libre* was selected as album of the week in the June 20 issue of *Latin Jazz Corner*. A more detailed review of Marty's work can be found at "Album Of The Week: *Libre*, The Marty Sheller Ensemble" on the jazzcorner.com website.

**Tony Adler** and his wife, Donna, moved to West Palm Beach, Fla., in October. The move was scheduled for September, but Hurricane Irma, along with broken pipes, broken cars, several injuries, the dog eating a rack of lamb right off the grill and some other indignities (Murphy was in all his glory) delayed things.

Tony was instrumental in establishing the NYC monthly luncheon group and will remain active in that capacity. There is a call-in number available for out-of-town class members to participate in the discussion.

Phil Brady was featured prominently in the riveting, multi-part documentary about the Vietnam War that aired in September on PBS. Phil, who was in the ROTC program at Columbia, was one of several thousand advisers sent to help South Vietnamese soldiers in the mid-1960s. He was a Marine lieutenant attached to a South Vietnamese unit. He was involved in the Battle of Binh Gia, one of the early instances in which enemy troops stormed an ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) stronghold and inflicted heavy casualties. This attack marked a significant change in enemy tactics and was a turning point of the war. Phil was right in the middle of it and somehow Burns found him in the course of the 10 years he spent putting the documentary together. Phil was in Saigon during the Tet offensive as a USAID worker and is interviewed in that episode as well.

Arnie Abrams saw Phil in Hong Kong in the early 1970s, when Arnie was visiting the NBC news office there. Phil was a correspondent for NBC at that time.

On a sad note, **Jack Kirik**'s wife of 32 years, Sue, passed away in October. She suffered a massive brain hemorrhage. My wife, JB, and I have very fond memories of Sue.

Ted Stanley PS'65 and Andy Levine SEAS'62 passed away in recent months. Their obituaries are included in this issue. Also, when updating class email addresses I learned that Jay Carrigan and Peter King have passed away. No further information is available at this time.

### 1962

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

Good news! *CCT* is looking for high-resolution digital photos containing at least two College alumni. Please upload your photos and caption info directly to college. columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_ note\_photo.

Here is a wonderful, typical Columbia story, sent by Louis "Bernie" Muench '61, SEAS'62: "Charlie Rohrs PS'66, who passed away on June 14, 2016, was a good friend. He was from Oregon; I was from Arkansas. He rowed lightweight crew; I was a heavyweight. We both were members of Sigma Chi.

"Charlie had applied to two colleges: A community college in Oregon and Columbia. He applied to Columbia only because, he said, 'My father told me that I would never get in.'Charlie had been in a little trouble during high school — skipping classes, smoking in the men's room, etc. By the time the community college sent a representative to Charlie's house to inform him that he had been 'provisionally accepted' and would probably be given a place in its fall class after the initial round of acceptances and rejections were known, he was able to tell the rep that Columbia had accepted him on a full scholarship.

"Charlie had a quick, dry sense of humor. I remember a party at his girlfriend's apartment (rentcontrolled on Riverside Drive, north of West 113th Street). About 20 people were sitting in a big circle in the living room, talking, eating, drinking and having a good time. I watched a cockroach crawl from the hall into the living room, and when it was 10 ft. away, one of the young women noticed it and screamed, 'Oh my god, there's a cockroach!' Charlie looked at her, and with a twinkling smile, said: 'Geez, Barbara, I thought you told 'em to stay in the kitchen.'

"Charlie graduated from Columbia College with honors and continued his education at P&S on another full scholarship.

"He and I did not keep up with each other regularly, but when I talked with him by telephone a few years ago, he told me he was still in NYC and he was treating and rehabilitating young drug addicts. His choice to 'give back' was no surprise. He became a psychiatrist and for many years was the clinical director of Odyssey House, the nonprofit drug and alcohol treatment organization.

"I expect he left a big hole in his community when he passed. I know that I will miss him."

On December 10, 1995, *The New York Times* published the following letter from Charlie: "To the Editor: Elisa DeCarlo's poignant Nov. 26 Soapbox essay 'Encounters With 'Dirty Louie" highlights our growing crisis. Louie is not just a homeless crack addict but a mentally ill homeless crack addict.

"The abandonment of our Dirty Louies began when 'enlightened' forces dismantled a large system of chronic care psychiatric hospitals. That system was to be replaced by modern community mental health resources, but the promise was not kept, and mentally ill patients, bereft of medical or psychiatric care, swelled the ranks of the homeless. Now 'reactionary' forces push an agenda that promises more Louies.

"The managed care dollar managers do not want Louie, nor do the acute care hospitals. He needs drug rehabilitation, but for it to be effective his mental illness must be treated first. He cannot help himself.

"Instead of feeling helpless about what to do with Louie, Ms. DeCarlo and all of us should get mad. Demand that mental health laws and public health laws be implemented. Demand that public hospital resources be used effectively for the addicted, homeless, mentally ill. Demand that the effective drug treatment network be preserved."

Dear classmates, I know you have news. It's just not getting to your faithful correspondent. Please help by sending updates to jf@bicyclevt.com.

#### 1963

#### **REUNION 2018** MAY 31–JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact Merideth Kerby ccaa-events@columbia.edu 212-851-7776

Development Contact Erin Zyko Hussein eez1@columbia.edu 212-851-7452

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

Reunion is only four and a half months away! I hope you all have it on your calendar and are making plans to attend (see dates at the top of the column). Your reunion committee has been hard at work and hopes to recreate our wonderful 50th reunion. We want to make sure this one is as much fun and will give you plenty of time to greet classmates and enjoy an exciting visit to New York (and good old Columbia). Please come and reach out to your friends to make sure they join you.

As usual, we had a great turnout at Homecoming. Frank Partel, Doron Gopstein and Steve Barcan joined me in the Big Tent before the game. Ed Coller and his grandkids joined with several of the band alumni at an adjoining table. I saw Henry Black in the stands, and Bob Kraft was on the field at halftime along with President Lee C. Bollinger. I'm sure there were others there, but it was a huge crowd and a great day for Columbia as they continued their unbelievable winning streak and beat Penn for the first time in more than 20 years.

Jonah Raskin recently published a noir murder mystery set in Sonoma County, Calif., where he has lived since 1975 (and which has been devastated by recent fires). Appropriately enough, the title is *Dark Land, Dark Mirror*. The private investigator is a woman named Tioga Vignetta. The book is available on Amazon.

Jonah writes, "It's in the tradition of Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett. There's humor as well as suspense."

I asked Jonah to tell us about his experience with the fires and he writes, "Many of you might have seen photos and/or read about the fires in Sonoma County, Calif. I had to evacuate my house in Santa Rosa on October 9. The fire was close and traveling fast in my direction. I packed a suitcase and put all my valuable papers in the trunk of my car, then filled the tank with gas. I went to the coast and then to San Francisco to stay with my brother, Daniel. I listened to news reports all the time. I saw the photos. I read the stories. I came back home on October 12 and found my house still standing and no fire damage at all. I am so relieved. I have lived through hurricanes and earthquakes and political upheavals, but nothing as devastating as these fires. Friends of mine lost their homes and all their belongings. It will take us months, and maybe even years, to recover. The takeaway for me is not to go through tragedy alone. As a friend said during a conversation we had about the fires, 'You don't know what good is until you know what bad is. Tragedy opens the heart. We're resilient. We bounce back."

You might have heard that Allen Frances recently published a book about the state of our nation, *Tiwilight* of American Sanity. He was on NPR on Brian Lehrer's program: wnyc.org/ story/crazy-time. Also, Henry Black forwarded me this link to an article in the San Diego Union-Tribune: bit.ly/2zEYkFI.

Stanley Sperber: "The only newsworthy event I would mention is my annual journey from Tel Aviv to Chicago in December. I conducted two performances of Handel's *Messiah* with a chorus of 1,500 singers, orchestra and soloists at the Harris Theater, which is just off Michigan Avenue. Hearing the *Hallelujah*  *Chorus* with that number of singers is an experience, so all alumni in the Chicago area are cordially invited in the future. Tickets are a nominal fee of around \$10, as most of the audience will be singing. Tickets can be ordered through the International Music Foundation, or send an email to contact@imfchicago.org."

**Bob Burley:** "Aye, I'll be piping in the haggis at the Penn Club on January 26. T'will be my 17th year. I'll also be playing other tunes during the Scotch tasting hour, 6–7 p.m. Round up the MacLion clan for an enjoyable evening. Make reservations at the club. Attendance averages 75 yearly.

"Thank you for mentioning my previous novel in Class Notes. A second book, God, Guns, & Charter Schools, is in the design stage at the publisher. It involves a reprise of characters Rob and Annie (along with the Klein triplets) dealing with book title issues as well as environmental degradation, overpopulation, ethics and literature. (Finally, my College education has been put to good use.) At the conclusion, the MacKenzie family moves from Connecticut to Colorado, where Rob is named as chair of a new department at the University of Colorado. The third installment in the trilogy, Sundown Requiem, is about half complete. Each book has been formatted differently. I'm hoping to have it ready in six months."

Mel Gurtov SIPA'65: "I'm happy to post three pieces of news: I blog on foreign affairs, 'In the Human Interest,' at melgurtov.com and invite classmates to check it out. I recently co-edited a book, *Learning From Fukushima: Nuclear Power in East Asia*, and in February, my 26th book will be published: *Engaging Adversaries: Peacemaking and Diplomacy in the Human Interest.*"

Larry Neuman is happily splitting his time between apartments in New York and Tel Aviv where, as one of the few remaining '63 non-retirees, he is developing solar and wind projects from the Golan Heights to the Negev to the Jordan River Valley. He is also working with his son, Andreas '98, on using drones for precision agriculture, especially medical marijuana in which Israel is advancing as a world leader. His wife, Ursula, curates contemporary art jewelry exhibitions and is engaged in the vibrant art scene in Israel. She will lecture in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv after the opening of her exhibition at the Cooper Hewitt museum, which was scheduled for November 16 in New York.

Larry says that Tel Aviv is alive day and (especially) at night, when all the cafes and pubs spill over with crowds enjoying the splendid weather, great food and drink. Anyone thinking of visiting Israel is invited to contact him for the inside track on navigating this unique country.

Victor Margolin: "I retired as a professor of design history from the University of Illinois at Chicago, 10 years ago. Since my retirement, I completed the first two volumes of my *World History of Design*. In October 2015, I suffered a spinal cord injury while at a design conference in South Korea, and I am now in a wheelchair, working on recovery.

"In May 2017, my wife, Sylvia, and I moved to Washington, D.C, to be near our daughter, Myra; her partner, Dave; and their baby, Olivia. With the help of a collaborator, I work on the third and last volume of *World History of Design*. I have met up with **Allan Wallach** and his wife, Phyllis. Allan retired from William & Mary, where he was a professor of art history."

Paul Gorrin: "I've become a member of the Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild and will be using an affiliated workshop setting to enable me, at long last, to finish my play, Crossing Brooklyn Bridge. The play explores the relationship of bridge builder Washington Roebling and his wife, Emily Roebling, who filled in for him to supervise bridge construction while he was recovering from injuries sustained in battling the fire in one of the wood caissons on which the towers were being built (and remain in the river bed). When one walks across the bridge and looks out over the splendor of New Harbor, one may pass the plaque that recognizes Emily's contribution to its completion. Years ago an earlier version of this play was presented at the Writers Theatre in a staged reading directed by Arthur Strimling."

Michael Lubell: "I have been largely absent from Columbia because I have been scrambling to find a new perch in D.C. after the American Physical Society decided that my services were no longer needed following Trump's election — a long, disconcerting story. I should have something fairly big to announce soon about my future with the Aspen Institute and *PBS NewsHour*. In the meantime, I have been consumed with a manuscript for a book that was due at the publisher by the end of



2017 — my fall semester sabbatical should have helped me get it done. Also, my colleague Burt Richter and I have been publishing a number of op-eds in *The New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, The Hill* and *Scientific American.* A link to our latest piece, which has gotten a lot of traffic: lnkd.in/dxAP7u4."

Robert Smith: "I'm active in my practice and research in my mid-70s. My supervisor is still going strong at 96. I have a small private practice and am associated with the NYU School of Medicine and the Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research. We have ongoing psychiatry clinical and biochemical research with our China colleagues and I go to China twice a year. We are finishing up mRNA in lymphocytes of schizophrenics at NKI. My wife, Sultana, who is slightly older, is teaching French at Hofstra. Many of my research colleagues in their 70s and 80s are still active and productive."

Our regular class lunches (for now, we are still gathering at the Princeton Club) are always a great place to reconnect. If you're back in NYC, try to make one of the lunches this winter. The next are on January 11, February 8 and March 8.

### 1964

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

In 1999 Mike Wallace GSAS'73 was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in History for Gotham, which traces the history of New York City from the 16th century to 1898. In Greater Gotham: A History of New York City from 1898 to 1919 Mike covers only the next 20 years in 1,196 pages, but as a New York Times review says, "But, oh, what years they were!" The review calls the book a "magisterial" account that "tells the story of those two decades with encyclopedic sweep and granular detail, but with enough verve and wry humor to make this doorstop immensely readable." In a New York Times interview Mike says Volume III is almost done. Whether there will be a Volume IV "depends on sufficient longevity."

Martin Krieger GSAS'69 writes: "I am semi-retired as a professor of planning at the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California. I received a Ph.D. in physics, but soon after transitioned to urban planning, published four or five books in that area, and three or four about mathematics and physics and how they are done. I have lived off my Columbia education, both in the humanities and in physics. My son David (31) lives nearby. I am in NYC about 40 percent of the time, living in a pied à terre in Union Square. My most recent work is systematically photographing NYC."

Classmates are traveling. Gary Schonwald was in New York from London, Peter Thall went to London, Bernard Catalinotto sent greetings from Florence, Italy, and in December Beril Lapson was off to China for a month.

Don't forget to join us at the informal class lunch, held on the second Thursday of the month at the Princeton Club on West 43rd Street. The Columbia University Club of New York has officially left the Princeton Club for the Penn Club around the corner, but our lunch stays put.

By the time this arrives in your mailbox it will be 2018. I wish each of you and your loved ones a year of good health, peace, joy and prosperity.

#### 1965

#### Leonard B. Pack 924 West End Ave. New York, NY 10025 packlb@aol.com

I caught up with three classmates on the New York cultural scene. **Mike Tapper** and I attended the Mostly Mozart Festival concert on August 15 in David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center. The program included Brahms and Schumann, but no Mozart. Mike and I vowed at our 50th reunion to attend a performance together and it only took us two years to get around to doing it.

On September 27 my wife, Adele, and I went to see ballerina Tiler Peck make her debut in *Swan Lake* at the New York City Ballet. Seated in the same row were **Jim Siegel** and his wife, dance writer Wendy Perron. We all agreed it was a great performance, and you should be able to read Wendy's report online.

On October 23, **David Denby** joined me at the annual gala of Copland House in the Kaplan Penthouse of Lincoln Center. He told me he had been in touch with Bob Caserio recently. I am a board member of Copland House, a music organization devoted to preserving and extending the legacy of America's great composer Aaron Copland through the preservation and use for composer residencies of Copland's residence in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., and supporting American composers through commissions, performances and educational programs in schools. Also in attendance were my brother Fred Pack '69 and Lawrence Faltz '68, the current and past presidents of Copland House, and Fred's wife, Sandy Pack SEAS'68. The program was a celebration of the life and music of Leonard Bernstein, who would have been 100 this year and who was a great friend of Copland's. I have my own memory of Bernstein and Copland from my years at Columbia, when I would often attend Bernstein's exciting concerts with the New York Philharmonic. At one concert, the orchestra played Copland's Clarinet *Concerto*, and after the performance Copland came up to the stage to share the applause. With his characteristic overenthusiasm, Bernstein prostrated himself on the floor before Copland and attempted to kiss his shoes. Copland would have none of it!

I wrote to Jim Murdaugh and Ben Cohen to see how they fared after Hurricane Harvey. Jim's report: "We think we're pretty clear now. Rain continued last night, but not so heavy. Our problem was Buffalo Bayou, which is very near our house. On Sunday, four houses across the street from us had four to six feet on their first floor. The bayou crossed the street and was at one point about five inches from our front door. Never seen anything like this! But it's gone down significantly, and the street in front of our house now is dry. [My husband] Gary says Rice University is just fine, but the law firm office building had six feet of water on the first floor. What a deal! ... Love to all, Murds. P.S.: The dogs were brave gentlemen throughout; me - not so much."

After the flood waters subsided, Jim sent this follow-up: "Sunday afternoon I helped a neighbor across the street — tough, great, 81-year-old widow — evacuate to her grandson's place. He had to park a few blocks away. We waded through water almost up to my waist. She had four feet of water in her living room. We were a parade of 'essentials' including three cats, litter, food, etc. Then I noticed her grandson carrying leopard and mink coats, and finally the widow herself with a couple of bottles of vodka. I said, 'Surely your grandson has vodka?' She said, 'Yes, but I can't stand his brand.' Ain't Texans great?"

Ben was even luckier: "We are fine. In Colorado on vacation when the storm came. We will wait to go back till flooding is down. Right now the Houston airports are closed until 'indefinitely.'.... Thanks for your concern."

Gene Feldman: "I was in touch with Frank Rosenthal last summer. Frank was a fellow physics major and my senior year roommate. We shared a fourth-floor walkup on West 123rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue with Donald Norris '66. (Donald started with our class. If you know how to reach him, please let me know at feldman.gene@gmail.com)

"Frank enjoyed playing clarinet in the excellent college band. He persuaded Don and me to climb Mount Marcy in the Adirondacks, where we battled aggressive black flies and struggled to find our car. He stayed on at Columbia for a Ph.D. in physics, then transitioned to occupational health and safety. He taught that at Purdue, from which he retired recently. He and his wife, Sheila, have four sons, and they still climb in the Adirondacks and bicycle long-distance. I would have reached out to Frank sooner, but his death was falsely reported in this magazine decades ago."

I climbed Mount Marcy as an 11-year-old in summer camp in the Adirondacks. I wrote to Gene that I remember how hard it was to get back down the mountain and how much my legs hurt the next day. Gene responded, "Good story! Descending is tough on the knees and the legs, for sure. Do you remember the flies? We used a stinky repellent, Old Woodsman Fly Dope, I recall."

I do not remember the flies, just my sore legs!

**Bob Gunn:** "I am pleased to announce the publication of the first two volumes of my memoir, *One Bright Pearl* (Volume I one is subtitled *An Unholy Memoir*, Volume II is subtitled *God is the Source of My Life*), available on Amazon and Kindle. In the memoir, I try to do regarding myself what I did to Dōgen Zen-ji, Thomas Merton '38 and Carl Jung in my first book, *Journeys Into Emptiness: Dōgen, Merton, Jung and the Quest for Transformation*: To make the psychological and spiritual connections between the men and their writings as struggles with experiences of emptiness. I hope I will complete Volume III, to be subtitled *Song of Emptiness*, this year.

"While I'm updating my activities, let me relay that I continue my psychotherapy practice in Manhattan, am pastor of the Community Church of Syosset, N.Y. (United Church of Christ) and serve as a Soto Zen Buddhist priest at the Village Zendo in Manhattan. For those with whom I shared my Glee Club experience as accompanist and first tenor, I'm happy to report that I returned to studying piano about six years ago and continue with my teacher, Taka Kigawa. I try to give a concert each year and plan one to include Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto to be played with the

the face. If handled properly, it even bonds with its trainer.

"Gentling a horse takes enormous time, patience, commitment and devotion to helping another living creature, a 1,600-lb., strong-willed creature, became peaceful, trusting, ready to become part of a community ... Success for the inmate (and the horse) is measurable in long-term outcome: To free mustangs from their current confinement to a better, freer life. ... For me, the story is as beautiful an allegory as Dan Fogelberg's Run for the Roses, and as Seabiscuit. In Seabiscuit, the wise and weathered trainer offers a meditation on rehabilitating a damaged horse: 'You don't throw a whole life away just because it's a little banged up.' As I noted in

Richard Szathmary '67 is finishing a novel about the new unholy trinity of God, Old Nick and Harley Davidson. It's called The Baptized.

Children's Orchestra Society, under Michael Dadap. Also of note is a DVD created by John Ankele, a friend of mine, about my so-far-successful battle with pancreatic cancer from a Zen/ Christian perspective, called *One Body, One Heart*, available through olddogdocumentaries.org."

Michael Schlanger SW'19 is enrolled in a master's program at the School of Social Work. Part of Michael's coursework is to write a weekly piece about a newspaper article. Here is one he shared with me in early October:

"My newspaper article for the week is *The New York Times*' 'Wild Horses and the Inmates Who "Gentle" Them,' subtitled 'On a ranch in the high desert of Nevada, the men and the mustangs help one another.' [written by Steven Kurutz, in the October 6, 2017, print edition]. First, I hope classmates will take the time to read it; it is so sweet, so touching, so enduring, it will bring you to your knees.

"The article tells the story of inmates at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center who work at the Silver State Industries ranch in Carson City, 'gentling' horses. Gentling refers to working with a wild horse until it becomes responsive to a trainer's commands, meaning that it no longer wants to kick you in

one of our Class Notes, for 10 years, I was class-action counsel to the 2,000 inmates of Lorton Reformatory in prison disciplinary cases that reached the Supreme Court and that were decided in the prisoners' favor. (At the time, my clients preferred being called 'prisoners.' They had no interest in sugar-coating what the Federal Bureau of Prisons did to them.) Whether it is the provision of due process hearings in conditionsof-confinement proceedings, or the provision of meaningful educational/ vocational programs — like the Wild Horse Program - prison inmates need to be treated with dignity and humanity; to be treated as men."

On October 17, Walter Reich announced an important film screening at The George Washington University: "The first screening of portions of the documentary film series Searching for the Unknown Holocaust took place today at the Woodrow Wilson Center ... It was utterly stunning. It focused on the Jews who were murdered in Russia and Belarus during the Holocaust. Although the Jews of the former Soviet Union were a large part of the total number of Holocaust victims - about 2.7 million - far less is known about them than about the Jews who were murdered in the rest of Europe. This is partly a result of the fact that many of these Jews were

executed near the towns, villages and cities in which they lived, in some places in the tens of thousands, without much documentation of who was killed, and partly a result of the fact that it became Soviet policy under Stalin to not identify the victims as Jews. What filmmaker Boris Maftsir has done, during the last few years, has been to travel to those areas and to find witnesses to the murders, of whom there are few who survive. In his films, Maftsir interviews them and learns the stories of the many places of death.

"I'm sure that many of those who saw today's screening share my renewed sense of grief about the dead and my immense sense of awe about the filmmaker's accomplishment in bringing those dead closer to public memory. As Maftsir, said in his comments at the Wilson Center, a person dies three times: Once when that person dies, once again when that person is buried, and once again when that person is forgotten. These may have been the most forgotten victims of the Holocaust. Maftsir's project attempts to address, if only slightly and almost too late, that final death by forgetting. His achievement rivals that of Claude Lanzmann who, in his monumental documentary/ testimony film, Shoah, made more than 30 years ago, introduced a large audience to an important dimension of Holocaust memory."

### 1966

Rich Forzani 413 Banta Ave. Garfield, NJ 07026 rforzani1@optonline.net

Writing in late October, I am in awe of the performance of our Lion football squad. I have just returned from our win at Dartmouth, which pitted the last two undefeated teams in the Ivies. Big Green was a 6.5-point favorite, but we won 22–17 to go 6–0. The next huge hurdle is Yale, who is favored by 8.5. Fingers crossed. Go Lions. With luck, this is our best team in more than a century; four years ago we were in the midst of a 22-game losing streak. Some change.

While at the game I serendipitously sat next to **Fred Lerner**, a resident of White River Junction, Vt., for many years. He recently retired from the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, where he produced the PILOTS Database, an online index to the worldwide psychotrauma.

On the same note, **Rich Beggs**, **Tom Chorba**, **Harvey Kurzweil** and I are particularly happy with the course of football this year. All of us were intimately involved with the Committee for Athletic Excellence at Columbia, which initiated the demands for drastic changes to the football (and all sports) program four years ago, directly resulting in the successes we see today. Rich served with me on the Steering Committee and both Harvey and Tom provided much appreciated support.

From Stanley Felsinger, who tore up the hardwood for our Lions back in the day: "Three years ago my wife, Hope, and I sold Camp Monroe, which we owned for 40 years. All seven of our children are now married, with the last two married on November 9 and November 29. Our 25th grandchild was born three months ago. We live in Lakewood, N.J., where six of our seven families live. We are in good health and love the time we have daily with our family. We don't miss the business end of camp, but do miss the positive impact we were able to have on the lives of thousands of children and young adults. I would love to find another outlet where I could use the people and counseling skills I developed. I have very fond memories of Columbia, both on and off the court, and would enjoy hearing from old friends. Writing this brings a nostalgic feeling and a broad smile."

Jesse Berman advises, "I am alive and well, and I am still at my office in Manhattan, practicing criminal defense."

Bob Meyerson tells us: "Nothing good to report. My wife ran off with an Alsatian — if you find her in Metz with her canine lover please let me know. My history of toe fungus was rejected by Columbia University Press and the Mayo Clinic threw me out of the examining room upon learning that the history was an autobiography. The Trump administration short-listed me for an ambassadorship to Russia until they found out that I actually knew something about Russia and had been writing Make America Grate Again under the name of Czar Chasm. But I haven't succumbed to despair ... '

**Calvin Johnson** advises: "I am the John T. Kipp Chair at University

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of Texas Law School. I'm writing to make the tax system fairer and more efficient. We need to follow the money up in the coming very hard times. This is probably not my tide, nor my ship, nor my time, but it is the time to draw up the war plans."

From Joe Steinberger: "Does anyone have a child younger than my son, Takuma, who turned 10 on July 28? Tak is set to inherit the family sushi bar, Suzuki's, here in Rockland, Maine."

My wife, Kathy, and I did a road trip to Bar Harbor and stopped in Rockland for dinner with Joe. The place was jammed. His lovely wife, Keiko, was behind the sushi station creating her art, so couldn't join except for a brief hello. I will say that, having enjoyed sushi/sashimi on several continents for many decades, this was by far the best experience we have ever had. The presentation, the freshness and the taste were phenomenal. Small wonder it is the top-rated location in Maine.

Michael Harrison writes, "JoAnn Schonfeld Harrison BC'66 and I met at the end of our senior year and were married a year later in July. We celebrated our 50th anniversary with a trip to Israel and London, where we greatly enjoyed time with close friends and family, along with local celebrations in Bethesda, Md., where we have lived since 2003. Aside from sharing some of the same things that we did way back when, we now enjoy spending time with our granddaughters (5, 11 and 13), who live nearby. JoAnn leads a tolerance-focused neighborhood group, and I work full time as a researcher in the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, part of the Department of Health and Human Services."

Maurice "Rick" Reder BUS'68: "I retired last year and moved to Miami Beach after being on the Upper West Side since 1962. My partner, Jack TC'83, and I helped raise our kids, Samantha and Dylan, and now have four delightful grandchildren. Jack and I recently returned from a trip with our New York synagogue to Vienna and Budapest. Visiting empty synagogues and reading family names at a concentration camp and at a Holocaust Museum was harsh. In Budapest the current ads denigrating Soros and his European University on billboards and on the floors of trains mirror the

statue of a Jew being forced to scrub the street in Vienna. Here we will find out if Ayn Rand's political ideas, believed by a professor while I was studying for my Columbia M.B.A., will subvert our democracy."

Richard Postupak writes: "I returned in late summer from my West Coast jaunt anxious to shed the intensity of the campaign trail. Even if one is in the catering end of politics, the pressure still gets to you, and the Trump entourage was not forgiving when it came to their chow. I was fortunate enough to spend some time unwinding with Harvey Kurzweil and his lovely wife, Barbara, at their summer home on Nantucket, where Harvey and I regaled each other (and undoubtedly bored Barbara to tears) with recollections of our college days. Harv is as sharp as ever. I remember the debates we had in Furnald Hall; Hobbes vs. Locke, Kant vs. Nietzsche and so on. He was tireless, and still is. The two of us bonded many years ago over our mutual intellectual tenacity."

Phil Goldstein: "Five years ago I retired from the University of Delaware, where I taught English and philosophy for 30 years. Since then I have traveled to Ireland, Turkey, the Mediterranean and other places; taken up tennis because I could not play basketball anymore; published essays on American literature and cultural theory; and spent months in Manhattan visiting family and going to Columbia and CUNY for interesting talks."

### 1967

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

Our championship lightweight crew reunited at Homecoming and went for a row on the Harlem River. **David Blanchard** wrote, "It was a great day with Columbia winning the game with a comefrom-behind overtime effort. Wow! We had rowers from as far away as Santa Barbara (Dave Green '69), Santa Monica (**Marty Goldstein**) and Italy (Heikki Hannikainen '64). The mostly 1967 crew also included **Eric Dannemann, Ken Thomae, Jon Jarvik, Bob Malsberger, Bob** 



The 1967 lightweight crew team reunited at Homecoming 2017 for a row on the Harlem River. Left to right: Marty Goldstein '67, Bob Mauri '67, Ken Thomae '67, Dave Green '69, Jon Jarvik '67, Bob Malsberger '67, Peter Cherneff '68, Gerry Botha '67, David Blanchard '67, Eric Dannemann '67 and Heikki Hannikainen '64.

Mauri and Peter Cherneff'68. We were reminded of the true legend of Heikki leaping out of the boat during a practice to save a little girl who had fallen in the Harlem River.

Text from the AP story on the incident: "The Columbia University crew was working out yesterday in the Harlem River when a little girl fell into the swirling waters. Out of the shell plunged 21-year-old Heikki Hannikainen, son of the Finnish ambassador to Peru. Struggling in the cold water 50 yards away was 7-year-old Ann Cushin. Hannikainen, breasting the strong under currents, said he was lucky 'because suddenly I hit the right current and found myself right next to her.' Blonde Ann had luck, too. Her parka filled with air kept her afloat until the college student reached her. Both were picked up by a launch. Ann's mother said: 'God bless that boy. That boy could have drowned himself. What a wonderful, brave thing to do, God bless him." Commented Hannikainen: 'There's a warm feeling in my stomach.""

We heard from a few more classmates this month. **Herb Zarov:** "I spent 10 years in academia, then almost 40 practicing law, most of them as a litigator at Mayer Brown in Chicago. I have three sons and eight accomplished grandchildren. I will retire at last at the end of the year and spend my time reading, writing, gardening, playing golf, doing some pro bono board work, traveling, cultivating family and friends, and enjoying this wonderful time of life with my beloved wife. I'm profoundly grateful for my years at the College. They enriched my life in countless ways."

Peter Engel: "Sorry I missed the reunion. I live in Cincinnati and am happily unmarried. I'm a cardiologist practicing at a large community hospital, specializing in a disease called pulmonary hypertension as part of a large group of physicians. Have done a lot of traveling in Europe and Asia. I have no plans to retire until someone tells me I have to."

Richard Szathmary: "For anyone who might remember me, after a long career of writing for both consumer and business publications, I'm finishing a novel about the new unholy trinity of God, Old Nick and Harley Davidson. It's called The Baptized and it's about Satanism, bike clubs and the rot beneath the facade of life in Jersey's affluent suburbs. You know, the usual stuff, plus declining fertility rates among yuppies. I still sigh when I walk by what used to be the old Psi U house on West 114th, too, but those students deserved what they got and brought it upon themselves. I've proudly held season tickets for football and basketball for 25 years, and it's finally paying off in both sports. Feels good. And my daughter Zoe, after stints at CNN and The Daily Mail, now works at Fox News as a writer for its website. I'm very proud of this Rutgers grad."

**Bob Bloch:** "I'm a professor of physiology at the University of Mary-



Matthew Jinoo Buck '17, Roger Lehecka '67 and Abigail Sharkey '18 at a gathering at Janet Lorin '95's home celebrating some of the Roger Lehecka Fellows who received funding in Summer 2016.

land School of Medicine, enjoying a bit of teaching and a lot of research."

Allen Spiegel: "After 12 years as dean of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, I will leave administration behind to rejoin the faculty in June. I hope to spend my next few years teaching and serving on boards of nonprofit institutions with missions relevant to biomedical research, education and healthcare."

Be sure to inform the Alumni Office of your current email address (college.columbia.edu/cct/content/ contact-us). And be sure to write to me at az164@columbia.edu!

#### 1968

#### **REUNION 2018** MAY 31–JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact Merideth Kerby ccaa-events@columbia.edu 212-851-7776

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#### Arthur Spector One Lincoln Plaza, Apt. 25K New York, NY 10023 arthurbspector@gmail.com

I apologize for the last column being relatively empty of pearls of wisdom; this one is going to be a challenge, as I have a plethora of news. I saw the amazing come-from-behind overtime Homecoming win over Penn and saw at the game **Peter Cherneff, Tom Sanford, Ira Goldberg, Paul de Bary** and David Ehrlich. What a win it was! Our reunion is Thursday, May

31—Sunday, June 2, and it is going to have a great turnout with lots of good times and good programming. At the time of writing we have a Reunion Committee of 132 from across the world. This size committee is a first for the College for a 50th reunion, boding well for the turnout!

I heard directly and indirectly from many classmates who expect to attend reunion - more than enough news for 10 columns, so I am going to shorten a good deal and maybe even leave out some (I know, a criminal offense that will result in punishment for me). I had so much fun talking to classmates. Steve Gottlieb, a nationally ranked senior tennis player, is so funny — I am still chuckling. Jim Shorter, John Roy, Mas Taketomo, Alan Zucker, Paul de Bary and others have contacted classmates. I heard from Bob Chapla, who was off to Hanover to watch the Lions play. John Roy stayed in Naples and now is back at his home, which survived Irma, though his banana trees were disrupted. He continues to teach. Ed Keller is a tenured professor at CCNY and is having a great time, having switched professions maybe 20 years ago. Len Oppenheim is doing great — trading still and traveling more. He spent time in India and seems to have found some peace through it all; he mediates twice a day, which sounds like a good idea.

I saw **Ross Ain** at Wm. Theodore "Ted" de Bary '41, GSAS'53's memorial; we sang *Sans Souci* together then visited an art exhibition of one of his friends from Cape Cod; Ross is still that great guy I know from a long time ago. Actually, he might be aging with more grace. His daughter was about to have her third child and it sounds like Ross is enjoying the kids and expects to see Len on the Cape this summer. I got a note as part of a group from Paul Brosnan, that star pitcher from Arlington, Mass., like me. I found out that he has the strikeout record, with Lou Gehrig '23, and is proud of the great baseball program at Columbia. I spoke to John Arch, who is doing well in Sarasota, Fla. I always thought that Richard Taylor was brilliant and funny; he wrote, "I am coming in from the cold, turning myself in. Please add me to the reunion list."

I spoke to Peter Greene; he's warm, gracious and good-humored. I spoke to Andy Herz while he was in Los Angeles, teaching real estate courses and seeing grandkids. Richard Taylor and I have a dinner plan to meet at restaurant Ala Shanghai, halfway between my country home and his home. Richard lives in Lenox, Mass. Ray Englander was in grand humor and sounded like he could run a marathon; he told me a story about him and John Arch getting stuck in New Jersey after a double date. He has stayed in touch with Bill Isom; Texas Bill will be coming to reunion. Tony Kao is still doing great work as an architect. Greg Winn sent notes from his three-month trip all over Europe and Russia. He will be back and we might collude to get Neil Anderson to leave Naples - where he, Greg and John Roy live — to come to reunion. I believe Tom Reed lives there; we are looking for him. Randy Vaughan sent a note from Lisbon and then London. I hear regularly from Robert Brandt; he is vigorously climbing mountains, biking and doing his day job.

I talk to John Roy regularly and he is glad to know some swimmers are coming, like Frank Dann, who sounds well, is working hard and is in great humor. I did speak to former judge (but I guess always judge) Peter Benitez. He lives in the Southwest when not in the Hamptons, but he should be back, so I bet he comes. He sounds great. I enjoyed seeing Buzz Zucker — we ate at a Brazilian restaurant in October. He continues to go to shows on and Off- Broadway; it is a special love affair with acting and playwrights. He has seen hundreds of shows (and that is probably a low estimate). Heard from Doug Freundlich, who is teaching music; I will never forget his playing the Japanese koto instrument for me. Seth Weinstein looks great and is working on development projects - and is helping with reunion, too. Tom Sanford is doing so much for the reunion as chair of the fund drive. I saw him at Homecoming with grandkids having a grand time and we both love wins, of course! Tom also recently saw George Bernstein for dinner, with their wives, in New Orleans. Frank Costello is coming to reunion with new knees; he said to tell Art Brown and the rest of us that he was looking forward to seeing us. We are looking forward to seeing him all the way from bucolic L.A.

From Nigel Paneth: "I'm working full time and remain involved in the epidemiologic research that has defined my scientific life, namely, what is it that happens in pregnancy and around birth that contributes to neurodevelopmental impairment in children? I am fortunate to have wonderful colleagues and sufficient success with the granting agencies to keep my work sustained. My wife, Ellen GSAS '79, has retired from the English department here at Michigan State, but finds much to do, especially around home and garden, both here and at our place in Southern Vermont.

"We have the remarkable good fortune to have had our younger daughter, Tessa BC'07, and her husband, Oren, join the faculty at Michigan State in 2015. Oren is in economics and Tessa in art history. Having them nearby would be joy enough, but in addition, they have given us our first grandchild. Yoav was born last March and we seem him as often as we could wish. Our elder daughter, Rachel BC'02, married Leo last summer, and they live in Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C. Rachel works in family medicine in D.C., and Leo practices labor law. I'll remind everyone that both my daughters are proud Barnard graduates.

"Looking forward to joining many classmates at our 50th reunion."

From John Davis: "My wife and I joined the local art museum recently and found a painting at the exhibit by my former roommate Albin Beyer, who had an award-winning painting (a gouache to be precise) on display. I gave him a call and spent a great evening with him. He is chair of the Fine Arts Department of the University of South Carolina in Aiken. He is quite a spectacular painter with some large paintings of the South Carolina woods. It was a fun evening. I'm a sur-

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gery resident program director missing the icy winters of the northeast."

I spoke to Paul Spitzberg, a renowned poker player, I believe. He is doing well but might have to be in Las Vegas during reunion (but he might be able to fly in for one day). I heard from Hollis Petersen. His home in the Keys survived the hurricane well, but not the yard. I hope to see him, being that I am in Miami Beach — an easy drive, I hope, if they fixed the roads. Robin Resnick is in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. I am looking forward to seeing him. Especially interested in music and singing at reunion are Jeff Kurnit and Rich Rosenblum. Bruce Margon will be coming. I had an email exchange with him about the expanding universe - a topic I suspect he is one of the world's experts on (I gather he had a prominent role with the Hubble telescope). Peter Finkelstein is in Menlo Park with Upstart Logic. He was sitting at the Ritz (sounds like a Fred Astaire dance song) in London when I reached him.

Heard from Dan Carr, whom I suspect is still in Chestnut Hill teaching, doing research and lots more. Steve Ross' email was all good — he is executive principal of Risk Masters. He wants us to do something to commemorate those in our class who have passed away and sadly there are so many, although it sounds like we still have a lot of vigorous, alert and cheerful ones around. Bill Henrich and his wife, Mary, are coming to reunion - more Texans! He has had a stunning career in academia and as president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at St. Antonio. I heard from a New York medical school professor that Ken Tomecki is a national star at Cleveland Clinic. I got an email from him as he was traveling around China. I talked a couple of times with Janet Furman; she is still running and is expecting to have a good time at reunion. Cliff Latting is coming from Alabama; he has had a career in medicine and is noted for his beneficence in his community. Leigh-Wai Doo and I spoke for quite a while; he lives in Hawaii and we are all invited. He and Ira McCown were classmates at Harvard Law. Bill Chin is professor of medicine at Harvard. So many others are coming from Boston! Reid Feldman, Pat Dumont and Steve Pierce are coming from France, and Bob Weisell from Italy, and I hope

John Chee makes it from Hong Kong. It is a long trip but I don't think it would be the same without John. Bill Abodeely sounds great; he is happy to play golf on South Lawn. Jon Bauman can still charm and sing.

I have randomly selected names from a long list; I missed dozens of folks so I might need a safe space at reunion. Let me seek forgiveness now; it might take a while. I did this all from memory so there might be errors. I hope everyone is in good spirits and enjoying each day one at a time. I will augment the next column to include the reporting that I didn't finish here. If you know someone who is undecided about reunion, encourage them to come. It is going to be a smash hit on Broadway — better than Rodgers, Hart and Hammerstein.

### 1969

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

Some replies to my September 18 blast email follow. Due to word limit, a few are held for the next column.

From Jeff Schwartz GSAS'74: "My wife, Lynn (poet, also tenured professor at the University of Pittsburgh), and I announced our retirement for the end of this academic year - May 2, 2018. Although professors, we've saved and lived modestly but comfortably and can retire at ages where we can still do things. Since Lynn travels a lot to give readings, do workshops, etc., and I travel for what is now research for my own edification and delight - mostly on human fossils these days - and don't do these things together, we plan to spend our good fortune on vacations together, and spend more time in our Upper East Side flat, our big splurge. But we are keeping the Pittsburgh house for when NYC is not userfriendly. One thing about this flat is anticipating going to our reunion and not having to worry about flights and hotels - just have a good time and reunite with old friends."

Stephan Bodian leads retreats and online classes in spiritual awakening and has no plans to retire. His most recent book, *Beyond Mindfulness: The Direct Approach to Lasting*  *Peace, Happiness, and Love,* critiques the increasingly popular practice and offers a more direct approach to self-realization based on the nondual wisdom tradition of Zen, Tibetan Buddhism and Advaita Vedanta. Plus, like the rest of us, he can't believe he just turned 70! "Seems like only yesterday I was waiting on line for tickets at the Fillmore East," he says.

Joe Chasnoff: "While at Columbia I was personal secretary to Rabbi Isidor Hoffman (Class of 1920), who retired from Columbia after our freshman year and became executive secretary of the Jewish Peace Fellowship. I became a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, a decision that has guided me into service to my country. First as a peacekeeper in Nicaragua, where I took an active role in opposition to the U.S.-sponsored Contra War, and in Guatemala where, along with internationalists from Europe and Canada, I helped (through peaceful presence) to protect Native Americans under attack from the U.S.-backed Guatemalan military. The conflict between basic human rights and the dark side of American culture has been formative in my life, and I'm sure the same is true for many of our classmates. Presently I'm chairperson of a solar co-op in Monroe County, W.Va., where I've lived for more than four decades, making a living as a cabinet maker and artist in wood. I'm building by hand, one board at a time, a 2,500-sq.-ft. home for me and my wife and am looking forward to a Thanksgiving celebration with my two daughters and my darling granddaughter, my brother and sister, and their families."

From John Gaquine: "I am retired in Juneau, Alaska. I have four wonderful grandchildren: Harrison (5) in Portland, Ore.; Lilah (4) in Juneau; Gabby (2) in Portland; and Benjamin (18 months) in Juneau. In August my wife and I went to Madras, Ore., to see the total eclipse. Madras, in the high desert of Oregon east of the Cascades was, according to NASA, the least likely place in the path of totality to have cloud cover. Despite the awful traffic (after the eclipse it took us four hours to go five miles) and my dislike of tent camping, it was worth it for the two minutes of totality indeed, for the instant that the last sliver of the sun disappeared and the

corona blossomed. I read about an actor who had seen the eclipse as a young teen and was blown away. Years later, when he had sex for the first time, he said it was fantastic but not as great as the eclipse.

"A fond memory of Carman Hall (actually, not very fond): People would tie a thread to the emergency stop switches in the elevators, tie the thread to something outside of the elevators and then send the elevators up. The thread would then pull the stop switch down, incapacitating the elevators. I guess this was consistent with the constant shower of glass objects from campus-facing dorm rooms onto the roof of Ferris Booth Hall."

Bill Bonvillian: "I have stepped down from my position directing MIT's Washington office after 11 years and now teach courses on innovation policy at MIT and lead a research project examining new ways to better deliver workforce education. My new book, *Advanced Manufacturing: The New American Innovation Policies*, was released in December."

Mark Webber: "I now have something in common with Donald Trump. We both have taken on new jobs at 70. After 43 years of practicing in the private sector, I assumed a new position on September 25 — chief assistant law director for labor and employment for the City of Cleveland. I look forward to this new chapter in my legal career."

From David Bradley: "I recently retired and became emeritus professor of linguistics at La Trobe University in Australia. I have been president of the UNESCO Comité International Permanent des Linguistes since 2015 and will chair the 20th International Congress of Linguists in Cape Town, South Africa, in July. We have also continued our research and practical work with several communities in Thailand, Burma and China for the maintenance and development of their languages notably Lisu, on which we are about to publish a grammar."

Hart Perry: "My son Nick Kopple-Perry is a psychiatrist at Mount Sinai. My son Michael has decided on a music career. My wife, Dana Perry, is running a wedding and real estate business on our estate (southwoodestate. com). I have a wood business (southwoodwoodproducts.com) and a herd of goats for land clearing. I have finished editing *Willie Mitcb*- *ell: Solid Soul* on the key architect of the Memphis Sound (late '60s and '70s). I made the film with Steve Jordan (drummer/producer); it has featured interviews with Al Green and Keith Richards."

David Sokal: "News from the Male Contraception Initiative: With support from a major donor, we're awarding a \$500,000 grant this month [September], and expect to award several smaller grants of \$150,000 by January or February 2018. If any alumni are interested in helping develop a male contraceptive, our major donor is feeling a little lonely and is looking for company. On a more personal note, I helped organize a family reunion in NYC and saw parts of the city that I years and have attained the rank of Sensei, or fourth-degree black belt. I think back fondly on CC and am grateful for the Core Curriculum and the terrific foundation it provided."

Marty Konikoff: "On the Saturday afternoon of Reunion 2017 I had the great pleasure of participating in a performance by the Columbia University Alumni Singers, as we are now called, at an Affinity Group Reception. All former members of the Glee Club, Barnard-Columbia Chorus, Barnard Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Kingsmen and so on were welcome to join. 'Lifting voices in joyful song' were Rich Rosenblum '68, Robby Levine '68, Jeff Kurnit '68, John Mueser '71, Abby Kurnit BC'68 and others too numerous to list here.

Now retired from his job at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Fredric Fastow '69 has started taking ballet lessons.

had never seen, including — believe it or not — the inside of Central Park. ... As part of the reunion, we did an escape room. It was a lot of fun, and my poker expertise helped solve one of the puzzles that stumped the younger folks. We escaped with six minutes to spare. If you haven't tried one of these it's a lot of fun and works best with a team of at least four people — we had nine, aged 20 to 69 (me)."

From **Fredric Fastow:** "I retired from my job in the law department of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. I turned 70 and (following my daughters' examples) have started taking ballet lessons with the same teacher they had. I continue to run, bike and do music."

Fred Pack and his wife, Sandy Pack SEAS'68, spend much of their year in Vail, Colo., where they ski in the winter and hike, bike and enjoy the mountains in the summer. This year they went with their friend Brandon Ford GS'03, a full-time Vail resident, to Douglas, Wyo., and saw the total eclipse of the sun on August 21.

From Francis Levy: "My third novel, *Tombstone: Not a Western*, will be released this year. I blog at The Screaming Pope and on The Huffington Post. I have been practicing traditional Japanese karate for 26 Our program consisted of numbers from Barnard G&S, Glee Club and the Kingsmen (aka Sha Na Na). The audience then joined for a hearty rendition of a set of College songs. While these musical reunions are extremely cathartic, I never fail to get misty-eyed when singing, 'We're all young together and the best of life's ahead' from the *Columbia Marching Song.* Sing, Lions, sing."

### 1970

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

I had the pleasure of interviewing my Furnald Hall RA, Andy Kiorpes, over breakfast while Andy was in New York for a family event. Andy lives in Minneapolis and is a semi-retired professor and consulting toxicologist. He is president of the American College of Toxicology and a director of the American Board of Toxicology. He is proud of the fact that he might be the only College graduate to have retired as a large-animal veterinarian! Andy's two daughters are both artists and he sends warm regards to his classmates, including **David Lehman** (more on David follows).

Law school professor David Sokolow GSAS'71, LAW'79 reports, "I took my annual 'reunion' trip with Ted Wirecki and Joel Mintz in June. Unfortunately, Doug Sabrin couldn't join us this year. As always, it was great fun. We took in the Art Institute, cheered on the Cubs in a losing effort, walked the shores of Lake Michigan and ate at some excellent restaurants. The only drugs consumed were statins and baby aspirin!

"The highlight of my year was winning a gold medal at the World Bridge Championships in Wroclaw, Poland, where I captained my wife's team to victory in the World Women's Teams. Thirty-five countries participated. It was much better than winning the silver medal in Chennai, India, last year! Captaining a women's bridge team is way tougher than being a law professor — my students don't give me flack! I recently started my 37th year at UT Austin School of Law. I love teaching and have no plans to retire."

Robert Launay, my Bronx Science classmate, is a professor of anthropology at the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University. He is also the interim director of the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA), where he heads a program to educate African curators on techniques related to the preservation of African Arabic script manuscripts. Robert is quoted, "Contrary to the assumption that Africa has only oral history, these Arabic script manuscripts show a long and elaborate written tradition in the continent." ISITA is the first research center in the United States devoted entirely to the study of Islam and Africa.

David Lehman, poetry chair at the New School Writing Program and editor of *The Best American Poetry* (a publication you should all sign up for), wrote an endearing tribute ("Remembering JA") to the great American poet John Ashbery GSAS'50 upon the latter's death. David notes that he and his wife had recently been watching the movie *Marjorie Prime*, "when the character played by Tim Robbins suddenly and without preamble quotes the opening six lines of Ashbery's wonderful poem, 'At North Farm." After describing someone who is traveling furiously toward you, through blizzards and desert heat, Ashbery asks, "But will he know where to find you, Recognize you when he sees you, Give you the thing he has for you?" David has an uncanny ability to make poetry and poets sound amazingly interesting, always the sign of a great writer!

#### 1971

Jim Shaw 139 North 22nd St. Philadelphia, PA 19103 jes200@columbia.edu

Happy 2018, Class of '71! While there is no news for this issue, it's the perfect time to reach out to me so that we can have a robust Spring column. Share your plans for the New Year or your reflections on the year gone by; classmates want to hear from you. *Remember, we are still connected*.

### 1972

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

Jerry Groopman says, "Sorry that I missed reunion - my wife, Pam, and I were in Europe and Israel. Our big news is the arrival last year of two granddaughters, first Eliza and then Leah. Clichés endure because they are true: Grandchildren bring profound joy, without the diaper changes and the 2 a.m. feedings. Eliza is in Kansas City, where my son Mike '07 is the director of analytics for the Royals. Leah is close by in the Boston area, where my son Steve is a lawyer. My daughter Emily GSAS'22 is in the third year of the M.D./Ph.D. program at P&S. Much travel to see all!"

Speaking of travel, **Steven Hirschfeld** PS'83, a captain in the United States Public Health Service, was deployed to Florida last September to help with the disaster response to Hurricane Irma. He reflects on the experience: "While there was much disruption and displacement, the geographic displacement was in general on the order of 2–200 miles. The cultural and psychological displacement, however, from a personal home to the temporary shelter of a cot on the open



floor of a public building is challenging to measure, even if all the people in the space are similar. Under other circumstances minor differences in how people respond to change and stress can be magnified and exaggerated."

Steven is also assistant VP for research initiatives and compliance at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, where he works on improving methods for conducting clinical research.

Another very contented traveler is Greg Vitercik, who notes, "Within a month last summer, I retired after 30 years teaching in the music department at Middlebury College and my wife, Carol Murray BC'73, and I celebrated - quietly, to be sure - our 40th anniversary. Fortyone years ago, sitting on the edge of the fountain in front of Dodge, I explained to her that I was going to marry her, so I hoped she would go along with my plan. It turns out that Columbia touches almost everything in our lives. Our daughter, Ellen '15, and her very good friend, Rohan Sawhney '15, are both doing Ph.D.s in computer science at Carnegie Mellon. Carol and I are doing a lot of traveling, and I am in the deep midst of some sort of book on Wagner's Der Ring des Nieblungen — an undertaking that feels like climbing Everest in a Speedo. Life is very, very good."

Charles Kaiser catches us up: "Ever since I was a junior at Columbia I have been a journalist and an author. I spent my first eight years writing for the Metro section of The New York Times, the next two as press critic for Newsweek and then 13 months at The Wall Street Journal, where I covered media and book publishing. Since then I have spent most of my time writing books, with a couple of timeouts to teach (adjunct at the Journalism School, and the Ferris Professor at Princeton) and to blog (most happily for CJR). My newest book, The Cost of Courage, is about one family in the French Resistance. I've known its subject, the Boulloche family, all my life because my uncle Henry Kaiser was billeted with them in Paris in Fall 1944 when he was a lieutenant in the Army. Ever since I started visiting France in 1962, this is the family I have always stayed with. The Cost of Courage is the most tragic and dramatic story I have ever known. First published two years ago, it came out in paperback last spring and in France in June as Le Prix du Courage.

"Writing in *The Washington Post*, Jonathan Kirsch gave it the most glowing review I have ever received: go online to goo.gl/JMEMwG. *The Wall Street Journal* was also very enthusiastic: goo.gl/4sUxU7."

Charles, who recently became associate director of the LGBT Social Science and Public Policy Center at Hunter College, will appear in a CNN Soundtracks on the Stonewall Riot, and a documentary on the events of 1968. "I've been with my husband, artist Joe Stouter, for just short of 40 years. Thanks to some rare wisdom from the U.S. Supreme Court, we've also been married for the last four ... Since freshman year in Livingston, I have always lived somewhere between 115th and 106th Streets, except for two and a half years in France to research my latest book. My two best friends from the Class of '72 are Sal Matera and Steve Shapiro. Sal lives across the street, and Steve is three blocks away."

And talking about the neighborhood, the big news as the school year began was the opening of an always-crowded Shake Shack on the corner of Broadway and 116th. You might remember the location as Chock full o'Nuts (but you're showing your age if you do).

### 1973

#### **REUNION 2018** MAY 31–JUNE 2

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#### Barry Etra 1256 Edmund Park Dr. NE Atlanta, GA 30306 betra1@bellsouth.net

**Gregory Peterson** LAW'85 was selected by his peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America* in real estate and in environmental law. He works for Boston law firm Casner and Edwards.

Congrats!

Joel Pfister is the Olin Professor of English and American Studies at Wesleyan and will be a visiting professor at the Université de Caen Normandie, where he will teach two graduate courses. His seventh book, on the critical work and pleasures of American movies, is under construction. Writing is stuff sweet on the morrow. Pitch in, y'all! Send your news to betra1@bellsouth.net. Your classmates want to hear from you!

### 1974

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

There are many different rankings of colleges, each with a methodology that affects the outcome. The most commonly cited ranking, from U.S. News & World Report, seems to put greater emphasis on the qualities of the students admitted (such as SAT scores and class ranking). The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education rankings explicitly state that they emphasize how well a college prepares students for life after graduation. While 15 factors are included in their calculations, 40 percent of each school's overall score comes from student outcomes (including graduation rates, incomes after graduation and the amount of student debt).

The latest edition of *U.S. News* rankings has Columbia College tied for fifth place among national universities. The *Wall Street Journal/Times* rankings put Columbia College in second place — ahead of all the other Ivy colleges (except Harvard) as well as the "near Ivies" like Stanford! Take that Yale (number 6) and Princeton (number 9)! Maybe the *WSJ/Times* rankings aren't so biased — just insightful!

It took John Shea (who lives in Lansdowne, Pa.) 43 years to send in a Class Note, but he had a lot to report. After 31 years as an editor and writer at Penn (the last 18 years as editor of Penn Medicine), John retired a year ago. He had earned a Ph.D. in English from Penn, but says teaching jobs were hard to find back then. In spare moments John has been a creative writer, publishing stories in such varied publications as Partisan Review, Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, The Twilight Zone Magazine, Literal Latte and even in Columbia magazine. Last summer his first book was published ("a collection of innovative, aka quirky, short fiction pieces). Titled Tales from Webster's, it won the Tartts First Fiction Award from Livingston Press. He adds, "I'd like to think that Kenneth Koch would have gotten a kick out of Tales."

Last February, John's daughter, Molly, gave him "an incredibly beautiful and no doubt talented" granddaughter, Thea. Molly and her husband, Jason, are musicians (and Jason was previously in a band with the son of **Stephen O'Connor**). Son Zachary lives in Annapolis and works at the Maryland State Archives.

Other news from Pennsylvania came in from Roger Cohen (who lives in Lancaster, Pa.). Pennsylvania is at the forefront of the self-driving car revolution, and Roger co-heads the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) highly automated vehicle leadership team. His group received the 2017 President's Award for performance excellence from American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (the national organization of state transportation departments). Roger has been the policy director of PennDOT since July 2015.

Emerging successful from a field of 91 applicants, Ron Mason LAW'77 was selected as the new president of the University of the District of Columbia. The school's board described him as "a leader in the higher education community who has brought enhanced community relationships, responsible governance and a strong student-first focus to his past roles." Ron will be leaving his position as president of Southern University and A&M College system. His 30 years of experience includes serving as president of Jackson State University (in Missouri) and 18 years in various positions in the administration of Tulane. He earned a degree from the Harvard Institute of Education Management.

Can't mention Washington, D.C., without giving an update on veteran defense attorney Abbe Lowell LAW'77. He has taken on a new case that Politico calls "his toughest challenge yet." No, they were not referring to his defense of Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, in the Russian election probe. This case involves the defense of Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), who is charged with accepting large political donations and large gifts to get him to use his influence to do repeated interventions with the federal government on behalf of a wealthy Florida doctor.

Another couple of quick updates: We had previously learned that **Louis Klonsky** retired from his Chevron career as a geophysicist in January 2012. The retirement life must have not been his thing because we now hear that Lou lives in Pasadena, Calif., and is an adjunct professor at Cal State. There was a Facebook post from **Tom Sawicki** (living in Jerusalem) that his younger son, Ariel, has given Tom a new grandson, Adam, who joins his sister, Zohar (3). Asked how the grandson got such a traditional name, Tom replied that the name Adam is not a common name in Israel. It only became popular in the last few years.

After 15 years as president and CEO of iSi North America, Rick Agresta retired last June. He tells us he is enjoying more time for recreation, travel, reading and family. The latter is especially relevant because his granddaughter, Penelope (3), moved this year (with his daughter Kate and her husband) to Rick's hometown of Darien, Conn. Rick seems to have found a lot of things to keep him busy: "I remain active as a board member of Project Redwoods, the anti-poverty social venture fund founded and run by classmates from the Stanford Business School. I also support Christo Rey, a work/study based Catholic college prep school in Harlem." He adds, "Our 40th reunion was a lot of fun and I hope to see all of our classmates at the 45th!"

On Facebook was a post from proud father **Barry Gruber** (who lives in Rochester, N.Y.). "I don't think anyone could be prouder right now (OK, I'm sure his mom is), as my fantastic son, Mitch, just won the election he has worked so hard for."

Mitch won the Democratic primary for the Rochester City Council. The general election was in November. This will be after I submit this column, so I can't report on the outcome. [Editor's note: He won!] Barry confirms, "No one, and I mean no one, loves Rochester more. It's nice to know Rochester loves him back. He'll be an amazing voice for a great city!"

Last summer **Vic Fortuno** LAW'77 (retired from being the VP and general counsel for the Legal Services Corp. in D.C., and living in Springfield, Va.) shared on Facebook a video of **Richard Briffault** that was posted on the Law School website. It was a piece done for *Business Insider*, "This is how impeachment works and what a president would have to do to be impeached." As a professor at the Law School with a focus on the law of the political process, he was a logical choice to address this issue. Richard says in the video, "The historical sense is that impeachment basically means ... serious political crimes that involve abuse of the office, abuse of power, abuse of trust. The behavior doesn't actually have to be a crime."

We'll see if this topic becomes relevant in the next few years!

While studying English at the College, Michael Fixel (president of Parallel Universe Theater Resources in Jacksonville, Fla.) wrote many plays. His play Salamander Stew won numerous awards. Thirty years later, his daughter, Juliet, produced and directed it at the Strawberry One Act Festival in NYC. He then wrote a sequel that became Freefall Frostbite, which was produced at the NYC International Fringe Festival in 2013. With Juliet again producing and directing, Michael produced an updated version with music, Freefall Frostbite: A Reinvention, at Theatre 80 St. Marks in NYC's East Village last fall. He tells us, "The Core Curriculum is definitely in there."

There you have it. Classmates retiring, reengaging and still finding time to enjoy time with their families. If you have news to share (big or small) of you or your family, pass it on. Your friends of nearly half a century want to hear from you!

#### 1975

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

We all have to be loving and cheering on Columbia football! **Ira Malin** and **Steve Jacobs** were at Robert K. Kraft Field for Homecoming. The week after, I sang *Roar, Lion, Roar* at the beginning of the team leader meeting of the project I'm currently working on at Penn. I got quite interesting reactions, as you might guess.

I've gotten mine and am having so much fun. When will you get yours? I'm talking about My First Origami Kit, imagined by **Joel Stern** (authored just doesn't seem to be the best word). It's not your grandmother's origami! Instead, you'll find firetrucks, vans, planes, cars and trains (and much more!). Joel has conducted origami workshops for kids of all ages in camps, schools, community centers and libraries and is an administrator for OrigamiUSA and Pacific Ocean Paperfolders. He chaired the 2017 Pacific Coast Origami Convention and his folded and pop-up paper creations have been exhibited in the United States, Japan and Israel.

Paul Kulig writes: "Ironically, the Summer 2017 issue of CCT arrived the day before I was off to NYC with my wife for a 'tourist' visit for the first time since the reunion in 2010 (can't believe it was seven years ago), so we had to make a stop at the school for nostalgia's sake. Great to see work was being done on South Field and Butler's entrance, and Tom's playing off its Seinfeld fame. Is that the only business left from 1975? I had to visit the bookstore to get a new Columbia T-shirt. Amazing how those chlorine droplets will find your shirt when adding it to the pool!"

I heard from **Phil Mihlmester:** "I really enjoyed your Fall 2017 update. **Jim Dolan** writing about **CJ McCloskey** brought back my own memories of the '72 strike (I was interviewed by a radio station while picketing Mathematics Hall, and 'occupied' Hamilton). I also took Roger Hilsman's course and was introduced to squash as a freshman in the same old gym where we took the memorable *au naturel* swimming test! Obviously that dovetails with you and I working for peanuts at Butler Library."

Phil and I had work-study jobs in Butler Circulation and visit "the stacks" whenever we can to get that never-to-be-forgotten smell of musty pages and stack dust.

He continues, "I also was impressed by **Fred Senatore** SEAS'77's update: two Ph.D.s (engineering and medicine no less — gut courses!)"

Phil works in global energy consulting at consultancy ICF, based in Fairfax, Va., where he oversees its energy practice. He and his wife, Linda, celebrated their 35th anniversary and they, too, are emptynesters. Oldest son William lives nearby; he graduated from William & Mary, works in cybersecurity and was recently engaged. Younger son Adam graduated from West Virginia University, works in IT building mobile apps and lives in Denver. Phil loves the D.C. connection and always looks forward to meeting up with other alums, especially classmates.

**Bob Schneider** and his wife, Regina Mullahy BC'75, are the proud grandparents of their first grandson, Thomas Joseph Schneider. Tommy is the son of John Schneider '07 and his wife, Stephanie Pahler BC'06. *Marquis Who's Who* recently named Bob a Lifetime Achiever. Bob has been special counsel for Cuddy & Feder since 1997. Prior to his current role, he was an associate, and eventually senior associate attorney, for Hawkins, Delafield & Wood.

Several classmates spent late summer and early fall traveling. Bob Sclafani hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu and elsewhere, enjoying Incan and Peruvian culture, food and beer along the way. Fernando Castro has been touring Mexico, visiting cultural attractions and performances. Peter Garza-Zavaleta has returned to Spain for the winter, doing a lot of touring around the country. All seemed to eat and drink well in their travels. I recently spent a week cruising the Italian and French Rivieras on the Royal Clipper, the largest five-masted sailing ship afloat today.

### 1976

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

So, another column, but this time I have so much information that I don't have to mention that Linda and **Dennis Goodrich** traveled from Syracuse to Poland for a brief vacation. Not sure who watched their pup, Mika, but with a name like that she could definitely fend for herself.

I do seem to get a number of updates from the regulars. **Terry Corrigan** and **Tom Motley** got together for 72 holes of golf in Pinehurst, N.C. According to Terry, they were tied at the end of the 72nd hole, and Tom did not have time for a playoff. A photo of them got lots of comments from me, **Nick De Monico** and Gwyneth Murphy BC'76; we all agree that Tom wins best dressed, and Terry claimed Mr. Congeniality!

I sat with Nick and his wife, Lee, at the Yale Bowl when Columbia played Yale last fall. Nick is officially retired and keeping up with their three children. I hope he will send an update for the next issue. I also spotted **Bryan Alix** enjoying the sunny day. The game did not have a good outcome, but the Lions had

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a winning season, were fun and interesting to watch, and have a great group of sophomores and first-years that should keep the program at the top of the Ivy League for the next few years.

Rich Feldman was also at the Yale game and sat with me at Homecoming two weeks before, which was an overtime win against Penn at Robert K. Kraft Field. After the game, Rich emailed me his update: "Living in Chappaqua with my wife, Michele. Two of our three sons are living in NYC, with our oldest having opened up a restaurant, Hanoi House, on the Lower East Side. Enjoying the practice of law and biking as often and as far as time allows. Greatly enjoyed the last reunion and looking forward to the next."

On the way back from New Haven, there was a stop at Debbie and **Mike Yeager**'s home in Westport, Conn. Mike is recovering from back surgery, but still looks like he could contribute to the Lions defensive line effort. We watched the end of the Penn State-Ohio State game and enjoyed some Westport pizza (not quite up to V&T standards).

Also at Homecoming were Jon Margolis and Jim Bruno. Jim filed this report from his vantage point at the field: "It was a great win for the football team at Homecoming! My wife, Donna, said it was the most exciting Columbia football game she ever saw (obviously forgetting when we played to a scoreless tie against Bucknell in Coach Navarro's final season). It was good to see many football and baseball teammates from various years, as well as David Luther, Donald Goldblatt and, of course, Ken Howitt. Notably missing was Jim Berquist, who was away

surveying his vast real estate holdings in the Caribbean."

My predecessor as CC'76 class correspondent, Clyde Moneyhun, filed this update: "After six or seven years of translating Catalan poetry and having poems published here and there in literary magazines, I've published my first book of translations by Minorcan poet Ponç Pons, Salt (or Salobre in Catalan). The British publisher is Francis Boutle and you can find the book on its website — a bargain at £9.99! If you cruise the internet you'll also find my translations of Ramon Llull (the medieval father of Catalan literature — Chaucer, Shakespeare and Milton rolled into one) as well as contemporary poets Maria-Mercè Marçal and Dolors Miquel. Why Catalan? It was a language in my mother's family but died out in my grandmother's generation. In view of recent events in Catalonia, I'm feeling especially devoted to the language of my ancestors."

Vinnie Briccetti checked in about a visit to the Pacific Northwest: "Just finished the last *CCT* and thought I'd let you know that my wife, Grace, and I recently spent some time in the Pacific Northwest, including a spectacular Fourth of July with Marilynn and **Dan Gottlieb**. Seems appropriate, as Dan and I were, after all, members of the 'Bicentennial Class.' See the nearby picture of us on the back porch of the Gottliebs' beautiful home in Bainbridge Island, Wash."

And now a note about a new feature in Class Notes. If you have a picture with at least one other Columbia College alum, the editors can include it. I am happy to write the captions, but classmates know what that means! Better to submit both photos and captions via CCT's



Vinnie Briccetti '76, Marilynn Gottlieb, Dan Gottlieb '76 and Grace Briccetti celebrated July 4 at the Gottliebs' home on Bainbridge Island, Wash.

photo webform: college.columbia. edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo. Thanks to Terry and Vinnie for contributing our first pictures.

Thank you also for your participation in Columbia Giving Day. Our class did very well, and if you didn't contribute to the Columbia College Fund, you will hear from me again (and again, and again) in the next few months (and years).

Keep updating me, and I hope to see many of you at a basketball game or two at Levien Gymnasium. Let me know if you are coming to NYC, and we can grab lunch as well.

### 1977

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

Last June I attended our 40th reunion, and I need to debrief on that. If change is a theme in the remarks that follow, keep in mind that there is no change without some continuity as well.

The reunion began on a Thursday with a joint reception with the Barnard Class of '77 in a building not far from Times Square. On my way there, as I crossed 42nd and Broadway (now a pedestrian mall!), I could hardly help comparing the scene with my first sight of the area in Spring 1974. That grungefest is now the setting for a TV series with James Franco — in other words, the setting for a historical costume drama, like Gettysburg or Salem during the witch trials. Except that I was *there* (OK, briefly — don't get the wrong idea). But I digress.

The reception was attended by such luminaries as **Bill Dorsey, Bill Gray** (our host), **John Hallacy, John Lukomnik, Jim Mullin, Brent Rosenthal, Mike Sherman** and **Walter Simpson.** Reunions a few decades out have a sort of dreamlike quality. I rode up 23 flights in an elevator with Barnard class president Mary Ann Lofrumento BC'77: Neither of us recognized the other. And yet it was great to reconnect with her, as eventually I did, along with other BC'77 alumnae.

Attendance, at this and other reunion events, was very good. People came from all over to be there (New Mexico, Texas, and even — ahem — Illinois). A task I set for myself was to find out who had traveled the farthest,



Two CC'76ers played 72 holes of golf at Pinehurst: Terry Corrigan (left) and Tom Motley.

but this turned out to be no contest: One of the first people I spoke to was Jeff MacFarland, who had dropped in from Hanoi. Don't tell me that we don't have enthusiastic classmates.

On Friday, a dinner was held at a restaurant on LaSalle Street. I'd barely heard of such a street, and early in the day I strolled uptown to find it and was amazed to realize that it was West 124th Street. Forty or so years ago, the very idea of going north of, say, Riverside Church, for a meal was next to inconceivable. But this whole area is the new Columbia neighborhood, as the University expands in that direction. At the dinner, in addition to many classmates I'd encountered on Thursday, I was pleased to see Efrain Agosto, Dan Kottke, Charlee Myers, Dan Sang, Costantino Suriano and George Whipple.

Of course there were also daytime events for alums throughout the weekend. In general you get your money's worth for attending. Aside from some very good talks and tours, this reunion gave me a much better sense than I'd had about what's going on with both the College and the University, and the reasons why things have changed since we graduated — in some cases very much. Speaking of change, the neighborhood has transformed east, west, south and north (though I am never going to get used to those wide-open campus gates on West 120th Street). I'm glad that through the years, as I've mentioned in other columns, I've come back to the area; for someone who hadn't been there since 1977, it would be like landing on Mars.

The main reunion event was the class dinner on Saturday in Alfred Lerner Hall, which stands in the place of dear, seedy, old Ferris Booth Hall, and where it was good to see **Russ Behrman.** We were lucky to have Barry Bergdoll as our speaker. An architectural historian at Columbia. he provided a fascinating history of how the Morningside campus came to be the way it is (long story short - what ended up getting built differs entirely from what was envisioned). More than that, Barry shared with us his experience as someone who has lived on the upper-Upper West Side for most of the time since we graduated. I was astonished to learn that he commutes to work by walking through Morningside Park - through it. You might feel that way also, if you remembered going to a class meeting (this would be about junior year) that a professor held in her apartment on Morningside Drive, when, at some point, we noticed smoke rising across the street. Peering out her window, our host announced, "Apparently someone has set the playground on fire." It was the 1970s; we went on with the class.

Apologies if I left anyone left out of this all too brief and belated account, or misplaced them (as I'm sure that I did). Look for follow up in future columns and send your news to dgorman@niu.edu.

#### 1978

#### REUNION 2018 MAY 31-JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact Merideth Kerby ccaa-events@columbia.edu 212-851-7776 Development Contact Erin Zyko Hussein eez1@columbia.edu 212-851-7452

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

The sprint to the 40th is under way — special thanks to the all-star team of '78ers who are planning a great event: Paul McCormick, Joseph Greenaway, Robert Blank, Thomas Bisdale, Charles Callan, Jeffrey Canfield, Tom Mariam, Wilson Ko, Mark Silverschotz, Alex Demac, Bruce Steinberg (in London), Nicholas Serwer (in Singapore), John Slosar (in Hong Kong) and Byron Moger. I will be helping as well. Thanks to everyone! Please give money or time when one of these classmates calls. Our goal is to raise about \$400,000 and have 75 folks attend the reunion. We can do it.

Don Guttenplan is back in the United States after a time in London: he lives in Guilford, Vt., where my dad once had a little winter cottage between wives in the 1970s. Don writes, "Last July 8, Jeff Klein was among a group of CC'78 members who made the journey from the concrete canyons of Manhattan to the sunny uplands of southern Vermont to celebrate my 60th birthday. Joining Jeff were his fellow 8 Carman denizens Larry Friedman and Sid Holt, along with my fellow 13 Carmanite Carl Strehlke, and the baby of the group, Steve Ackerman '79. Tom Mellins '79 and Joel Sanders with a crucial assist from Nanci Fink Levine — completed the contingent of Columbia contemporaries in attendance. In the nearby photo Steve and I are wearing matching legacy hats – a fitting choice, as we are also both Columbia parents."

Don, who has long written for The Nation, remembered college days: "When we arrived in New York in Fall 1974, garbage was piled high in the streets and the city was all but bankrupt. I remember going downtown with my best friend, Don Share (who later transferred to Brown, and now edits Poetry magazine), to see the music promoter George Klein to try to persuade him to hold a benefit concert, along the lines of the Concert for Bangladesh, to save the city. Our brilliant idea was to reunify The Beatles for the occasion. Klein was incredibly patient, hearing us out and then sending us away with a non-committal 'Let's stay in touch.' Which somehow, weighed down by the demands of CC and Humanities — and the infinite, and at the time remarkably inexpensive, temptations of the fleshpots of Gotham - we never managed to do. I also remember, in Summer 1976, living on a food budget of \$4 a day to save money — and never really feeling like I was going hungry. As for the Ivy League stuff, apart from Jeff Klein, whose duties at WKCR obliged him to attend, I don't think any of my friends went to a single football game. After I graduated I did go to a Homecoming ---- the last game at the old Baker Field, where we were invited to kick off the demolition by hand. I still have the green numbered bench I took home on the subway that day - now, with added feet, it sits by the fire in Vermont."



Several former WKCR Sports Department staff members reunited at the Yale Bowl. Left to right: Marion Nemerson BC'77, Matt Nemerson '78, Jim Miller '70, Tom Mariam '78, Russ Behrman '77, and Marilyn and Kevin DeMarrais '64.

Tim Riedle, who has left the United States, writes, "I am now retired in Abruzzo, Italy, having recently moved into a house we built with a grand view of the Gran Sasso peaks. I feel fortunate to be in this remote part of Italy and removed from current politics in the U.S. I receive little U.S. mail and I'm not ashamed to say that the Columbia alumni magazines are a highlight of my trips down the hill to the mailbox. It may be tempting to consider that a sad commentary on a pathetic, boring life, but let's resist it; it's not even close to the truth. Really, it's just a testament to how good a place Columbia is and how good those magazines have become."

I asked each of you for this edition of CCT to tell us how Columbia's rise to prominence as number 2 on the Wall Street Journal list of top 500 American colleges compares to moments in your memory of your time as an undergraduate in the less rarified 1970s. Tim added this evocative remembrance, "I remember a reading from Allen Ginsberg '48 in The West End, lightly attended by Columbia students, but still happening, and still 'A Happening' as far as I was concerned. That was a good example of the fantastic opportunities in NYC for an Ivy League student, though because so many Columbia students were from the area they might have been a bit blasé about it. Being from California, I was stoked!"

Steven Horowitz SEAS'81 is now in Ra'anana, Israel: "I made *Aliyah* to Israel in 2009 with my family and work as a patent attorney here — I appreciate having received the scientific portion of my training in the pre-med classes of the College and in the master's program at Columbia Engineering."

In Israel for some time, **Gary Pickholz** writes, "I had a uniquely Class of 1978 wedding in September at the seaside just north of Tel Aviv. **Carl Sherer** served as a witness and signatory on my ketuba, and by sheer coincidence the pen used was from **Jeffrey Moerdler**'s law offices. Enjoyed my honeymoon."

Gary reflects, "I always thought of 'Columbia of Our Day' as improperly insular, and have been gratified to play a small part in its embracing a far more global presence, from the Global Centers to the more than doubling of overseas students. The new Columbia Global Policy Initiative is a wonderful step forward for all of us — alumni, faculty and students."

Joseph M. Schachner SEAS'79 works for Teledyne LeCroy and was recently back on campus: "I was at the C.U.C.C. Engineering Career Fair recently, on behalf of my employer. We have been there several times, we find the quality of the candidates to be very good."

As for Columbia's new might, "This too shall pass!" He opines on the "real" Columbia of memory: "I remember Professor Omar Wing telling us to get his book on circuit theory, which turned out to be out of print!"

Chuck Callan, of Grandview-on-Hudson, works for Broadridge (which provides data to the financial services industry). Chuck had an interesting perspective on the old Columbia: "In the 1970s, NYC, and therefore, Columbia, had a middle class that Columbia was able to educate."

David Margules, publisher of *Spectator* back in the day, has fond memories of "late night dining at Duke's." He is now a corporate lawyer at Ballard Spahr in Wilmington, Del., tells us that he has "nothing exciting to report. I continue to practice law. My four sons continue to age (as do I). The world turns! I will always remember Columbia as a little school in a sleepy town. Global domination frightens me."

James Hill works for the U.S. Treasury in New York and is looking forward to seeing everyone at reunion. He remembers a college exploit that probably would not be allowed today: "We scaled up onto the dome of Low Library at night, discussed architecture, beer, security and other lofty subjects."

**Rob Blank** notes that he "always knew Columbia was great," so the

### 1979

Robert Klapper 8737 Beverly Blvd., Ste 303 Los Angeles, CA 90048 robertklappermd@aol.com

**Robert C. Klapper**: "This issue's Columbia thought comes right out of the dashboard of the car that you are driving.

"As the world we live in now becomes completely unrecognizable compared to the life we lived in 1975– 79 ('our shared Columbia experience' and the purpose of this column), the George Jetson mobile that gets you to and from work most likely has satellite radio, and Channel 7 on mine and yours is devoted to the '70s.

"My memory does not come strictly from the words that appear on the digital screen, but from the

Russ Frazier '78 develops communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance technologies for the "networked" soldier.

current recognition does not come as a surprise. Rob is a professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Francis Collini is a doctor of plastic surgery in Shavertown, Pa. His daughter is expecting his first grandchild and his son recently became engaged. "I still talk to my college roommate, Jamie Morhaim, several times a week and we plan to get together in New York during the holidays."

Russ Frazier is at CERDEC, developing communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance technologies for the "networked" soldier at the Aberdeen PG in Maryland. He says he is "reading and investigating organic chemistry."

A number of us attended Columbia football games this fall, and I saw classmates such as **Tom Mariam** at Homecoming and in New Haven. While our 6–0 start to the season did not hold, it has still been a great run this year for the team and a good opportunity to get together with friends from many classes.

Kick off the year by sending your news to matthewnemerson@gmail. com. It's an easy resolution to cross off the list.

four numbers that accompany each of the songs played. Because these four numerals represent the year the song was released. For all those millennials that have come after us, this is an 'oldies' station, but for you and me, fellow'79ers, when the Bee Gees 'Jive Talkin" is suddenly playing, the 1975 that pops up next to the name of the song on my LED dashboard makes me remember hearing it for the first time. I was probably jaywalking across Broadway, from Ta-Kome deli. (Isn't it special that an establishment across the street from Columbia University intentionally butchered two simple words?! This is why I felt smart at freshman orientation, because I felt at least I could spell better than the idiots across the street.)

"Sometimes the musical memory has the opposite effect because the song and the date of what I'm listening to unfortunately is Helen Reddy singing 'Angie Baby,' which I have hated since 1975.

"Most recently, driving to work a Columbia flashback occurred. The '70s on 7 channel began to play Harry Chapin's 1974 'Cat's in the Cradle.' This song is special to me on so many levels, but it's particularly important to me because the whole idea of even going to Columbia came from my good friend Norman Steinberg '78, who was a guest in the Catskills mountain hotel I worked at as a 16-year-old (enough stories to fill 100 of these columns). He was proudly wearing a Columbia T-shirt sitting at the pool where I was working, Just imagine the movie *Dirty Dancing* and I'm Patrick Swayze and Steinberg is Jennifer Grey (just kidding, Norm). Norman and I have remained the closest of friends for more than 40 years.

"You see, Harry Chapin was his favorite artist. One night he asked me while we were both living in Hartley Hall if I wanted to go with him to see Harry at a concert in Central Park. I can still hear the song and see the trees of the park as clear as day. It was one of the most memorable evenings during my four years at the College.

"This futuristic song-generating device in our dashboard — because it delineates the year of the tune has this incredible ability to take us on an audio magic carpet ride, back to our days at the College. What used to be our radio is now a time machine. Roar, Lion, Roar!"

### 1980

Michael C. Brown London Terrace Towers 410 W. 24th St., Apt. 18F New York, NY 10011 mcbcu80@yahoo.com

We had a tremendous fall season, and I congratulate the football team for making us all proud. Homecoming 2017 will go down in the annals of history as one of the greatest games played in modern times, and I cannot remember a time when alums young and old stormed the field! Glad to see the Class of '80 in attendance.

I received a nice note from Howard Leib: "I moved to Ithaca, N.Y., about eight years ago (after a lifetime in NYC) with my wife, Marcie, who is native to the area and has a massage studio here. Ithaca is a beautiful small city, with theater, independent film and farmers markets. I am on the board of our local arts cinema and am pro bono counsel for one of our theater companies. I also have my own radio show on our community station, WRFI.

"Since moving here, I have continued my entertainment and intellectual law practice. The joy of modern technology allows me to stay in touch with clients, literally all over the world, without being tied to being in the big city. In addition to my law practice, I have taught various higher education courses at several institutions for decades. Since moving to Ithaca, I have found the joy of teaching online for schools such as NYU, National Paralegal College and Kaplan University. Most recently, however, I have also been getting physically back into the classroom. I have taught media law at Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and trademark law at Syracuse's School of Law. My big new news, however, is that as of the past Fall semester, I am teaching entertainment law at Cornell Law School. My parents are very proud that their son is an Ivy League law professor. I'm pretty proud, too."

All my best for a happy and healthy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you at a basketball game this winter. Drop me a line at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

#### 1981

Kevin Fay 8300 Private Ln. Annadale, VA 22003 kfay0516@gmail.com

My inbox was empty. I have nothing to report to fellow graduates and other alumni. Clearly, the approach I've taken is not working. When faced with problems, I take our dog out for long walks and this helps me find solutions (inside joke; we own a Dachshund, and at most it's 300 ft. from the front porch, then back home), but alas. Send me your plans for 2018 or report on your favorite 2017 events: kfay0516@gmail.com!

### 1982

Andrew Weisman 81 S. Garfield St. Denver, CO 80209 weisman@comcast.net

Greetings, gentlemen. As I put digits to keyboard I feel the despair of still being subject to a never-ending anti-civics lesson. To paraphrase an ad I once saw on the subway, "¡Es la hora Mueller!"

I also despair that no one checked in this quarter. I have a suggestion: If you don't wish to share any intimate details of your private life, how about just checking in to challenge me for having voted for the Green Party? It will only take a moment. You'll be glad you did it!

### 1983

#### **REUNION 2018** MAY 31–JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact Merideth Kerby ccaa-events@columbia.edu 212-851-7776

Development Contact Erin Zyko Hussein eez1@columbia.edu 212-851-7452

#### Roy Pomerantz Babyking/Petking 182-20 Liberty Ave. Jamaica, NY 11412 bkroy@msn.com

Homecoming 2017. Students from the Penn marching band are packing up their instruments and boarding the bus. I hear one of them remark incredulously, "Trump is President and Columbia is 5-0." My 9-year-old, Ricky, says to me, "It must be very depressing for them to drive for hours and then go home after such a tough loss." Flashback. 1980. As the juggler for the marching band, I vividly remember traveling on the bus home after so many tough losses. There was pandemonium at Baker Field after Columbia's 34-31 Homecoming win. Absolute joy following so many heartbreaking seasons. The fans ran onto the field and danced, sang and partied with the victorious football players for more than 30 minutes.

Eric Epstein and his wife, Michele Shapiro BC'85, JRN'92, were in attendance. Eric's father, William Epstein '55, SEAS'56, is also a loyal alumnus. Andy Gershon rode his bike to Robert K. Kraft Field from his apartment on West 96th Street. Andy and I debated whether Coach Jim Engles rotated the players too aggressively (limiting the playing time of star players like Luke Petrasek '17) during Engles' first season as Columbia's basketball coach. Basketball star Isaac Cohen '16 was at Homecoming and we discussed whether Petrasek would make the final roster for the Charlotte Hornets (he was later assigned to Charlotte's G League). I also greeted shirtless Columbia basketball star Nate Hickman '18 during the victory celebration. I shook hands with the elated former running back and John Jay Award recipient Joseph Cabrera '82. Sharon Gerstman Chapman BC'83 and **Kevin Chapman** celebrated with their son Ross '18, who plays the trombone in the marching band. **Steve Coleman** and his wife, Laura, sat behind me at the game; their daughters are Sarah '15 and Madeleine '20.

I spotted **Steve Greenfield** getting signatures for the "Save Orgo Night" petition. Steve is a director of the Columbia University Band Alumni Association. CUBBAA has been working with the marching band in an effort to preserve Orgo Night, the popular exam-time event that began in 1975. Alumni support has been key to defending the traditional location of the stress-busting performance, which last year was moved from its longtime home in Butler Library.

David Rubel and his wife, Julia, proudly celebrated the win with their daughter, Abigail '19. Abigail is following in David's footsteps as a member of the marching band (flute) and an English major. David and Julia's son, Quentin, was accepted to CC last year but deferred so that he could take a gap year with AmeriCorps. Right now he is in Key West helping with hurricane relief. Julia and David are celebrating their newly empty nest with a trip to Montana to visit friends. David says, "We really like this empty-nest thing!" He also notes, "Ron Blum and his family came to visit in the spring as his son, Eric, was making the rounds of early nearby colleges. Ron is still a writer for AP. He was in Trinidad covering the United States soccer team's embarrassing loss in the World Cup qualifier."

Dennis Klainberg '84 continued his annual tradition of playing his trumpet with the marching band during Homecoming. Dennis was thrilled that Steve Greenfield '82 was playing his saxophone with the band as well. It was the first time Dennis had seen Steve in 35 years. Steve and Michael Waldman '82 (speechwriter for President Clinton) lived next to me my first year on 14 Jay. I have fond memories of Steve's very eclectic taste in music, including Billy Joel (long before he became the success he is now), Skafish, Sinatra, Springsteen and The Beatles.

Ed Joyce reached me by Face-Time while I was celebrating on the field. Ed and Dave Filosa '82 were following the game online during the wedding of a Columbia teammate/ classmate's daughter in France. Ed joins Gerrard Bushell, Steve Coleman (VP of alumni engagement) and me as a member of the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors. The CCAA was founded in 1825 and has a rich history of engagement, leadership and influence at CC. I am on the Alumni Representative Committee committee and strongly encourage classmates to sign up to conduct interviews this year. I sat under the pre-game Homecoming tent with David Levin '64, SEAS'68. David is friends with ob/gyn Peter

Simonson and his wife, Jane. Steve Jacobs '75 sent a Wikipedia entry on Columbia's 1934 Rose Bowl game and noted, "I remember my father, Martin Jacobs (Class of 1925, LAW'27), talking about this."

Tom Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90 published an article in The New York Times on October 24 titled, "Columbia Football Keeps Winning. Some Fans Aren't Happy About It." From the article: "My feelings as an alumnus are very different from when I was a student,' said Stephen Holtje. When he was in the university's marching band, he said, 'Being a rabid sports fan was not really hip. I remember taking great delight in Columbia's perfection of the forward fumble.' Today, Mr. Holtje is manager of the record label ESP-Disk and has a different slant. 'I no longer need to be hip and ironic,' he said. 'When they're losing, it means nothing and

I don't notice. But when they win, it's like this amazing blessing out of nowhere.' Mr. Holtje dismissed any notions that Columbia's current football prowess might overshadow the university's emphasis on academics. 'It's sufficiently obvious that we will not be Ohio State,' he said, 'so we don't have to worry — even if we have an undefeated season.'"

Carl Faller: "It is not every day while still reading the paper edition of The New York Times I am brought to a quick smile. Great to see a photo of Steve Holtje, my Carman Hall freshman roommate, alive and well as evidenced by the photo and backed up by a thoughtful quotation. All in the front section no less, in an article about a winning Columbia football team. As referenced in the article and evidenced by my now more than 15 years in Columbus, Ohio (in the home of The Ohio State University), rest assured Columbia should have no fears of athletics overshadowing academics. Exciting year for the household as my daughter, Carolyn, is in her junior year at Fordham and my twin sons, Bob and John, are high school seniors contemplating their futures."

Jets linebacker Josh Martin '14 was honored during the Homecoming game along with Robert K. Kraft '63. From an October 28 *New York Post* article: "Jets linebacker Josh Martin is having the most productive year of his professional career, while his alma mater Columbia is off to its first 6–0 start since 1996. Martin, who plays both special teams and defense and had an impressive sack last week, has done his best to follow the Lions' historic season. He attended



David Rubel '83 (middle) and Roy Pomerantz '83 met up at the Homecoming 2017 game with their families.

their homecoming game — a 34–31 overtime victory over former Ivy League champion Penn — two weeks ago. ... But Martin — the only player from Columbia currently on an NFL roster — has helped contribute to the program's rise, just by making it as far as he has. 'When you have guys in the league, I like to think that helps the program,' he said. 'It's fun to be a part of [the turnaround].' Martin is hopeful his former squad will finish the job they started. 'Everyone knows that this isn't Columbia as they've known it in the past,' he said."

Wayne Allyn Root: "My TV show is a huge hit. My radio show is the fastest growing in America ... from one station to 36 in five months! And my oldest son, Hudson, is applying to CC in December, along with Harvard, Stanford and USC. Kid is a stud lacrosse player with great grades and SAT scores."

On September 17, I attended the Fifth Annual Les Nelkin [SEAS'87] Pediatric Cancer Survivor Day. Ruth and Harold Nelkin have been great friends and supporters of the division of hematology/oncology and stem cell transplantation at Cohen Children's Medical Center. They honor the memory of their son, Les, through their support of this wonderful event for all cancer survivors. Les lost his battle to Wilms Tumor at 37 in 2001. The Nelkins' generosity is also recognized through the Les Nelkin Memorial Pediatric Oncology Laboratory at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research. Thanks to generous supporters, the Survivors Facing Forward at Cohen Children's Medical Center can continue to thrive and meet the needs of the growing amount of pediatric cancer survivors. To learn more about this program, visit bit.ly/CCMCSurvivors.

**Jon Ross** sent a photo from South America in front of the Universidad Columbia Del Paraguay.

Our 35th reunion will be Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2. Members of the Reunion Committee are Ed Joyce (co-chair), Roy Pomerantz (co-chair), George Wilson (cochair), Gerrard Bushell (co-chair), Steve Coleman (co-chair), Gary McCready, Kevin Chapman, Barry Rashkover, David Hershey-Webb, Eric Epstein, Mark Momjian, Don Lewis, David Einhorn and John Bonomi.

The following classmates have children in the Class of 2021: **Basil Michaels** (Theodore Michaels) and **George Fryer** (Christopher Fryer, combined College and Engineering).

The New York Post ran a story on love letters Barack Obama wrote while he was at CC: "A young Barack Obama questioned his place in the world and his racial identity, agonized over whether he'd make enough money as a community organizer and lamented his incompatibility with his ex-girlfriend, in 30 pages of letters he wrote to her that are now being archived by Emory University in Atlanta. ... 'My ideas aren't as crystallized as they were while in school, but they have an immediacy and weight that may be more useful if and when I'm less observer and more participant,' Obama wrote in 1984 to [Alexandra] McNear, who was a student at Occidental College in L.A., which Obama attended before transferring to Columbia. The letters span 1982 to 1984."

Jonathan Green is running for Cook County Illinois Judge. Contact terri@jonathan clarkgreen.com.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2018. Please join our Reunion Committee!

# 1984

Dennis Klainberg Berklay Cargo Worldwide 14 Bond St., Ste 233 Great Neck, NY 11021 dennis@berklay.com

At the time of this submission, Columbia football triumphed over Dartmouth just a week after a spectacular overtime win over Penn at Homecoming. With a 6–0 record, your classmates were apparently so stunned that radio silence ensued. Remember, gang, when you read Class Notes and have news, email me immediately so that you'll be included in the next column. Please!

Luckily, you can all live vicariously through my experience at Homecoming, where I once again marched with the Marching Band and bumped into **Arthur Kohn**, who attended a Columbia College Alumni Association event before kickoff. I was thrilled to reunite with fellow bandmates Steve Greenfield '82 (after 30 years!), Steven Greenfield '83 and Roy Pomerantz '83. I was most honored to see former *CCT* editor-in-chief Alex Sachare '71, super alumnus Ira Malin '75 and old



Former drum major Steve Greenfield '82 (middle) and former band manager Dennis Klainberg '84 at Homecoming 2017 before taking the field.

friend, neighbor and former Marching Band member Robert Waldbaum '58. What a day and what a season!

In other news, Albert Faro is doing good and doing well. "We have been very fortunate over the past year or so," he writes. "In a period of a month last year we celebrated our daughter's bat mitzvah, sold a home, bought a home, moved cities and started a new job! I am now back on the East Coast, having traded my position in academic medicine as professor of pediatrics at Washington University in St. Louis (where I was a pediatric pulmonologist) to come to Bethesda, Md., and work for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as senior director of clinical affairs. The foundation is a nonprofit working to find a cure for CF while improving the lives of people with CF today.

"I am leading initiatives in advanced lung disease, including lung transplantation and palliative care, and quality improvement efforts across the entire national care center network that we support. This is a dream come true for me. The impact a physician can have in a clinic or hospital with a patient and family is magical, but to work at the CF Foundation, where decisions and programs can impact more than 30,000 people nationally and possibly 70,000 globally, is truly a privilege.

"It has been a fantastic move and although we loved living in St. Louis the past 11 years, it is great to be back on the East Coast. We have already visited the major sites in D.C. and Baltimore, catching ballgames at both Camden Yards and Nationals Park. My daughter, who was at first adamantly opposed to the move, loves it here and was excited to start high school this year."

With special thanks to a fellow band alumni "bored" member who wishes to remain nameless (he's the diffident type), I was forwarded the following statement from Kurt Roeloffs, one of the two alumni representatives to the University Senate: "I recently stepped down from the role of chief investment officer of RREEF, Deutsche Bank's \$65 billion alternative investment management division in order to found Protean Co., a venture capital firm focused on the application of transformative and sustainable technologies in the built environment. Earlier in my career at Deutsche Bank, I was the CEO of RREEF Asia Pacific, regional head of RREEF opportunistic investments and a managing director of Bankers Trust's real estate investment banking group. I have been a lecturer at many graduate business schools, including Columbia, Penn, NYU and Harvard. I am a member of Congress for the New Urbanism and the Urban Land Institute. I am chair of the African Dream Academy Foundation, which established and supports a model school educating 300 students in Liberia, West Africa; a trustee of Auburn Theological Seminary, which seeks and trains moral leaders across religious communities; and trustee of the Japan ICU Foundation, which supports peace, interfaith and gender studies at the International Christian University of Japan. I earned an M.B.A. from the Wharton School in 1988. I live in Manhattan with my wife, Shyanne, and our four children.

"The education I received at Columbia, especially the Core Curriculum, was seminal to my success in life. I cannot imagine not supporting Columbia's ability to do that for present and future students."

Email your news now! Roar, Lion, Roar!

# 1985

Jon White 16 South Ct. Port Washington, NY 11050 jw@whitecoffee.com

Unfortunately, I missed all of the Homecoming festivities - of all the years - where our football team won a thriller in overtime and is guaranteed to have its first winning season in more than 20 years. Our class was most ably represented by, among others, Tom Scotti and Paul Getzels. Tom reconnected with Glee Club/Bacchantae founder Ari Brose BC'84. Tom is executive director at Hilco Global, an independent financial services company that provides valuation, monetization and advisory services for tangible and intangible assets. Paul continues his multi-faceted career including legal work, choral singing and voiceover talent. He was spotted wearing the commemorative cap that was provided in 1984 (when yours truly made thousands of giveaway caps via the Student Council) to celebrate the reopening of Baker Field and Lawrence A. Wien stadium.

Since our Columbia days overlapped with "nearby" classes, please feel free to include updates whenever you run into those folks as well. I've seen many of those good friends from the mid-'80s. There are even Columbia folks in places like NYU, where Professor Eddy Friedfeld '83 led a class on the various iterations of Detective Marlowe in the movies, with Eddy's brother Leon Friedfeld '88 joining me. I also attended a Columbia alumni dinner, where I enjoyed reconnecting with many alums of nearby classes, including David Lebowitz '86, Dennis Klainberg '84, Paul Petrylak SEAS'83, Dave Kansas '90 and Tom Meriam '78. The featured speaker was none other than former Dean of Students Roger

Lehecka '67, who entertained the group with stories of his 50 years as an alum. Dean Lehecka looks just like he did when we were back on the Quad.

Several of our classmates and their companies have been featured in the press during the last few months. Tom Vinciguerra JRN'86, GSAS'90 has been busy with his published writings during this year. Last summer he penned a column in Newsday about the heightened level of enthusiasm in the current political climate, specifically citing a comment from someone (whom I believe I know well) in my community (Port Washington) in the process. I hope you saw his terrific article in CCT's Fall 2017 issue ("Roar, Lion, Roar") regarding the history of the Columbia "C" on the Harlem River, and an article in late October in The New York Times, "Columbia Football Keeps Winning. Some Fans Aren't Happy About It." I would have thought that an undefeated 6-0 start would have made everyone roar.

My Kingsmen musical director, **David Zapolsky**, was featured last summer in *Corporate Counsel* magazine. David is SVP, general counsel and secretary of Amazon, and heads the legal department, which consists of more than 800 people, including more than 400 attorneys with offices in 15 countries.

And for you coffee fans out there, White Coffee Corp., my Long Island City coffee importer and roaster, was recognized as one of the top licensees in the world by *License! Global Magazine*, the premier publication in the licensing industry. The August 2017 issue identified White Coffee Corp. as a leading licensee of beverage and food categories, highlighting just two other entries in that category, among 150 licensees globally.

As always, there are moments of happiness and sadness to report. In case you missed "Alumni Sons and Daughters" in the Fall 2017 issue, congrats to a bunch of '85ers who have proudly added the "P" moniker to their Columbia credentials: **David Avigan, Judah Cohen** (who gets a double "well done" for having two sons in the Class of 2021), **Ryutaro Hirose** and **John Phelan.** And we extend condolences to **Mark Rothman** on the loss of his father, Louis Rothman '57.

A reminder to send me photos from when you get together with classmates (the only requirements are that photos need to be high-resolution and have at least two College alumni in them); my column is much enhanced when we add some great pictures — and it's great to put faces to names even 30-plus years later! In addition, *CCT* launched a "Just Married!" section to call extra attention to wedding photos, so if any of you are getting married, please send in a photo from the celebration. [Editor's note: Both kinds of photos, and caption info, can be submitted directly to *CCT* via an easyto-use webform: college.columbia.edu/ cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.]

Finally, for those looking for another non-monetary way to serve alma mater, a great new program that you should look into is the Odyssey Mentoring Program (college.columbia. edu/alumni/odyssey-mentoring). The program connects Columbia College students and young alumni with experienced alumni like us who make themselves available to answer ques9, 2012. While it's sad that David died so young, he would be proud to know that he lives on through his writing and the performances he gave on radio and TV. I didn't know that David was such a fixture on *This American Life*, nor that he was good friends with David Sedaris and Glass. I wish I had known David while at Columbia and in the years following graduation.

Our class is well represented in the list of alumni sons and daughters admitted to the Class of 2021. Congrats to the following: Jeff Arle and son Chad; Adam Cohen and son Josiah; Peter Dilorio and daughter Sophia; Nino Dobrovic and son Carl; Michael Goldfischer and son Jared; Ken Stuzin and daughter Devon; and Andrew Volk and son Malcolm. Congrats also to Michael Gottdenker on the transfer of daughter Eliana to the Class of 2020.

David Zapolsky '85, SVP, general counsel and secretary of Amazon, was featured last summer in Corporate Counsel magazine.

tions, meet for coffee or offer career and life advice that can help a young person on their way forward. I've already signed up and encourage you to do the same — and you can specify the quantity/quality of input (if you just want to take phone calls/emails for a limited period, that is perfectly fine — or you can expand and meet on an ongoing basis). It is a wonderful program to help students and young alumni who have real-world questions and want common-sense assistance.

Hope everyone had a happy holiday season, and all the best for a healthy and peaceful 2018. Don't forget to write.

# 1986

Everett Weinberger 50 W. 70th St., Apt. 3B New York, NY 10023 everett6@gmail.com

I was listening to a *This American Life* podcast and the host, Ira Glass, devoted the entire show to **David Rakoff** upon the fifth anniversary of his death from cancer on August

I bet you didn't know that Wikipedia had an entry "List of Columbia College people," which is a list of notable graduates and former College students. Congratulations to the 12 members of CC'86 who made that list! Scholars: Alexander Arguelles, American polyglot and professor at the American University in the Emirates; Tobias Hecht, anthropologist, ethnographer and translator, winner of the 2002 Margaret Meade Award; and Alva Noë, professor of philosophy at UC Berkeley. Artists and Architects: Jacob Collins, American realist painter, founder of the Grand Central Academy of Art. Athletes: Stephen Trevor, Olympic fencer. Businesspeople: Daniel Ninivaggi, co-CEO of Federal-Mogul and former CEO of Icahn Enterprises. Broadcasters: Claire Shipman, ABC News correspondent. Journalists: Naftali Bendavid, Congress correspondent for The Wall Street Journal. Legal and Judicial: Victor Allen Bolden, judge on the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. Musicians: David Nachmanoff, award-winning American folk



Four members of the Class of '89 met up at the beach. Left to right: Jeffrey Udell, Erik Price, David Streitfeld and Mike Schrag.

singer and sideman to Al Stewart. Playwrights, screenwriters and directors: Katharina Otto-Bernstein, filmmaker, producer, screenwriter who was nominated for an Emmy Award for producing *Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures*; president of Film Manufacturer., daughter of German Industrialist Werner Otto, heir to the Otto GmbH fortune. Writers: David Rakoff, comedic essayist.

Don't worry — there's still plenty of time for the rest of us to get on that list!

### 1987

#### Sarah A. Kass PO Box 300808 Brooklyn, NY 11230 sarahann29uk@gmail.com

No news this time! Please send notes to the address at the top of the column so we have a big Spring issue! Have a happy and healthy start to 2018. I look forward to hearing from you.

# 1988

#### REUNION 2018 MAY 31-JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact Merideth Kerby ccaa-events@columbia.edu 212-851-7776

Development Contact Erin Zyko Hussein eez1@columbia.edu 212-851-7452

#### Eric Fusfield 1945 South George Mason Dr. Arlington, VA 22204 eric@fusfield.com

As of this writing, it's mid-fall and the Columbia football team is ... 6–0?! Consider this former *Spectator*  sports editor proud and impressed, just like every other Columbian who recalls our team's travails in the 1980s. I remember writing and editing articles about an 0–6 football team, but the designation 6–0 might have triggered the auto-correct feature on my computer. (Did we have autocorrect back then?) Well done, Lions.

Congratulations to Jonathan Lavine, recipient of the 2017 Alexander Hamilton Medal, Columbia College's highest honor. The award recognizes service to the College and accomplishment in a field of endeavor. According to the Columbia College Alumni Association's website: "This year's Alexander Hamilton Medalist is an extraordinarily devoted Columbia citizen and an ambassador and exemplar of the College and University's commitment to inquiry, social engagement and transformation. His longtime support of the College and the University continues to make an indelible mark in the classrooms, across the campus and in the community." A Boston-area resident, Jonathan is co-managing partner at Bain Capital and vice chair of the Trustees of Columbia University. Dinner committee members for the event in Low Library included Stefanie Katz-Rothman, Nick Leone, Hal Shapiro, Jonathan Sobel, John Vaske and Doug Wolf.

Martin Lewison writes, "Last June I was appointed Northeast district chief for Beta Theta Pi fraternity. As the region's top volunteer, I oversee 15 Beta chapters and colonies in the United States and Canada, including my own Alpha Alpha chapter at Columbia. I work with other volunteers and campus professionals to advise and guide college men in the areas of chapter operations, scholarly achievement and responsible conduct."



My daughter Esther started pre-K last fall, so I'm still a ways off from experiencing the pride and nostalgia that our no-less-than seven (seven!) classmates feel after sending their children off to Morningside Heights this year to join the College or Engineering Classes of 2021. Congratulations and best wishes to the families of Marten Hirsch (son Ari of Wynnewood, Pa.); James Maroulis (son Peter of Palo Alto, Calif.); Diane Orlinsky (daughter Alexandra of Baltimore is at Columbia Engineering); Michael Satow (son Jackson of Chappaqua, N.Y.); Kevin Siegel (daughter Chiara Drake of San Francisco); John Williamson (daughter Kathryn of Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.); and the late Lauren Farber (son Zachary Miller of Wellesley Hills, Mass.).

Keep the updates coming to eric@fusfield.com! I look forward to hearing from you.

# 1989

#### Emily Miles Terry 45 Clarence St. Brookline, MA 02446 emilymilesterry@me.com

It's always rewarding to connect with someone who has never been in our column— a real "CCT scoop"—like Maria Nieves TC'90, who is the president and CEO of the Hudson County Chamber of Commerce, a regional nonprofit in Jersey City. Maria writes, "It's been an exciting challenge to grow the organization over the last six years. Jersey City is booming and undergoing an incredible transformation. It's also a wonderfully diverse and energizing city. Through my work at the chamber, I've occasionally met other Columbia alumnae — always a pleasant surprise. In fact, the Hudson County Chamber honored David Barry'87 last December at our annual gala.

"After Columbia I attended Teachers College, earned a master's in education in 1990 and taught social studies in Harlem for several years before entering the private sector. I worked in financial services for more than a decade, earning an M.B.A. from NYU in 2008. After becoming involved in the local community in Hudson County, N.J., I had the opportunity to lead this nonprofit, something I never imagined myself doing. It's a chance to work with a great group of local business leaders and entrepreneurs. I've also met economic development and trade/business association professionals from across the country, which has helped me learn how communities meet various local challenges in innovative ways. Through the years, I've kept in touch with a handful of folks from our class, including Andrea Chipman and Duchesne Drew, and a number of folks on Facebook. I've attended a couple of class reunions and a couple of football and basketball games. So perhaps will have the chance to catch up sooner rather than later!"

Classmates, including Jeffrey Udell, enjoyed a bunch of fun gatherings recently. Jeffrey writes, "Erik Price, David Streitfeld, Mike Schrag and I celebrated our collective 50th with a guys' weekend in Jamaica. Good times and plenty of laughs and memories from our years as Lions. Things here are great. Last year I joined a start-up litigation and white-collar boutique law firm, Walden Macht & Haran. We have 20-plus lawyers and the partners, like me, are almost all former assistant United States attorneys. Lots of interesting work and great camaraderie at the firm. On the home front, my wife, Lucy, and I live in New York with our three kids, who this year are in high school, middle school and elementary school, respectively. Big spread. Hope all is well and hope to see everyone sometime soon — at worst at our 30th (gulp) in a few years."

I enjoyed a reunion of alumnae in the early fall at a leafy and peaceful spot in the Berkshires, where Kim Harris Ortiz, Jenna Wright McCarthy'88, Kristine Barakat Flynn '88, Jody Collens Fidler, Jill Pollack Lewis, Amy Weinreich Rinzler and Elisabeth Socolow gathered to catch up for a lovely, not-longenough weekend. The distance travel award went to Elisabeth, who flew in from Seoul. We laughed so hard over several delicious meals that I'm sure I'm not alone in saying the memories still make me giggle months later.

Not to be outdone, my husband, Dave Terry '90, gathered with friends for Homecoming Weekend and his fraternity's (Kappa Delta Rho) reunion during the fall. Though Dave didn't pull down a goal post, like he did in '89, he and many of our classmates, including Lee Feldman and Diane Daltner, enjoyed the big, satisfying football win against Penn and some joined the rush onto the field after the game. Kappa Delta Rho brothers who returned to celebrate the 35th anniversary of their fraternity include Brent Bessire '91, Steve Metalios, Ed Hamrick, Joel Rubenstein '91, Chris Dunlavey '88, Kaivan Shakib, Steve Conway'93, Doug Cifu'87, Scott Edwards'87, Brian Eng SEAS'86, Paul Radvany and John MacPhee. At the Kappa Delta Rho reunion, Dave learned that though beer pong is still popular, kegs are no longer allowed at Columbia, and if you hold an open beer can on the steps of a fraternity house, you could receive a \$25 citation from the police, even if you're 51. Hypothetically speaking, of course.

### 1990

#### Rachel Cowan Jacobs youngrache@hotmail.com

Need legal help in California? Joseph M. Yaffe was selected last September as one of California's "Top 100 Lawyers" by the *Daily Journal*, the legal newspaper of record in California. He is an executive compensation and benefits attorney practicing in the Silicon Valley office of international law firm Skadden, Arps. This was the second time he was selected for this honor.



Left to right: Robin Wald (née Zornberg) SEAS'90, Sharon Rogers '90, Laura Shaw Frank '90, Rachel Cowan Jacobs '90 and Judy Shampanier '90 in September at Shampanier's son's bar mitzvah.



Several former varsity swimming teammates competed at the U.S. Masters Swimming Nationals, winning the 200m medley relay! Left to right: Chris Beach '91, Chris Tessin '93, Scott Kitzman '92 and Brent Bessire '91.

Also in September, I had the great pleasure to head to Westchester County, N.Y., to attend the bar mitzvah of **Judy Shampanier**'s son. Although he was the star of the occasion, how can I not mention that I also got to hang out with my Carman and East Campus roommates, Judy, **Sharon Rogers, Laura Shaw Frank** and **Robin Zornberg SEAS'90**? We were also delighted to see and catch up with **John Vincenti** and his family. These kids, they grow so fast!

I recently heard a teenager say she'd never use Facebook because that's a platform for middle-aged moms (and dads, I imagine) guilty, as charged. If you are also a Facebook user and share your news that way, rethink your delivery please and send me an email with your update. It needs to go in this column. Look how short it is this time! Happy Winter to everyone.

### 1991

Margie Kim margiekimkim@hotmail.com

I hope everyone is enjoying cooler weather. As I sit here writing in October, it is 96 degrees in Texas!

Chris Beach sent in this entertaining update: "For the past four years, I've reunited with my varsity swimming teammates to compete at U.S. Masters Swimming Nationals, an event that draws 2,000-plus 'experienced' swimmers from around the country. This year we (Chris Tessin '93, Scott Kitzman '92, **Brent Bessire** and me) descended on Riverside, Calif., and competed in the 200m medley relay. We vanquished all comers (25 other teams) in our 45-plus age group to bring home the gold. We were members of the Columbia squad that won an Ivy League Championship title 28 years ago." Columbia fencer **Michael** 

Feldschuh married his longtime girlfriend, Alicia, in a ceremony at the Angel Orensanz Foundation on March 4. Michael's Columbia friends have remained steadfast through the decades, and wedding guests included Jon Normile SEAS'89, BUS'02; Paul Chew SEAS'92; Matthew Freedman; Mary Beer BC'92; Luis Andrade '90; Jonathan O'Neill; Morgan Noel; John Griffin; Leah Bernstein GS'91, SW'94; Patrick Flynn: Roger Dickes; Columbia fencing coach Michael Aufrichtig; Hugh Lawson; Soren Thompson BUS'16; Michael Kinstlick '90 and Laura Bille SEAS'06. The groom's father is the late Joseph Feldschuh '57 and the groom's mother is Roxanne Fischer BC'62.

After nine years at ESPN.com, **Paul Kuharsky** was part of Disney's downsizing. Building on his reputation as an opinionated Titans and NFL expert and a Pro Football Hall of Fame selector, he launched paulkuharsky.com. He also continues to co-host "The Midday 180" on Nashville's 104.5 The Zone.

Lee Benaka, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Office of Science and Technology, received the Distinguished Service Award at the 2017 American Fisheries Society annual meeting in Tampa, Fla., in August.

Hope you had a happy holiday season! Send news to me: margiekimkim@hotmail.com! Until next time, cheers!

# 1992

#### Olivier Knox olivier.knox@gmail.com

No news to kick off the new year? Let's change that! Send me updates to olivier.knox@gmail.com for the spring issue.

# 1993

#### REUNION 2018 MAY 31-JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact Merideth Kerby ccaa-events@columbia.edu 212-851-7776 Development Contact Erin Zyko Hussein eez1@columbia.edu 212-851-7452

#### Betsy Gomperz betsy.gomperz@gmail.com

Only in New York. In October, I had arrived from Boston for a few days of work at my firm's New York office. On my walk down 7th Avenue, I bumped into Addison Golladay, who was on his way to his first day of work following his honeymoon. Addison married Amy Scheiner in early October on Long Island, followed by a honeymoon in Italy, where he and the new Mrs. Golladay visited Rome, Florence and Venice, and spent some time in the Tuscan countryside. Jay Michaelson officiated at the wedding, which was also attended by Neil Turitz and Mar Wolf. According to Addison, Jay is a "rock star" these days — he is a frequent commentator on NPR, MSNBC and online, and he is a columnist for The Daily Beast and The Forward magazine, and is an affiliated assistant professor at Chicago Theological Seminary, among other things.

David Shimkin "lives and works in downtown Los Angeles, and recently had drinks here with **Neil Turitz**, my old *Spectator* buddy. I'm a partner at Cozen O'Connor, where I represent construction and food clients. The firm moved me here in 2013."

Molly Sellner Harris writes: "I have been living in downtown Manhattan (Chelsea) for nearly 20 years with my husband, Jim. I have a son, Eli (14), who likes to get up to Columbia for women's soccer and men's basketball games when his own sports schedule allows. I practice immigration



law and in my spare time do political advocacy work. This coming weekend I was scheduled to run my sixth marathon — Chicago. I recently visited **Lucy Ruwitch Langer** in Portland, Ore. She is a big deal in her field of oncology and cancer genetics in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere. I also keep in touch with **Eric Redhead**, who is married and lives in Trinidad, as well as with Ann Hoff Swanberg '94, who is an English professor in Birmingham, Ala., where she lives with her husband and with her super-cute daughter, Ada Grace."

Rebecca Boston wrote: "I've been back in Texas for seven years and I work for a limestone mining and manufacturing company, Lhoist. My son is 16 and a junior in high school about to get his driver's license (pray for us both). I hope to move out of Texas in two to three years and currently just enjoy watching a ton of TV and having a child old enough to mostly take care of himself. I will be at the reunion and hope to see everyone."

Alan Freeman writes, "In May, I began a two-year term as chair of the Board of Governors of Charles E. Smith Life Communities, which includes the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington, as well as independent, assisted-living and memory care residential communities for seniors in the D.C. Metro area. We are a 100-plus-year-old organization and the third largest nonprofit of our kind nationally. It's not easy holding down my day job at the same time, but the mental rewards are incredible."

Alan attended Homecoming on October 14 and provided me with an amazing round-up: "It was a crazy weekend - mostly because Robert K. Field was packed with fans and enthusiasm for the football team's 4-0 start. Everybody I spoke with agreed that none of us had ever seen the place quite like that — fans were packed into the stands like sardines, cheering the entire time and storming the field at the end. It was surreal! The downside of the crowd was that it was not so easy to actually find people. I'm sure I missed quite a few, but I do have a few connections that I can report for you. I saw Kerry Lunz, who works with me at Blank Rome in the firm's New York office, where she is the director of partner recruiting and integration based in New York. It's fun working with Kerry, as we've been friends since we were Carman floormates freshman

year. I also spent time that weekend in Connecticut, where I visited with Joel Lusman and his wife, Sarah, as well as their adorable kids, David and Anna. While we see each other pretty regularly, this was a fun visit because Joel uncovered a few old pictures that were fun to look at — although it was a bit of a gut punch to see in pictures how much we all have aged!

"I also saw Rita Pietropinto-Kitt SOA'96, who was recently named Board Chair of the Columbia Alumni Association; Joan Campion '92, who gets a mention here as an honorary member of our class; the indefatigable Neil Turitz, omnipresent in Hollywood and social media circles and still a shameless proponent of any professional team that calls Boston home; Ed Turro; and Rhanda Moussa, along with her two daughters (but unfortunately not her husband, Dan Gillies SEAS'93). The game was great and I sat with Neil in the student section, and though we certainly felt old at times, it was pretty nuts to see just how enthusiastic they were for all four quarters. Beating Penn in overtime didn't hurt either! Finally, I visited with Rachel Mintz, who lives on the Upper West Side. Although Rachel and I speak pretty regularly by phone and email, it was great to visit in person."

Alan, thanks for the incredible round-up!

Rachel Mintz and Neil Turitz are co-chairing our 25th reunion, scheduled for Thursday, May 31-Saturday, June 2. Rachel and Neil have been hard at work since almost the day after our 20th reunion. The formal planning process has now begun with a Reunion Committee kickoff meeting and, thanks to the efforts of Rachel and Neil, we're off to a running start. Notably, this year the Class of 1993 has the unique opportunity to collectively provide scholarship support for one or more deserving students in the current senior class through the Class of 1993 25th Reunion Scholarship Fund. To contribute to the scholarship, please visit college.givenow.columbia.edu and select "25th Reunion Scholarship" from the dropdown menu. We have set the ambitious goal of 93 John Jay Associates (gifts of \$1,500 or more) during this milestone reunion year, and we hope you will consider serving as a class leader by making a contribution at this level. Thank you for your support!

In closing, I thank the members of the Reunion Committee who provided me with terrific updates for this column — it has been great to reconnect with so many of you. Please also visit the Columbia College Class of 1993 Facebook page (administered by **Paul Bua**) so you can stay up to date on pre-reunion activities that are in the works across the country.

# 1994

#### Leyla Kokmen lak6@columbia.edu

Not much in the inbox this time, but I did get a great note from **Jon Bonne**, who writes that he returned to New York a couple of years ago, leaving San Francisco and the *San Francisco Chronicle* behind. In New York, Jon continues to write, including for the online magazine *PUNCH* (punchdrink. com), and he is also consulting with JetBlue on its wine program.

"Moving also allowed me and (my now-wife) Valerie to get married, which we did in August 2015, in California," Jon writes. "We've been living in Brooklyn, although we also recently bought a small apartment in Paris, since our work takes us to Europe frequently. On that note, I'm in the final stretch of reporting on *The New French Wine*, my follow-up to *The New California Wine*, so I'm spending a lot of time in small French villages!"

The New French Wine is due in 2019, but in the meantime, Jon's next book, The New Wine Rules: A Genuinely Helpful Guide to Everything You Need to Know, came out in November. "Hope to see some of my fellow Columbians while I'm out on book tour — on either continent," he writes.

Congrats to Jon on all his great news. And, for the rest of you, drop me a line at lak6@columbia.edu. Your classmates want to hear what you've been up to.

# 1995

#### Janet Lorin jrf10@columbia.edu

Thanks to **Rolando Pujol** for sending in his update for a previous issue and for connecting me with some classmates to request they send in an update as well. I appreciate **Michael Berne** answering the call!

Mike lives in Berkeley, Calif., with his wife, Vivienne. He founded a retail planning and real estate consulting practice in New York in 2002, MJB Consulting. The firm is hired by municipalities, business improvement districts, community development corporations and educational institutions, as well as by private developers, investors and retailers in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom to advise on retail market potential and tenanting strategy.

"In plain English, I help clients understand what kinds of retail they can realistically attract to (or sustain in) their districts and projects, and what that entails," Mike writes.

Mike also speaks and writes on the subject. He is at work on a book project about downtowns and Main Streets, "whether they will ever again approximate the primacy that they enjoyed during their heyday (roughly 1860–1960), and if not, what role they will play instead," Mike writes. "It will be based on my experiences during the last two decades as a retail consultant on the revitalization of such districts across the U.S., Canada and the U.K."

Mike also recently contributed a chapter ("History of Retail Development and Consumer Culture in the U.S.: To Sprawl and Back") for a forthcoming volume on suburban downtowns, *The New Suburban Experiment.* 

Before starting his firm, Mike earned an M.Phil. from Cambridge University and worked in various aspects of the industry in New York, including a retail developer and planning consultancy.

He and Vivienne, a violinist and writer, married in 2010 and moved to Berkeley that year. Several classmates attended their wedding including Rolando, **Ravi Bhasin, Anne Uyei-Kistler** and Amit Batra SEAS'95.

Mike can be contacted at mikeberne@consultmjb.com.

Listening to Mike's accomplishments takes me back to my days writing about suburban sprawl for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. I hope other classmates will read Mike's update and take the time to send in their own.

# 1996

#### Ana S. Salper ana.salper@nyumc.org

Greetings, classmates! I would be remiss if I did not kick off these notes with huge kudos to **Jodi Kantor**, author and *New York Times* journalist,

# **Just Married!**

*CCT* welcomes photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo**. Congratulations!







RODNEY BAILEY SIL



Y SILVERFOX



JUSTINE UNGARO













BARRY WILLIAMS

1. Benjamin Letzler '02 married Eva Crnigoj at the Palazzo Comunale in Pirano, Slovenia, on September 9.

**2.** Sarah Schrager Gitlin '13 married Tao Tan '07 in Hunter, N.Y., on October 7.

**3.** Rebecca Guiterman '10 married Daniel Marasco SEAS'10 in Chevy Chase, Md., on September 24, 2016. Left to right: Daniel Falconi SEAS'10, the groom, Sam Parl '10, Sophronia Yu SEAS'10, James Francis '10, Angela Velez '10, Tom Nicholson '09, Michelle Meleski Nicholson '10, the bride, Niket Pandey '10, Lauren Ko '10, Rob Elliott SEAS'15, Khalid Ahmed '10, Vanessa Ohta '10, Tyler Carson SEAS'14 and Will Cullen TC'14.

4. Talia Brooks-Faustin '05, PS'09 was married at the Woodbury Country Club on July 22. In attendance were Wasnard Victor SEAS'05, Henry Stanley SEAS'05, Maya Hughes PS'09, Yesenia Miranda SEAS'07, Diti Sangoi '05, Giselle Torres '05, Joyce Cadesca '09, Kingsley Cruickshank '05 and Jami Jackson Mulgrave '07.

**5.** Michele Klapper '08 shared a photo from her September 2016 wedding to Richard Michaelis.

6. Derrick Mayo '02 married Danielle Conahan in Wapwallopen, Pa., on June 17. Left to right: Chris Wiedemann '03, Mario Pedriani, Kris Goldhair '00, Michael Doyle '95, Chris Van Ens '02, David Popkin '97, Phil Bussey '93, Craig Austin '02, Michael McBrien '02, Andy Kaynor '96, Jaime Irvine '03, Abe Yasser '99, Sean Alcoba '98, Victor Muñoz '02, Rachel Yasser (née Miller) '01, James Tubridy '97, Gary Raimondo '99, Meredith Case (née Corkery) '03 and Joe Case '02.

7. Brian Barbour '13 shared a photo from Max Craig '11's August wedding. Left to right: Sansho Scott, Matt Johnson '12, Steve Egee '12, Mark Cisco '13, Barbour, the groom, Dan Trepanier '09, Niko Scott '10, Dean Kowalski '13, Brendan Doyle '12, Pat Foley '10 and Blaise Staab SEAS'12.

8. Michael Feldschuh '91 married his longtime girlfriend, Alicia, at the Angel Orensanz Foundation on March 4. Left to right: Jon Normile SEAS'89, Paul Chew SEAS'92, Matthew Freedman '91, Mary Beer BC'92, Luis Andrade '90, Jonathan O'Neill '91, the groom, Morgan Noel '91, John Griffin '91, Leah Bernstein GS'91, Patrick Flynn '91 and Roger Dickes '91.

9. Betsy Morais '11 and Thomas Rhiel '11 were married in Brooklyn, N.Y., on August 12. Left to right: Daniel Morais, Kelly Stout, Raphael Pope-Sussman '11, Emily Greenhouse, Phil Crone '11, the bride, the groom, Emma Allen, Andy Rhiel, Emily Meland, Ben Cotton '11 and Ethan Wong '11; in front: Julia Familant and Caroline Familant.

**10.** Alon Donohue '02 married Kyle Wenski in Princeton, N.J., on January 7, 2017. Top row, left to right: Ellen Werner (née Volpe) '01, John Cicero '02, Ian Volek '04, the groom, Jessica Haftek '02, Leslie Papa (née Baden) '02, Chuck Britton '05, Derek Johnson '02 and Sety Britton (née Siadat) SEAS'05; bottom row, left to right: Tina Fernandez '02, the bride, Page Gallo (née McGranahan) BC'02, Olivia Freeman '03, Jaclyn Chu '02, Cameo Roehrich '02 and Katie Rose Thornton '03.

**11.** Adria Armbrister '98, PH'14 married Franck Makouangou at the Atlantis Resort Paradise Island in the Bahamas on July 28. Left to right: Josue Avila, Christine Hurry, the bride, the groom, Natasha Johnson '99 and Karen Florez PH'10.

for breaking the Harvey Weinstein story. That is the kind of risk-taking investigative journalism that is critically important for our country in this political climate.

Congratulations on that blockbuster story, Jodi!

Frankie Foer, national correspondent for *The Atlantic* and a fellow at the New America Foundation, recently published a book, *World Without Mind: The Existential Threat of Big Tech.* It presents an ominous view of the influence and control large technology firms — Facebook, Google, Amazon — have on our lives. As one of the few people on the planet who does not have a Facebook account (or Instagram, Twitter, etc.), and as the parent of a tech-addicted middleschooler, this book is right up my alley.

In other news, I attended the Homecoming game against Penn. My kids wanted to go to the alumni BBQ luncheon and see a Columbia game, so up to Inwood we went. Setting aside the fact that I was carded at the bar in the alumni tent (I mean, come ON - in what universe do any of us still look under 21?), we had a great day. After loading up on Columbia gear and paraphernalia (all part of my master college recruitment plan ... ), we enjoyed a nice lunch in the tent and then watched the Lions' victory over Penn. It was fun hanging out with Whitney Chiate (née Berkholtz), who was here from San Francisco to visit her friend Maggi Baumbusch '99, who is married to Andy Brooks. Maggi and Andy, who live in Connecticut, were at Homecoming with their four sons. It was also nice seeing Helen Gurfel SEAS'96 and her family there, as well as Elizabeth Yuan. And that, alas, is all I have for

now. You all have been woefully quiet lately — please send in notes. I want to hear from you!

I leave you with this:

"Middle age is when you've met so many people that every new person you meet reminds you of someone else." — Ogden Nash

# 1997

Columbia College Today cct@columbia.edu

[Editor's note: *CCT* thanks **Sarah Katz** for her years of dedication and great columns! If you are interested in the class correspondent role, please reach out: cct@columbia.edu.] CC'97! After 20 years, I am passing the torch as your class correspondent. I have loved remaining in touch with all of you, and wish everyone the best.

Kerensa Harrell enjoyed returning to NYC for our reunion last June. It was her first time traveling anywhere since having a baby in October 2016. Before the baby arrived, and since moving to Florida in 2015, she had been flying back to NYC once a month in order to continue attending the monthly meetings of her Daughters of the American Revolution chapter (Kerensa is a member of the Manhattan chapter of D.A.R.). The chapter's meetings take place at Gramercy Park in the historic Tilden mansion, a Victorian Gothic Revival-style home that belonged to a former governor of New York, Samuel J. Tilden.

Kerensa has been the chapter's recording secretary for several years, but another member has been filling in for her since the baby was born. Kerensa will now step down because she realizes that she won't be able to maintain the regular airplane trips with a baby in tow. "Ah, the sweet sacrifices of motherhood!" she muses.

# 1998

#### REUNION 2018 MAY 31-JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact Merideth Kerby ccaa-events@columbia.edu 212-851-7776

Development Contact Erin Zyko Hussein eez1@columbia.edu 212-851-7452

Sandie Angulo Chen sandie.chen@gmail.com

Happy Winter, Class of '98. I hope you've all saved the date for our 20-year reunion, Thursday, May 31– Saturday, June 2. Those of us on the Reunion Committee are planning a long weekend of activities to help us catch up and celebrate. In the meantime, please send in your updates!

Our sole update is from **Ilya Gertsberg**, who writes: "After 10 years in Russia, I moved to the south of France to run a small family office in Monaco. Please give me a holler if you are traveling to 'a sunny place for shady people' (iyg1@columbia.edu)!"

Ilya adds that still based in Moscow are **Yev Konovalenko**, who is head

of sales at a local investment bank, and **Dmitri Kostov**, a banker at Goldman and the husband of Bolshoi prima ballerina Olga Smirnova. Not very far away, in Helsinki, lives **Andras Kovacs.** He is a founder of a battery technology start-up and a great dad to Oliver (5).

On a trip to New York earlier this year, Ilya caught up with old friends and is happy to report that everyone is doing just fine: Dan Natoli, Joo Hong, Amol Sarva and Tomo Aiko SEAS'98.

Please make it a 2018 resolution to send in a note updating our class. We'd love to hear from you!

### 1999

Adrienne Carter and Jenna Johnson adieliz@gmail.com jennajohnson@gmail.com

Dear classmates, we have some exciting news: A dispatch from a firsttimer, **Alexander "Sasha" Ames!** 

Sasha's in the Bay Area, "working at Lawrence Livermore National Lab on data science and data management applications." His work has included "software for microbial genome and gene detection" and developing "analysis tools for the climate simulation and observational data sets that ultimately make their way into the UN IPCC (intergovernmental panel on climate change) reports on climate change."

We're grateful for your work, Sasha, and depending on that analysis. Keep us posted? Sasha also reports that **Konrad Fiedler** was recently honored for his filmmaking. At the BendFilm Fest in Oregon last October, Konrad's *Running Eagle* won "Best of the Northwest Short." The film follows the escape of a girl from the oil fields of North Dakota back to Blackfeet country in Montana.

Congratulations, Konrad! In other news from the West Coast, **Chris Hardin** is settling in nicely to Los Angeles life, complete with convertible, a dog who has his own Hawaiian shirt and a job that involves the water (he works for Princess Cruises). Chris has only been in California since last February, so you still

have time to welcome him in his first year, Pacific Lions. Give him a shout! **Rebecca Sheir** has paired her

years of experience in the publicradio world (stints with the Alaska Public Radio Network, WAMU 88.5 in Washington, D.C. and NPR's Weekend All Things Considered) with her husband's talents in composition and sound design to launch an audio production company, Sheir and Shim. The company is producing Circle Round with WBUR. It's a storytelling podcast for kids that adapts an international folktale for listeners as young as 4. They're also producing a new podcast from WBUR and The Washington Post, hosted by Washington Post national arts reporter Geoff Edgers. Called "The Edge of Fame" the podcast "blends in-depth interviews with off-the-cuff field recordings to paint intimate, surprising audio portraits of actors, musicians and comedians -

from beloved performers you think you already know to up-and-comers bursting onto the scene."

Rebecca and her husband, Eric, recently had their first baby and moved from D.C. to the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts. She'd love to hear what her fellow alumni think of the podcasts. "You can find them on iTunes/Apple podcasts, Stitcher or wherever you get your podcast fix," she says. Contact her at rebecca@ sheirandshim.com.

Many happy returns on all the new adventures, Rebecca!

Thanks for all the updates, friends. And keep them coming!

# 2000

#### Prisca Bae pb134@columbia.edu

Class of 2000, have a great start to the New Year! Make it a resolution to send in a Class Notes update; we want to hear from you! *CCT* is also happy to run photos that include at least two College alumni, so if you want to see yourself and your friends in this space, submit a photo and caption info to college.columbia.edu/cct/ submit\_class\_note\_photo.

# 2001

Jonathan Gordin jrg53@columbia.edu

This column needs notes! Big plans for 2018, fun travel, new hobbies, life changes or just want to say hello? We want to hear from you! Email me to be included in the Spring issue. Have a healthy and happy 2018!

# 2002

# Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani soniah57@gmail.com

Welcome to the world, Aidan Sunjoon David Lee! Albert Lee SEAS'02 and his wife, Cara, are over the moon to announce their son's September 7 arrival.

Sarah Richardson and Rich Olson GSAS'03 celebrated the birth of their son, Martin, in July 2016. Last spring, Sarah was promoted to full professor with tenure in the department of the history of science and studies of women, gender and sexuality at Harvard.

Ellen Gustafson and her husband, Mike, welcomed their first child — a smiley, curious 8-lb. girl — on June 7 after a three-year struggle with a recently discovered genetic disorder, stillbirth and many rounds of IVF. She sends her thoughts to those in our class who have had trouble or are still in the process of conceiving and is hoping that through honest announcements like hers, we can help improve fertility science and take stillbirth and infertility out of the shadows.

Derrick Mayo married Danielle Conahan in Wapwallopen, Pa., on June 17. In the wedding party were Gary Raimondo '99, Victor Muñoz, Chris Van Ens and Michael McBrien. Derrick and Danielle were joined by many Columbia alumni: Chris Wiedemann '03, Kris Goldhair '00, Michael Doyle '95, David Popkin '97, Phil Bussey '93, Craig Austin, Andy Kaynor '96, Jaime Irvine '03, Abe Yasser '99, Sean Alcoba '98, Rachel Yasser (née Miller) '01, James Tubridy '97, Meredith Case (née Corkery) '03, Joe Case and Kate Alcoba (née Mulvey) SIPA'05.

Kelly Jamieson Thomas SEAS'02 launched cultivatedcuriosity. com, a wellness site to ignite curiosity in all of us! Before that, she lived in NYC until 2016, where she earned a Ph.D. from NYU in 2010 and then went back to Columbia for her post-doc. She got married in 2010 in NYC to a man she met when she was a sophomore at Columbia! They have two kids (5 and 2) and live in Darien, Conn.

# 2003

#### REUNION 2018 MAY 31-JUNE 2

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#### Michael Novielli mjn29@columbia.edu

First and foremost, please save the date for our 15th reunion, Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2. I'm on the Reunion Committee along with



Nina Tannenbaum '99, her father, Michael J. Tannenbaum '59, and her daughter, Tiye Castelli, made Homecoming 2017 a family affair.



Tamar Simon, Nathania Nisonson, Geoffrey Williams, Josh Fay Hurvitz, David Keeffe, Lauren Harrison, Katie Sheehy, Nadege Fleurimond, Sam Arora, Justin Sellman and Carter Reum. There are many ways for you to get involved in the planning, so just drop us a line if you'd like to serve on one of the committees. Please also join our CC'03 group and follow our page on Facebook: facebook.com/columbia2003.

And now on to the updates for this issue: My company, Due West Education, recently hosted former Barnard College professor and Director of the Barnard Education Program Lee Ann Bell for a series of screenings of her documentary film, 40 Years Later: Now Can We Talk? It was great to catch up with her and reminisce about classmates in the program, such as **Peter Macchia** and Eliza Bang Chung BC'03. Vogue, The New Yorker, Vanity Fair and Condé Nast's other titles."

Nicole Tartak's family members in Puerto Rico are safe, but she encourages classmates who want to help the situation in Puerto Rico to donate to Songboards of Peace: gofundme.com/4ijyxlc.

David Keeffe is the senior director of the Metro New York Program at Brown, where he has held various management roles within development for six years.

Nathania Nisonson is a senior specialist of impressionist and modern art at Bonhams.

### 2004

Jaydip Mahida jmahida@gmail.com

Lev Brie is back in New York after a

Eugene Cho '04 is faculty attending physician and clerkship director at Long Island Jewish Medical Center.

Gaurav Shah writes that he and his wife, Heena, are "very excited to share the launch of Valani with the world and you, our friends and family! Please be among the first to take in our new line of modern, minimalist jewelry featuring beautiful colored gemstones."

Janice Berg is running for judge of the 247th family district court of Harris County, Texas. Janice has specialized in family law practice and appellate advocacy for her own office out of Houston for five years. She was previously an attorney with Schlanger Silver Barg & Paine, also working in family law.

Matthew Continetti is editor-inchief of the *Washington Free Beacon* and was interviewed for the Fall 2017 issue of the *Columbia Journalism Review*.

Amy Phillips writes, "My husband, Elia Einhorn, and I welcomed our first child, a daughter, Alana Conwy Ann Phillips, on June 22. (We call her Conwy.) She's amazing. I recently celebrated my 12-year anniversary at the music website Pitchfork, where I am the news director. Pitchfork was acquired by Condé Nast in 2015, so I work in One World Trade Center, alongside brief sojourn in San Francisco. He is leading a special project at Sidewalk Labs, an Alphabet company whose mission is to use technology to improve cities.

**Eugene Cho** is faculty attending physician and clerkship director at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. He is also an assistant professor at Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine.

After earning an M.B.A. from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business and spending more than six years in brand management, Sabreena Karim launched her own brand — Cloak & Cuddle — which she says is the first fashionable and full-coverage breastfeeding cover that gives mothers the confidence to comfortably breastfeed wherever and whenever. Check out her patent-pending nursing cover at cloakandcuddle.com. She promises a discount to Columbia alumni, and a portion of all Cloak & Cuddle proceeds will go to UNICEF.

Nainesh Parikh moved to Florida to join the faculty of Moffitt Cancer Center. If you are ever in the Gulf Coast area, drop a line! Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share about trips you might take, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates either via the email at the top of the column or through the *CCT* Class Notes webform, college. columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

# 2005

# Columbia College Today cct@columbia.edu

Garner Robinson is living in his hometown of New Orleans. In 2014, he became the fifth generation of his family to own and manage Robinson Lumber Co. Last summer he spoke to a Business School class on "Managing Conflict in Family Business" — a topic on which he wishes he had a little less experience.

Talia Brooks-Faustin PS'09 was married at the Woodbury Country Club in July. In attendance were Wasnard Victor SEAS'05, Henry Stanley SEAS'05, Maya Hughes PS'09, Yesenia Miranda SEAS'06, Diti Sangoi, Giselle Torres, Joyce Cadesca '09, Kingsley Cruickshank and Jami Jackson Mulgrave '07.

Happy 2018, CC'05! Let's start the New Year off right by sharing news. Your classmates want to hear from you!

# 2006

#### Michelle Oh Sing mo2057@columbia.edu

Hi everyone. It's my pleasure to share some great news from classmates: **Andrew Stinger** has joined the strategic partnerships team at Facebook in Menlo Park, Calif. He can still be found leading SoulCycle classes as an instructor in the Bay Area, often at the Palo Alto studio before his workday.

Kathleen Carr Adams writes, "Our third child, Rose Casserly Adams, was born on August 18 in Washington, D.C. We are with the Department of State at Embassy Rangoon, Burma, and will remain here until summer 2019."

Jeremy Kotin was thrilled to see *Blood Stripe*, a feature film he edited

and co-produced, play in limited release across the nation this past fall after winning top narrative honors at the L.A. Film Festival and the audience award at the Austin Film Festival last year. On the personal front, Jeremy tied the knot with Evan Jacobs during a rainstorm late this spring with a handful of Columbians in attendance: Gabrielle Ramos-Solomon, Lauren Lillie, Yinan Zhang and Tatyana Dorfman.

My husband and I welcomed our second child, Matthew Jihoon Sing, on July 19. We are enjoying life as a family of four and welcome visitors if you find yourself in Dallas!

# 2007

#### David D. Chait david.donner.chait@gmail.com

Thank you, everyone, for sharing your exciting updates! **Rebecca Boti** (née Liu) writes, "My husband, Shaun, and I are happy to announce the arrival of Norah Boti last summer. She's a serious baby but learning to smile, and she already has her Columbia onesie and stuffed lion (thanks to fellow alums). We're expecting to get her started on the classics as soon as she's holding her head up steadily — she's going to need to be ready for the Core Curriculum, obviously. Columbia Class of 2039, here we come!"

Jami Jackson Mulgrave has also become a mom! She gave birth to a beautiful boy named Ezra Alcides Mulgrave on October 3. Ezra was 6 lbs., 13 oz. and 19 inches

# Submit Your Photo



*CCT* welcomes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at **college.columbia.edu/cct.** 



Anthony Walker '07 and Tanya Lindsay '07 got engaged in August at Montage Laguna Beach, Calif.

long. Jami and her husband, Alcides Mulgrave, are overjoyed.

Annie Berke SOA'09 shares, "I was awarded a Ph.D. in film and media studies and American studies from Yale last spring, and I have been teaching at Hollins University, a women's college in Roanoke, Va., since Fall 2016. As a film scholar, I regularly attend the annual meeting of the Society of Cinema and Media Studies. Last year I palled around with Michael Cramer '04, whose book, Utopian Television: Rossellini, Watkins, and Godard Beyond Cinema, was sold out at the conference book fair! I also attended our 10-year reunion last summer, enjoyed seeing Waitress on Broadway and ate as much free food as I could stuff in my face. Thanks, CC!"

Sarah Schrager Gitlin '13 and Tao Tan BUS'11 were married on October 7 in an outdoor afternoon ceremony in Hunter, N.Y., the hometown of the bride's family. The couple was introduced by a mutual friend at a Super Bowl party in Manhattan in 2012 and their wedding announcement was featured in *The New York Times*. Tao shares, "Our theme color is Pantone 292 and Sunil Gulati GSAS'86 gave a toast. ;-)"

Anthony Walker and Tanya Lindsay got engaged on August 25 in Laguna Beach, Calif. Anthony writes, "We are planning to have our wedding this fall."

Kasia Nikhamina continues to run full tilt at Redbeard Bikes in DUMBO, Brooklyn, while writing her first book (*Amelia Eyre* — stay tuned). She and Ilya, her partner, are looking for bright, passionate folks to join their growing team. If you are smart, articulate and love to get people on bikes, drop them a line at kasia@ redbeardbikes.com or visit the shop.

# 2008

#### REUNION 2018 MAY 31-JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact Merideth Kerby ccaa-events@columbia.edu 212-851-7776 Development Contact Erin Zyko Hussein eez1@columbia.edu 212-851-7452

Neda Navab nn2126@columbia.edu

#### Paula Cheng-Mehta and Neil

Mehta welcomed their first child, Dev, to the world on September 10. He is happy and healthy with his parents in Maplewood, N.J., who are over the moon. He is already a big Lions fan.

Andrew Martin's first novel, *Early Work*, will be published in July and will be followed by a story collection. Keep it bookmarked for a summer read!

On December 1, Alex Gartenfeld inaugurated a new permanent home at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, where he is the founding deputy director and chief curator. In February, Alex will be curator of the 2018 New Museum Triennial, the first outside-institutional curator to be selected for this honor.

Lydia Ross was named the 2017 Museum Art Educator of the Year by the Illinois Art Education Association. "I received this award following four years as the manager of school teacher programs at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago," she says.

Liz Hormann (née Reeve) and her husband, Craig Hormann SEAS'08, BUS'14, left NYC after nine years and moved to Dallas.

Elizabeth Smith was delighted to join the International Culinary Center last year as the wine coordinator, helping run the wine program where she studied the year before. "It's a huge joy to be able to bring the world of wine to people every day, and to continue my studies both in (and out!) of work. Cheers!" she writes.

Thanks for writing! Please send your news to nn2126@columbia. edu. Happy 2018!

# 2009

Alidad Damooei damooei@gmail.com

An empty mailbox this time, CC'09. What are you up to in 2018? Let us know your plans for the year; we'd love to hear from you! Email me at damooei@gmail.com to have your news in the Spring issue.

# 2010

#### Julia Feldberg Klein juliafeldberg@gmail.com

Anastasia Alt founded Pathspark in 2016, and in October 2017, the startup was accepted to the Barclays Accelerator powered by Techstars in New York. By reinventing professional development for the enterprise, Pathspark built a platform that provides a data-driven approach to coaching so both companies and employees can reach their full potential. To work with them or to learn more about how they are disrupting talent development, visit pathspark.com or send an email to info@pathspark.com.

Adam Valen Levinson writes, "Hi guys — my first book comes out in November, *The Abu Dhabi Bar Mitzvah.* It opens with our graduation in the rain, and ends a couple of years later (approximately when I stopped growing up) in Somalia. Would love to know what you think, or to see you at book events or to help you plan your next vacation in Afghanistan." Milan Cox (née Rodriguez) shares some exciting news: "On the Fourth of July we welcomed a sweet little baby boy, Barron Edison Cox. To us, the fireworks will always be for him now!"

And now, our regular installment from **Chris Yim:** "[As I write,] I'm training for my first marathon. I'm running with my father-in-law and roommate in Athens, Greece, on November 12. I have been training the past few months, and it's been quite a journey.

"Otherwise, my life is pretty odd these days. I'm learning how to become an acrobat. I had this weird fascination for the circus as a kid, and even though that industry is dying there is a group in Korea that is blowing up. This is how I plan to reconcile with my homeland after it tried to draft me into its army. My ambition is to become an acrobat in one of its circus groups. My teacher tells me that I have the build for it, and he says that my personality reminds him of the Chinese acrobat in Ocean's Eleven. I blushed slightly when he told me this because that's actually my favorite character in all of the Ocean's Eleven franchise.

"My life is consumed these days with training. I have hired a Korean tutor to help me once I land in Seoul. I am planning to try out for the group in the middle of next year, so I have a few months left. My diet is super strict — I only eat kimchi and sushi without the rice. After listening to a podcast on nutrition, I stopped eating carbs and rice altogether. I'm 30 now and I'm in the best shape I have ever been in. It's exciting stuff. I've come a long way from the fat kid that I used to be in



# 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.

elementary and middle school. I still wake up from the dreams that I have of the older kids at boarding school calling me a panda and making fun of me for having a blowfish face. The irony is that I ate a blowfish in Busan, South Korea, when I lived there in 2010. Those suckers are toxic when not prepared correctly.

"My wife, Grace, has been super supportive through this entire process. I try my best to support her in return. If things don't work out, we plan to sail to Hawaii from Korea this year. She's learning how to sail, and I'm going to be her first mate. We found a guy on Craigslist who wants to sell us his boat, but he can't guarantee that he can get it to Korea, so we're holding off on the purchase. I have opened up this invitation to a few friends. If others want to join this sailing trip, give me a call and we'll find space for you to serve on the boat. No freeloaders!

"If you don't already follow Tiger Woods on Instagram, he's making a lot of progress. I've been saying for a while for a glass o'wine or wassail at the new Eataly in L.A.! *Così posso parlare in italiano più spesso, se qualcuno vuole*! See more at hailmacbeth.org and on instagram @kurtsanchezkanazawa. (\*Kurt's words — your correspondents do not endorse "disposing" of Kurt. He's likable enough.)

Disposing of singledom, Betsy Morais and Thomas Rhiel were married on August 12 in Brooklyn, N.Y. Ben Cotton officiated (this must have been so adorable). Ethan Wong, Raphael Pope-Sussman and Phil Crone were among the wedding party members. Other Columbia friends joined in the celebration: Claudia Gallego, Asad Syrkett, Dino Grandoni, Dan Amzallag, Neel Patel, Annie Minoff, Akhil Mehta SEAS'11, Julia Halperin, Sadia Latifi '09, Miriam Krule '10, Rachel Vishnepolsky '10, Amanda Cormier '12, Emily Nagel '12, Eli Grober '13, Bob Vulfov'13, Adrianna Aguilar BC'13, Abigail Fisch '14, Nora Hirshman BC'11, Hannah Yudkin

While running Redbeard Bikes in DUMBO, Brooklyn, with her partner, Kasia Nikhamina '07 is writing her first book.

that I predict his comeback. So far, he's been making me eat my words, but I still have hope. I have dreams that I'll meet him and tell him how proud I am of him. I hope to name my child Tiger one day after my hero."

# 2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell nurielm@gmail.com sean.udell@gmail.com

Hey 2011! We're excited to share two big updates this quarter. **Kurt Kanazawa** is back in Los Angeles, where he is reciting The Bard and brandishing swords as Macduff in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, directed by Emmy-nominated SFX producer and *Bad Robot* alum Curtis Krick of SyFy's *The Magicians*, at Studio/ Stage; it ran through November 4. Never too big of a star to forget his friends, he remains at your disposal\* BC'11 and Ian Corey-Boulet '09. Ethan, a recent graduate of Yale Law School and Betsy's Man of Honor, was tasked with collecting cash in an apron, on loan to him from the Rhiels for the purposes of a Polish tradition: Betsy wore a babuskha and danced to polka music with each paying guest. **Neel Patel**, whose wallet was empty, was permitted to pay by Venmo because he lives in Silicon Valley now.

That's it for now. Continue to send your life updates as they happen to the addresses at the top of the column!

# 2012

Sarah Chai sarahbchai@gmail.com

Hi Class of 2012. I start with a Columbia love story: After meeting during a beginner's swimming class in 2008 and then seven years of



Amin Fernandez '11 and Jenieve Guevarra '12 had their engagement photos taken at Columbia.

courtship, food adventures, trips to JJ's, travels, marathons and NBA finals, **Jenieve Guevarra** and Amin Fernandez '11 are pleased to announce their engagement. Their wedding is scheduled for August 25, to take place at the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ) in Elizabeth, N.J.

Wishing you both a lifetime of happiness!

Next, congratulations are in order for Kristin Simmons and Alissa Funderburk GSAS'19!

Kristin is thrilled to announce her first solo art show, Desperate Pleasures, which ran from October 20 through the end of November at Galerie Mourlot on East 79th Street and Madison Avenue in New York City. The show featured original paintings and prints from Kristin's last three years of work.

Alissa is excited to have begun a master's program in oral history at Columbia. As a New York native and devoted member of her Astoria church community, Alissa intends to pursue oral history research that will focus on exploring the religions and cultures that make up New York City, recording the stories of those communities. This project aims to contribute to the understanding of religious tolerance in the "melting pot" of New York City. Alissa will ask the question, "What do you believe in?" and uncover the many ways in which religion, either belief or disbelief, has an impact on the lives of others.

Sadly, no other updates to report at this time, but Facebook tells me you have lots going on (I am not cool enough to have Instagram), so please drop me a line! Whether you just went on a cool vacation, took some artsy photos, started a new chapter of your life, were reminiscing about our college days or just want to say hi, I (and your other classmates) would love to hear from you: sarahbchai@gmail.com.

# 2013

#### **REUNION 2018** MAY 31–JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact Merideth Kerby ccaa-events@columbia.edu 212-851-7776 Development Contact Erin Zyko Hussein eez1@columbia.edu 212-851-7452

#### Tala Akhavan talaakhavan@gmail.com

Blaine Harper is a third-year Ph.D. student at the University of Arizona studying mechanisms of memory consolidation during sleep. She defended her master's thesis last spring and was excited to present the findings at the Society for Neuroscience conference last November.

After spending a year in Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton's Washington, D.C., office as a litigation associate, John Bernard Kenney is taking a clerkship with the Hon. Ralph Erickson of the Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. John is excited to return to the Midwest for the clerkship, which will last a year and a half, before likely returning to the East Coast. As oral arguments for the Eighth Circuit are held in St. Louis and St. Paul, he is looking forward to catching up with any CC'13 grads who live in those cities.

The Rev. **Eva Suarez** was ordained to the Episcopal Priesthood on June 17 at the Washington National Cathedral. The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, bishop of the Diocese of Washington, presided. Eva's ordination came shortly after the completion of a joint degree program between Union Theological Seminary and the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College (CUNY). On July 2, Eva began a full-time pastorate at St. James' Episcopal Church in Manhattan, where she is the Rockwell Fellow.

Amanda Gutterman spent the past year and a half as chief marketing officer at ConsenSys, one of the largest and fastest-growing startups building blockchain technology, with 450 employees in 23 countries. Founded by the co-founder of Ethereum, the most advanced blockchain in production, ConsenSys is leading the way toward the decentralized, next-generation web. Amanda joined ConsenSys after co-founding and growing digital media startup Slant and working with Arianna Huffington to scale The Huffington Post's contributor network. Slant, whose business model involves micro-payments, led her down the

# 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. rabbit hole of blockchain, which holds enormous potential to open up business models in the media industry and transform the larger global economy.

After graduation, Nicole Brambila taught culturally responsive and social justice-oriented social studies to 5th- and 6th-graders in Hartford, Conn., through Teach For America. In 2013, she was honored as a recipient of the Sue Lehmann Teaching & Learning Fellowship. After her third and final year in the classroom, Nicole began her legal education at Yale. Currently in her second year there, she is the co-president of the Project for Law and Education at Yale, the co-founder of the Removal Defense Assistance Project, the community outreach chair with the school's Latino Law Students Association and the submissions editor for Yale's Journal of Law & Feminism.

Simone Nguyen recently finished three years at the Asian American Bar Association of New York, the largest local minority bar association in the country, where she was involved in political organizing, networking and leadership training for Asian-American professionals, and pro bono work as a community builder for Chinatown and other Asian populations in New York City. She also recently competed on the 35th season of Survivor: Heroes vs. Healers vs. Hustlers. Since then, she has relocated to Los Angeles with plans to return to GSAS this fall for a graduate degree in human rights, focusing on sex trafficking across international borders.

Sarah Schrager Gitlin and Tao Tan '07, BUS'11 were married on October 7 in Hunter, N.Y., the hometown of the bride's family. Rabbi Sarah Batya Joselow of Columbia/ Barnard Hillel officiated. Both the bride and the groom are management consultants for McKinsey & Co. Sarah graduated magna cum laude as a John Jay Scholar from the College and earned a J.D. from Harvard, where she was president of the Law School Democrats. At the Business School, Tao was a Toigo Fellow, received the Heffernan Award for Service and graduated with Dean's Honors.

The couple didn't meet at Columbia; they were introduced by a mutual friend at a Super Bowl party in 2012. After a heated, political argument over either "unsustainable entitlement spending" (the Republican groom's words) or "the social safety net" (the Democratic bride's



Shaliesha Hinds PS'18, Michael May '14, André Cheng '14 and Olutosin Akanni '14 enjoyed time together at the College of Physicians and Surgeons Dinner, held in June at the Frick Museum.

words), the couple went on their first date the following week and their first international trip three months later. Forty countries of joint trips later, they look forward to a lifetime of ever-more adventurous explorations.

# 2014

Rebecca Fattell rsf2121@columbia.edu

Mae Smith premiered the first season of her original comedic web series, *Educated Fleas*, on Vimeo. The series follows Ruth, a woman who accidentally becomes a freelance sex educator to the children of wealthy New York parents. Each five- to sixminute episode features a talk with a child, and then explores that same issue through the lens of an adult relationship in Ruth's life.

*Educated Fleas* is a sex-positive comedy that strives to ask big, uncomfortable questions and normalize conversations around sexuality. Watch it and find out more at educatedfleas.net.

Mae is a fellow in the Writers Guild of America/Made in NY Writers Room program.

I hope all CC'14ers are having a great start to 2018. Send me your news!

### 2015

#### Kareem Carryl kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

No news to kick off 2018? Let's change that! Travel, jobs, hobbies — share it

all with your classmates by emailing me. *CCT* also prints photos that include at least two College alumni, so if you've been hanging out with classmates, you can submit photos and caption info at college.columbia.edu/ cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo. Have a great start to the year!

# 2016

#### Lily Liu-Krason lliukrason@gmail.com

Hey 2016, time flies between these updates! How have y'all been holding up? I recently returned from a Lion trip to Peru with **Daniela Lapidous**, **Daniel Schlosser SEAS'16** and Anastasia Anazonwu '15. We saw a lot of llamas and did a two-day hike to Machu Picchu.

Here are a few updates from classmates:

From Leila Mgaloblishvili and Michael Purcell: "A bunch of us (including David Blackman, Eyvana Bengochea, Arthur Muszynski, Alexi Villatoro and Fabiola Urdaneta) are now 2L at the Law School. Couldn't get enough of Morningside Heights! Feel free to reach out!"

From **Greg Rempe:** "I've been playing since graduation and moved back to New York last fall. I work at a software development company, where I fundraise and run operations for the start-ups it builds in the real estate space, among other things. A highlight from my time off was a trip down the Salmon River in Idaho. It was a weeklong trip in the wilderness with **Caleb** 

#### Fujimori SEAS'16, Maia Claman,

Sophie Rothman BC'17, Samuel Reichman '15 and Jennifer Olson '17. We had high water, butterfly hatch, sun and a roaring good time. And we saw twin baby moose! If anyone here kayaks let me know and we'll go paddling! Skiing is cool, too."

From Daniela Lapidous: "Hey everyone! In a move that would surprise no one, I continued working for the climate movement after graduating. I lived in San Francisco near my family for around eight months and moved back to NYC to study social movements for a small nonprofit. I recently started a position helping generate more political will to pass a bill that would commit New York State to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, creating thousands of clean energy jobs.

"In my spare time, I volunteer with Sunrise, a new movement of young people to get fossil fuel money out of our political system. In my truly spare time, I hang with many of my CC'16 friends, passing by The Hungarian Pastry Shop and saying 'oh my Godddd that was so long ago' and only watching Netflix shows about food and chefs."

From Matthew Seife: "After graduation I was living in New York, where I worked for Viacom in its corporate marketing and strategy division. I then moved to the Bay Area a couple of months later. Since then I have been working at Pixar Animation Studios as the assistant to the directors for the upcoming film *Coco*. This film celebrates Dia de los Muertos and the strong traditions of music in Mexico. Please check it out if you have time!" From Aram Balian: "After graduation I tried my hand in investment banking but have now found myself in the start-up world. In my free time, I'm co-chair of outreach for Columbia College Young Alumni, play pickup soccer and enjoy the shows while living by Lincoln Center. Hit me up if you want to talk about FinTech or are interested in volunteering for CCYA."

Please write to me about your adventures! Did you move? Have you been keeping up with your suitemates?

# 2017

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#### Carl Yin

carl.yin@columbia.edu

Vivian Chen and MJ Engel are in Harbin, China, with the Harbin Institute of Technology on a Critical Language Enhancement Award. Vivian says, "So far, the language program has been tough and we are still adjusting to life overseas, but we've made so many friends and our Chinese is improving tremendously. The food here is also delicious — we are eating so many dumplings and noodles, our favorites.:)"

**Eitan J. Neugut** works in consulting at McKinsey & Co. and



Left to right: Lily Liu-Krason '16, Anastasia Anazonwu '15, Daniela Lapidous '16 and Daniel Schlosser SEAS'16 traveled to Peru.



Vivian Chen '17 (left) and MJ Engel '17 in Harbin, China.

lives in the East Village with his husband, Dylan J. Cooper-Neugut.

After traveling last summer, Laney McGahey moved back to San Francisco in August. She says she has enjoyed getting to know the Columbia crowd there!

**Bianca Guerrero** lives in Washington Heights with family and works for the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, Herno more unplanned hangouts or late-night JJ's runs, but we've kept up the board game nights and the climbing sessions, and the occasional alumni event (5–0, Lions!). The new climbing gym at the Manhattanville campus has been a boon as well, but comes with a feeling of slight bitterness as we see all that has come as we are leaving the Columbia community. Professional life has

Simone Nguyen '13 competed on the 35th season of Survivor: Heroes vs. Healers vs. Hustlers.

minia Palacio BC'83, as an urban fellow. She's working on the Puerto Rico response team, helping to send city resources, staff and volunteers to the island and creating infrastructure to help evacuees coming to NYC. Bianca is also working on child welfare projects related to the opioid crisis.

Outside of work, Bianca is getting back into hobbies that fell to the wayside in college, namely, writing short stories and essays and reading for leisure. She's also getting her feet wet with community organizing groups dedicated to housing and other issues that affect low-income New Yorkers in upper Manhattan.

Neha Nataraj is at Penn, pursuing a Ph.D. in immunology.

For **Ethan Wu**, life postgraduation has been the same, yet different. He writes, "There are been enjoyably consistent — there is something to be said about doing the same things every day, entering the same mental states rather than revisiting the ideas of a class two times a week. White Plains is a burgeoning city and I am glad to be able to work there."

**Steve Fan** is a consultant at Novantas and lives in Midtown East. He spent last summer at home in Taiwan and met up with a few CC'17 friends. He went to Iowa for the first time his second week of work.

Brenna Barker lives on the Lower East Side with her best friend (ever), Lauren O'Connor '16. She works at IBM and, according to her, it is "so so so much fun." Brenna also misses her cat dearly, and wishes she could pet him.

Happy New Year, CC'17! Send your news to carl.yin@columbia.edu.

# obituaries

### 1944

Paul S. Sandhaus, writer, New York City and Santa Fe, N.M., on June 27, 2017. After the College, Sandhaus served in the Army as first lieutenant during WWII and was in Japan during its occupation. He was a gifted writer. A published novelist, Sandhaus' teleplays were produced during the early days of live television. He was an advertising executive at General Electric and J. Walter Thompson, and the owner and president of Paul Sandhaus Associates for more than 30 years. He got his pilot's license at 70. Sandhaus is survived by his wife of more than 70 years, Helen; son, Richard; and daughter, Ellen.

Albert L. Seligmann, retired Foreign Service officer, Alexandria, Va., on April 5, 2017. Born in New York City, Seligmann attended Townsend Harris H.S. After the College, he served in the Army as a Japanese Language Officer during the Occupation. He earned an M.A. in 1949 from SIPA and joined the State Department. Seligmann's assignments took him to Japan, Thailand and Germany, and he served as director of the Office of Japanese Affairs, counselor for Political Affairs in Tokyo, senior Asian affairs officer on the Policy Planning staff, executive director of the United States-Japan

#### 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 FL. New York. NY 10025. Advisory Commission and deputy director of the Defense Department's Office of Policy Planning and NSC Affairs. Following retirement, Seligmann became The Asia Foundation's representative in Japan. His deep knowledge and love of Japan fostered many exchanges and partnerships between the countries. The Japanese government honored him with the Order of the Rising Sun, one of the highest decorations bestowed on foreigners. Seligmann is survived by his wife, Bobbie; daughters, Susan, Linda, Ann and Wendy; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to DACOR Bacon House Foundation, 1801 F St. N.W., Washington, DC 20006.

# 1949

Rodman B. Funston, retired advertising and executive recruitment executive, Tubac, Ariz., and New Preston, Conn., on August 1, 2017. Funston lived with his family in Scarsdale, N.Y., 1963-93, where his five children attended Scarsdale schools and he was active in community affairs. Funston was in the advertising and executive recruitment business in New York City for more than 40 years and served on numerous nonprofit boards. He was a decorated WWII pilot. Funston is survived by his wife, Sidney Reid Funston; sons, Rodman Jr., David and Reid; daughters, Meredith Funston and Courtenay Price-Gallagher; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lake Waramaug Task Force or the Lake Waramaug Association.

George R. Lenz, retired attorney and rare book dealer, Huntington, N.Y., on August 1, 2017. Lenz earned a degree in 1952 from the Law School. A WWII veteran, he had a distinguished career in law as a Wall Street partner, where he represented, among others, the old Bank of America. He was chosen a Fellow of the Bar, comprising the top 1 percent of all attorneys. In the mid-1970s, Lenz was alumni chair of the Columbia College Fund and



George R. Lenz '49

was very proud to be honored by Columbia for his work. The father of seven, including one Columbia graduate, he became a well-known rare-book collector and made that his second career in Huntington.

### Chester A. "Chet" Nedwidek Jr., retired engineer, Pollocksville, N.C.,

on May 18, 2017. Nedwidek was born November 1, 1927, in Bayside, N.Y. He earned a B.A. from the College, followed in 1952 by a B.S. from Columbia Engineering and in 1992 by a master's in civil engineering from NC State. Nedwidek moved to Aiken, S.C., and his position at the Savannah River Plant was intermediate reactor department engineer. DuPont transferred him to Chattanooga, Tenn., where he was the senior engineer at the nylon plant. Nedwidek then moved to Cary, N.C., to work for Beaunit, and when it was sold he opened General Personnel. His last job before retirement was at the NCDOT, GIS Unit as assistant director. A WWII veteran, Nedwidek was a medic in the 20th Army Air Corps in Guam. His passion was woodworking, and he was a member of several Raleigh woodworking clubs. Nedwidek is survived by his sons, Chet III, John and his wife, Carolyn, and Michael "Ned" and his wife, Sheri; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial contributions may be made to The Cary High School Marching Band, Cary Band Boosters, PO Box 91 Cary, NC 27512; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 221 Union St., Cary, NC 27511; or Covenant House, 160 Mine Lake Ct., Ste 200, Raleigh, NC 27615.

# 1950

Dan Neuberger, retired research chemist, Rochester, N.Y., on January 23, 2017. Born in 1929 in the former Yugoslavia, Neuberger, his parents and brother immigrated to the United States in 1940. As an 11-year-old who spoke almost no English, Neuberger solo-navigated the 1939-40 New York World's Fair; it was one of his happiest childhood memories. Neuberger earned a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1953 from the University of Rochester, then served in the Army. He was a research chemist for Eastman Kodak from 1955 until retirement in 1986. Neuberger's passion for photography then blossomed: He saw wit, humor and beauty in his often offbeat subjects. He was a founding partner of Rochester's Image City Photography Gallery. Neuberger is survived by his wife, Isobel; and daughter Lisa and her husband, Cristian. He was predeceased by a brother and a daughter, Suzy.

Edwin W. Peters. retired insurance broker, Sarasota, Fla., on October 12, 2016. Peters was born in Youngstown, Ohio, to Edwin and Clara Peters. He served in the Air Force in WWII as a link trainer. At the College, Peters was on the debate team and participated in the Columbia-Oxford Debate. His working years were spent in New York, where he achieved the position of VP of a brokerage insurance firm specializing in foreign credit insurance. In 1989, he and his wife, Olga, retired to Sarasota, where Peters was on the board of Pelican Cove, was an active Democrat, and enjoyed playing bridge and traveling. He is survived by Olga, his wife of 66 years; brother, Lawrence; daughter, Marilyn; son, Ralph; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial contributions may be made to Tidewell Hospice or Planned Parenthood.

# 1951

Harvey M. Krueger, attorney, financial executive, New York City, on April 23, 2017. Raised in Hackensack, N.J., Krueger was legendary in Israeli busi-

### Ray Robinson '41, Magazine Editor, Gehrig Biographer

Ray Robinson '41, a longtime magazine editor who wrote biographies of sports stars from his youth, most notably Lou Gehrig '23, died on November 1, 2017, in New York City. He was 96.

Robinson was born in New York City on December 4, 1920, and graduated from DeWitt Clinton H.S. in the Bronx. Growing up, he watched the dominant Yankees teams of the 1920s and '30s, as well as the New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson first encountered Gehrig, one of his favorite players, after writing him to ask for an interview for his school newspaper. The interview did not work out, but Gehrig gave him tickets to a game.

Robinson studied for a time at the Law School before serving in the Army during WWII. He began writing for local newspapers while stationed at military bases in the southern United States, and after being discharged was an editor at various magazines such as Seventeen and Good Housekeeping. But baseball and other sports were his passion.

Robinson edited more than a dozen editions of Baseball

Stars, annual collections of short biographical essays by burgeoning writers including Jimmy Breslin, Dick Schaap and George Vecsey. In recent years he was a regular at a monthly lunch with New York City sportswriters like Lawrence Ritter, Robert Creamer and Marty Appel, and broadcasters like Bob Costas.

Robinson's biographies include Matty, an American Hero: Christy Mathewson of the New York Giants (1993) and Rockne of Notre Dame: The Making of a Football Legend (1999). Of Robinson's sportswriting, The New York Times said in its obituary: " ... [It] mixed careful research with personal recollections, [and] was more realistic than reverential." Appel, author of Pinstripe Empire: The New York Yankees from Before the Babe to After the Boss and other baseball books, said, also in the Times, "He could be trusted not to exaggerate a story or a fact; it was what it was, and you could trust Ray's memory."

In many articles and in the book Iron Horse: Lou Gehrig in His Time (1990), Robinson portrayed the humble and hard-working Gehrig

as a human being instead of the mythical hero many see him as, without hiding his own admiration. Robinson was at Yankee Stadium on July 4, 1939, when Gehrig gave his famous "farewell" speech; Robinson called it "baseball's Gettysburg Address."

Robinson's other books include American Original: A Life of Will Rogers (1996) and Famous Last Words (2003), a collection of memorable deathbed statements. He also wrote articles for the Times about baseball players like Willie Mays, Jackie Robinson and Cal Ripken Jr., the Baltimore Orioles shortstop who broke Gehrig's consecutive game record, ending his own streak at 2,632. Robinson sent Ripken a copy of his Gehrig biography, but Ripken refused to read it until after he broke the record in 1995. When he did, he returned the book with an inscription: "It's safe to finally read." Reflecting on the episode, in 2007, Robinson wrote, "I cherish the autograph - and understand his superstition."

Robinson, a devoted alumnus as well as a longtime friend and



contributor to CCT, was predeceased in March 2017 by his wife, the former Phyllis Cumins, whom he married in 1948. He is survived by his children, Nancy Miringoff SW'76, Steve and Tad; their spouses; and four grandchildren. In recent years Robinson worked with the ALS Association to raise awareness of the disease. Memorial contributions may be made to the ALS Association, Greater New York Chapter, 42 Broadway, Ste 1724, New York, NY 10004; als.org. – Lisa Palladino

ness circles and was the first banker to bring Israel to the international capital markets. A 1953 alumnus of the Law School, he was with Cravath, Swaine & Moore, then Kuhn, Loeb & Co., where he became CEO. Krueger later was a vice-chair of Lehman Brothers and most recently was a vice-chair of Barclays Capital. He was presented a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1985. Krueger was an active board member and leader of numerous charitable and philanthropic organizations in the United States and Israel. After the passing of his son Peter of AIDS in 1988, Krueger and his wife, Constance Alexander Krueger, founded The Peter Krueger Center for Immunological Disorders at Mount Sinai/Beth Israel. Krueger was predeceased by his wife in November 2016 and is survived by his brother, Stuart, and his wife, Jill; sister-in-law, Pamela Schlenger; daughter Cathy Cohen and her husband David; daughter Liz Krueger and her husband, John Seley; daughter Abigail Bialer and her husband, Arthur; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to The Peter Krueger Center for Immunological Disorders (philanthropy.mountsinai. org/donate or 212-659-8500).

# 1952

Dennis C. Cronin, retired attorney, Killingworth, Conn., on June 19, 2017. Formerly of New York City, Cronin was born on June 21, 1930, in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., and attended Brooklyn Technical H.S. After the College, he served in the Army during the Korean War. Cronin earned a degree in 1957 from the Law School and had a long and productive legal career. Following law school, he joined the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., as part of the Honors Program. Cronin was recruited by the firm of Hahn, Loeser, in Cleveland, and he



Dennis C. Cronin '52

spent several years there. In 1965, he returned to NYC to join the firm of Reavis & McGrath, working in civil litigation. In 1975, Cronin joined Wertheim & Co. In 1998, he retired as legal/compliance counsel. In retirement, Cronin was an arbitrator for the Financial Industries Regulatory Authority. He had a lifelong love of boating, the sea, fine food, art, music and nature. Cronin was

an avid reader of nonfiction and was a rock for his family. Memorial contributions may be made to Connecticut Hospice in Branford or the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

A. Thomas Houghton, retired educator, Manahawkin, N.J., on May 1, 2017. Houghton was born on July 16, 1931, in Mount Kisco, N.Y. After moving to Harvey Cedars, N.J., in 1939, he attended the oneroom schoolhouse in Barnegat City for grades 4 and 5, and graduated from Barnegat H.S. After Columbia, Houghton served as an officer in the Navy amphibs 1952-57. He began his career with Connecticut General in Bloomfield, Conn., before returning to Harvey Cedars in 1961. Houghton and his family operated Houghton's Rowboats and Clam Bar on 83rd Street for 25 years. He also taught school in Lacey Township for 27 years, until retiring in 1987. Houghton was active in the Exchange Club of Beach Haven and

the Harvey Cedars Zoning Board, and was a Little League Baseball coach. He and his wife of 63 years, Joy Pflueger Houghton, enjoyed travel and spent winters in Deerfield Beach, Fla., for more than 20 years. Houghton is survived by his wife; son Richard and his wife, Elizabeth, son Timothy and his wife, Michele, daughter Holly Gallagher and her husband, Tim, and son Eric and his wife, Carol; 13 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Meridian Hospice South (Manahawkin, N.J.) or Grace Calvary Chapel (Ship Bottom, N.J.).

# 1953

Frank McCauley Jr., retired financial executive, Vero Beach, Fla., and Surry, Maine, on March 20, 2017. McCauley was born on June 22, 1931, in Brooklyn, N.Y., and was a longtime winter resident of Vero Beach. He was a graduate of Carson Long Military Academy in New Bloomfield, Pa., and in 1954 earned an M.S. from the Business School. McCauley was a veteran of the Korean War, having served in the Army. He was VP for 25 years at Chemical Bank (later JPMorgan Chase). McCauley was a member of the New York Yacht Club and Narrasketuck Yacht Club. Amityville, N.Y. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Jean B.; nephews, John and Todd; niece, Deborah; and their families. Memorial contributions may be made to VNA/Hospice Foundation, 1110 35th Ln., Vero Beach, FL 32960.

# 1957

Joseph Feldschuh, physician and inventor, Bronx, N.Y., on January 31, 2017. After his family left Nazioccupied Austria for Brooklyn, N.Y., Feldschuh became a Westinghouse Science Talent Search finalist and received a Regents Scholarship to Columbia, where he lettered in football and was captivated by Shakespeare. He earned an M.D. in 1961 from NYU and obtained board certification in both cardiology and endocrinology, always rising to meet the challenge of treating the most complicated medical cases. He raised a family with his then-wife, Roxanne BC'62, whom he met at a Columbia/



Joseph Feldschuh '57

Barnard soirée when he cut in on her dance with Art Garfunkel '65. As a father to sons Jonathan, Stephen and Michael '91, Feldschuh emphasized the importance of education and innovative thinking. He led by example: In the 1960s, he worked alongside Nobel Prize winner André F. Cournand to develop a bloodvolume analyzer - a device that has since been used in treating more than 40,000 patients. His legacy also lives on through his fertility research, which resulted in more than 20,000 births. Feldschuh left an indelible mark not only on the future of medicine, but also on the hearts of all those he enlightened with his passion, brilliance and enduring spirit.

#### Stephen S. Fybish, weather

historian and teacher, New York City, on August 30, 2017. Fybish was a devoted alumnus; at his 60th reunion, held last June, he led attendees at the class dinner in song, selecting *Sans Souci*. He is survived by his brother, Ira; stepdaughters, Emily Prager and Nora Elcar-Verdon; and numerous other relatives and friends.

William R. Schwartzman, retired physician, San Francisco, on April 25, 2017. In 1961, Schwartzman earned an M.D. from P&S. He fell in love with San Francisco on a visit in summer 1955 and in 1960 he married and then relocated there. Schwartzman was dedicated to the medical profession, psychiatry and helping people. He worked throughout the Bay Area, including at Langley Porter Psychiatric Hospital and Clinics (UCSF), San Francisco General Hospital, Mount Zion Hospital and Napa State Hospital. From the mid-1980s until he retired, Schwartzman turned his professional talents to working on behalf of the disadvan-



William R. Schwartzman '57

taged in community clinics. He was a gifted pianist and could be found regularly at the opera, symphony or at the latest Broadway hit. Other hobbies included backgammon, chess, stamp collecting, book collecting, poetry and tennis. Schwartzman enjoyed living life in the company of other people, telling jokes and sharing stories. He had strong opinions and was a passionate crusader for improvements within the mental health system or against unfair immigration policies. Schwartzman is survived by, among others, his daughters Karen and Tamsen.

### 1958

Esmail Koushanpour, emeritus professor, Mundelein, Ill., on February 12, 2017. Born in Tehran, Iran, on June 9, 1934, Koushanpour was an emeritus professor at Northwestern University Medical School, where he worked for 36 years in the Department of Physiology. He authored two editions of a textbook on renal physiology and many scientific papers, with particular interest in mathematical simulation of physiological systems. He retired in 1999. A leader



Esmail Koushanpour '58

in the Chicago Muslim community, Koushanpour was active in POWER, an interfaith coalition of diverse community groups. He was on the Board of Directors of several organizations, including Gilead Sciences, which worked with the State of Illinois to establish the KidCare program, extending access to health care for thousands of low-income people in Illinois. An outspoken advocate of social justice, Koushanpour received an honorary degree from the Graduate Theological Foundation. Memorial contributions may be made to the Islamic Foundation North (Libertyville, Ill.), the Graduate Theological Foundation (Mishawaka, Ind.), or the American Physiological Society.

# 1959

**D. Patrick Mullins,** insurance executive, Bumpass, Va., on May 28, 2017. Mullins was an active community and business leader. He was one of the leading Equine Insurance executives in America after having



D. Patrick Mullins '59

built his own business, which was acquired by one of the largest insurance companies in America. Mullins was a sports reporter during his time at Columbia, becoming Spectator's sports editor in his senior year. He moved to Washington, D.C., after college, married and had four children. During his professional career, Mullins was also heavily involved in the community, serving as president of many local organizations, including Fairfax County Council of PTAs, Annandale-North Springfield Little League, Turnpike Basketball Club and Annandale Rotary Club, and was a district governor of Rotary. Mullins served as chair of the Virginia Republican Party 2009-14.

# 1960

Carlos E. Otálvaro, retired investment banker, Miami, Fla., on August 18, 2017. Otálvaro was born in Bogotá, Colombia, on March 30, 1940. A 1961 alumnus of the Business School, he pioneered the online trading industry in the early '90s with



Carlos E. Otálvaro '60

the establishment of the trading platform WallStreet\*E. The firm went on to be recognized by Barron's and The Wall Street Journal as one of the leading platforms for 11 consecutive years in their annual reviews of "Best Online Brokers." While at Columbia, Otálvaro was on the wrestling team, was president of his class and led a Latin-American band he started, Carlos Ota: Columbia Lions. He pursued graduate studies at the Menéndez Pelayo International University in Santander, Spain. Otálvaro then moved to Madrid where he met his wife, Sonia. They started their family of six in Spain and eventually relocated to the United States. In Miami, Otálvaro worked for firms such as Bear Stearns and Shearson Lehman Brothers, using his expertise in Latin-American markets, before starting his own firms. In the 1990s, he and his wife began Vintage Rolls Royce Limousines of Coral Gables, a luxury transportation company based in their city of residence. Otálvaro is survived by his wife; children, Carlos, Noe, Francisco, Antonio, Nena and Gigi; six sons- and daughters-in-law; and 13 grandchildren.

# 1961

John H. Cleveland III, retired attorney, Sackets Harbor, N.Y., on June 1, 2017. Educated at Water-

town City schools, Cleveland earned a J.D. in 1963 from the Law School. He was an Army veteran, serving during the Korean War. Cleveland began practice as a maritime lawyer in 1963 with Haight, Gardner, Poor & Havens in New York City. Upon retiring from the practice of admiralty law in 1997, he returned to Sackets Harbor. An attorney by trade, but a musician by love, Cleveland organized the Sackets Harbor Jazz Festival. He was a former board member of North Country Library System and was on the new building committee of Hay Memorial Library. As a past president of the Sackets Harbor Historical Society, Cleveland was a supporter of Concerts on the Waterfront and historic architectural preservation. With family and those who knew him well, he was known as a generous host and a world traveler who loved to share stories and share a meal. Cleveland is survived by his wife of 44 years, Margaret Harris Cleveland; their son, Thacher; his daughters from his first marriage: Erika Cleveland Marks, Britta Cleveland and Ingrid Cleveland Gori; six grandchildren; and two sisters.

Andrew S. Levine, engineer, Stockbridge, Mass., and Bonita Springs, Fla., on July 19, 2017. Levine earned a degree in 1962 from Columbia Engineering, in the 3-2 program. He was elected to Junior Phi Beta Kappa at the College and went to MIT, from which he earned a master's, and Northeastern, from which he earned a Ph.D.; both degrees were in mechanical engineering. Levine worked for Raytheon and MIT Draper Laboratory in Boston, where he and his wife, Toby, lived 1964-78, and for SAIC, The Aerospace Corp., Grumman and HP in the Washington, D.C., area after 1978. The family lived in Potomac, Md., 1978-2001, after which they moved to the Berkshires. Levine loved classical music and enjoyed many concerts at Tanglewood. He and his wife participated in the Tanglewood Music Center Fellows Lunch program for more than 10 years. Levine was also a passionate believer in social action; he was an active member of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, for which he was treasurer and chairman of the Finance Committee for many years. He is survived by his wife of 53 years; daughters, Amy Levine, and Caren

Pelletier and her husband, Michael; one grandson; and a sister.

Theodore H. Stanley, anesthesiologist and medical entrepreneur, Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 13, 2017. Stanley was born on February 4, 1940, in New York City. He earned a bachelor's in zoology, chemistry and music from the College and in 1965 earned a degree from P&S. Studying under a fellowship at the University of Utah, Stanley planned to become a cardiac surgeon but added anesthesiology as a specialty. He served in the Air Force at the medical center of Lackland AFB in San Antonio and then joined the University of Utah faculty in 1972, becoming a professor of surgical research and director of research at the university's School of Medicine. There, Stanley was a member of the team that in 1982 implanted the first permanent artificial heart in a human. He later became managing director of UpStart Ventures. Stanley wrote or contributed to scores of books and was frequently published in medical journals. He is best known for, with colleague Brian I. Hague, creating in 1983 the fentanyl lollipop, a palatable means of delivering a synthetic opioid analgesic, mostly to cancer patients, but also to relieve migraine and cluster headaches, severe back and bone pain, arthritis and other chronic conditions. It was approved by federal regulators in 1998 to treat cancer pain under the name Actiq.

# 1969

Barry A. Hamilton, retired judge, Rockville, Md., on May 24, 2017. Born on September 23, 1947, in Hagerstown, Md., Hamilton graduated from the McDonogh School and after the College earned a J.D. from NYU. He played saxophone in the United States Army Band during the Vietnam War. Hamilton was a prosecutor in the Montgomery County (Md.) State's Attorneys Office for 20 years before serving as a judge in the District Court for Montgomery County until his retirement in April 2017. Hamilton had a passion for musical theater and cherished his time directing and playing the piano for numerous organizations throughout the Washington, D.C., area as well as for the

Broadway Artists Alliance in New York City. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Diane; daughter, Erica and her husband, Nathan Hilburger; son, Brett; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Montgomery's Miracles, c/o Jenna Dempsey Davis, Drug Court Coordinator, 50 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

# 1983

Richard D. Shin, physician, Burr Ridge, Ill., on March 13, 2017. Shin went to the NYU School of Medicine and was a busy hand surgeon in private practice. He was affiliated with several hospitals in the Chicago area, including Rush University Medical Center. Shin is survived by his wife, Nora; children, Kyler, Kiana and Kedrick; brother, Tom '84; sister, Linda BC'86; and his parents.

# 1999

James M. Stephenson, humanitarian aid worker, Danville, Calif., on July 25, 2017. Stephenson earned a degree in 2007 from SIPA. As a career humanitarian aid worker, he worked for the International Rescue Committee, Save the Children, and International Relief and Development, which assigned him to Baghdad's "Red Zone." There he worked to increase employment and political stability by helping ordinary Iraqis develop businesses. After his service in Iraq, Stephenson moved on to Mercy Corps in Sri Lanka, where he pursued economic development programs as the nation concluded its long civil war. He was instrumental in gaining the release of 300,000 Tamil civilians from POW camps and securing their return to farms and fields cleared of mines. Stephenson's last employer was Danish Demining Group. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, but largely working in Somaliland, he designed programs to reduce armed violence among and within Somali clans. After successfully establishing a model for local government structures for nonviolent dispute resolution, he adapted this model to address similar challenges in South Sudan, Tunisia, Mali and Nigeria. At the time of his death, Stephenson was preparing to leave for a new assignment in Northern Nigeria.

— Lisa Palladino

# the*last* word

# A Snowball's Chance

*Tim Towler '77 is reunited with his College class ring two decades after it went missing. Here, he tells his story to* CCT.

n 1995, I took a position with Appleton Papers, so my family and I moved from California to Appleton, Wis.; it was a definite change in weather! One day in winter 1996 or 1997 we had a heavy snowfall. I came home from work and saw that my son and the neighborhood kids were having a really massive snowball fight — I wasn't paying much attention until I got out of the car and everyone turned their atten-

tion to me. They were lobbing snowballs at me left, right and sideways, so I had to return the favor.

"The battle lasted for 10 or 15 minutes, up and down throughout the apartment complex, until finally I had to go into the house. I grabbed my briefcase, headed inside, looked down at my right hand and said, 'Oh no.' Somehow in the course of throwing snowballs, my College class ring fell off. It



was still light out, so all the kids organized a search party, but with no success.

"When the spring thaw came, we combed over the entire area, but found nothing; it was gone. I thought about replacing it, but the price had gone up dramatically since I bought mine in 1977. I always thought, 'One of these days I'll replace it,' but 'one of these days' never came.

"Years went by and then, in the Spring 2017 issue of Columbia College Today, I was looking through the Class Notes because the first thing I do is turn to my class column — and I saw a note at the top of the page that there was a class mystery. At first I just thought, 'Oh, that's interesting,'but when I saw that it was about a class ring found in Appleton, Wis., I just about lost it. I emailed CCT immediately and then I emailed the gentleman in Wisconsin who had contacted the Alumni Office. He told me that his father had found the ring and wanted to give it back to the rightful owner. His father had succumbed to cancer, but the son wanted to find the owner. That was a special man and I really appreciate his dedication and follow-up.

"When I got the ring back, I had to get it rounded out, as it had a bit of a dent in it. But it still fit and otherwise looked good: white gold, blue stone, crown, lion on one side, *Alma Mater* on the other and '77 under *Alma*; it's the original I got in my senior year. I'm surprised that it was buried all that time and yet looked the same as when it flew off my finger that day, including the chip in the stone that had been there before I lost it.

"It was so exciting that after 20-plus years, I had it back; I never thought I'd be reunited with that ring."





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