


CCT

Winter 2018–19

Columbia
College
Today 

ALL ABOUT AXEL

**UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR.
NOBEL PRIZE WINNER.**

CCT gets a rare peek inside
Dr. Richard Axel '67's lab.

ONES TO WATCH

MEET THE INSPIRING YOUNG
ALUMS WHO MAKE UP OUR
INAUGURAL "LION'S PRIDE"

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

IMMIGRATION LAWYER
JONATHAN RYAN '00 WORKS
TO REUNITE FAMILIES

"MAKING A MURDERER"

MOIRA DEMOS '96 RECKONS
WITH THE PHENOMENON OF
HER HIT NETFLIX DOCUSERIES



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COLUMBIA COLLEGE



SCOTT RUDD

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— Plato

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THE LATEST

TAKE FIVE | DEC. 7

“[I love] the view of campus looking out toward Butler from the Steps or Low. It provokes a response in my body that only the best views and works of art can do for me. It invigorates, inspires me to learn and connect with the world, and to be the best version of myself. It’s even better knowing that downtown Manhattan awaits beyond it.”

— Artist **Negar Ahkami '92**

LION'S DEN | DEC. 20

“I was dogged by a sense of failure. I had adequately prepared for my ‘practical’ life — being an academic. But after semesters when I was grateful if I could pee between classes, I had spent significantly less time on the impractical life I had wanted — being a writer. So I leaped. And fortune did favor me — I had great part-time jobs, my novel started to have a shape, I woke up practically humming. I was the personification of that emoji that looks like it is squeeing.”

— Novelist **Ivelisse Rodriguez '97**, from “Living Your Best Life?”

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AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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Message from the Dean

Transfer Your Energy and Experiences

What is energy, really, and how do we conserve it? That is the question posed in a course, “Energy and Energy Conservation,” that I developed some years ago and am teaching again this semester. Before becoming dean in 2011, I spent 20 years teaching undergraduates as a faculty member in the chemistry department, and it’s still a great thrill for me to be in the classroom, particularly when I am teaching a course I created. Our students never fail to inspire me, and they always remind me why Columbia College is such a special place.

In the classroom we talk a lot about words and concepts, and the different ways in which we can use them. For example, I talk in my class about heat. As a scientific concept, heat is really only one thing: a transfer of energy. But when I think about the idea of transferring one thing to another, I can’t help but think about it in a broader context, and other examples of transferring something valuable, such as transferring knowledge and understanding from a former student to a current student.

Through your successes as College alumni, you have developed certain resources, skills, capacities and capabilities. There is a real story about each and every one of those opportunities that you can convey to the 4,500 College students currently living some of those same experiences. Your stories are about more than a single classroom, more than a major or a concentration and more than the degree you earned at the end of your time at Columbia.

There is a particular kind of experience that is unique to the College community. It revolves around our grounding in the Core Curriculum and our location in New York City, the greatest city in the world. Each of you experienced some part of this journey in your own unique way, and now each of our current students continue on a similar journey.

You can transfer your knowledge and understanding to our current students. Whether it’s through the My Columbia College Journey website (college.columbia.edu/journey), where you can submit your own reflections; our student wellness effort, Live Well | Learn Well (wellbeing.columbia.edu), which has a “Get Involved” button at the bottom of every page; or by participating in the Odyssey Mentoring Program (odyssey.college.columbia.edu), there are many opportunities for you to convey the lessons you have learned.

And these students want to hear from you. Time after time, I hear them talk about how valuable it is to get firsthand knowledge from those who have walked the same halls, been instructed in these same Core classes and found the success they, too, hope to achieve after graduation.

In this new year, I hope you will remember why I often say, “College Walk doesn’t extend from Broadway to Amsterdam; it extends around the world.” That extension includes you, our 51,000-plus alumni, who can help propel this great undergraduate experience.

James J. Valentini
Dean



MARTIN SECK / COLUMBIA COLLEGE

A NOBEL IN NEW JERSEY

Arthur Ashkin '47 won the Nobel Prize in Physics on October 2 for groundbreaking research in laser physics. His invention of optical tweezers enabled scientists to take hold of "particles, atoms, viruses and other living cells with their laser beam fingers," creating new ways to observe and control the machinery of life, said the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

At 96, Ashkin is the oldest person ever named a Nobel laureate. He shared the prize with two other scientists who were honored for separate work in the field. Ashkin, meanwhile, continues to work from his home in Rumson, N.J. "That's my hobby, more or less," he told the Nobel website. "I was interested in science since I was a kid, so I tell my wife that's the only thing that I'm really good at."





PHOTOS BY JÖRG MEYER

Within the Family

An Inspiring Issue

Time for a glass of bubbly — we're thrilled to uncork two of our most anticipated features: our cover story on Nobel Prize-winner Dr. Richard Axel '67, and a special feature, the Lion's Pride Honors, spotlighting notable young alumni.

Typically, as a quarterly, we start working on big articles six or seven months before they reach your mailbox. But we first broached the idea of sitting down with Axel, who rarely gives interviews, a year ago. We were delighted when he said yes — and granted our writer Matthew Hutson a lab tour, to boot. While many readers might know Axel for his breakthrough work mapping the genes that are responsible for our sense of smell, he truly is a scientist who defies categorization. The resulting article is an eye-opening portrait of a man who has made a career of bridging disciplines and pushing boundaries. And he's raising the next generation of scientists to do the same.

Lion's Pride, meanwhile, began a full 18 months ago, when we embarked on a new partnership with Columbia College Young Alumni. Because it was a first, there was no road map to follow — just the shared wish to celebrate some of our most compelling recent graduates. We worked up timelines, designed a logo, launched our nominations campaign. The suggestions we received were read and reread, and tough decisions were made. Then came the interviewing, writing, editing, art.

But in reflecting on all that went into Lion's Pride, what made the greatest impression was the experience of speaking with the honorees themselves. Their personalities came through in a flash; some gushed, others were reserved. But all were articulate, passionate and purposeful, ambitious in their vision and humble in their accomplishments. They spoke thoughtfully about how their time at the College had influenced them personally and in their careers. They aspired to make a difference in their industries, their communities and the world. (Let's not kid; they already are.)

The Lion's Priders also got me thinking about what it means to live your dreams and to make a meaningful life for yourself. And they reminded me of one of the reasons I became a writer and editor — because I believe in the power of story to inspire, and they left me feeling exactly that.

I hope they do the same for you.

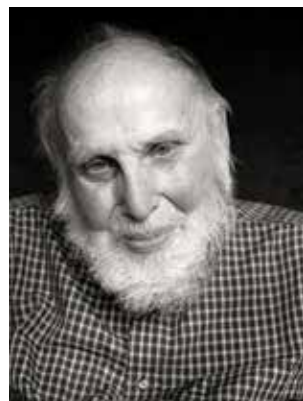
Elsewhere in the magazine you'll find alumni who are at the forefront of current news and culture. We have a timely Q&A with Jonathan Ryan '00, executive director of RAICES, a nonprofit providing free or low-cost legal services to immigrants and refugees; a profile of Moira Demos '96, SOA'08, who has returned to Manitowoc County, Wis., with Part 2 of her hit Netflix docuseries *Making a Murderer*; and an excerpt from Crystal Hana Kim '09's much-heralded debut novel, *If You Leave Me*.

Finally, why have one Nobel winner when you can have two?

In October, Arthur Ashkin '47 was named one of three winners of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics, making him, at 96, the oldest person ever named a Nobel laureate. The trio was honored for their groundbreaking research in laser physics, and Ashkin in particular for his invention of "optical tweezers." The breakthrough allowed scientists to use pressure from light to manipulate tiny organisms without damaging them — "an old dream of science fiction," as the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in its announcement.

Ashkin graciously welcomed us into his home in Rumson, N.J., for a photo shoot for The Big Picture (page 4). Though he retired from a 40-year career at the renowned Bell Labs in 1992, he continues to work in his home office. He holds 47 patents. He has plans for another.

Talk about an inspiration.



Arthur Ashkin '47

Alexis Boncy

Alexis Boncy SOA'11
Editor-in-Chief

Letters to the Editor



EDWARD RICE '40

A Profound Influence

Thank you! I was overjoyed to read Thomas Vinciguerra '85, JRN'86, GSAS'90's excellent piece on Thomas Merton '38, GSAS'39 in the Fall 2018 issue ("Around the Quads," "Hall of Fame"). Merton, more than anyone else, had a profound effect on my early life, leading me to abjure all conduits of standard success and enter into an 11-year "retreat" of alternative education, communal living, antiwar activity, music, mediation, political theater and writing.

Even when I married and had children, a career path of entrepreneurship and craft permitted our family generous blocks of time for wilderness exploration by foot and air, as well as latitude for my and my wife's inner lives. Still on our shelf are tattered Merton volumes from undergraduate days at Columbia, and I have never regretted one iota the path he signaled.

Merton rightly belongs in the "Hall of Fame." Vinciguerra's piece is a lovely reminder, and I maintain with humor that the seven-story mountain was but the climb up to a friend's room in Furnald Hall.

Kurt Meyers '70
Tucson, Ariz.

Rx for a Lucky Life

Edward "Ted" Tayler, the late Lionel Trilling Professor Emeritus in the Humanities (Summer 2018, "Around the Quads," "In Memoriam"), was a 29-year-old newly minted Ph.D.

from Stanford when I met him in Humanities A on my first day at Columbia College in fall 1960. I found him to be a magician in the classroom, but he also became my friend.

Throughout my undergraduate years and subsequent studies toward my doctorate, he

wrung from my mind every drop of intellectual kindling to light up my understanding of what he liked to call "old books." "Sweat a little more, Paulie," was his characteristic response to my first efforts to elucidate a literary crux or biblical selection he would send me during all of these years. Early on, he sent me text from John VIII:58 — "Before Abraham was, I am." "If you get this, Paulie, you've got English Renaissance religious literature."

We would meet for lunch at Henry's on Broadway at West 106th Street (he loved the hamburger), and talk about Dickinson, Hopkins and Stevens, and then our grandchildren. For the last 20 years or so, I selfishly thought of him as my private treasure, but I was always aware of his unique intellect and sainted presence, which I had no right to claim as mine.

Ted acted as my prescription for experiencing the life of the mind. He possessed a personality, voice and teaching style students never forget. Those of us lucky enough to have experienced him received a priceless education in how to stand back from ourselves to think about cultural change and its impact on art. He taught us to look for differences from, not similarities to, ourselves; to apprehend easily overwhelming conceptions of time. He encouraged us to be patient "understanders," in Ben Jonson's phrase. He taught me to think — and to be grateful. How lucky was I?!

Paul Neuthaler '64
Chappaqua, N.Y.

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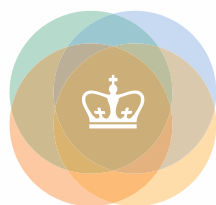
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Session 2: July 16–August 2

Session 3: August 5–August 9



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July 6–26, 2019

Winner's Circle

Writer Kelly Link '91 was named one of 2018's 25 MacArthur fellows, earning a \$625,000 "genius grant" to be paid out over the next five years. Link is the author of several story collections that feature fantasy and magical realism, including

Magic for Beginners, *Pretty Monsters* and *Get in Trouble*, which was a finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction.

Link lives in Northampton, Mass., and runs the

publishing house Small Beer Press with her husband. "I did breathe an enormous sigh of relief when I thought about how I was going to pay bills next year," Link told *The Washington Post*. "It allows me to keep writing the kinds of narrative that I most want to write."



MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

New Wellness Website

Columbia College has launched a new website in support of undergraduate well-being. Live Well | Learn Well (wellbeing.columbia.edu) serves as a central location for information on health and wellness resources across campus. Through articles and videos, it also



chronicles students' personal wellness stories — part of an ongoing effort to encourage a campus culture that values and promotes individual well-being and a healthy community. A third section of the website reports on the objectives and



BRUCE GILBERT

CARNOY AWARDED ALEXANDER HAMILTON MEDAL: Dean James J. Valentini presented the 2018 medal to Lisa L. Carnoy '89, the first female honoree, at Low Rotunda on November 15. Despite an unseasonably early snowstorm, President Lee C. Bollinger, Columbia College Alumni Association president Michael Behringer '89 and more than 250 guests were on hand for the festivities.

progress of the College's partnership with the nonprofit The Jed Foundation.

"Driving this work is a common vision for our community: one where the individual and collective are provided with the tools they need to flourish in academic studies, professional pursuits and personal interests," said Dean James J. Valentini.

CCT Gets a Gold

Columbia College Today won an Eddie Award for best single article at the 2018 Eddie & Ozzie Awards. "Under Pressure" — the Winter 2017–18 issue's cover story — explored trends in student wellness and how colleges are evolving to meet their communities' changing needs. *CCT* also took home two honorable mentions: for best full issue, for the Spring 2018 issue, and for a profile or Q&A, for a profile of

actor Brandon Victor Dixon '03 in the Fall 2017 issue.

The annual Eddie & Ozzie Awards honor excellence in editorial and design across all sectors of the magazine industry, and have been presented by *Folio* for more than two decades. This year, 263 awards were chosen from a field of more than 2,500 entries.

\$4.36 Million

The seventh annual Columbia Giving Day, October 24, was a huge success. Through 2,325 gifts, the College received \$4.36 million, the largest sum among the Columbia schools or institutes, and set a Giving Day record for donations and dollars. All told, Columbians hit a new high, raising \$20,155,293 from 17,103 gifts.



JILL SHOMER

Szabolcs Márka

By Jill C. Shomer

In Szabolcs Márka's office in Pupin there are three large recliners, surrounding a blackboard full of notes. No desk. When I raised an eyebrow at the unusual furnishings, Márka was unfazed: "You can be more creative when you're comfortable — plus there are no desks between minds," he says with a shrug.

Márka, the Walter O. LeCroy, Jr. Professor of Physics, believes strongly that creativity is a critical component of science research — "a witches' brew of thinking," he calls it — and his approach to his work borders on literary. "Real science is a quest," he says. "It's a fire burning in you. You have to have a dream, you have to have difficulty and you have to have the unknown — if there's no unknown, there's no risk. You believe in yourself and just go for it."

Márka's work at Columbia is multidisciplinary: In addition to doing research and teaching undergraduate courses like "Physics for Poets" and the popular "Weapons of Mass Destruction" in the physics department, he is an astrophysicist, and is also passionate about the field of biophysics. He has collaborated with students from CUMC and the Mailman School of Public Health, has worked with the Zuckerman Institute and is a member of the Integrated Animal Behavior Center. Márka enjoys the differences in

culture, expertise and viewpoints that these multi-department collaborations provide: "Creativity comes from a diverse set of ideas from diverse teams," he says.

In 2009, five years after joining the Columbia faculty, Márka made headlines for his biophysics work with mosquitos, developing an idea that would prevent the spread of malaria by creating a "light shield" through which airborne insects will not fly. Márka and his team — which included his wife, Zsuzsa, a research scientist in the Columbia Astrophysics Laboratory — received funding from Bill Gates' foundation ("now *that* guy is a visionary") and were featured in *The New York Times Magazine* as an "Idea of the Year."

Potentially saving communities from insect-borne illness has immediate, tangible benefits, which can be unusual in physics. "I'm not going to die in binary black holes," he says. "Can I do something that makes a difference? The idea was good, but not as good as the reality — it changed my life."

It was not Márka's first life changer. He is a longtime member of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) team, which made history in 2015 with the first-ever direct detection of gravitational waves. The observation was hailed as one of the most important in the world, confirming Einstein's general theory of relativity and marking a new era

in astronomical exploration. Márka continues to innovate in LIGO at Columbia: "The department is a wonderful place to do science," he says. "We support each other. Whatever I want to know, there's an expert who is my colleague."

Márka first found support for his scientific quests growing up in a small town in Hungary, where both of his parents were teachers. He was always fascinated by astronomy and physics; when he was 12 he built a Newtonian telescope from scratch. After a year of mandatory military service, he got his diploma in nuclear physics (the Hungarian equivalent of a master's) from Lajos Kossuth University in 1993. Seeking growth and freedom, he pursued his doctorate in the United States and earned a Ph.D. in particle physics from Vanderbilt in 1999.

Márka says he's happy to return the privilege of support by passing it on to his students. Shaping the next generation of scientists and communicating the beauty of physics — even to non-physicists — is his favorite part of teaching. "It's good for you," he says. "The world becomes more open; it's very empowering."

And again, Márka thrives in an environment of creative problem solving. "Faculty is responsible for the preserva-

"Columbia is a wonderful place to do science. We support each other. Whatever I want to know, there's an expert who is my colleague."

tion of knowledge, the communication of knowledge and the advancement of knowledge," he says. "Each person has a mixture of those abilities and desires, and in an academic community you have all these differences in these strengths. The important thing is that the whole is capable. And that's something Columbia excels in — creating that space to freely create and for all departments to interact. That's the future; that is Science."

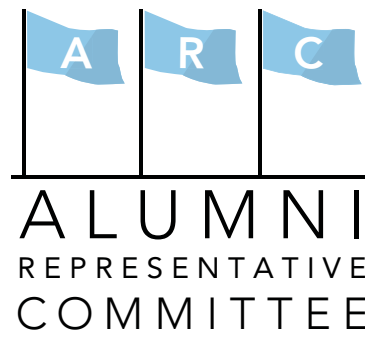
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Maya Lugo '19

CCT: What's something interesting you learned this week?

Lugo: I took a workshop on NVivo, which is a coding software for interviews. When you do interviews and transcribe them, you can code them for themes and patterns and different things the subject says. It was really helpful because I have a research project to do.

put it is that she creates this kaleidoscope of narrative. She's following one central character, but brings up the stories and backgrounds of all these other characters who have an effect on his life. This whole tale is so pertinent to the black experience, and the way that she does it is so poetic, you can almost taste the words.

CCT: What do you like to do outside of class?

Lugo: I've been going to drum circles and learning how to play the djembe, and I've been free-styling from time to time, writing poetry, creating songs — I'm starting to sing more in public. And I absolutely love playing tennis. It's my therapy!

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

Lugo: Last semester I went out with friends a lot more to spoken-word events and drum circles, and was just exploring



different things that the artistic side of the city has to offer. I recently went to the Brooklyn Museum because it had the first Saturday of the month [free event], and it was an amazing experience! There were so many spoken-word poets, and there was a dance exhibit that turned into a dance party when they opened up the space for people to dance. It's important to use this time to do adventurous things like that!

fast facts

Major: Sustainable Development

From: Bronx-born, grew up in Yonkers, N.Y.

CCT: What's your favorite Core reading so far, and why?

Lugo: I have three favorites, but one of them is *Song of Solomon*. Toni Morrison takes you on a trip; the best way I can



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LookWho'sTalking

Shannon Marquez

Dean of Undergraduate Global Engagement

What drew you to this role?

I've worked in global health and international education for 20 years. Traditional study abroad is often the first thing people think of when we talk about global experiences. But there are global internships, research and service-learning [education through real-life community problem-solving], as well as global courses. So I was excited when I learned that Columbia was looking for a senior leader to help develop a strategic vision that would incorporate these types of activities into undergraduate global engagement.

Though you began transitioning into your work here in November, you started full-time in January. What most excites you about the year ahead?

Setting up a new organizational framework that will support partnership across the undergraduate schools and promote global engagement activities. This will also provide an opportunity to strengthen connections, and share experiences and learning from different academic perspectives, including the professional schools.

What's the most important thing for students to know about the recently launched Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement?

That it will significantly increase the diversity and breadth of global engagement and provide a centralized resource for students.

What would you say to a student who's uncertain whether to pursue a global opportunity?

I'd talk to them about how we live in an increasingly interconnected world. And how, to fully participate in that world, it's important to increase their cross-cultural understanding and explore the array of global engagement opportunities available. That includes here in New York — a truly global city! — on campus and abroad. Short-term international experiences, global-themed courses, research opportunities and internships are great alternatives to completing a traditional semester-long study abroad program.



COURTESY SHANNON MARQUEZ

Did you study abroad or have another kind of international experience as an undergrad?

No, but I completed the seventh, eighth and ninth grades in Japan before returning to the U.S. to complete my last three years of high school. Because I attended an international school while I was there, in addition to learning about Japanese culture, I was also able to build relationships with students from many different backgrounds and cultures — from Europe, Africa, the Americas and other Asian countries. It gave me a solid foundation to develop my interests in exploring the interconnections between people and places around the world.

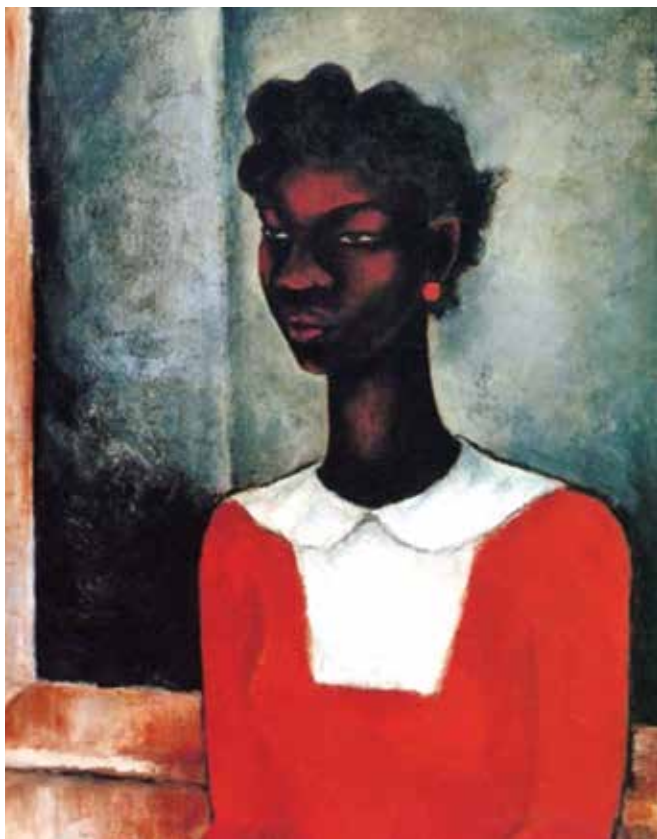
The Painter Who Wouldn't Be Pigeonholed

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

Pulitzer Prize-winning critic Emily Genauer once remarked that a certain artist refused to be pigeonholed. "I don't know whether she meant it as a criticism," responded Charles Alston CC 1929, TC'31 — the artist in question and a player in the Harlem Renaissance — "but I always thought it hit it right on the head."

Across more than 40 years, Alston indeed wouldn't be pigeonholed. "I'll do very realistic things," he said, "and very far-out avant garde things." But in general his milieu was the black experience, drawn from many walks of life. Alston painted and sculpted for individuals and institutions, illustrated for newspapers and magazines, pursued his own keenly felt projects and conveyed his expertise in the classroom. He exuded, said Robert Beverly Hale CC 1923, former curator of American art and sculpture at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, "imagination, zest and enchantment, sensitivity and grace, reverence, wonder and awe."

Alston was more modest: "I think primarily I'm a figure painter and I'm concerned about people."



Girl in a Red Dress, 1934

The son of a reverend in Charlotte, N.C., "Spinky" Alston moved with his family to New York City during WWI. At Columbia, he joined Alpha Phi Alpha and drew for *Spectator* and *Jester*. But Alston's real extracurricular life was conducted north of campus. "The 135th Street corner was our meeting place," he remembered. "You'd go into Hotcha and Bobby Henderson was playing the piano, Billie Holiday was singing. You'd go across Lenox Avenue to the little bar across from Harlem Hospital and Art Tatum was playing the piano. Ethel Waters was there. The place just jumped."

During the 1930s and '40s, Alston contributed to *Fortune*, *Mademoiselle*, *Collier's* and other major magazines. His October 6, 1934, cover of *The New Yorker* depicts a janitor conducting a stage full of empty chairs and deserted music stands. He designed a Duke Ellington album cover and book jackets for Eudora Welty and Langston Hughes CC 1925. During WWII, he drew inspirational cartoons for the Office of War Information that appeared in more than 200 black newspapers. Alston made as much as \$25,000 annually in commercial art. But he yearned for greater self-expression.

"Finally," he recalled, "I said to my wife, 'I can't do this anymore.'" His first year after abandoning the commercial world, around 1947, was "pretty tough," he admitted. "If I made two thousand bucks I did well." Still, Alston stuck with it, taking commissions both private and public.

Throughout his professional life, he conveyed many forms of black identity. *Midnight Vigil* vividly features a dozen gatherers at a deathbed in a cabin with a potbellied stove; some are mourning, others are exhorting. His mural *The Negro in California History: Exploration and Colonization* depicts events ranging from 1527 to 1850. Among the subjects are ex-slaves; Biddy Mason, a pioneering businesswoman and philanthropist; and explorer James Beckwourth, who discovered a crucial path through the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Alston's 1970 bronze bust of Martin Luther King Jr. was the first image of an African American displayed at the White House.

Alston did not shirk from bold statements. In 1936 he composed *Magic in Medicine* and *Modern Medicine* for the Works Progress Administration's (WPA) Federal Art Project (he also was the project's first African-American supervisor). These two murals, for Harlem Hospital, compared and contrasted holistic curing in Africa



Charles Alston CC 1929, TC'31

ANDREW HERMAN

with black physicians being trained in new Western methods — but they were initially rejected for “too much Negro subject matter.”

In 1933, Alston executed a charcoal sketch of a black man, noose around his neck, lying helpless before an exultant white lyncher holding his bloody, severed penis. “We stared at the powerful image in a shared silence,” recalled educator and mediator Lemoine D. Pierce upon seeing it with Alston more than 35 years later.

However, Alston rejected artistic distinctions based on race. “I would hate to think that I was in an exhibition because I’m black, rather than because I am a good painter,” he told Robert Doty, curator of the Whitney Museum of American Art, in 1971. “Separate exhibitions lead to separate standards, and separate is by nature unequal in a democratic society.” Alston’s palette was color-blind: “I don’t think the standards are black, white, green or whatnot. The thing that makes an African mask great is the thing that makes a great painting by Rembrandt great, really essentially, you know?”

Alston’s most enduring achievement might have been his years of instruction at the Art Students League, City College, Utopia Children’s House and other institutions — including a WPA-funded workshop at his studio at 306 W. 141st St. Known simply as “306,” it was a hothouse for budding Harlem artists. Among his students was 10-year-old Jacob Lawrence. “I am glad I had

the sense at the time to realize that this kid had a very unusual, unique kind of talent,” he said. Lawrence became one of the best-known African-American painters of the 20th century.

Currently at the University’s Wallach Art Gallery is the exhibition “Posing Modernity: The Black Model from Manet and Matisse to Today” (closing February 10). It includes Alston’s 1934 oil *Girl in a Red Dress*. The title subject, wrote Alvia J. Wardlaw of Texas Southern University, conveys such

“engaging intellect,” “serious self-confidence” and “thoughtful maturity” that she constitutes “a symbol of the Harlem Renaissance.” She reflects Alston’s aesthetic.

“Before you’re a painter,” he said nine years prior to his death in 1977, “you’re a human being and you’re involved in what happens.”



Midnight Vigil, 1936



JAIME DANIES SEAS '20

DidYouKnow?

The Yule Log Tradition Is More Than 100 Years Old

In 1910, President Nicholas Murray Butler CC 1882 decided to have a gathering during winter break to create a home-away-from-home holiday atmosphere for the students staying on campus. A December 19, 1910, *Spectator* article predicted how the elaborate Christmas Day celebration would unfold: “The Dean [Frederick A. Goetze] has arrived and an expectant hush has fallen over the group about him at the fire place — the lights are low. The doors burst open and in come four men dragging the Yule log whereupon the musicians play the ancient Yule log anthem, during which the log has been placed in the fire place.

“After the song is finished the Dean takes a candle which has been lit from a previous fire and, with appropriate words, lights the fire. As the flames roar up the chimney, taking a loving cup — he toasts the future of Columbia. The cup is then passed in turn to the men who brought in the log (representative students) and after their toasts have been drunk — *Sans Souci* is sung.”

Today, the event is held before winter break so that all students can attend. The celebration still features readings, songs, toasts and, of course, the lighting of the ceremonial log.

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ROAR, LION, ROAR

Running Down a Dream

Women's cross country had a banner season, winning the Ivy League Heptagonal Championship trophy for the second consecutive year. Four Lions ran their way onto the All-Ivy League team, and cross country director Dan Ireland was named Ivy League and Northeast Regional Coach of the Year.

The team also took the NCAA Northeast Regional Championship title, en route to the NCAA Cross

Country National Championships in Madison, Wis., on November 17. Their performance at nationals — coming in 18th of 31 teams — marked the best finish for an Ivy League team



Libby Kokes '19

since 2013. Libby Kokes '19 was the top Columbia runner, finishing the 6K-course in 20:43.6.

Back at the Heps championship, which took place on October 27, Erin Gregoire '19 finished in second place (20:49.3), while Kokes took fourth (20:53.4); both runners' performances earned them spots on the All-Ivy first team. "Going into this race, we knew it was going to be a tough one," Gregoire said, referring to the drenching rain the night before. "This course is all grass and dirt, so it turned



Goalkeeper Dylan Castanheira '19's shut-out performance vs. Penn was one of five this season.

A Winning Season (Again!)

Columbia football captured the Empire State Bowl in a dramatic home victory over Cornell on November 17 — and with that, the team notched its first back-to-back winning seasons since 1961–62.

Hero honors for the day went to wide receiver Mike Roussos '22. Cornell had taken a 21–17 lead with 58 seconds to go when Roussos scooped the ball on a squib kickoff and returned it 87 yards for a touchdown. The Lions defense then held Cornell as the clock ticked down, sealing the comeback and closing out the season on a high note.

Roussos also scored earlier in the game, on a first quarter 91-yard punt return. Other highlights included Chris Alleyne '19's 33-yard field goal — the culmination of a drive set up by an interception by Fara'ad McCombs '22 — and a touchdown run in the fourth quarter by Kyle Castner '19.

"It's such a momentum boost, because you not only have the short-term momentum of winning the game, but you also get a tremendous amount of momentum heading into the off-season and recruiting," said Coach Al Bagnoli. "I couldn't be happier for everyone concerned."

The Lions finished the year with a 6–4 overall record (3–4 Ivy League).

Shut-out King

Soccer's Dylan Castanheira '19 was named Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year and a first team All-Ivy selection, capping a Columbia career that earned him a place as one of the top goalkeepers in Ivy League history.

Castanheira, who hails from Landing, N.J., broke the conference record for career goals against average at 0.513. He went 10–5–1 in net this season, for a four-year total of 33–10–4. He also set a program record with 25 career shut-outs, while posting the second-highest save percentage in Columbia history at 0.841.

Two teammates joined Castanheira on the All-Ivy League first team: forward Dylan Mott '19 and defender Blake Willis '21. Midfielder Danny Laranetto '20, defender Vana Markarian '20 and midfielder Andrew Stevens '22 were named to the second team.

Men's soccer on the whole had a strong season, capturing second place in the Ivy League (5–2) and going 10–5–1 overall. The players had their eyes on the league crown, but lost 2–1 in a heartbreaker season finale against Cornell on November 10. John Denis '20 notched the lone goal, with an assist from Sebastian Gunbeyi '22, but Cornell evened the score to force overtime.



The winter sports season is under way! For the latest, download the Columbia Athletics app or visit gocolumbialions.com.

into a mud pit. We had to prepare last night, but I think that helped ease our stresses and we were excited to go into this as one unified team."

Katie Wasserman '20 came in 11th place at 21:07.7, and Alexandra Hays '21 was 13th at 21:08.5. The pair made the All-Ivy second team.

MY COLUMBIA COLLEGE *Journey*



MICHAEL EDMONSON CC'20

Want to help students learn from the extraordinary experiences of our alumni community?

Reflect on your time at the College, and tell us how your journey helped you grow personally, professionally and as a citizen of the world.

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AYLA
BONFIGLIO '09



STEVE
MARTINEZ '11



KEVIN
TYAN '16



ALEXANDER
DONNELLY '14



RILEY
JONES '17



ADAM
SIEFF '11



KATHERINE
JIN '16



SABAAB
FOLAYAN '13



THOMAS
KAPUSTA '12



KENDALL
TUCKER '14

ONES TO WATCH: THE LION'S PRIDE HONORS

CCT AND CCYA SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON
13 INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG ALUMNI

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALYSSA CARVARA



ANA HELENA
DE OLIVEIRA LOBO '15



GAVIN
NEWTON-TANZER '12



CARLYN
DOUGHERTY '18

A

YEAR AND A HALF AGO, when we began talking with Columbia College Young Alumni about a partnership to spotlight young alumni, we faced an exciting but daunting challenge. The graduates of the past decade number nearly 11,000, spread across the globe. They have climbed literal and figurative mountains, along with pursuing countless other endeavors worthy of report. How would we even begin?

Then we realized, who better to ask about young alumni than the alumni themselves? In March 2018 we put out a call for nominations for our first Lion's Pride, and in the months that followed we were thrilled at the number of names we received. We learned about alumni making waves in industries from education to business, from the arts to science and technology. They were leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs. Their work had a meaningful impact on their communities and the wider world. It also had an impact on the peers who submitted their nominations, which in some ways was the greatest tell — these were alumni who uplifted and awed those around them.

The more we read, the more we realized that we wanted this feature to be more than a list, and to go deeper than biography. We wanted to get to know the Lions behind the successes — what drew them to their work, what challenges they overcame, what kept them motivated — and to bring you *those* stories.

The 13 honorees you'll meet in the next eight pages are doing very different things, but all are creating lives they feel proud of. They are united by their commitment and passion. And they all have a lot more up their sleeves. We hope you find their stories as inspirational as we do.

— The Editors



The Problem Solver

As a senior, **Carlyn Dougherty '18, SEAS'19** signed up for Hacking for Defense (H4D), a class where students tackle actual problems posed by the Department of Defense and U.S. intelligence agencies. The computer science major thought it was "a perfect chance to do a more practical application of the things I'd learned and build something real-world."

Today, that practical application — an app she and classmates developed for use by the military — is on its way to saving lives.

It's an exciting time for Dougherty, who's pursuing a master's in machine learning at

Columbia. She also founded a company with her H4D partners (three from GS and two from SIPA) to back their app, CasTaC, short for Casualty Triage and Communication.

Dougherty's H4D experience began with a broad question: How can communications on the battlefield be improved? After interviewing about 150 people in the military community, she and her team decided they'd work specifically to ease the inefficient information exchange around battlefield injuries.

The current system, Dougherty says, amounts to a chain of medical care where notes about

patients are scribbled on a card, then handed off from medics on the ground, to helicopter medivacs, to doctors. “The cards get ripped, get bloody, things aren’t written down at all,” she says. Most of the time, too, these situations occur in areas without preexisting (or secure) satellite infrastructure. Some radios might be available for medical purposes, but messages compete for an operator’s time, and information easily becomes garbled.

CasTaC avoids those drawbacks by piggybacking on something called line of sight communication, where military members are equipped with Android devices that can talk back and forth so long as they’re in view of each other. Medics can use the app to

input data once they’re relieved of caring for patients; medivacs in turn can alert doctors to who’s incoming. “Sutures can be prepped, medicine put into syringes — it’s that little bit of time that can help them save lives, ideally,” Dougherty says.

The team has applied for grants and is working with the federal government to move toward field testing. Along the way they’ve presented to Congress and met with veterans. “They’ve seen how issues like this get ignored on a lot of levels,” says Dougherty. “But when you have the kind of intellectual heft we have at Columbia, being able to solve problems that have meaning — or at least make the attempt — is really important.”



The Change Agent

Ayla Bonfiglio '09 wants to change the stories that students hear in the classroom — about their histories, their wars, their cultures and their people.

That’s the mission at the heart of the Conflict and Education Learning Laboratory, a foundation co-created by Bonfiglio with a global mission: to forge an international agreement to reduce divisive stereotypes in textbooks. CELL focuses more on research than advocacy, and much of its work is gathering the evidence to galvanize change. In this case, by studying discriminatory educational content and its impact on prolonging or inciting conflict and violence.

Education is a civic project, says Bonfiglio, “but we also know the saying that history is written by the victors.” Take for example the differences in how Israeli and Palestinian textbooks narrate shared events, or portrayals in the United States of its past with Native Americans. “It’s not always a blatant stereotype or slur against an outsider group,” she says. “It can also be the complete omission of history.”

Persuading leaders that their countries need reforms like this can be sensitive, Bonfiglio adds, “but that’s where having an international focus helps. We’re saying it’s something we all have to do.”

Bonfiglio’s conviction is born of a decade of research into refugee education and forced displacement (she has a master’s from Oxford and is pursuing a Ph.D. at the United Nations University in the Netherlands). Her introduction to the field came as a College student studying

abroad in Uganda. Refugees were arriving from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Somalia, and she began exploring why those living in urban areas were able to become more self-reliant than those in settlements. The biggest determinant, she concluded, was education: “That’s when I first saw how crucial it was to people living in contexts of crisis.” She soon moved from questions of educational access to the influence of the content itself.

Education is a civic project, says Bonfiglio, “but we also know the saying that history is written by the victors.”

All told, Bonfiglio has interviewed nearly 400 refugees. When people are willing to describe their turbulent pasts, with all the pain that entails, she says, “you really have to ask yourself, ‘Why am I doing this?’ It should hold you more accountable to actually trying to create something that effects change.”

CELL was officially launched during a meeting of UNESCO’s executive board in October 2016 and has since formed partnerships with organizations worldwide. “We are very young,” Bonfiglio says, “but all this support, I think, is testament to the fact that we have an important issue here and one worth fighting for.”



The Inventors

As two-thirds of the biotech company Kinnos, **Kevin Tyan '16** and **Katherine Jin '16** received their first patent for their groundbreaking product Highlight in August.

Highlight is a decontaminant solution created to protect health care workers and patients from infections. As a color additive mixed into disinfectants like bleach, Highlight turns the disinfectant blue and modifies it; when sprayed or wiped, the disinfectant spreads and adheres to waterproof surfaces. The color fades in real time to indicate that decontamination is complete.

The product was born in October 2014 after the pair — along with Jason Kang SEAS'16 — decided to enter Columbia's Design Challenge, "Confronting the Ebola Crisis."

The charge: to conceive inexpensive, tech-driven solutions to meet the obstacles posed by the epidemic. As biology majors (Jin double-majored with computer science) it was a topic they were all interested in. "The idea was to address a very simple problem — you can't really see what you're doing when you're disinfecting," Tyan says. "If you can make the process as visceral and obvious as possible, you can make a big impact and protect people on the front lines of these outbreaks."

Still, the trio didn't expect Highlight to gain as much traction as it did. In December 2014, they formed Kinnos, and won third place in the Columbia Venture Competition's Undergraduate Challenge, with a prize of \$10,000. Kinnos was also chosen as a winner of the U.S. Agency for International Development's grant, "Fighting Ebola: A Grand Challenge for Development."

The team worked on iterations, made research trips to West Africa, studied patents and got up to speed on fundraising while still undergraduates. "One of the most defining features of working in a startup is you basically are in constant crisis mode," Jin says. "Things change quickly, opportunities arise suddenly and you need to move fast to keep up momentum. You must always be ready to adapt and move forward."

Tyan, now in his first year at Harvard Medical School, grew up near the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., and was a crew chief for Columbia's EMS corps. "I don't think a lot of people knew how vulnerable the Ebola health care workers were during the crisis," he says. "These are people who are putting themselves in harm's way to try to curb the outbreak. A lot of them had been stigmatized for working with Ebola, and they weren't welcome back in their homes. So it felt really rewarding to create a tool that would make their lives easier."

While at the College, Jin, originally from Louisiana, served as a campus coordinator for Harlem Hospital Health Leads, which enables health care, community and government organizations to share resources. "Infection prevention is a vitally important part of the health care system, but also one of the most overlooked," she says. "The repercussions can be catastrophic. By empowering health care workers to clean more effectively, we can reduce the amount of unnecessary and life-threatening infections that affect populations worldwide."

Kinnos now has patents pending on additional formulas of Highlight and are launching the technology for hospitals and other health care facilities in the United States.

Is it an accident that the Highlight powder is Columbia blue? The team had considered a few other colors, but Tyan notes, "Blue has a calming sense, a connotation of cleanliness. It wound up being the perfect chemical reaction."

"I don't think a lot of people knew how vulnerable the Ebola health care workers were during the crisis, so it felt really rewarding to create a tool that would make their lives easier."

The Civic Soldier

The first thing to know about **Adam Sieff '11** is that he believes in giving back — deeply. The reason he joined his Los Angeles law firm was its commitment to pro bono work, and within weeks of starting he was cold-calling nonprofit civil rights organizations to ask how he could help.

Today, as an attorney with Latham & Watkins, Sieff donates hundreds of hours each year to volunteer cases. He's currently representing a group of soldiers challenging President Trump's ban on transgender military service, and has joined with the NAACP to eliminate racial inequities among three school districts in one of North Carolina's most rural, low-wealth counties. "There is vast inequality in who gets educational opportunities and why, and [working] to make meaningful differences in the kind of adequate education that young people in poor communities are given — that strikes me with a moral urgency," he says.

Sieff's sense of civic duty shapes more than his professional life. He regularly volunteers in his community and advocates for causes he believes in; lately that's included immigration rights and helping L.A.'s homeless. All his work is getting noticed: Last summer he was honored as an emerging civic leader by the Empowerment Congress, an organization dedicated to engaging and supporting Los Angeles County's Second Supervisorial District.

That kind of hyperlocal impact is one of the most rewarding aspects of Sieff's work, he says — even more so because he grew up in L.A.'s San Fernando Valley. His ideas about service took root as a result of both his faith and family upbringing: "In Judaism, we talk about how the world is broken and even though we know we can't put it all back together again, we strive to do just that anyway." Columbia furthered his understanding of what it would mean for him to



live a meaningful life. "Ultimately what I drew was that I wanted to make a difference in the community I came from. It held a purpose for me."

Sieff readily admits to the frustrations of slow-moving government and legal systems. But he tries to stay inspired. "When you're at trial there's a saying: 'A brick is not a wall.' But all you need is brick by brick, get the evidence down — it's the same concept," he says. "You have faith in the belief that if you string together enough little wins, you'll get somewhere."

The Sports Guy

ESPN producer **Steve Martinez '11** is living his dream. It took a lot of hard work — and he's not stopping yet — but for now, as one of the hands behind the basketball show *The Jump*, it's the dream. "I picture myself being a kid at home who would watch it," he says, sounding not unlike a

delighted kid himself. "If I was a teenager at this time I'd be rushing home every day to watch this show I get to make."

Martinez basically *was* that teenager. He grew up a superfan in Washington Heights — the Knicks' 1994 title run was a seminal childhood experience — and was a TV anchor and sports reporter for his high school. He majored in film studies, then beelined for ESPN after graduation. After four years as a researcher, his basketball expertise earned him an invitation to join a small team developing a new show. *The Jump*, launched in 2016, was so successful it was quickly promoted from a 30-minute seasonal series on ESPN2 to a daily, year-round program on the network's main channel. By the end of 2017, *Sports Illustrated* was calling it the smartest basketball show on television.

What sets *The Jump* apart, Martinez says, is the team's understanding of tone and ability to shift between topics. "We're serious when we need to be — we can cover sexual assault allegations against the CEO

of a team — but we can also handle the humorous stories of the game." And while life on deadline is stressful, as is working in live television, Martinez isn't complaining. As he sees it, his job is to put a plan in place that works, but also be able to deal with the inevitable misfire: "If your knowledge of your subject is strong enough then it shouldn't be an issue."

Martinez — who kept the press credentials from the first game he covered at Madison Square Garden, as a reminder of how far he's come — says one of his focuses is inclusive content that embraces diversity. He cites a Hispanic Heritage Month segment that covered how basketball has taken off in Guatemala thanks to expat college students who bring it home with them. "We showed middle-aged Guatemalan women playing full-court basketball; it's incredible," he says. "That's part of the reason I love sports — how it connects and unites people. That's what I try to do in a small way every day: bring people together, make them happy about something that they enjoy."





The Expat Entrepreneur

As an undergraduate, **Gavin Newton-Tanzer '12** co-founded a nonprofit, Global China Connection, to foster exchange opportunities between U.S. and Chinese university students.

Fair warning: This is not that story (though GCC has since grown to thousands of members worldwide). But from that experience came Newton-Tanzer's next act, Sunrise International Education, which since 2012 has flourished at what was once an unlikely enterprise — bringing extracurricular activities to Chinese students.

As Newton-Tanzer explains, through his work with GCC, he began noticing a trend. Families would ask him about his path to college, and his honest assessment — he wasn't good at standardized tests, but was a jazz pianist and heavily invested in clubs and especially debate

— brought “blank stares.” “Extracurriculars were not a thing,” he adds. “Kids would literally be in school until 6 or 7 p.m., and then they had late-night study.”

At the time, he says, wealthy Chinese families were beginning to look more seriously at having their children educated in the United States. But that meant adapting to an admissions process that was rounded in its considerations — a sharp difference from China's notoriously tough universal entrance exam.

Newton-Tanzer saw an opportunity. Focusing on debate as a way to engage and help students think outside academics, he and a business partner began setting up tournaments around the country, offering to train students for free if they participated. From seven tournaments



The Documentarian

Sabaah Folayan '13 may not have planned to be a documentary filmmaker, but she's already making a splash. Her directorial debut, *Whose Streets?*, premiered at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival and was acquired by Magnolia Pictures; the film chronicles the August 2014 protests in Ferguson, Mo., sparked by the shooting death of Michael Brown Jr.

Folayan, born and raised in Los Angeles, thought she would be a physician. After getting her degree in biology, she started the applications for medical school but found the process dehumanizing. So she moved toward public policy and became a strategic planner at the Osborne Association, which helps formerly incarcerated people put their lives back together. Always a writer, she realized she had a knack for interviewing. “I also realized how powerful and cathartic these conversations could be,” she says.

Folayan knew there were stories to be told from the protests in Ferguson, so she and a College friend, cinematographer Lucas Alvarado-Farrar '13, traveled there to do interviews for a report on the public health implications. “With the police and protestors facing off like they were, it was going to cause PTSD in the community,” she says.

Arriving at the chaotic scene, Folayan quickly realized it was not the time or place for multiple-choice questions about mood, appetite and sleeping habits. “We started doing interviews on camera and it quickly became obvious that we had to keep documenting this,” she says. “Then it became a matter of learning on the spot how to make a documentary.”

With no funding at all the first year, making the film was a challenge. “I was paying out of pocket, sleeping on couches, taking small jobs here and there — ruining my résumé in order to keep doing this,” she says. Folayan and her team got their first grant in August 2015, then raised a quarter-million dollars at a documentary funding event that October.

Despite the obstacles, Folayan — who received a “30 Under 30” nod from *Forbes* last year — is now on the right path; her next project is about the Equal Rights Amendment. “When you can make a film that's very emotionally driven, it gives people the opportunity to see themselves reflected,” she says. “For people of color, *Whose Streets?* was a chance to reflect the dignity that's in struggle and in protest. I'm motivated by trying to give a voice to people who are not usually heard.”

that first year, Sunrise today runs more than 50 annually; its offerings have also expanded to include extracurriculars ranging from robotics to arts programs. All of the programs are grounded in the idea of nurturing communities of like-minded students and giving them a platform to demonstrate their knowledge.

Newton-Tanzer and his partner are no longer on the front lines of travel and teaching; their Beijing team numbers just under 100, and they've dedicated themselves to pushing into new arenas. One example: Sunrise is helping non-Chinese universities communicate with prospective students and families (hosting websites, running social media); it's their solution to China's "great firewall," which blocks access to select foreign websites.

Sunrise is helping non-Chinese universities communicate with prospective students and families; it's their solution to China's "great firewall."

Why China? Newton-Tanzer credits his high school language tutor, a U.N. interpreter, with opening his eyes to the opportunities that come from "being able to facilitate dialogue and communication between two great powers."

At 18, Newton-Tanzer boarded a plane for a gap year in Beijing: "I was completely unprepared," he says with a laugh. But he was clearly on his way.



The Personal Pollster

Kendall Tucker '14 is ready for real conversation, and she's betting the rest of America is, too.

That's the premise behind Tucker's data tech company, Polis, which is collecting information about people the old-fashioned way: by knocking on doors.

"The pendulum has swung heavily toward digital and digital outreach," says the Boston-based CEO. "And I believe it's swinging back pretty heavily to seeing people as people, putting down devices and having conversations in person."

"Unlike groups that are stealing data," Tucker adds, she believes in an up-front approach and in-depth interviewing. "People can tell us, 'Hey, these are the groups I want to come talk to me, and these are some groups I don't.' And by knowing what people actually care about, we can contact them in respectful, impactful ways."

Where Polis gives pavement pounding an innovative twist is in its app, which essentially turns the data it gathers into interactive neighborhood maps for businesses and political campaigns. Users are given ideal routes, with dots for every home where Polis has been; click, and they get demographic info and learn about the issues that matter to residents and whether they're likely to be receptive to the

service — or idea — being pitched. It even offers scripts based on what's likely to make the interaction more effective.

Tucker, who majored in political science, founded Polis in 2015 purely as a tool for political canvassing. (The idea stemmed from her own frustrations as someone who had volunteered for campaigns and found the door-to-door approach to be both ineffective and inefficient.) By the end of 2016, the app had been picked up by roughly 150 campaigns, notably that of Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson. Its success earned attention from *Forbes* to *The Washington Post* and *Today*, and soon for-profit businesses began calling. At the time, Polis wasn't designed for them, but Tucker and her team decided to take on the challenge. Today, much of the company's business comes from energy, telecommunications and security companies.

All told, the Polis team has knocked on 10 million doors. Their goal is to speak to all 300 million Americans in the next five years. It's ambitious, but that's what excites Tucker. "We have a vision of the world functioning in a different way, and a team that's incredibly committed to the mission. It's been a really exciting journey."



The Producers

Like several other Lion's Pride honorees, **Thomas Kapusta '12** (left) and **Alexander Donnelly '14** created something new by asking themselves an ambitious question: "Hey, why don't we ...?" In this case, their vision was to launch an independent theater forum that values artistic collaboration over commercial success. Now in its third year, The Corkscrew Theater Festival presents new work by early-career artists during four weeks at the Paradise Factory Theater in the East Village.

Kapusta and Donnelly founded Corkscrew in 2017, taking advantage of the opportunity created when the popular New York International Fringe Festival went on hiatus for a year. "We realized the time was now to fix the festival process and make it more artist centric," Donnelly says. "There are a lot of people who can't raise the money to put on a show at Fringe and we didn't want that to be a hindrance to genuinely good art that was out there."

The two met at The Brewing Department, a theater company Kapusta founded with four other College alumni in 2013. The group operated for four years, producing the work of its collective members.

Kapusta was a director, and Donnelly, who worked on Wall Street, did fundraising and producing.

After the other Brewing Department founders split off to pursue graduate school, Kapusta says, "I was left with a moment of 'What would happen if I turned the collaborative mission outward and solicited submissions from the community beyond this group?' That's when Alex and I first started talking about this, and we just sort of started dreaming about what we could make."

They wanted to create a forum that was small enough to be hands on but big enough to provide meaningful exposure for rising artists. They decided on a name ("Corkscrew" represents turning potential energy into kinetic energy), put together an application and began doing outreach for submissions. "We hoped we'd get five — we ended up getting around 70 submissions our first year," Kapusta says. In their second year they had three times that amount.

"We go out of our way to find people who are working in robust collaborative models," Kapusta says. "If you start with that premise — that we can do more together than we can do apart — people really live up to that challenge."

Donnelly and Kapusta both have had theatrical leanings since childhood. Kapusta performed in plays at school in Wappingers Falls, N.Y., and at the College realized this was the work he wanted to do. For Donnelly, who grew up in New City, N.Y., theater was his reward for getting good grades. He worked on shows in high school, and though he majored in financial economics at the College, acted in musicals and performed in the Varsity Show.

Their collective experiences shaped the vision of the warm, collaborative space they wanted to create, and the two are thrilled by what they've already achieved. And now that Fringe is back on, they're not worried. "[Fringe will] still be very good at what they do, which is producing a massive festival," Donnelly says. "We want to be more curated. Corkscrew is a true incubator — we're the place where artists can come to genuinely feel supported for their work."

"I get a lot of joy from encouraging artists to see their vision into reality, and from working together to achieve a collective perspective on the world," Kapusta says. "In *King Lear*, Lear says, 'Nothing comes from nothing,' but with theater, something comes from nothing — it's magic. We can do that."

**"In *King Lear*,
Lear says,
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The Altruist CEO

Riley Jones '17 understands that the right intervention at the right time can change a person's life. He came to Columbia from Chicago's South Side via a Questbridge scholarship for low-income students; while still an undergrad, Jones became the CEO for BLOC, a coaching company that empowers young people of color to build fulfilling careers.

In 2014, when Jones was a sophomore, he learned through the College's Black Students Organization about a career and identity conference being held at Princeton. "The conference was *amazing*," he says. "I told the woman who organized it I wanted to help plan the next one. She asked me to join its new team."

Jones quickly became a leader, and the first BLOC conference was held in November 2015 in New York City. More than 500 students from across the country attended. "We called it 'Uprising' — our goal was to give students a platform to

have the conversation about diversity in the workplace," he says. The conference focused on tech jobs but also included panels on academia, medicine, business and law.

After Uprising's success, the BLOC team was ready for more, and they had their work cut out for them. "There are statistics about how hard it is to get venture capital for POC and WOC founders," he says. "It's a challenge getting in front of people who want to support what we're doing. We had to think out of the box." Jones took advantage of the fact that he was a student to start conversations with potential donors: "Many people find students non-threatening and non-intrusive," he says. "And people take me more seriously now that I'm in law school."

Jones is studying social entrepreneurship at NYU Law — the idea that you can do well financially and do good for the world at the same time. "You can have social impact built into your business model," he says.



Three years later, BLOC is thriving — and getting noticed; *Forbes* added Jones and his co-founder, Amina Yamusah, to its 2019 "30 Under 30" Social Entrepreneurs list in November. The company is now considering how to improve job prospects for other marginalized people, such as the formerly incarcerated, or young people who grew up in the foster care system. "There are people who have to hold these identities and navigate the workplace," Jones says. "We're focused on how to use data to empower them rather than displace them."

The STEM Educator

Ana Helena de Oliveira Lobo '15 is (literally!) expanding universes for young women. Lobo, a Ph.D. candidate in planetary atmospheres at CalTech, is the founder of the WLF Program, which provides free STEM education to girls in

developing countries and prepares them for careers in the sciences.

Launched in July 2018, WLF had more than 50 teenage girls sign up for its first program in Londrina, Brazil. During the course of a week, Lobo taught the attendees an intensive calculus course, with computer science, astronomy and planetary science lectures included. At the end, the students were tested; the majority scored a B or above. "Their performance way exceeded my expectations for what we could accomplish in a week," Lobo says.

Lobo was inspired to develop WLF after experiencing sexism in her own education. As a high school student in Brazil, there was little encouragement for women to study science — there were no female science teachers in any field, and male teachers could be condescending. "They referred to boys as 'talented' and girls as 'hard workers,'" she says. Lobo received lessons in math and physics from her mother, a researcher, and majored in astronomy and earth sciences at the College.

"I'd had the idea before I left Columbia that I would eventually do something to support other young women," she says. "Watching the political climate here and in Brazil, it seemed like it couldn't wait. As a graduate student I now have the skills necessary to teach, and I was prepared to give back — that was reason enough to get started." Lobo wanted to serve in communities outside major cities, where she felt STEM opportunities were really lacking. "The lack of role models is a big deal," Lobo says. "In the U.S., while there are still a lot of challenges for women in science, we're very active about talking about it. The reality is that here [in Brazil], a lot of these girls don't know that these fields exist."

Lobo is also experimenting with mentorship and empowering techniques that will boost girls' confidence as well as their skills. WLF is moving forward with a second course series, expanded to two weeks, scheduled for this July.





THE MIND OF A SCIENTIST

By Matthew Hutson

University Professor
Dr. Richard Axel '67
is on a quest for
knowledge across
multiple disciplines

Photographs by
Jörg Meyer

Dr. Richard Axel '67 in
his Manhattanville office.



Dr. Richard Axel '67 attributes the path of his Nobel-Prize-winning career, in part, to a Dutch mail van.

In the 1940s, biologist Nikolaas Tinbergen found that male stickleback fish would attack the sides of their tank at noon. That happened to be when the mail van, with its red bottom and white top — just like a rival male stickleback — would drive by. In the 1980s, Axel, a mid-career molecular biologist with a budding interest in innate behavior, learned of the anecdote in a journal article and read on, discovering other programmed behavior in the stickleback, including the fact that females who'd never seen a red male were attracted to them. Behavior, he knew, was controlled by the brain. "That was the final observation that drove me into neuroscience," he says.

Axel, now a professor of biochemistry and co-director of Columbia's Zuckerman Institute, has a knack for combining fields, like following the trail from molecular biology into neuroscience. Working with people from other areas has served him, and science, well. In 2004, he shared a Nobel Prize for work on the neuroscience of odor perception.

Axel's self-narrative contains many contingencies and inflection points, and he credits various mentors with shaping him. "It was a combination of my passions and people who were extremely important in guiding a young boy," he says. "My parents were

great, but they were not educated. The idea of me becoming a scientist was not within their lexicon."

When asked if he would have ended up where he is without various nudges, he deploys a sly mix of humor and humility. "No. Maybe I would own a kosher delicatessen. I would've enjoyed that."

Distinguishing nature from nurture can be hard, but one gets the sense Axel would have been successful under many conditions — maybe even Nobel successful. "He's a remarkable intellect across all fields," says his close collaborator Larry Abbott Ph.D., co-director of Columbia's Center for Theoretical Neuroscience and principal investigator at the Zuckerman Institute. "He knows everything to a first approximation. He knows art, he knows the theater, he knows novels and he can quote poetry at any moment." Not to be dismissed: "He also has an incredible fund of jokes. So that makes him fun to be around, because he has so much in his head and sooner or later it comes out."

Growing up in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, Axel started working at 11, delivering false teeth to dentists. One of his early nudges toward the life of an intellectual came in middle school. At the time he was keen on basketball, but his principal pushed him to attend Stuyvesant H.S., an establishment for those gifted academically but not necessarily athletically. In one game, he faced an opponent who put his hand in front of Axel's face and said, "What are you going to do, Einstein?" before scoring 54 points to Axel's 2. (That player was Lew Alcindor, who now goes by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.)

As a student in Manhattan, Axel fell in love with the culture, visiting the opera twice a week, studying at the New York Public Library, hanging out with artists in the Village. When Columbia offered him a full scholarship, he accepted in order to stay close to his family and to continue the big city experience. Without ignoring the arts, he focused more on his books, especially literature.

"I really feel Columbia shaped me," he said during a recent visit to his lab. "It was during that period that my quest for knowledge was born, and they nourished it beautifully. It was a very exciting time, the '60s. We were learning amidst turmoil. And, as there is now, there were real greats, Moses Hadas [GSAS'30], Jacques Barzun [CC 1927, GSAS'32], Lionel Trilling [CC 1925, GSAS'38], Meyer Shapiro [CC 1924, GSAS'35]. These were really great humanists."

More happenstance: To support himself, Axel found a job washing glassware in a medical lab. The process by which DNA makes RNA, which then makes proteins, was being worked out, and it entranced the young Axel. "It was clear that all of the information necessary to create life over billions of years resided in the order of bases in DNA," Axel

Axel and research technician Julia Barasch '17 in the lab at Columbia's Zuckerman Institute.



says. “And now the question was how you decode that information to generate the variations in life. It was a spectacular problem and it was being torn apart by very elegant experiments.” His curiosity surpassed his facility with flasks, so he was fired and rehired as a research assistant. The laboratory head, Bernard Weinstein, fed his hunger, and Axel decided to pursue biology over literature.

Axel went off to medical school at Johns Hopkins, but he was no better with scalpels and stethoscopes than with beakers. At one point he sutured a surgeon’s finger to a patient. He writes in an autobiographical essay on the Nobel Prize website: “I was allowed to graduate medical school early with an M.D. if I promised never to practice medicine on live patients. I returned to Columbia as an intern in Pathology, where I kept this promise by performing autopsies. After a year in Pathology, I was asked by [the department chair] never to practice on dead patients.”

Axel returned to Columbia for a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular biology. Because he’d gone to medical school to avoid the draft — he calls himself a “yellow beret” — he owed the government two years of work and went to the National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, Md., for a second postdoc. Finally, in 1974, he returned to Columbia once again, this time as a professor.

One of Axel’s early discoveries paid off handsomely. In the mid-1970s, researchers were developing recombinant DNA technology, the ability to move genes from one organism to another. Axel and two colleagues found a way to place a gene in a eukaryotic cell — one with a nucleus — and make sure that it succeeded in producing proteins. “That turned out to open up a whole new arena of both biology and biotechnology,” Axel says, allowing for innovative protein therapies and discoveries about the genetic basis of disease. “It was really exciting.” At the time people accused him of playing God for mixing distinct species, but recombinant DNA is now used regularly, with Axel’s patents netting the University close to a billion dollars.

Instead of endlessly generating scientific papers out of the discovery, Axel moved on, often led into new areas by his students and postdocs. He didn’t know anything about immunology when a young immunologist named Dan Littman joined his lab. They stumbled upon the gene for the receptor to which HIV binds, “an interesting observation of some importance,” Axel adds. A modest assessment, as that observation has led to the potential for new treatments for AIDS patients.

In the 1980s, Axel began talking with University Professor and the Kavli Professor of Brain Science Eric Kandel, the neuroscientist who would win a Nobel Prize in 2000 for his work on memory. The two, bored in faculty meetings, would hold side discussions

on biology. Axel wondered whether there was a place in neuroscience for a molecular geneticist. That’s when he came across the story of the Dutch mail van and the innate responses of those stickleback fish. “That led me to think that you are building a perceptual system through evolution,” he says, “and how do you build those? You build those with genes.” He made himself comfortable in yet another discipline, neuroscience.

Axel was fascinated by how brains can create rich representations of the world using just the activation of neurons. As a molecular geneticist entering neuroscience, he felt that the sense most amenable to his expertise was olfaction. How are we able to recognize such a wide variety of molecules that we identify as odors?

“He’s a remarkable intellect across all fields. He knows everything to a first approximation. He knows art, he knows the theater, he knows novels and he can quote poetry at any moment.”

Somehow we can detect thousands or millions of distinct smells in the world. Axel figured such a skill would require receptors for many different odor molecules, and those receptors would require many genes.

In 1982, a “tenacious” researcher named Linda Buck joined his lab, Axel says. When he set his sights on olfaction, she began working with “thoughtfulness and intensity” to identify genes for odorant receptors. Buck worked on the problem for six years as they took lots



Axel’s team uses genetics to manipulate and observe neurons in the brains of flies, and there are thousands of different genotypes in the lab. The flies live in the vials with food at the bottom.

of missteps, finding genes that met maybe one criterion but not others. “And then she came up with a very clever experimental design,” Axel says, “and very late one night she walked into my office and showed me a set of data that revealed the existence of an extremely large family of genes that exhibited the properties one would expect for odorant receptor genes. And the remarkable thing was there were a lot of them.”

They didn’t know quite how many at the time, but today the count stands at more than 1,000 mammalian genes for olfactory receptors. That’s the largest family of genes in a human genome of 25,000 genes.

“When we explored the data together,” Axel says, “I fell silent for an extremely long time. I was so impressed with the thoughtfulness of the experiment and the power of the result. At that moment my head

called optogenetics, which allows scientists to make particular cells active or inactive by shining light on them. With this technique, Axel has shown that deactivating regions of a mouse’s amygdala prevents it from avoiding fox urine — usually a red-alert smell. But activate the regions, and even without exposing it to urine the mouse goes running. Together, the reactions demonstrate the amygdala is essential to processing innate odor responses.

The olfactory bulb also sends signals to the piriform cortex, an area of the brain that processes learned associations. This pathway especially interests Axel. “The really important questions are how you impose meaning on a particular representation in the brain,” he says.

“If I asked you to describe what the odor of an orange meant to you, and you had never seen an orange, it would be a very, very different perceptual event than if you had indeed experienced that odor when you cut an orange while you were sitting in an orange grove on the shore of the Mediterranean with a loving partner. And it’s all of these experiences that give a richness to perception that involve aspects of the brain about which we know rather little — memory, emotion, cognition.”

Answering big scientific questions requires careful experimentation, and on a tour of his lab, Axel asks one of his post-docs, Evan Schaffer Ph.D. GSAS’11, to demonstrate “the toy.” This turns out to be a device that holds a fruit fly to the surface of something

“What’s inspiring about working with him, other than that of course he’s a great scientist and all, is that he has tremendous drive to get to the bottom of the big questions.”

was beginning to formulate models for the function of the olfactory system.” Dozens of potential experiments unfolded before his eyes. “I could see the next decades of our lives employing the genes as a very powerful entree into very complex perceptual problems,” he says. “And that’s where I stand today.” They published their discovery in 1991; 13 years later, once its impact had become clear, Buck and Axel were awarded a Nobel Prize.

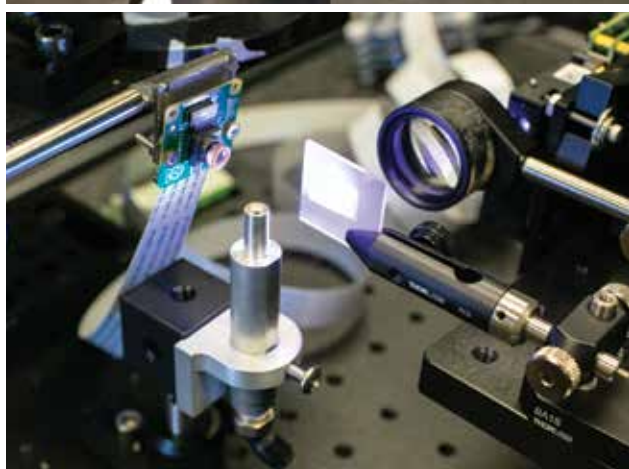
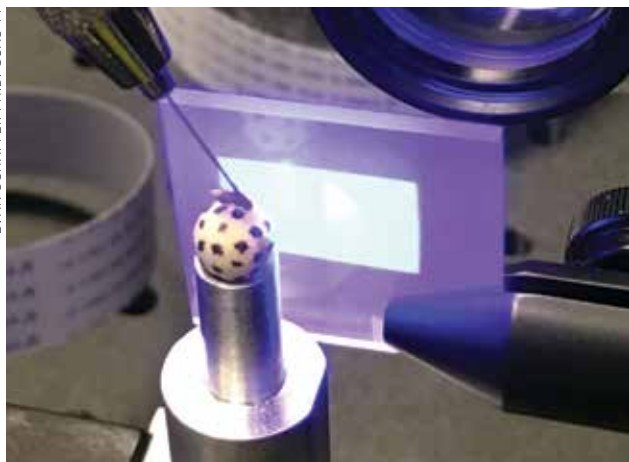
The olfactory system has proven a potent muse for Axel. “What’s occupying me is how the brain accommodates the rich variability in the world, how meaning is imposed.” He notes how, for the French novelist Marcel Proust, “the smell of a madeleine brought forth seven volumes of *Remembrances of Things Past*.” Olfaction is also fascinating to him because smell is the most primal sense; it equips organisms to find food and mates, and to avoid predators.

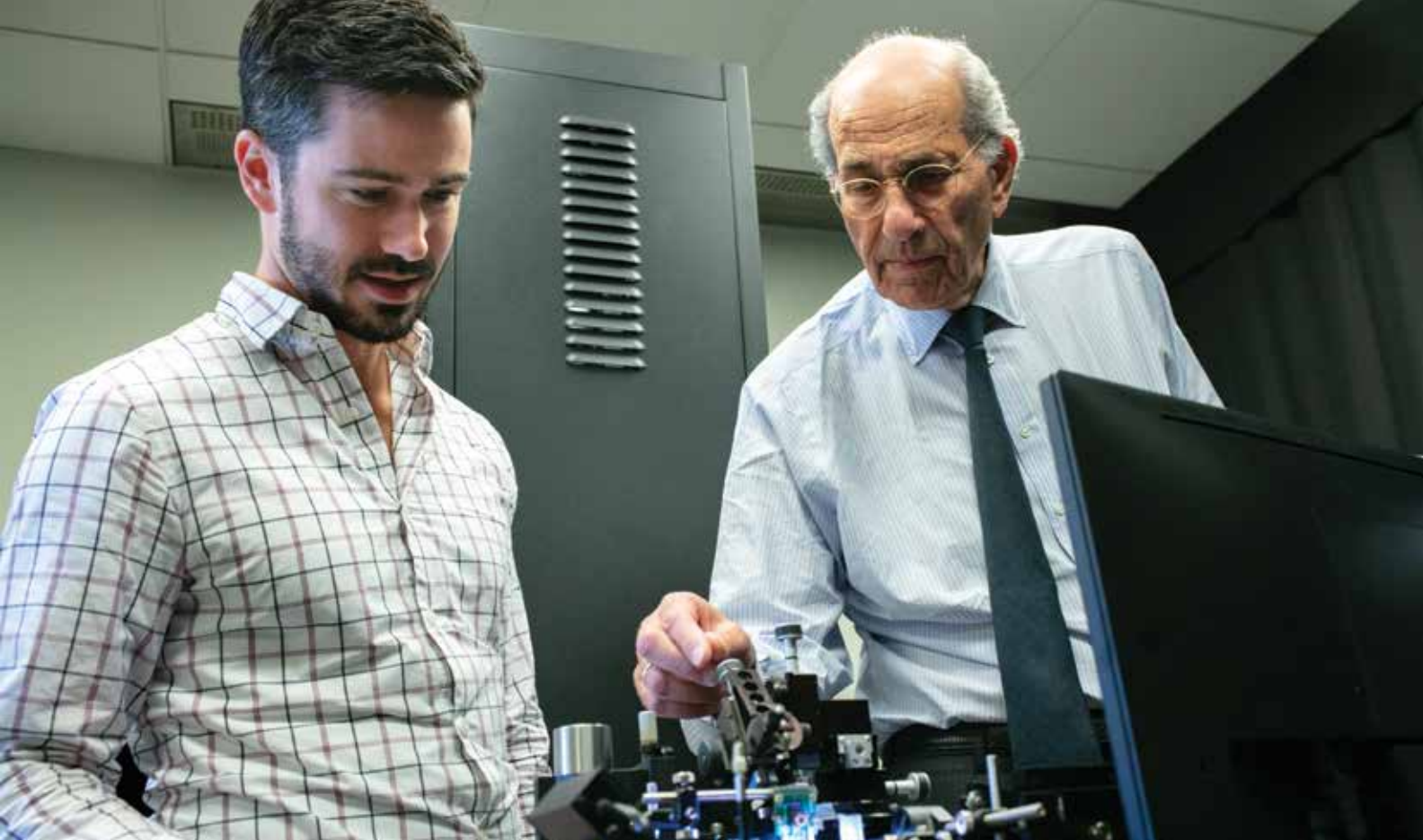
In outlining the perception of odor, Axel’s lab has found that each odor molecule activates a few different receptors scattered randomly in the nose. All of the receptors of a given type, however, transmit signals to their own spot in the olfactory bulb, essentially a waystation in the brain for processing smells. Together these spots form a kind of map of smell-space, so that with advanced imaging, Axel can look at which regions of a rat’s olfactory bulb are active and know what it’s sniffing.

Signals from the olfactory bulb head to several other brain areas, including the amygdala, which triggers innate reactions to certain smells. Lately, Axel’s lab has been using a new experimental method

Details of “the toy,” used to study fear in flies. A small camera (bottom photo, shown in green) records movies of the fly behavior while researchers present visual stimuli onto the small piece of glass.

EVAN SCHAFER PH.D. GSAS’11





Axel working with
Evan Schaffer Ph.D.
GSAS'11.

resembling a track ball. It records the direction a fly crawls as it's bombarded with sights or smells — “basically fly virtual reality,” Schaffer says. At the same time, a microscope called SCAPE, developed by Elizabeth Hillman Ph.D., a professor of biomedical engineering and radiology at Columbia and a principal investigator at the Zuckerman Institute, is used to detect the activity of all 10,000 neurons in a fly's brain. Observing the fly as it tries to escape a heat source or approach pheromones might tell us something about how we react to pleasure and pain. “What is an emotional state?” Axel asks. “Anxious, afraid, hungry, aroused — what's the representation of an emotional state in the brain?”

“What's inspiring about working with him,” his colleague Abbott says, “other than that of course he's a great scientist and all, is that he has tremendous drive to get to the bottom of the big questions.” Buck, who won the Nobel with him, agrees. “He is not content to add bricks to a standing structure of knowledge,” she says. “He wants to push the boundaries.”

Meanwhile, Axel draws lab members from different fields and gives them room to roam. “He really lets people explore new ideas and chart their own course, once he is confident that they can do it,” Buck says.

Leslie Vosshal Ph.D. '87, a former lab member who is now a professor at The Rockefeller University, says being in his lab was “like being in a circus. Everyone was attempting something improbable and death-defying.” Vanessa Ruta Ph.D., who was a neuroscience postdoc in Axel's lab for five years before also becoming a professor at Rockefeller, says his appreciation of

diverse people and perspectives “encouraged me to be a much braver and broader-thinking scientist.” That inclusive approach has helped Axel move into new areas. “I've been eclectic in my interests as I've moved around,” he says. “I did genetics, molecular biology, immunology, neuroscience. You can't move facilely from one discipline to another in biology without having spectacular colleagues around to teach you. I had students as well as Columbia professors who afforded a rich environment for me to learn and collaborate.” Again he deflects credit to his surroundings: Nurture.

Axel still finds time to leave the lab and pursue his interests in art and culture. “I'm obsessed with opera,” he says. “I'm at the opera at least once a week in season. I listen to music. My son's a creative photographer. I spend several hours a week in museums and galleries. My Nobel autobiography begins, ‘New York City is my world,’ and it is.”

“He's an incredibly sociable person and he really takes advantage of living in the city as much as anyone I know,” Abbott says. “He's a real product of the city.” He's also a product of the school that engaged his interests in the humanities, that turned him on to biology and that has supported him for most of his career. As Abbott says, “He *is* Columbia, right?”

Matthew Hutson is a freelance science writer in New York City and the author of *The 7 Laws of Magical Thinking*.

SCENTS AND SENSIBILITY

See Axel's 2015 keynote at Miller Theatre.
college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extras

Immigration lawyer **Jonathan Ryan '00**
is helping fractured families at the border

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

By Atossa Araxia Abrahamian '08, JRN'11

The Trump administration's family separation mandates may have sent the world reeling last summer, but Jonathan Ryan '00 wasn't all that surprised. As the director of the Austin-based Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Services (RAICES), Ryan sensed trouble at the border long before the detention of immigrant children became front-page news. The legal problems faced by traumatized migrants, asylum seekers, frantic parents and frightened minors had in fact formed the fabric of his work for years.

Ryan's own experience at the border was what pushed him to become an immigration attorney in the first place. Shortly after 9-11, Ryan, who was born in Canada to an Irish immigrant family, went to Mexico for the holidays.

When he tried to cross back into the United States, where he was attending law school at the University of Texas-Austin (UT-A), he realized his green card had expired and was detained until his father was able to come get him.

While his fellow travelers — some of them parents with young children — languished in detention in Mexico, "I showed up at the border in the back of my parents' Mercedes, with my white privilege packaged around me," Ryan recalls. "The border patrol guy looked at my car, looked at me, carved something with his pen on the back [of my green card] and just told me to get it renewed — and we drove right into the United States." Ryan became a U.S. citizen shortly thereafter, and "point

to point, from that day [at the border] to right now, it's been a single experience."

The realization that borders exist for some people more than others, and that this discrepancy often falls along racial and class lines, compelled Ryan to volunteer for cases at UT-A's immigration law clinic as soon as he got back to school. After a stint at a local legal nonprofit, he joined RAICES, which provides free or low-cost legal services to immigrants and refugees.

Though Ryan now spends much of his time liaising with the media and donors, he continues to practice and be involved in operations on the ground. For example, he recently helped defend a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient who had participated in a protest outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in San Antonio. "He was targeted, arrested and deported for his exercise of his First Amendment [right]," Ryan says. "I represented him and worked with his family from the day he was arrested."

In recent months, RAICES has made headlines for spreading awareness about family separations, speaking out against the travel ban, raising millions of dollars to help refugees and migrants, and turning away a quarter-million-dollar donation from cloud computing firm Salesforce because of its ongoing contract with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

In October, Ryan talked with *Columbia College Today* about his decade with RAICES and his perspective on how things have — and haven't — changed since Trump took office.

A cage at the U.S. Border Patrol Central Processing Center in McAllen, Texas, on June 17, 2018. It holds people who were taken into custody related to cases of illegal entry into the United States.



Jonathan Ryan '00

COURTESY RAICES

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION



Q: How did your detention at the U.S.-Mexico border inform your career?

A: When I got back to school, I immediately found an immigration clinic. The professor told me to buzz off because I was a 1L, so I told her what had just happened to me, and she relented. I was so deep in it, there was nothing else I could do and I basically transitioned right into practice. I interviewed three times at the local immigration nonprofit [after graduation] and when I didn't get the job, I said [to them], "This is what I want to do with my life; this is what I've built up everything to do. If I'm not getting this job, there's a problem." And they hired me.

Q: How has having three passports – Irish, Canadian, American – shaped your idea of what citizenship means?

A: We've accustomed ourselves to the portability of our identities in so many ways, yet with respect to our citizenship or the nation-state itself, we still adhere as people to a notion that is really arcane and archaic, like the subjects clustered around the castle. But the question that is really foremost in my experience in Mexico, and in the experience of thousands of clients with whom I've worked in the last dozen years, is, *Who has the power to do what to me?*

TOP RIGHT: ICE special agents arresting suspects during a raid.

BELOW: Ryan demanded to be let into a building in Austin, Texas, where demonstrators were being arrested on April 30, 2018.



COURTESY ICE

Q: Has there been a sea change in the way the U.S. is handling immigration since Trump took office?

A: No. The very worst laws that we have on the books were passed by Democratic presidents.

We're living in a country where children and parents are [detained] in a for-profit prison system together. In a country that has pushed a deterrence strategy to stop refugees from coming to our border. In a country that has penned declarations [labeling] women and children fleeing violence and seeking asylum at the southern border a top threat to our national security.

That is not [just] the country of Donald Trump that I am describing. Everything that I just said to you took place in 2014 under President Barack Obama '83. All Trump is doing is stepping on the gas. He has not had to do anything. He has not had to build anything. He has just continued and advanced and increased the [existing] policies and mechanical structures. And what has facilitated this, in the 12 years since I've been doing immigration law, is this explosion of for-profit prisons and immigration detention.

Of course, it would be disingenuous of me to say that there's not something new and different and more dangerous about this presidency. But I think it's only the other side of the same coin.

Q: As the family separations blew up the news last summer, what was it like from your vantage point at RAICES?

A: We've been seeing family separation for many years. That was not a new policy, [although it] certainly was expanded and has increased. The reason that we grew from being an organization of four people to 150 people in 10 years was not [anything I did] — as much as I'd love the story being about me as an entrepreneurial nonprofit CEO tycoon. It's that we've been responding to crisis constantly during the past 10 years. [Last summer's crisis] was much bigger, to be sure, but we are quite used to doing the work in these moments It was a tumultuous summer, there's no doubt about it, but the disruption, for us, was about managing the media and the shock and horror of the American people, for whom this *was* new.



COURTESY JORGE SANHUEZA-LYON / KUT NEWS

Q: Some Democrats who were upset about the family separations, like Marc Pocan (D-Wis.) and Pramila Jaypal (D-Wash.), have called for the abolishment of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Do you think “Abolish ICE” is a useful protest slogan?

A: I support the abolition of ICE. But to take ICE away, and merely to replace it with — what? The military? Some other enforcement branch of the government? That’s not enough. ICE is the wrapper around racist, xenophobic and violent policies and people. So I don’t see ICE as the root cause; I think you have to dive deeper. Our government is trying to make the experience of refugees seeking protection so similar to the horror that they are fleeing that they decide to go back, that they decide that it was better back where they were. That is the problem.

Q: Do you have any insight into what goes on in an ICE agent’s head, or a DHS attorney’s head, when they’re making arrests and separating families?

A: I think that there is a lot of effort undertaken through training and corporate culture to further the dehumanization of immigrants, thus enabling human beings to perpetrate violence against other human beings without always realizing that that is what they’re doing. Very few people whom we encounter within ICE or the Border Patrol or other agencies consider themselves to be that agent of terror. In fact, we sometimes encounter agents and officers who point to other parts of their own bureau and say, “Those are the bad guys. I’m just doing my job.”

Q: Your organization got some press last year when it rejected a \$250,000 donation from the tech company Salesforce. What went into that decision?

A: The decision to reject the Salesforce money did not take even five minutes. It was a transparent and overt attempt at handwashing on the part of a multi-billion-dollar corporation that was under pressure — internally and externally.

Q: What is it going to take to change this anti-immigration regime, and where do you see yourself in that fight?

A: I am a lawyer, but I recognize that the law is downstream of culture, and culture itself is downstream of art. I don’t think that we’re going to legislate or sue our way out of this situation. If you look back in history, *Brown v. Board of Education* was decided in the ’50s. That

did not stop segregation in schools. The real changes of *Brown* were not made until people took to the street in the ’60s. You look back at every significant change or improvement to our law and our societies, and it has been through the direct action of people, masses of people, taking to the street, raising their voice, showing solidarity and taking risks.

There isn’t going to be a comfortable way out of this. It’s going to take sacrifice. All of these moments, from the revolution to civil rights, to the ending of slavery, to women’s suffrage, to gay rights — we, in retrospect, apply that narrative of inevitability, but that was not the case in real time.

Atossa Araxia Abrahamian ’08, JRN’11 is a senior editor at *The Nation* and the author of *The Cosmopolites: The Coming of the Global Citizen*.



JOHN MOORE / GETTY IMAGES

A caravan of migrants with plans to reach the United States crossed into Mexico from Guatemala on October 21, 2018.

In Love and War

Crystal Hana Kim '09 gets in touch with her Korean roots



NINA SUBIN

There are, famously, writers who hate to write. James Joyce described writing in English as “the most ingenious torture ever devised for sins committed in previous lives.” But others — like Crystal Hana Kim '09 — find in it a form of salvation. The process is essential to her: “If I’m not writing, I’m not happy,” she said bluntly in an interview with *Nylon*.

Kim grew up in Jericho, Long Island, the daughter of immigrants, and Korean was her first language; she’d translate it into English in her head. This made writing — rather than speaking — “the most comfortable way to communicate,” she tells *Columbia College Today*.

So it wasn’t surprising when Kim, once admitted to the College, turned her English major coursework into her personal creative writing program. She started taking workshops and writing short stories, though they were a far cry from the complex, engrossing, research-based fiction she would later undertake. “When I started writing in college, I really pushed away from writing about anything related to Korea,” she later said. “It was because I was worried that that’s all I could write about.” In a recent essay for *The Paris Review*, she sums up much of her undergraduate fiction as “fragmented scenes” featuring “faceless, raceless, colorless young women in shitty relationships.” But it was also at the College that she began to explore the complexities of the mother-daughter bond, and, eventually, to sketch out Korean characters. She also started thinking about getting an M.F.A.

As an immigrant’s daughter, Kim feared that the M.F.A. route could be “too risky.” But when her desire to write remained strong, she returned to Columbia, to the School of the Arts, to pursue her true passion. This time around, she decided to embrace her roots. A series of interconnected short stories she had been working on — narratives in different characters’ voices — turned into a multi-voiced novel set during the Korean War and its aftermath. Its central focus was a realistically drawn woman, Haemi,

who grows from a teenage refugee in the South Korean countryside, displaced within the borders of her own country, into a postwar wife and mother.

To flesh out the novel, Kim knew she needed to steep herself in extensive historical research. She watched documentaries, studied political and historical texts, and pored over photographs (a collection from the City History Compilation Committee of Seoul proved to be a trove of visual information). The toughest part of her research was finding details about the wartime experiences of Korean women. “Their voices were not valued, so it wasn’t recorded,” Kim says. Growing up, she loved war movies but had always found it frustrating that the stories focused on male heroics and never the women who had to “make sure that daily life is running,” despite the chaos around them. “The war affects you even if you’re not at the battle line,” she says.

The novel, *If You Leave Me* (William Morris, 2018), excerpted here, is a moving, multilayered debut — told from five separate points of view — about the Korean refugee experience during the war and afterward. The voices of Haemi and those who know her give it the immediacy of an oral history, with eloquence added by Kim’s skillful prose. Chang-Rae Lee called Kim “a born storyteller,” while Richard Ford praised her “great poise, lyricism, intelligence.”

These days, in addition to writing fiction, Kim is a director of writing instruction at the nonprofit Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America. She is working on her second novel, a story that should include at least one Korean-American. The writing process — a tin of pencils and pens, a candle that she lights when she begins — continues to sustain her. One of her literary touchstones, Kim tells *Columbia Journal*, is a Louise Erdrich quotation: “I approach the work as though, in truth, I’m nothing and the words are everything. Then I write to save my life”

— Rose Kernochan BC’82



Haemi

1951

Kyunghwan and I met where the farm fields ended and our refugee village began. I waited until my little brother was asleep, until I could count seven seconds between his uneasy inhales. I listened as Hyunki's breath struggled through the thick scum in his lungs. If he coughed, I'd stay and take care of him. On those nights, I imagined Kyunghwan waiting for me by the lamppost with cigarette butts scattered in a halo around his feet.

Everyone in our village whispered what they wanted to believe: the war would end and we would return to our real homes soon. Mother and the other aunties chattered in the market. They had survived thirty-five years of Japanese rule and the Second World War. They had withstood the division of our Korea by foreign men. What was a little fighting among our own compared to past misfortune? *We can stitch ourselves back together*, Mother said. I believed her.

When Hyunki's breathing was steady and slow, I slipped out through the kitchen entrance and went in search of Kyunghwan. He and I were celebrating. We celebrated every night.



A year ago, when the 6-2-5 war between the North and South began, everyone in my country fled, propelled by confusion and news in the form of unexpected sounds—bullets, airplanes, the cries of the dying.

The mothers, daughters, elders, and children of my hometown stampeded south, hitching ourselves onto trains, scrabbling up mountains, wading through paddies, and treading rivers. Mother, Hyunki, and I wore white and carried loads on our backs and on our heads. We walked

until we reached the southeasternmost tip of our peninsula, where shelters gathered around markets and landmarks to form crude villages. All along the coast, people I knew from childhood lived crammed up against strangers. Most settled in the center of Busan, where houses and churches and schools and salvaged structures packed the streets. Refugees thronged together as tight as bean sprouts, as if closeness and the East Sea equaled protection.

Mother separated us from the others, planting us farther out in the fields, away from the ocean and its currents. She said it was foolish to live so close together. "They'll be killed clean in one day if the Reds come. Swept into the sea like a pile of dead fish."

She often spoke of luck and what happened in its absence. We were lucky to have been among the first wave of refugees. We were lucky her great-uncle had died soon after our arrival, so we could claim his straw-roofed home as our own. It was small and time-worn, but less fortunate families sheltered beneath scraps of steel. We were lucky the others, displaced and adrift, had not dared to crowd us out — and lucky to have found this place where life persisted, where news of fighting arrived on leaflets but didn't yet invade our days.

I felt lucky for nothing except my nightly distractions — for Kyunghwan, whom I had known since childhood, and his desire to erase my fears, and our secret hours together.



I arrived through the field to find Kyunghwan waiting. He blew a stream of smoke in my direction, and the clouds curled toward me, hazy and warm. I breathed in their bitter scent. "What took so long?" he asked.

"Hyunki's sick again." I grabbed the cigarette from his lips. "It took him a while to fall asleep."

He nodded at the hanbok I wore. "You still want to go?"

"Would I chance coming out here for no reason?" I blew a smoke ring in the dim glow of the lamppost.

His gaze lingered on my long wraparound skirt and short jacket top. I shrugged. "I don't want to wear the men's pants anymore. We'll be careful."

"I don't know." He stared at the road connecting our market to the other makeshift villages. "What if someone catches us?"

"No one will hear us if we're quiet." I started toward his bicycle, partially hidden behind the thick barley. "Let's go."

"We'll head east," he said, catching up to me. "Found some extra money this time."

"Can we buy food? I'm so hungry I sucked on one of Hyunki's tree roots today."

Kyunghwan held the bicycle steady as I scooted onto the handlebars. "We'll see."

I didn't care where we went, if we only cycled around in the open air. But Kyunghwan liked to hunt for the hideaway bars rumored about among the men. These establishments moved from alley to alley, avoiding detection. Even when we found one, they rarely allowed two sixteen-year-olds like us in — so we'd beg drunkards and homebrewers to pity us a bowlful of makgeolli. We'd drink in fields and forests and behind buildings. On lucky nights, we'd find a bar and pretend we were wounded orphans.

As the dirt road raced toward us, I closed my eyes and listened to Kyunghwan's steady breathing. "I've got you," he whispered whenever he felt me tense. But when we were drunk and cycling back, I'd loosen and stare at the black sky, my hair whipping into his face — and he'd tell me to straighten up, that we'd fall into a ditch one day.

In the next village, everything looked the same as in our own. Mud and grass-built quarters, an open road where a market assembled every morning, scrap-metal shelters scrounged together from what people could find. "We'll cover the bicycle here and walk," Kyunghwan whispered as we reached a standing tree.

At the first hideaway, the men joked that I was a poor man's whore and refused us entry. Eventually, we found a narrow shack made of wooden planks and blankets cramped into a back alley. Kyunghwan wrapped his arm around my shoulders. When a man tried to stop us, I touched Kyunghwan's cheek the way I thought a lover might.

"I got drafted. This is our last night together," he said.

The man let us in with a warning. "Don't bring attention to yourselves."

A few men looked up as we ducked under the blanket entrance. The makeshift bar was composed of makeshift objects. Upended tin drums were packed tightly together to form tables. A plank bolstered by metal dowels acted as a serving area at one end. Crates, bricks, and the ground were used as seats. We wove through the unwashed bodies to a corner spot with two crates. I tried not to look at the others, to feel the heat of their gazes. I hoped it was too dim or too late in the night for them to care that I was a girl.

Once we were seated, it was too dark to make out Kyunghwan's face. I could see only the shadow of his thick, straight nose and thin lips. I liked it this way. I

knew him already — the smooth arc of his forehead, the turn of his wrists, the freckles along his right arm and how, when traced to his elbow, they formed an ocean's wave. His face was beautiful when he wasn't using it to charm others. He tilted his head toward the lone candle burning in the center of the room and closed his eyes; he knew me, too.

We listened to the sound of bowls hitting drums. We sipped cloudy-white makgeolli until our eyes adjusted to the dark, and we talked about the drunks all around us. A lonely grandfather with drawings of women and children lining his table — his family, perhaps. Another man with a jagged scar running across his face. In the flickering candlelight, it shone like a streak of fat.

"What do you think her story is?" Kyunghwan nodded at the only other woman in the bar. She was older and wore a short hanbok top that exposed her breasts. I watched Kyunghwan's gaze sweep over her body. Her companion reached out a hand, but I couldn't tell if he meant to touch her or cover her up.

"She's clearly not his mother." I glanced at my own hanbok top, my hidden chest. "She has nice breasts."

"They're saggy."

"Big, though," I said.

Kyunghwan turned back to me with a wide grin. I stood, saying, "I want food. The alcohol's hitting me too fast." I hadn't eaten since morning and knew he probably hadn't, either. We were stupid, wasting money like this, but I didn't care. I placed a hand on his shoulder when he tried to stand. "Stay. Pour us another bowl."

I ordered arrowroot porridge and fried anchovies, a small lick of red pepper paste. The barman squinted at me from across the wooden stand. "Your father know you're here with a man? How old are you?"

"Old enough." I tapped my knuckles against the scrap of wood that separated us and tried to look as if I didn't care.

"You shouldn't be in a place like this."

"I already paid." I jutted out my chin. "The porridge, please?" He shook his head. "Wait here."

When he returned, I told him, "He's leaving for Seoul. He's drafted."

The man bent over and sank a bottle into a large pot of makgeolli. Milky clouds swirled through pale moony liquid. After he filled the bottle, he wiped it with a brown rag. "Here," he said. "I don't understand this war, this fighting our own."

I dropped the makgeolli on our tin drum and held out a plate piled high with small fried fish. Kyunghwan pinched one by the tail and sucked it down. "Got thirsty on your way back?"

"The barman took pity on us. Can you get the other dish?"

Kyunghwan brought over the porridge and raised his eyebrows. "Who orders mush?"

I shrugged. "Steal more money next time."

"You know what the barman said? To take good care of you tonight." Kyunghwan grinned.

"Now I feel bad for lying."

"Me too. We shouldn't joke about that."

He scooted closer. I watched his hands and mouth, how he only smudged a drop of pepper paste onto a spoonful of porridge.

"What if you *are* drafted?" I asked.

"What does it matter?" He sipped, smacked his lips. When he exhaled, I smelled the spice and fish collecting on his tongue. "The man's watching. Let's act like a couple."

I let Kyunghwan feed me an anchovy but made a face when the barman looked away. "That's not what couples do. And what do you mean it doesn't matter?"

He wouldn't answer. I let it go.

We poured each other bowls the formal way, with bowed heads and both hands. We talked in old drunken man accents until our stomachs hurt with laughter. He recalled our hometown and our grade-school teacher, the one with the cluster of moles on his cheek. How we two had been the clever ones, yet only Kyunghwan was ever praised. I asked if he remembered how Teacher Kim had made the girls wash the floors with rags that rubbed the skin from our fingers. Kyunghwan reminded me that even if I hated him, Teacher Kim was dead, so we sipped makgeolli in his honor. We quieted until Kyunghwan no longer liked our wistfulness, until he tried to get me to raise my top like the lady in the corner. We drank until it was hard not to touch each other. Then he answered me.

"It doesn't matter if I get drafted or if I don't show up tomorrow night because you're letting Jisoo court you. He told me."

"That's not true." I pushed my bowl against his, until our rims touched.

"He's my cousin."

"Your fathers are cousins," I said. "And that doesn't make what he says true."

"Don't lie to me."

I had forgotten about Jisoo. I didn't want him in the room with us—not even the mention of him. I looked up. I could use my face to charm, too. "Pour, Kyunghwan."

He sighed and filled my bowl.

They kicked everyone out an hour later, in time for us to scurry home before national curfew. I hated leaving, the sudden plunge back into our lives, but I liked how I felt scraped clean with alcohol, painted over with indifference, until I was a wash of emptiness inside. We stumbled into the street, and I watched the sadness drift out of us. "There it goes," I said, pointing as it floated away into the riven sky.

"What are you talking about?" Kyunghwan tugged my arm. "Get on the bike."

As we raced through Busan's dirt streets, I thought of our hometown. The boys' middle school had stood along its western edge. When we were younger, when boys and girls were still allowed to be friends, Kyunghwan and I spent our free afternoons there. A stone wall enclosed the property, and on one side it cornered around a tree. The tree's roots had broken through the ground, causing the stones to loosen and form a nook. This was where we sat, our backs to the sunken slabs, our feet propped against the

trunk, as Kyunghwan taught me what he'd learned that day. After the Second World War, when we were liberated from Japan and students were taught to replace their foreign alphabet with our own Korean, he was the one who showed me. I was no longer allowed to attend class, but we still believed we'd go to college together someday. Until then, Kyunghwan wanted to share all he knew.

Northeast of that school was my real home, waiting for my return. Wild and yellow forsythia bushes grew along the wall that enclosed our property. I remembered the smooth slab of stepping-stone that led to our thatch-roofed hanok. It was just wide enough for four pairs of shoes. I used to place flowers in Father's sandals to rid them of his smell. Above the step, a planked wooden porch ran the length of our home. Even then, Mother had insisted on living apart from the others, if only by

Tonight, soaring through these streets, I imagined reaching for the clouds, swirling them around a stick and licking them down.

half an hour's walk and a few fields. I imagined the structure now. Packed full of Korean and American soldiers, or worse — the Reds, our rooms ransacked and gutted.

"Do you miss home?" I turned on the handlebars to catch a glimpse of Kyunghwan's face.

"Don't wobble." He thrust his head forward, his voice heavy with effort. "And you should dress as a boy next time. I don't like how those men stared."

"They were my father's pants." I kept my head straight and still, watching the texture of black trees on black sky. My hand searched for Kyunghwan's fingers on the handlebars. "I had to wear them when we fled."

"I didn't know." He paused. "Haemi?"

"Keep cycling, Kyunghwan."

I listened to his breath as he pedaled up the hill. It was a habit I'd learned from Hyunki, this concentrating on steady beats of air. Some nights, after a day of watching my little brother ache and Mother hunger, I wanted to wrench the stars from the sky and fling them at our feet. But tonight, soaring through these streets, I imagined reaching for the clouds, swirling them around a stick and licking them down.

"Let's do this even when we go home," I said. "Meet in the night and explore. Do you want to?"

Kyunghwan, quiet and distant, cycled on.

From the book IF YOU LEAVE ME: A Novel by Crystal Hana Kim. Copyright © 2018 by Crystal Hana Kim. Reprinted by permission of William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

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WORKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Winter snow brings a calm to campus, dampening the city noise outside the Gates. But the calm masks a flurry of behind-the-scenes activity: Columbia Facilities is on the case, and has been since long before the first flake fell.

Preparations for winter storms begin in late summer, according to Facilities' blog, when "[i]nventories of the previous winter's snow removal equipment is used to estimate how many plow trucks, snow blowers, Bobcat skid-steer loaders, ice breakers, and shovels will need to be tested and delivered to each of the University residential buildings in which they are stored for the upcoming season. De-icing materials are also kept at the ready, and contingency plans are made in the event of equipment failure or if extra snow removal is needed."

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Get Connected Through Odyssey Mentoring

By Michael Behringer '89

Numbering more than 51,000 worldwide, Columbia College alumni are involved in virtually every profession and career imaginable. Alumni and students interested in expanding their professional network, soliciting career advice and exchanging ideas frequently ask the College what opportunities exist to connect with this powerful community. I always direct them to the Odyssey Mentoring Program (odyssey.college.columbia.edu), a dynamic platform offered by the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA).

Odyssey, which recently marked its first anniversary, connects alumni and students for short- and long-term mentoring relationships, as well as for more informal connections. Importantly, it's designed to be flexible. You can give as much, or as little, time as you have, to either students or fellow alumni looking to grow personally and/or professionally. The mentoring relationships can be adapted to fit your work style and availability. Communications can run the gamut from email, phone and text conversations to in-person meetings over coffee or a meal.

Alex Wallace Creed '88, general manager of news, entertainment and studios at Verizon Media Group/Oath; a member of the CCAA's Board of Directors; and VP, State of the College, had a very positive Odyssey experience when she was paired with Destiny Spruill '20, who was interested in journalism. I asked her about it.

Behringer: What led you to participate in the Odyssey Mentoring Program, and what did you expect to contribute or get out of the experience?

Wallace Creed: I love interacting with Columbia College students. Each one I meet reminds me why I loved my time at Columbia. They are smart and inquisitive and honest. I also love mentoring. I think it is



Author Klancy Miller '96 spoke to College students about pursuing their passions during an Odyssey Mentoring Night at the Columbia Alumni Center.

MICHAEL EDMONSON '20

important to share some of the lessons, good and bad, that I've learned along the way.

Behringer: Was it easy to set up your profile on the portal?

Wallace Creed: Yes! It took less than 10 minutes.

Behringer: Tell me about your mentee.

Wallace Creed: She is a journalist and works on *Spectator*. She already knows more about the profession than I did when I graduated! And she has a love of reporting and truth telling.

Behringer: How do you and your student communicate?

Wallace Creed: We email, and we have met for coffee on occasion. She was an intern in my office last summer so I saw her in the office every day, which was great.

Behringer: What did the experience leave you with — and did you learn anything? Did you feel the interaction was meaningful?

Wallace Creed: Being a mentor might be the most rewarding thing I have done as an alumna. It has reminded me what I felt like as a student and all the things I wanted to do with my life after I left. It has reconnected me to my 20-year-old self in a very interesting and impactful way.

Thank you, Alex! I encourage all alumni, and students, to learn more about Odyssey and to consider participating. I've been involved with the program since its launch, and have found it to be a great way to give back and stay connected to the College community.

ROAR!



AUSTIN HARGRAVE / NETFLIX

Moira Demos '96 Returns to the Scene of the Crime

By Nathalie Alonso '08

Once you've created a cultural phenomenon, what do you do for an encore? **Moira Demos '96**, **SOA'08** and Laura Ricciardi SOA'07, the filmmakers behind the true-crime Netflix docuseries *Making a Murderer*, took a somewhat meta approach: They returned to Manitowoc County, Wis., to grapple with a world changed by the impassioned response to their work.

Part 1 of *Making a Murderer*, which won four Emmys in 2016, chronicled the trials of Wisconsin man Steven Avery and his teenage nephew, Brendan Dassey, who were convicted of the 2005 murder of a 25-year-old woman. The defense claimed that Avery was framed by police — retaliation for a multimillion-dollar lawsuit he filed against Manitowoc County after a 1985 wrongful conviction for sexual assault and attempted murder. The question of whether coercive interrogation tactics might have elicited a false confession from the learning-disabled Dassey provided an equally sensational subplot.

The series' first installment became a binge-watching hit and sparked intense discussions on social media. Demos marvels at "the response from so many different people — different backgrounds, different education, different races, different countries. ... We really couldn't have expected or dreamed of anything that great," she says. "We were thrilled."

In October, Netflix released Part 2, featuring Avery's and Dassey's lawyers as they attempt to dismantle the cases against their clients. "Things can happen in the darkness much more easily than when a bright light is being shone on them," says Demos. "Now we're going to watch how it plays out with more attention."

A second season allowed Demos and Ricciardi to examine the effect of the series' popularity on the cases. Part 1 inspired hundreds of thousands of people to sign petitions calling for Avery and Dassey to be released. But while *Making a Murderer* casts doubt on

their convictions, Demos maintains that for her and Ricciardi, who are a couple, the goal was to expose viewers to the flaws of the U.S. criminal justice system.

“Our hope is that [viewers] come away with a much deeper understanding of what’s working and what’s not working,” Demos says. “That can affect how they make choices, how they behave in their own lives, in their own roles in the system, whether that be as jurors, as voters or as consumers of crime shows on TV.”

Making a Murderer Part 1, along with the podcast “Serial” and HBO’s *The Jinx*, arrived as part of a wave of true-crime entertain-

ment that reignited interest in the genre. Demos would like to see its success inspire other filmmakers to pursue stories they find compelling. “Just because the world doesn’t want you or is telling you ‘no’ doesn’t mean that there’s not a place for what it is you’re offering,” she says. “Especially in the entertainment world, if what you want to make isn’t out there, people probably want it.”

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

“Be a Hero,” Urges ALS-Afflicted Activist

By Jenn Preissel '05

Ady Barkan '06 has strong opinions. As the program director at The Center for Popular Democracy (CPD), he’s committed to righting the inequities he sees in our democracy. During the Supreme Court confirmation hearings for Brett Kavanaugh, Barkan lobbied against the nomination and stood with fellow activists at Congress while sexual assault survivors shared their stories. His October 2018 op-ed in *The Nation* called on his fellow citizens to unite as activists and movement builders — to go beyond the ballot box and “solve [problems] with people power.”

But Barkan is running out of time to fight. He suffers from ALS — amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. Diagnosed in 2016, the disease has steadily depleted his nervous system and robbed him of the ability to communicate verbally. Yet Barkan appears indefatigable; he tirelessly campaigned

all of last summer for the “Be A Hero” initiative, appearing at rallies and mobilizing voters to “be heroes” by backing progressive candidates supporting affordable and accessible health care.

During the Republican effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act, Barkan was arrested for protesting in the Capitol building, but others relayed his appeal: “I have ALS. I am dying. But when we come together, our voices echo so loud through the halls of Congress, out to the Supreme Court, up Pennsylvania Avenue, all the way to Wall Street.” Barkan later went viral when he confronted Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) on a plane, imploring him to “think about the legacy that you will have ... If you take your principles and turn them into votes, you can save my life.” Flake tweeted about the exchange, thanking Barkan for healthy debate on the issue.

Barkan says that when he arrived at Columbia, his politics were more traditionally centrist Democrat. But as the Iraq War devolved from “mission accomplished” into disarray, he saw friends joining protests and was perturbed by the funneling of funds into war rather than into public programs. Inspired by courses with famed economists Joseph Stiglitz and Jeffrey Sachs, he began to view progressive economic policy as a curative for bias in health care and education.

Barkan’s first job out of college was as communications director for Democrat Victoria Wulsin, a longshot congressional candidate in the Republican stronghold of Cincinnati. He pitched press coverage, wrote speeches and prepared the candidate for debates. “‘People before politics,’ he came up with that,” Wulsin told the Ohio weekly *CityBeat*. “Other people have said it, but it’s sort of his brand.”

The last two years have been filled with challenges for Barkan as his health deteriorated and the political losses piled on. “We lost the tax fight, we failed to get DACA renewed and, of course, we lost the Kavanaugh fight,” he laments.

But he’s been spurred on by fellow activists and average citizens he has met touring the country. And his young son has served as an inspiration, as well. “I especially enjoy talking with him as his language develops, watching how his mind works.”

Barkan’s perennial optimism bleeds into his message: “Political outcomes are not predetermined. By being involved, we can change what happens.”

Jenn Preissel '05 is a high school math teacher in Brooklyn, N.Y.



Ady Barkan '06 (center) at the Los Angeles Supports a Dream Act Now! protest at the office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) on January 3, 2018.

GABRIEL OLSEN / GETTY IMAGES

Erika Henik '90 Is Sweet on Chocolate

By Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09

For **Erika Henik '90**, chocolate is more than a craving — it's a calling. The owner of Sweet on Vermont, Henik creates handmade chocolates that are distributed to gourmet markets and stores across New England. But while she now works out of a professional kitchen in Burlington, Vt., Henik's chocolatier skills were developed right on Morningside Heights.



COURTESY ERIKA HENIK '90

While Henik was a student at the College, she met Linda Grishman, who was making sweets out of her apartment on 110th Street to sell at stores around New York City. Needing an extra hand with truffle production, Grishman asked Henik to work with her part time, and Henik's love of chocolate making was born. "I knew nothing about chocolate when I started," she says. "But I learned — I worked with [Linda] for four years and it was amazing."

Henik, a psychology and Middle Eastern, South Asian and African studies double major, went on to work on Wall Street and then earned a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. But she kept in touch with Grishman, who later left New York City and founded Sweet on Vermont in 1996. Grishman occasionally contacted Henik to ask if she would again be interested in partnering in the chocolate business. "Fast-forward 25-ish years and it was finally the right moment for me," Henik says. She decided to leave Wall Street behind and purchased the business from Grishman, who was ready to retire. Says Henik, "It was really nice — even though I bought her out it still felt like the transfer of a family business because we talked about it all the time."

Five years later, Henik continues to grow the company, with a menu that includes barks, bars, peanut butter balls and brittles (the chocolate-dipped maple-almond brittle is especially beloved by customers, she says). All of Sweet on Vermont's confections are handmade, so every day is different. Orders change based on New England tourism trends and what Henik calls "gift-giving seasons," like Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and the end-of-the-year holidays. One day could be spent dipping brittle and making chocolate bars, another focused on custom orders or crafting Vermont maple caramels.

"One of the things I love about this business is that it's really hard to say what's your favorite, or what's anyone's favorite," Henik says. "There's something for everyone."

The Atlanta Hawks' Stadium Star

By Alex Sachare '71

Not all basketball stars throw down slam dunks or drain three-point jump shots. Many work behind the scenes so that fans can have a good time watching athletes like LeBron James and Steph Curry on the court.

One of those is **Thad Sheely '93**, chief operating officer of the Atlanta Hawks. Sheely was hired by the NBA team in 2015 to remake the arena in which the Hawks play their home games. Three years later, State Farm Arena was unveiled — just in time for the 2018–19 basketball season.

Sheely, who was an urban studies major, recognized the many advantages of the original arena's downtown location, including

ample parking and a MARTA rail station on site. So he decided to keep the structure and renovate everything inside. His vision: a convenient, affordable, state-of-the-art venue for sports, concerts and other attractions.

"To me the right location for an arena is downtown. But a new arena would have cost \$500 million," says Sheely. Instead, the team spent \$200 million "to rebuild from the roofline to the baseline — all the fun stuff, everything the fan touches."

Sheely says his urban studies background is vital in his work. "Understanding urban design and planning gives you a feel for how these buildings function," he says. "You are bringing a small town of

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN HOUSE PARTY



COURTESY THAD SHEELY '93

Atlanta Hawks chief operating officer Thad Sheely '93 with his family at the renovated State Farm Arena's open house on October 20.

17,000–20,000 people together for one night and you want to give them a good experience. The same things that make a city successful make an arena successful. And the connection between a city and an arena is important. We wanted our arena to be tied into the city of Atlanta, the state of Georgia and what makes these places special.”

For example, the Hawks partnered with Zac Brown, vocalist and lead guitarist of the eponymous Atlanta-based band, to create the 20,000-square-foot Zac Brown's Social Club within the arena. There is also Killer Mike's Swag Shop, a barber shop where fans can get their hair cut while watching the game.

Sheely, who has an M.B.A. from Stanford, was working on the financing of sports arenas when he decided it might be more fun to be on the other side, “spending the money instead of trying to raise it.” After helping to design an arena for the NBA's Miami Heat, he joined the NFL's New York Jets and worked on a proposed Midtown Manhattan stadium that was a central part of the city's bid to host the 2012 Olympics. After those Olympics were awarded to London, Sheely and the Jets partnered with the New York Giants to build MetLife Stadium in the New Jersey Meadowlands.

Sheely was working on Hudson Yards, a \$20 billion mixed-used development on the same site that had been proposed for the Olympic arena, when the Hawks' then-new owner, Tony Ressler, recruited him to recreate the team's arena. Sheely says he enjoys overseeing all aspects of team and arena business operations and real estate development.

“Sports are interesting because they are very small businesses with very large portfolios. We are in the live entertainment business, and it's as much about the overall social experience as anything.”

Alex Sachare '71 is a longtime sports journalist and a former editor-in-chief of CCT.

newsmakers

Three alumni were named to the *Forbes* “30 under 30” list for 2019: **Erica Dorfman '11** (head of finance and operations at Tally Technologies, a software company that helps people manage credit card debt) in the finance category; **Riley Jones '17** (cofounder of BLOC, a coaching company that empowers young people of color to build fulfilling careers) in the social entrepreneurs category; and **Jessica Schinazi '11** (head of business development and branding for Amazon's Luxury Beauty) in the retail and e-commerce category.

Hannah Assadi '08, SOA'13, author of the novel *Sonora*, was one of the five honorees of The National Book Foundation's “2018 5 Under 35” — a selection of debut fiction writers under 35 whose work promises to leave a lasting impression on the literary landscape.

Alana Mayo '06, head of production and development at Outlier Society, a production company, was profiled in the November issue of *Essence* in “Meet Alana Mayo, Michael B. Jordan's Not-So-Secret Weapon”; **Darryl Pinckney '88** and **Jamel Brinkley '97, GSAS'07** were featured in *The New York Times Style Magazine*'s November 30 interactive feature “Black Male Writers for Our Time”; activist and long-distance runner **Alison Mariella Désir '07, GSAS'11** was featured in the October issue of *Vogue* in “Shop Fall Fashion Inspired by 14 Real Working Women”; and actress **Amanda Peet '94** was profiled by *The New York Times* on October 27 in “Amanda Peet Struggles With Her Tennis Game.”

Brandon Victor Dixon '03 will appear in Fox's live musical event *Rent*, in the role of Tom Collins. The show will air on Sunday, January 27.

Two alumni received awards from the Breakthrough Prize Foundation, which celebrates the achievements of scientists, physicists and mathematicians. **Adrian Krainer '81**, a professor of neuroscience at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, received the 2019 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, and **Daniel Harlow '06**, assistant professor of physics at MIT, received the 2019 New Horizons in Physics Prize. They were honored at a ceremony on November 4.

The 2018 *Crain's New York* “Fast 50 List,” which identifies the metro area's fastest-growing firms, included two alumni-run businesses: CEO **Jeffrey Kupietzky '93**'s PowerInbox (an email monetization company) came in at number 4, and founder and CEO **Robert Reffkin '00, BUS'03**'s Compass (an online real estate company), was number 8.

Who Wants to Live Forever?

By Molly Shea

Rachel Heng '11 spent four years strolling from Morning-side Heights down to Union Square, Soho and Chinatown, but she never really saw the city for what it was — “a bubble of contradictions,” she says — until she decided to write a book about it.

There were glimpses during her college years, sure. She was disturbed by the American healthcare system, which paled in comparison to her native Singapore's government-supervised version. “That's something that shocked me about the United States — the fact that if you don't have money to pay for a treatment, you're kind of left in a lurch,” she says. “I was like, what do you mean, it's going to cost me \$5,000 to get this random treatment? If I don't have \$5,000, I'm screwed?” Working in private equity after graduating opened her eyes to more: How rising housing prices have pushed city natives to outer boroughs. The growing income gaps. And the way that some people swilled \$12 green juices in the hopes of living to 100, while others could barely afford McDonald's.

Heng explores these inequalities in her debut novel, *Suicide Club* (Henry Holt, \$27), which tells the story of New York City in the not-so-distant future. Some New Yorkers have the potential to live for hundreds of years, provided they follow a strict set of government-mandated health guidelines (no red meat, no high-impact exercise) and opt for the cutting-edge surgical procedures

that turn their skin to Teflon and their hearts into endlessly beating machines. Any appeal of an everlasting life is lost early in Chapter One — the characters are largely depressed, repressed and, despite their extended lifespans, terrified of dying. As they grapple with their many opportunities and limitations, some decide to opt out by joining a hedonistic group called the Suicide Club.

The settings might be different, but the characters' obsessions and privileges tend to be amplified versions of what Heng sees around her now. The treatments that characters undergo in the book sound like they'd appear in next week's Goop newsletter, along with their attempts to live in ultra-clean, allergen-free housing, and the relax-

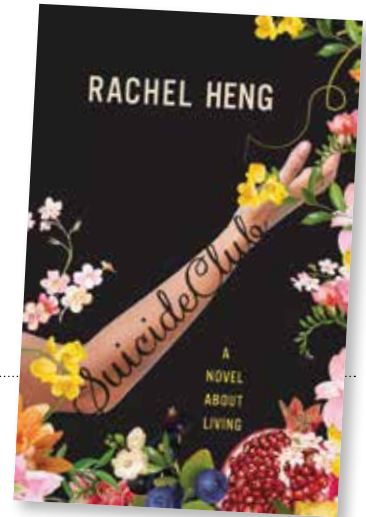
ation exercises they do to boost their lifespan. “There's

something quite existential about fixating on these small, everyday decisions, as if somehow, if you get everything just right, you're going to live forever,” Heng says. “[You think] all your problems are going to be solved because today, you didn't eat that chocolate and instead ate this superfood — but then you find out that actually, that food gives you cancer. There's something strange and darkly comic about it.”

Heng, who majored in comparative literature at the College and spent four years working in finance before turning to writing, borrowed from her own experiences when shaping her fictional world. Take a recent visit to Flatiron vegetarian hotspot abcV: “On the menu they were breaking down the ingredients in the juices and various things — very well intentioned,” Heng says. “All of them included really fancy-sounding ingredients, like St. John's Wort, and then there was one line that said ‘carrot,’ and it told you why carrot was good for you.” She laughed at how preposterous it all was — the need to highlight the nutritional benefits of the humble carrot and our need to feel sure of every morsel we put in our bodies. “We've entered this weirdly dystopian era,” she says.

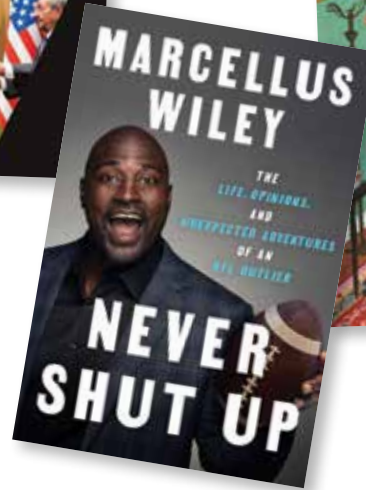
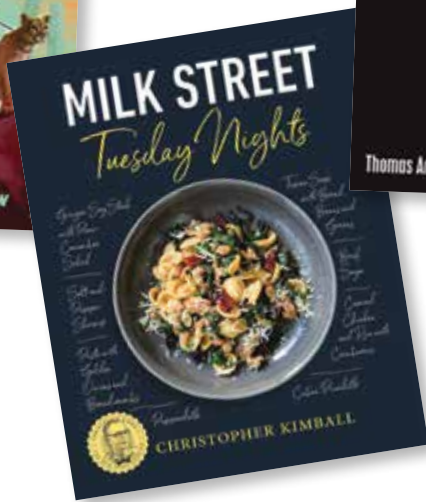
As funny as the wellness fixation can be, Heng sees a deeper issue at play in both her story and modern day: humankind's reluctance to surrender. While she hopes others relate, Heng says she wrote the book in part to reckon with both her own fear of dying and her annoyance with the current obsession with health. “I do have a tendency to try to control everything, and I think I'm very much the lesson that I'm telling in the book, to a degree,” she says. “My husband jokes that I wrote an entire book to justify my diet.” It worked, somewhat. Heng says she feels a little less frightened of the end, and more at peace with her less-than-healthy eating habits.

Now an M.F.A. student at UT Austin's Michener Center for Writers, Heng is taking in her new city's contradictions and inequalities, and shifting her focus to historical fiction. But she hasn't lost sight of the biggest mystery of all. “A poet friend told me that a famous poet said there are only three topics: love, death and the changing of seasons — which is really about death,” she says. “I never write about love, so I think I'll keep writing about death.”



ANDREW BENNETT

Molly Shea is a journalist based in Brooklyn, N.Y. Her last article for CCT was “Better Call Khadijah,” in the Fall 2018 issue.



A Nation Like All Others: A Brief History of American Foreign Relations by Warren I. Cohen '55. Cohen, Distinguished University Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland, provides a comprehensive overview of America's foreign policy and diplomacy from 1776 to the present (Columbia University Press, \$35).

The Perilous Adventures of the Cowboy King: A Novel of Teddy Roosevelt and His Times by Jerome Charyn '59. Theodore Roosevelt — New York City police commissioner, Rough Rider and 26th President — assumes superhero status in Charyn's playful historical fiction (Liveright, \$26.95).

Weird Thoughts by Thomas Wm. Hamilton '60. Seventeen short stories of science fiction, fantasy and satire span the years 1912 to 50 million years in the future (Strategic Book Publishing & Rights Agency, \$15.87).

Religion Within Reason by Steven M. Cahn '63. In under 96 pages, Cahn examines big questions of faith and reason, morality, miracles, heaven and hell, mystical experiences, religious diversity and the problem of evil (Columbia University Press, \$25).

We Can Do It: A Community Takes On the Challenge of School Desegregation by Michael T. Gengler '66. How black and white

administrators, teachers, parents and students worked together to create desegregated public schools in Alachua County, Fla., in the late 1950s (Rosetta Books, \$24.99).

Hells Heroes: How An Unlikely Alliance Saved Idaho's Hells Canyon by David C. Carlson '68. The author focuses on three critical policy issues relating to the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (Caxton Press, \$16).

No Property in Man: Slavery and Antislavery at the Nation's Founding by Sean Wilentz '72. Acclaimed political historian Wilentz upends conventional views of the Constitution, describing the document as "a tortured paradox that abided slavery without legitimizing it" (Harvard University Press, \$26.95).

Milk Street Tuesday Nights: More Than 200 Simple Weeknight Suppers That Deliver Bold Flavor, Fast by Christopher Kimball '73. Named one of Epicurious.com's "Greatest Home Cooks of All Time," Kimball delivers a quick and easy cookbook for beginners and foodies alike (Little, Brown and Co., \$35).

Monsters, Animals, and Other Worlds: A Collection of Short Medieval Japanese Tales edited by Keller Kimbrough and Harou Shirane '74. Stories and illustrations

featuring hungry ghosts, flesh-eating demons, talking animals, amorous plants and journeys to supernatural realms (Columbia University Press, \$35).

The Existentialist's Survival Guide: How to Live Authentically in an Inauthentic Age by Gordon Marino '76. St. Olaf College philosophy professor Marino dispenses wisdom about facing existence head-on, especially when the universe feels like it's working against you (HarperOne, \$25.99).

The Duty to Stand Aside: Nineteen Eighty-Four and the Wartime Quarrel of George Orwell and Alex Comfort by Eric Laursen '82. An examination of the literary and political arguments between two of Britain's most prominent intellectuals during WWII (AK Press, \$16).

Bush II, Obama, and the Decline of U.S. Hegemony in the Western Hemisphere by Thomas A. O'Keefe '82. O'Keefe reviews the last decades of U.S.-Latin American relations and explains why the United States has lost so much power in this part of the world (Routledge, \$44.95).

Animals and Animality in the Babylonian Talmud by Beth Berkowitz '92. Berkowitz, chair of the Jewish Studies department at Barnard, considers themes in animal studies — intelligence,

morality, sexuality, suffering, danger, personhood — with a religious perspective (Cambridge University Press, \$80 Kindle edition).

Plagues and the Paradox of Progress: Why the World is Getting Healthier in Worrisome Ways by Thomas Bollyky '96. The author interweaves history about the rise and fall of plagues in human societies with modern case studies of the consequences (MIT Press, \$27.95).

Never Shut Up: The Life, Opinions, and Unexpected Adventures of an NFL Outlier by Marcellus Wiley '97. A candid autobiography from one of the best football players in Columbia history (Dutton, \$28).

Decorating a Room of One's Own: Conversations on Interior Design with Miss Havisham, Jane Eyre, Victor Frankenstein, Elizabeth Bennet, Ishmael, and Other Literary Notables by Susan Harlan '99. Harlan spoofs decorating culture by imagining famous fictional homes and "interviewing" the residents about their true tastes (Abrams, \$19.99).

Violence: Humans in Dark Times by Brad Evans and Natasha Lennard '10. Conversations with historians, theorists and artists that explore the problem of violence in everyday life (City Lights Publishers, \$18.95).

— Jill C. Shomer

classnotes



MICHAEL EDMONSON '20

While the illuminated trees on College Walk have brightened students' winter wanderings for decades, the white lights went "green" in 2017 when Columbia swapped out traditional bulbs for LEDs. The lights stay on from early December until the end of February, and the switch is estimated to save a total of 127,900 Kilowatt-hours.

1942

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I regret to report that one of my best friends from our years at Columbia, Jay Topkis '46, died on September 1, 2018, at 94. Jay originally was a member of the Class of 1944, and his time at the College was interrupted by military service. We met while playing softball and touch football in intramural games on the old South Field, and thus began our lifelong friendship. We were separated by Yale Law School for Jay and NYU Medical School for me. Years later, I was happy to give medical advice to Jay and his mother before I left NYC to work in New

Jersey, Washington, D.C., and Providence, R.I., while Jay progressed in his distinguished career as a partner in the prestigious law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. He appeared in cases before the Supreme Court, representing Vice President Spiro Agnew and baseball player Curt Flood and — after his retirement in 1995 — taught at the Law School. Farewell to a brilliant friend, one of Columbia's most distinguished graduates.

I am writing these notes before the start of our 2018 football season, which begins on September 15 at Central Connecticut State. Our first Ivy League game will be a nationally televised night game against Princeton on September 28 at Wien Stadium. Hopes are high for this team, which returns many starters from 2017 on both offense and defense. Coach Al Bagnoli needs to

find a quarterback from at least five potential candidates. A pre-season consensus among Ivy League coaches ranked Columbia fourth in the league, behind Yale, Harvard and Princeton. However, I believe we have the talent to win the Ivy League Championship and have an undefeated season. By the time this issue of *CCT* is published, we will know. Roar, Lions!

Dr. **Gerald Klingon**, our retired neurologist living in Manhattan, celebrated his 98th birthday on September 22. He remains perfectly lucid in our telephone conversations, though occasionally forgetting names and dates as we chat (I, too, suffer from the same lapses). Gerry remains interested in Columbia affairs, with special emphasis on our football and basketball teams. His son, Robert (Amherst College and UC Berkeley School of Law) and daughter, Karen (Rhode Island School of Design) help him with his daily affairs, and are honorary members of our Great Class of 1942.

The Wall Street Journal recently published its rankings of colleges and major universities. Columbia was ranked fourth in the nation, with Harvard (as usual in this publication) ranked first. Several criteria were cited in this report, too numerous to list here. In one category, faculty, Columbia has always been preeminent, with such great teachers as Jacques Barzun CC 1927, GSAS'32; Mark Van Doren GSAS 1921; Dwight Miner CC 1926; Carlton J.H. Hayes CC 1904, GSAS 1909; Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS'38; Irwin Edman CC 1916, GSAS 1920; Joseph Wood Krutch GSAS 1924, Gottlieb Betz, James McGregor, Everard Upjohn and many others who made unforgettable impressions on their students.

Having been blessed with three great-grandchildren, now 5, 4 and 1, I'm hopeful that at least one of them

will continue our family tradition at Columbia. My grandson Benjamin Hathaway '10 shares my loyalty to alma mater. Long may Columbia stand.

1943

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
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Happy 2019, Class of 1943. If you wish to share your news in this column, please send it to either of the addresses above. Be well in the New Year.

Thanks to **Bernie Weisberger** for writing in! He reports: "Greetings, classmates. This is the member whom Dr. G.J. 'Dan' D'Angio called 'faithful Bernie Weisberger,' writing in September to review the last three months.

"I must start at the end with the very sad news that Dan died on September 14, 2018, as his son informed me. It hits home with special force personally. Dan and I were not acquainted in our campus days, but in the interchange of letters here we became pen pals and found we had much in common, as you might see in the Spring 2018 'Last Word' section in *CCT* (college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/spring18/article/43-reverie) — mainly a genuine affection for 'our' Columbia — and eventually met face to face, once when I visited him and his wife at their apartment in Philadelphia, and again at last June's reunion. In our letters to each other we shared experiences. He recalled being on the lightweight crew and days of living at their quarters on the Harlem River, the odd life of being a medical student in the seven-year accelerated program and being mobilized with his fellow doctors-to-be into the Army, uniforms and all, with its regulations and requirements somehow fitted into days of labs and learning. I shared with him in 2015 my recollections of going to Selma as a 'witness' to the struggles that culminated in the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He liked it so much that he made an effort to get it incorporated into an article for *CCT* but as I recollect, space considerations didn't permit it. Dan was simply a fine and caring person to know and I am sure a terrific doctor, and I feel the poorer for his loss.

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

"That said, I go back to the few events that stand out from the trivia of daily life, hoping I'm not repeating myself — an unfortunate habit that grows with my age. Two weeks after the reunion, on June 16, I became for the first time the subject of a TV interview, with a camera crew coming into our apartment, moving furniture around, installing bright lights and positioning me in their glare. They were making a documentary, which I will only briefly describe, on the subject of an academic spoof at the University of Chicago in which I took part as a faculty member in 1962. It was a mock scholarly 'debate' among Jewish supporters about the importance and relevance to the history of American religion of two familiar holiday foods, the 'latke,' a potato pancake usually served during Chanukah, which occurs in December, and the 'hamantash,' a triangular pastry shell filled with prune or other kinds of jam, consumed at Purim, in March. I suspect that this is not exactly news to any non-Jews living in New York, Chicago or other centers of Jewish population. The 'debate' was originated at that time by a couple of Jewish faculty members and the rabbi of Hillel House, the Jewish student center, and eventually became a tradition

that spread to other schools. My role in the interview was to give a genuinely serious interview on how and why the debate was created at that moment in time, but in the debate itself "back then" I spoke as an historian, furiously defending the latke as the truly American Jewish dish, citing documents both real and imaginary. The other participants on both sides used and abused their particular fields of specialization. A relatively recent book containing all of the debates almost up to the current year of 'The Great Latke-Hamantash Debate' is in print. I don't know when and where the video will appear.

"The other memorable event was the annual Father's Day 'Race Against Hate,' described in my earlier letters. I have been a regular participant in a 5K (three-mile) walk for at least the last seven or eight years, the times getting longer each one. This time, with temperatures in the 90s, I shortened the distance to two miles (nobody really takes the results seriously) and was proud of myself for finishing with the aid of my daughter, her husband and one granddaughter still in residence in Chicago, who supplied me with Gatorade and rest stops.

"Finally, I had an early birthday party on August 10 for convenient

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scheduling for all, with out-of-town (Denver) daughter Beth and her husband, and the resident granddaughter of the race, Rebecca. We had the usual meal at daughter Lise's house, with my favorite strawberry shortcake for dessert. And so passed another milestone. Nothing worthy of remembrance in my personal history thereafter until today. Best wishes to all of you from one of us who's still here and still a loyal son of alma mater."

1944

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Dr. **Daniel Choy** PS'49 notes that a friend from CC days, Durham Caldwell '48, is editing *From Farm Boy in Hawaii to the First Chinese Envoy Plenipotentiary to London and Paris*, Dan's biography of his father, Jun Ke Choy CC 1915.

Share your update, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column. Wishing you a Happy New Year and winter season.

1945

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No news from classmates! Share your update, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column. Wishing you a pleasant New Year and winter season.

1946

Bernard Sunshine
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Greetings for the new year, Class of 1946. Please take a moment this winter to write in. Your classmates want to hear from you. Be well.

1947

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Arthur Ashkin was awarded a Nobel Prize in Physics on October 2. At 96, Arthur is the oldest person to win a Nobel. Read more about him, his research and this amazing honor on *The New York Times* website: nytimes.com/2018/10/02/science/physics-nobel-prize.html, or on the Columbia News website: news.columbia.edu/content/arthur-ashkin-cc47-wins-nobel-prize-in-physics.

Classmates would love to hear about you, too. Share your update, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column. Wishing you a joyous New Year and winter season.

1948

Columbia College Today
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Dr. **Walter J. Henry** writes: "I am 91. In 1948 Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower had been named president of Columbia. By chance, I was in the vicinity of Low Library when he made what I believe to be his first visit to campus. I had a camera with me and took a picture of him climbing the Steps. *Alma Mater* can be seen in the background. Eisenhower was accompanied by Adm. Ernest J. King, commander in chief, United States Fleet and chief of naval operations. I love that Eisenhower grin!

"I retired from the practice of thoracic surgery 28 years ago. I had a successful practice and loved every minute of it. I have a wonderful, loving family.

"I owe a great deal to Columbia for allowing me to get into medical school. I remember the day, a long time ago, when the mailman came to our house in Brooklyn with a letter of acceptance from Columbia College. My first choice! Oh happy day!

"I remember the time I went to Pupin Hall for a physics class. There

was a soldier in full battle gear, with a large rifle, guarding the hall. We did not know what to make of it. Later we learned — the Manhattan Project. The atomic bomb!

"My regards to classmates."

Share your update, or even a favorite Columbia College memory, by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column. Wishing you a Happy New Year and winter season.

1949

REUNION 2019
MAY 30–JUNE 1

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Writing this in the week in which we memorialize the catastrophic events of 9-11, the somber reminder of the times and the growing list of occasions to which we must apply "Never Forget" as the categorical heading.

From **Joe Russell**, a sharing of a journal written by his son in the hours and days following 9-11. It is a lengthy, breathtakingly detailed memoir of a time of momentous significance. I am convinced the son is the fruit of the parents and Joe's profoundly Columbian heart is evident in this moving journal.

This event prodded my own recollection. I had written a letter to Dean Austin E. Quigley to allow him to understand that we were comforted to know our son, having just begun his freshman year at the College, was in the best place we could imagine in the wake of the tragedy. He had graduated from Stuyvesant H.S., which became a triage center when the towers fell. The proudest moment in my personal life was hearing my letter quoted in the dean's address on Class Day in 2005 at the graduation of that 2001 freshman class.

It is always encouraging to hear from a classmate who has remained on the sidelines for as long as I can recall. Dr. **Robert Lincoln** was motivated by a comment from **Joe Russell** to share his own recollec-

tion of "The Game." He reminds us that following the Army game, Columbia's season featured four more games in which the defensive squad held all four scoreless. The only score was one touchdown resulting from an interception by Syracuse.

If I may, **Gene Rossides**, it is time to hear from you. This time had to be an extraordinary one for you and we would all love to hear your personal feelings about that signal moment for us all.

From **Burt Silverman**, a letter worth reading. He remains active in his artistic pursuits and informs us of his most recent honor, finding his place in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He writes, "I am one of the 'bench players' mentioned in **Richard Sachs'** last letter to you (Spring 2018), having not sent word of either my survival among the proud few nor of any reasonably interesting other news. But the Spring 2018 issue, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the historic student strike that involved so many passions and meaningful reflections, also stirred me to write to you about that event. This was delayed, of course, by other things — life stuff — so here's the follow-up.

"Nineteen years after graduation I returned to the Columbia campus in a far different role than as an alumnus. In 1968 I had become a rather notable illustrator for both *The New Yorker* and *New York* magazine. The latter assigned me to do drawings of the strike on campus to illustrate an article written by a student participant. Being there, and responding to the heightened atmosphere of a newfound 'resistance' that clearly paralleled the ongoing anti-war protests, I found myself feeling almost like a student again and very much in tune with the protest. It was a powerful time and one that is now still clearly remembered. In the years since I have drifted from away from the College in part because as a commuter student I had none of the dormitory-kinds of friendships that form bonds, but more so because my connections to the art world were far more demanding.

"I did have some of my art reproduced in *CCT* about 18 years ago and then a reflection of my college experience in a *CCT* series titled 'My Last Meeting' with the people in my class for our 60th reunion, where we made special

tribute to who was an ongoing force in remedial medicine for the elderly. I painted a portrait of Dr. **Robert Butler** PS'53 to honor this occasion. (We became friends briefly; this vigorous, wonderful man died very soon afterward, the victim of a startlingly aggressive form of cancer.)

"But what now finally gets me to write is that one of the drawings I made during the strike was recently acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and that has once again revived the memory of Spring '68. Its accession by the museum now makes the strike part of a significant art historical record to which I am also honorifically bound.

"I know photographs are now the visual lingua franca of all our recorded memories — instant self-

1950

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Happy New Year, Class of 1950!

News from **Arthur Westing**: "My wife, Carol (of 62 years and counting), and I have lived in the Wake Robin Life Plan Retirement Community in Shelburne, Vt., since 2017, where we have been busily making a host of friends (including **Joseph "Bud" Kassel** and his wife, Ruth), and pitching in with such resident-run outdoor activities within the community's 75 acres of

levels of over-population, unavoidably accompanied by unsustainable demands on the global resources and sink capacities.

"My contact information is westing@sover.net."

Be well CC'50, and do take a moment to send in a Class Note to either of the addresses at the top of this column.

1951

**Columbia College Today
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Ralph Lowenstein JRN'52 writes: "Ralph and his wife, Bronia, visited Israel in May 2018, during the 70th anniversary year of the establishment of the Jewish state. Ralph is believed to be the only Columbia undergraduate to serve in the Israeli armed forces during Israel's War of Independence. A native of Danville, Va., he volunteered at the end of his freshman year and drove a halftrack in the 79th Armored Battalion. He returned at the end of the war, going to summer sessions to make up for the lost time, and graduated with his class. There were about 1,500 American and Canadian volunteers. Ralph also served in the Army during the Korean War, following graduation from the Journalism School. In later life, as dean of the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications, he was one of the longest-serving deans — 18 years — in the history of the university. In retirement, Ralph and Bronia reside in Gainesville, Fla., home of the university."

George Zimbel checked in: "A documentary about George Zimbel was shown at the Raindance Film Festival (calendar.raindancefestival.org/films/zimbelism) in London. The film was made by Matt Zimbel, his son, and a colleague, photographer Jean-Francois Gratton of Montreal. It has been shown in Beijing and Shanghai and is on the Canadian CBC network. George and his wife, writer Elaine Sernovitz, emigrated to Canada in 1971. Elaine passed away in 2017 (go online to read more: bit.ly/2QGWSrs). George continues to reside in Montreal. He is no longer printing, instead focusing on his

poetry. His work is available through many fine galleries throughout Canada and the United States (georgezimbel.com/contact)."

Phillip Bruno and his wife, Clare, are in Scotland, enjoying a busy time of art galleries, museums, studio visits and so on — plus grandkids! Clare writes, "A highlight was the recent opening of the new V&A Dundee. Perched on the water's edge, this amazing building by Kengo Kuma will act as the Bilbao effect, transforming the city. Very exciting."

"I love Scotland, and I love my life here," says Phillip. "It is a big change from Manhattan but people are so friendly." Phillip has a trainer who works at the tennis club nearby and there is a Victorian church next door. It's very convenient. Plus, there's a huge central private garden belonging to all the surrounding houses, which date from 1870. Phillip sends all best wishes to classmates.

1952

**Columbia College Today
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Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year, Class of 1952! We heard from **George Economakis**, who shares: "I, born 1930, took more than a moment to write and send you this Class Note, hereunder:

"I kept postponing research on the real causes of the Greek schism between 'royalists' and 'venizelists,' started by Prime Minister Venizelos one century ago. So I was glad when 30-month old Areti-Georgia, daughter of my son Andrew '87, recently 'unearthed' from my library a volume titled *Constantine I and the Greek People* by Paxton Hibben, an American diplomat, journalist and humanitarian, who published the work in New York in 1920. It had looked like a textbook from my Columbia days. The subject is about King Constantine I, Prime Minister Venizelos, WWI and the French and British allies.

"Thus I researched, wrote and circulated a 30-page report on what happened to neutral Greece in order to get us involved in WWI. I included, as well, the responsibili-

A documentary about George Zimbel '51, made by his son Matt Zimbel and a colleague, was shown at the Raindance Film Festival in London.

ties — but I like to think that in my oddball place as a realist painter, art does have some role to play in illuminating the world around us.

"P.S. I send a warm hello to Dr. **Marvin Lipman** PS'54, who was on the editorial staff of the *Jester* with me so many summers ago in '48."

Burt, all of us who were there 10 years ago recall that extraordinary portrait that projects Dr. **Robert Butler**'s visage in such profound emotional depth. While brushes, pigment and canvas may not be the "lingua franca" of today, it remains the timeless medium of thought and emotion expressed beyond words. For that we all are grateful to you. And Marv will see your greeting here.

Sadly, at the time of this writing I received a phone call from the daughter of **Fred DeVries** SEAS'50, SEAS'51. Fred has suddenly taken leave of this earth. We had most recently exchanged emails expressing hope of seeing one another at our 70th reunion. His life is both a reminder of our fragility as well as an example of extraordinary accomplishment.

Thank you all for your notes. It is winter and the days are shorter; there is more evening time for you to think about writing a note before the Spring 2019 issue.

woodlands as sugaring (some 270 taps), hiking trail maintenance (some five miles) and nature trail development (a roundtrip of one mile). Moreover, Carol and I have for many years been leading nature hikes for the Appalachian Mountain Club in Acadia National Park. The two of us consider our role in establishing and maintaining a substantial nature reserve in southeastern Vermont as one of our major achievements.

"As to professional activities, I am long retired from professing and deaning in academia, from directing the United Nations program on Peace, Security, and the Environment, and from international environmental consulting, but remain somewhat active in the International Crane Foundation's project on protecting in perpetuity the Korean Demilitarized Zone as a crucial nature reserve. Highlights of my efforts have appeared in the 2013 book *Arthur H. Westing: Pioneer on the Environmental Impact of War*.

"My overriding concern now is the increasingly unsustainable exploitation of the world's natural environment, inevitably accompanied by the ever-diminishing biota it can support — all this driven by the ever-more egregiously increasing

ties for the Greek nation tragedy of 1919–21 in Asia Minor. The Hellenic army consisted of more than 200,000 able but exhausted soldiers from our Balkan wars, plus the necessary mountain artillery. Greeks were to fight the empires of Austria-Hungary and Germany, Bulgaria, plus eventually the Ottoman Turks. There was foul play, intrigue and bluffing by Venizelos together with the *entente* allies (French and British Empires). The two powers unofficially landed in 1915 for a military base in Thessaloniki and started the shameful battle in Athens for the final dethroning in 1917 of Constantine I, the 'soldier king of the Hellenes.'

Please take a moment to write in to either of the addresses at the top of this column. Your classmates would love to hear from you!

1953

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Greetings in the new year, and best wishes for a happy 2019. Please take a moment to send your news. Classmates would love to hear from you!

1954

REUNION 2019
MAY 30–JUNE 1

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Happy New Year 2019, men of the Class of Destiny. Yes, we graduated 65 years ago come this May, and it's a time of reflection for most of us. As I write this quarterly column for the Winter 2018–19 issue of *CCT* in Westchester County, it's fall and nearly 80 degrees, and I need to project my observations so those of you reading this on the East Coast while watching the snowflakes and not living in Southern California can better relate to my thoughts. I am often reminded of Philip Roth's

comment in *The New York Times* in 2014, not long before he died: "Yes, character is destiny, and yet everything is chance."

Many of you, as we exchanged birthday thoughts this year, expressed a focus on — others a combination of aspects of — pride, nostalgia, resignation, and hope. Sarcasm was endemic, fatalism rare, cynicism absent. Good for us!

Our Reunion Committee is now 11 men strong, and is dealing with a number of key issues such as program; meals; College, class and guest speakers; venues on- and off-campus; housing; the 65th anniversary questionnaire and directory; costs; and spouse/significant other possible needs and special interests. College support in helping underwrite expenses will once again be available. Our anniversary Class Gift requires ongoing attention.

Added to our committee since the last issue of *CCT* are **Jack Blechner, Ted Spiegel and Dick Werksman** LAW'58. Others: Let me know if you want to join us; we need you. Two members of the Alumni Office staff work with us as liaisons and active participants. We look to them to smooth the way, open doors, help guide our wishes, and generally be there with caveats and encouragement to assure we have a great attendance and successful celebration.

Thanks to all of you who sent this correspondent happy birthday wishes last October, led off by **Bob Weber** SEAS'55, SEAS'56, who lamented, "I have stopped counting birthdays; next year I'll be 86 and — if you've ever worked in a restaurant — you know that '86' means 'there is no more.'"

Does this mean that if Bob stopped counting he might actually be 100? Good for you, Bob! But he also made some suggestions for reunion: "Hospital beds in the dorm rooms we'll occupy; escorts for those of us who've unfortunately lost our spice (that's plural for spouse); giant nametags so we can see whose names we've forgotten; and a T-shirt with the Columbia logo to replace the one that's faded from our 25th reunion."

A classmate observed about **Jack Blechner** and Barbara Blechner BC'56's most recent European trip, "I am so happy for you being busy all those times. I haven't been busy since 1998 and won't be until the

dishes tonight." Jack replied, "Nice that you have so much time to relax. You're still funny as ever! Yes, I'm very busy ... going to the trainer to help me stand up ... and, of course, doctors' appointments."

New Class Notes feature, the *Quarterly Quiz*: Guess who did the dishes. First five responses get a long-distance hug.

"Old" **Saul Turteltaub** LAW'57 shared these thoughts on his birthday, September 20: "A Day at the Age of 86: It starts the night before at midnight. You are wide awake. You've been asleep two hours and will now be awake for another two hoping to fall back to sleep but no luck. At that point, 2 a.m., you've learned to take two Tylenol PMs so you can fall back to sleep two hours later at 4 a.m. and sleep till 7 a.m. You wake up with five hours of sleep behind you and are ready to face the day, which should provide a time and place for a nap. 'Place' is optional as in the past you have fallen asleep during the day in your office chair, the passenger seat in a friend's car, and the driver's seat in your own car.

"Into the bathroom for your morning pills. A baby aspirin to thin your blood, and I hope to prevent a heart attack from fat blood; atorvastatin to lower cholesterol; Caltrate to help your calcium, whatever you need it for; vitamins B12, C, and D3, to help your B12, C, and D3 shortages?"

"Then back to bed and lie there until your wife wakes up so you can give her a good morning kiss before you get out of bed and get dressed five minutes later after you find your socks.

"As good, or young, or the same as you felt or thought you felt when you were 30 you now come face to face with the enemy. The mirror. There is a head with little hair on it and a face that looks and is old. But what the mirror can't show is your mind, which thank God is the same. It has not yet gotten old. It is as old as you have allowed it to be. What your grandchildren know about the computer, podcasts, internet, etc., which you don't, is not because you are unable to learn but because you chose not to. Friends your age or older know that stuff and all you need to know is their phone number.

"Time to go into the kitchen for breakfast and your first decision. Do you want bananas or raisins with your corn flakes (depending on

whether you have constipation or diarrhea)? Both if you have neither.

"If you haven't turned the TV on in the bedroom, you turn it on now to CNN and the 'Olds.' No news. It's the same as it has been for the past 12 hours, since you saw it the night before, hoping it would put you to sleep.

"You pick up the morning newspaper, which has been delivered to the house and immediately turn to the obituary page to see if anyone you know died and then if anyone you know of died. With any luck there will be one. If it's someone you knew you will be able to call the family and perhaps write a wonderful memorial, which will occupy a portion of the otherwise uneventful day. If it's only a famous person you knew of you will be able to call friends and tell them and kibitz about him or her. One of the pluses of being 86 is you will know or know of a lot of dead or dying people.

"Then, as you get up to leave the kitchen, your wife asks, 'Are you going anywhere today?' 'Why do you ask?' 'Because those pants don't fit you anymore. They're too long and all bunched in around your waist.'

"She's right, of course. All of a sudden, it seems, you have lost 30 pounds and shrunk three inches. That's 10 pounds an inch. You now admit you are an old man, but you still don't think or feel like it. Not fair."

"None of you should talk about busy," writes **Arnold Tolkin**. "I am still running my own million-dollar business, and (away from the office) after having four sons and 12 grandchildren (nine boys and three girls), we now have five great-granddaughters and at the time of writing are expecting a great-grandson in December. I am busy playing with dolls, erector sets and trains, and staying away from doctors."

Concerning our reunion, Arnie is "thinking about lunches, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres, and a few late-night dinners ... as well as some NYC cultural events and that a lecture or two would be nice."

You heard it here first!

Joseph V. Ambrose Jr. '51 shares sad news about a classmate: "I am advising you that my younger brother, **Robert F. Ambrose**, passed away on August 25, 2018."

Birthdays appear to have occurred — admittedly or not — many CC'54 classmates' ruminations this

past year. **Ted Spiegel's** on June 15 "was filled up like a traffic round-about, witness to my creative and economic imperatives. A freelance photojournalist is by necessity a multitasker and the day bore witness to my ongoing challenges. Dawn saw me at the computer, compiling an edit of photos illustrating an article about the Modern War Institute at West Point."

Ted is the creative force behind the *West Point Guide Book*, published since 1999, and a frequent photo contributor to *West Point* magazine. His busy day included several meals and a surprise party, "topped off with a transatlantic chat with (wife) Signy, who has been in Norway since mid-May. My birthday celebration continued with a Father's Day lunch, shared with my sons David and Erik, their wives, and four grandchildren."

Wow! Wanna be reunion chair?

Dick Bernstein suggests we may want to get way-y-y off campus for our 2019 reunion, for example, "Perhaps the Alumni Office can investigate a tour of One World Trade Center coupled with dining nearby."

At this time, gents, it's all still on the table; send suggestions.

A classmate asked how his "story" can get into the CC'54 Class Notes. "Easy," I replied, "a very large gift to the College Fund should do it ... or not."

I explained once again that this column is about him, about all of us, and about our connection with alma mater. I solicit, as do the editors, any and all information from every one of you — family, professional, achievements, endeavors, observations, rhymes, hobbies, memories. No one pays to play: This space is about you. So, all, keep sending me stuff, and we'll take it from there.

A note about me. My wife, Helen, and I were invited to Halberstadt once again, where a year ago I lectured at the *Gymnasium* (high school) to mostly 17-year-old students about the Holocaust and its part in my life and my family's lives. I also hosted an extended information session for adults and families in the garden of the house where I was born, sponsored by the Moses Mendelssohn Akademie. My personal mission the past several years has been to talk whenever and wherever about this seminal event, and — as per the slogan of the United States Holocaust

Memorial Museum — urge listeners, especially young people, to "never stop asking why."

Until next time, gentlemen, again, be well, do good, help cure the world, nurture your passions, live fully today, attend to your future more than your past, and keep in touch. Excelsior!

1955

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There has been a lot of Columbia activity on- and off-campus.

One sad note is the passing of **Jim Hudson** in his home in Santa Fe, N.M.

In addition, **Don Marcus** has moved from Brooklyn to Pittsfield, Mass.

The 2018 Alexander Hamilton Dinner honored Lisa L. Carnoy '89 in Low Library in November. The Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame dinner was conducted in Low Library in October. Alumni Leaders Weekend took place in early October, hosted by the Columbia Alumni Association. Homecoming was in mid-October, and we played Dartmouth.

Dick Kuhn was getting ready for the basketball season. The schedule includes Rutgers, Northwestern and Boston College, in addition to the Ivy League teams and playing Iona in Madison Square Garden in December.

The Columbia/Penn Club featured several member events and has thrived under the leadership of James Gerkis '80, LAW'83. We have begun preparing for the 65th reunion for our class and hope to see the following at this event: **Don Laufer, Alfred Gollomp, Roland Plottel** (our patent expert), **Allen Hyman, Bob Bernot, Herb Gardner, Anthony Viscusi, Herb Cohen, Bill Epstein, Al Martz** (and his red convertible), **Jack Freeman** (and his fielder's mitt), **Chuck Garrison, Jerry Plasse** (now residing in Montana and a former Ford Scholar), **Bill Langston** (living with his family in a brownstone in Harlem), **Milt Finegold, Bob Schoenfeld, Bob Mercier, Barry Pariser** (and his paintings), **Neil**



Members of the Class of 1956 met for lunch in September. Seated, left to right: Jack Katz and Dan Link; standing, left to right: Jerry Fine, Bob Siroy and Steve Easton.

Opdyke, Roger Stern, Harold Kushner and Milt Merritt.

Beloved classmates, enjoy your life to the fullest. The 65th will be in front of us before we know it. Exercise, watch your diet and be happy as you go through your day.

1956

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CC'56 met in July and August at **Dan Link's** club in Larchmont, N.Y., for tennis and lunch.

I heard from **Mike Spett**, in Boca Raton, Fla., about his travels in Croatia and Slovenia, including a travelogue and an account of his wife Lisa's injury and treatment at a hospital. Mike reports she is doing well, and that the treatment (both medical and personal) was first-class.

Alan Broadwin gave me a copy of the 1955 *Columbian* (for which he took pictures and which I never saw), which includes a picture of me talking to Professor George Nobbe, my pre-med advisor. Don't remember taking the picture, but want to say I look the same.

In September, I started a class ("On the Road to 2020") taught by Gerry Pomper '55, Board of Governors of Government (emeritus) at the Eagleton Institute. I was recently appointed to the advisory council of the Osher Lifetime Learning Institute at Rutgers.

In August we welcomed a "new" member of the lunch roundtable,

Paul Bergins, who lives in White Plains, N.Y., and practices law there.

Ron Kapon is the author of two articles in the latest issue of *Cheese Connoisseur* — "Dinner at Brooklyn's Denizen" and "Wine from Long Island."

I have received multiple photos on Facebook from my med school roommate **Frank Neuberger** as he travels around the world.

In September, we met again for tennis and lunch. Past class president **Steve Easton** was in town while his North Carolina home was under attack from Hurricane Florence.

Ken Swimm wrote that as we met, he was sailing down the Danube with a group of Columbia alumni, but none from CC'56.

From **Ron Kapon**: "I was asked to write my analysis of Columbia football and basketball for these Class Notes. This will be all football. Let's start with Coach Al Bagnoli. I love him and his enthusiasm. ... Bagnoli was the best football coach in the Ivy League at Penn (112–47 from 1982–2014). ... Columbia Athletics Director Peter Pilling hired him as soon as he heard he was available. Bagnoli started 1–5, then 2–5 and last year (2017) was 5–2 in the Ivy League. There are 100 players and 18 assistant coaches (I remember 50 players and eight assistants)."

Stephen Easton: "My report on our latest class lunch and tennis game is a good one in that we played for over an hour and were able to stay on the courts. The contest between **Dan Link** and **Jerry Fine** against **Jack Katz** and me ended in a draw. **Bob Siroy**, our class presi-



Members of the Class of 1956 met for lunch in August. Seated, left to right: Maurice Klein, Ron Kapon and Jerry Fine; standing, left to right: Bob Sirotky, Paul Bergins, Alan Broadwin and Dan Link.

dent/referee, was there to make sure none of us cheated (as if we would ... ha ha). I particularly enjoyed the day. Since moving to North Carolina, I do need an occasional New York City and Columbia classmate fix. I was in New York the week of September 10–17 and spent time with my New York family members, saw two Broadway shows — one of which was based on the life of a Columbia alumnus (guess who) — and attended a lecture sponsored by the University's 1754 Society (for College donors).

"It turns out that based on plans, my wife, Elke (visiting Germany), and I (visiting New York) missed Hurricane Florence, which did unfortunately hit our area as predicted. After being in North Carolina for two years, we have experienced Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Florence. We love where we live but do not like hurricanes.

"It's always good to attend Columbia events and I think each of our classmates should make an effort when they are in New York to connect with classmates.

"I celebrated my birthday this past August 21, and I am thankful that I've been able to keep active playing golf and tennis, and exercising. Also, I have managed to get back into being somewhat more active in my real estate business to the point where I now own four Dollar General stores in the southeast United States.

"This September, Elke and I celebrated our 16th wedding anniversary. We are traveling and exercising, keeping up our health.

Elke is recovering amazingly well from her stroke and we were planning to go back to Los Cabos this past October.

"I spoke with **Ron Kapon**, who is keeping me up to date on the goings-on of Columbia football and basketball.

"My brother, Maurice Easton SEAS'55, who lives in the same St. James Plantation complex as Elke and I, had to evacuate for Hurricane Florence. He and I will repair any damage to our houses when we return.

"That's all I have to report for now, other than to encourage each of our class members to share their goings-on, as I do, with **Bob Sirotky**."

Martin Mayer reports that his brother-in-law **Barry Beller** PS'60 died recently at his home in Santa Fe, N.M.

I received a plea from **Jerry Breslow**, who said that as he approaches 85 he would like to know about others of us "survivors." The first half of his report follows; the remainder will be in the next issue.

"There have been some interesting doings in my life since I last reported in. At that time, I had recently retired from the board of the Strathmore Hall Foundation, a Montgomery County, Md., cultural organization that operates a cultural center on behalf of the county. I also was board chair of one its performing partners, the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras. In 2014, the foundation approached the MCYO about merging, which we agreed to, and achieved in 2015. As part of the deal, MCYO got an *ex officio* seat on the Strathmore board, which I have

occupied for the past three years. This created a unique experience, which I doubt will be duplicated.

"Under its by-laws, Strathmore has three classes of directors: those appointed by the county executive, those elected by the board and those designated *ex officio* by certain entities. Initially I was appointed to the board by the county executive, Doug Duncan '76, whom I knew through the local College luncheon group. I was an appointee for eight years. Then, in its wisdom, the Strathmore Board elected me to a three-year term, and I served until I reached my maximum time of allowed board service, 11 years. Now I am designated an *ex officio* director, and theoretically can serve in total an additional nine years. Thus, if I live, I could serve until I am 90, at which time I am told I shall be bronzed and put in the lobby of the Music Center. I don't think anyone else will ever serve in all three director classes, and for 20 years."

To be continued ... let's hear from more of you "survivors." It's only three years until our 65th.

1957

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From **Edward Alexander**: "I've not done much writing since Leah, my wife of more than 59 years, died in 2017. But I have a piece forthcoming in *Mosaic*, 'Lionel Mordechai Trilling,' a review-essay of the volume of his correspondence, edited by Adam Kirsch. It should be of interest to those who took Trilling's year-long course on 19th-century literature at Columbia."

Gary Angleberger: "At your invitation, here is a brief description of a wonderful tour my wife, Judy, and I were able to take this past July to the Outer Hebrides of Scotland.

"We flew to Glasgow, where we met the small group of 13, from various parts of the United States, and our guide and driver. After a long ferry ride we arrived at the location in the Outer Hebrides from which we began our tour. The Hebrides are described as an almost 'other-worldly realm of Scotland.' They are more than 200 islands

stretching about 130 miles from north to south, lying northwest of the coast of Scotland. We did not tour the entire 200 islands, but we toured at least five or six of them. We were overwhelmed by the sense of isolation and unusual beauty of the lakes, mountains and inlet beaches. The white beaches of beautiful blue and green waters were mostly uninhabited, and the sparse population of the island reminded us we were in an unusual place. We stopped for a visit at the Hebridean Smokehouse at Clachan on the Isle of North Uist — it sells smoked salmon to homes and businesses around the world.

"Our nights were spent in modest small hotels, which were not in abundance on the islands. We saw preserved sites of staircases going down into what we learned were areas inhabited by our ancestors of the Stone Age. We saw and visited 'blackhouses,' some of which go back to the days of the Vikings. Some of them are still occupied by retired fishermen and their families. In South Harris we saw St. Clement's Church from the 16th century, in which a congregation still worships. And, of course, one of the highlights of the trip for Judy was the stop on the Isle of Harris, home of the Harris Tweed. (We did not bring enough spending money for a jacket.)

"It was an incredible array of scenery and a glance into a history we knew little about. It was an experience we will have with us for all our days."

Warren Boroson has retired as a financial journalist; he was a syndicated columnist for Gannett and wrote more than 20 books, including one on Warren Buffett BUS'51. These days he gives talks on music (especially on old opera singers) at Bard and Marist. He's almost finished writing a book on opera singers and composers. One of his sons, Bram, is a tenured professor of astrophysics in Atlanta; the other, Matthew, is a novelist (*The Girl with Ghost Eyes: The Daoshi Chronicles, Book One*). His wife of more than 50 years, Rebecca, is a retired newspaper editor. They live in Woodstock, N.Y.

Stan Cohen PS'61: "I have been awarded the Golden Goose Award for 2018 (for the discovery of Cytokines), which was awarded on September 13 at the Library of

Congress. It is sponsored by a coalition of organizations, including the Association for the Advancement of Science and major universities. The description, taken from the website, is as follows: "The annual Golden Goose Awards honor seemingly obscure studies that have led to breakthroughs in the development of life-saving medicines and treatments; game-changing social and behavioral insights; and major technological advances related to national security, energy, the environment, communications, and public health."

Michael Ferragamo: "Although retired from 32 active years of urological practice for 20 years, Michael has continued his lecturing and seminars on the proper and accurate coding for urological services and procedures. His presentations to urologists and urological departments at many medical institutions and hospitals have taken him to the majority of states during these 20 years. He would love to hear from classmates at liqgold2@aol.com."

Lawrence Merrion: "I lost my beautiful wife, Judy, in December, from a sudden massive stroke. Living alone after 20 years of wonderful companionship is not the way I expected to finish my time on this earth. I traveled to Fort Myers, Fla., in February from California to visit my Michigan brother, who vacations there for three months a year. I have taken a week at the Santa Cruz beaches in California. I recently returned from a wonderful Princess Alaskan cruise, which I shared with my 21-year-old grandson, Connor, out of Seattle, with beautiful weather for spotting the wildlife. Now I am preparing for my extended trip to St. Louis to visit childhood friends, and then on to Michigan, where I was born and raised, to visit family. Travel provides a diversion from my tragic loss, and fulfills some of my goals in life. Most of my Columbia friends and Sigma Chi fraternity brothers are gone, but not forgotten."

Sam Rosenberg: "My spouse, Jeff, and I celebrated our 30th anniversary as a couple this past January and in March, our fifth as a pair actually married. While he does his unretired lawyering, I go on filling my retired years translating works of both Old and Modern French. During the next several

seasons, I expect to see the publication of poetry of Paul Verlaine, the lyrics of a 13th-century trouvère, the chronicle of a 12th-century observer of some memorable crusaders and their foes and first of all, Armand Lunel's history of the Jews of the south of France. To some extent, such activities entail collaboration with colleagues, which makes them all the more rewarding."

Jacques Ullman: "I am sitting on a bench in a little village in southwest France, the country where I was born. As did a number of the members of our class, I came to the United States to escape fascism. I have had a beautiful life as an American, growing up in California, going to Columbia and architectural school at Cal, and establishing a family and an architectural career in the San Francisco Bay area. I should feel content and fulfilled. But, is the unthinkable possible — should we be worried about fascism again?"

From **Paul Frommer:** "After a 22-year career in the Navy my wife and I had decided to remain in the Washington, D.C., area, specifically our home in Alexandria, Va. Then 1979–2013 it was a second career in the insurance business, punctuated by the birth of four children (including one set of twins). Add two grandchildren to that with another on the way.

"We've done some traveling, the most interesting being hiking in England, Scotland and the Alto Adige region of Italy. Sad to say my knees gave out before I reached 70 and access to deep, deep discounts at ski slopes.

"I'm in frequent contact with my brother **Alan Frommer** (in Wellesley, Mass.), **Lou Sheinbaum** (in New Jersey), **John Taussig** (in California) and **Harry Siegmund** (in Hawaii). Health is holding up and at the same time amazed that I shall soon be 83! Best to all."

After attending the American Bar Association's annual meeting, held this year in Chicago, yours truly visited a cousin and family in Madison, Wis. Among other things, we visited the campus of the University of Wisconsin and the town of New Glarus, which lies southwest of Madison in Green County. An article in the June 1947 *National Geographic Magazine* refers to the town as "Deep in the Heart of 'Swissconsin'" and to the town and environs as "Little

Switzerland." The pioneer settlers of the town were immigrants from the Canton and town of Glarus, Switzerland, who arrived in 1845. There is a monument to the first settlers next to the Swiss Evangelical and Reformed Church, where my cousin's wife's parents were married. Her late mother was of Swiss-German descent.

The town has a number of chalet-style buildings and restaurants serving Swiss-German food, including bratwurst (grilled pork sausage).

1958

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The final numbers for Reunion 2018 are in and compared to other classes celebrating their 60th reunions, our class is among the leaders in absolute numbers of alumni attending, percentage of surviving class members attending and money raised for the University. Well done, guys!

From our mailbox, **Mike Geiger** writes: "I have had a hectic life with many ups and downs. All is well now. I live in Florida with a Bronx Science classmate whom I met at a high school reunion several years ago. It seems that I have waited all my life for her and the wait has been worth it. I also have three children, all married to wonderful spouses, and they have given me six grandchildren. All are well and successful.

"After Columbia, I went to optometry school. It was a wonderful decision. My 50-plus years in practice have provided me an enormous amount of satisfaction. I have provided clear vision to many patients of all ages, and have saved countless others by detecting malignancies, diabetes and hypertension. Very gratifying. Late in my career, after having been president of the largest optometric society in New York State, I became interested in nutritional eye care. There are very few of us in the country. I was invited to be the eye expert on Dr. Andrew Weill's two websites, as well as the founding director of the Ophthalmic Nutrition Society. The other directors were primarily teachers and scientists. My appointment as

founding director was based on my book, *Eye Care Naturally*, as well as my many journal articles. I have also lectured on this book as well, and still give talks in Florida and around the country on general nutrition.

"As of last summer, I am fully retired and enjoying the golden age far away from the hazards of New York winters. We do a lot of traveling around the world. My favorite trips were two African safaris, but the European museums and architecture were also enjoyable and informative. I miss our monthly poker games at **Peter Gruenberger's** home, but have several games in Florida. It was always nice to be with classmates. I shall cherish the memories."

Stephen Jurovics SEAS'58 informs us that his book, *Hospitable Planet: Faith, Action, and Climate Change*, became one of his publisher's best sellers in 2018. Steve remains busy giving talks at congregations about climate change as both a secular and religious issue. He can be reached at info@hospitableplanet.com.

On a sadder note, **George Jochowitz** has informed us that Dr. **Edward Halperin** has passed away. Ed practiced psychiatry in New Rochelle, N.Y., for many years. We also learned of the death of another physician classmate, Dr. **Herman Frankel**, who was a retired pediatrician, but still active in causes related to the well-being of children, in Portland, Ore.

CCT received a letter from **Henry Kurtz:** "My absence from Class of '58 and general Columbia alumni activities is due to a series of serious medical ailments, beginning with heart surgery that required triple coronary bypass and aortic valve replacement. (I must now moo like a cow when I pass a butcher shop.) A year later a malignant tumor was removed from my neck, and it turned out the cancer had spread to my throat, requiring seven weeks of radiation and chemotherapy. Things came to a merciful end a year ago when a prostate problem called TURP occurred, requiring what is considered minor surgery, so I wouldn't have to wear a catheter for the remainder of my life.

"I am thankful to the skillful doctors, nurses and general staff at Lenox Hill Hospital for pulling me through all of this, and the interest of some of my Class of '58 friends,

especially **Bernie Nussbaum** and **Tom Ettinger**.

"During this difficult period, I continued to write and publish articles for historical and antique toy periodicals, and recently started work on my seventh book.

"My condolences to **Barry Dickman's** family on Barry's passing. He was one of the best of the *Spectator* editorial managing board, on which I also served."

As of the time of writing, we are looking forward to the beginning of the football season. As in 2017, our team should be competitive in every game and hopes for an Ivy League championship are not unrealistic. During reunion, several of us were discussing the turnaround in the football team, something we thought we would never see. Through the years we had been told the lack of success was due in part to the long distance necessary to practice at the Baker Athletics Complex. However, the other men's teams that also had to make the same trip (tennis, baseball, soccer, lightweight crew) had multiple championship seasons. Now that we are in the Coach Al Bagnoli era we realize that what we had lacked was not a closer practice field, but a coaching staff that could recruit and mentor excellent student athletes from all over the country. We have that now.

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

1959

REUNION 2019 MAY 30–JUNE 1

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It is with great sadness that I report the death of **Harvey Seidenstein**, which occurred on September 3,

2018. You can find his obituary online at bit.ly/2E2PCVs. I thank **Joseph Mittel** for bringing it to my attention.

Let me remind everyone to plan to attend our 60th reunion. This may be our last; let us get together again to enjoy one another's company and do what we do best: talk and discuss.

In other news, our class has been active in producing volumes — of yes, books — for us to enjoy. In alphabetical order of the authors' last names: **Jerome Charyn's** novel about Teddy Roosevelt, *The Perilous Adventures of the Cowboy King*, will be published in January, the centennial of Roosevelt's death; **J. Peter Rosenfeld** edited and contributed to *Detecting Concealed Information and Deception*; and **Steve Trachtenberg** is co-author of *Leading Colleges and Universities: Lessons From Higher Education Leaders*.

James Cooper has relocated to Sarasota, Fla., from the Washington, D.C., area.

Fred Lorber informs us: "I've lived in California for 20 years now. I used to visit NYC a few times a year and often traveled to D.C. when I consulted with federal agencies. Now, I am happy to never have to get on a plane again. I surrendered my elite travel status and no longer can fly first-class. Six hours in coach! Instead, I spend three hours a day at the gym, enjoy the bounty of the farms in the Central Valley (Stockton, Calif.) and run a restaurant for one customer, me. With my cat companion, Kutah, I get a taste of real love and loving. I suggest to any senior living alone: Get a pet."

Steve Trachtenberg writes: "Busy summer. Retired from The George Washington University. Spent a week in Lisbon. Spent a week in London. Spent a week in hospital with pneumonia. Spent two weeks on Martha's Vineyard. Spent a week fishing in Maine. And here we are at Labor Day."

Stay well, Steve.

From **Paul Kantor**: "As the years accumulate, my wife, Carole, and I are still able to travel — we are not as limber, nor as bold, as before, but we have had some wonderful experiences. The first was an October trip to the pocket-sized country of Luxembourg. Much to see, including an amazing museum that dives into the ground to display five floors of prehistory and history. The city is naturally fortified by hills and rivers,

and resisted conquest many times — most recently by a gaggle of mathematicians interested in algorithms that can make decisions for us. The hosts treated us to a marvelous dinner, as well.

"On the way home we spent a few days in Amsterdam. Carole had never been there. We walked long distances in the delightful residential neighborhoods, joined the crowd at the Rijksmuseum to admire Rembrandt's *The Night Watch* (12x14 feet), among other (smaller) masterworks that we had seen only in books. We stayed in Amsterdam long enough to have a favorite place for breakfast. More in future Class Notes columns."

Frank Wilson writes, "Sixty years? Really??? I'm not sure where I will be next summer. And since I'm about as far away from NYC as one can be in the continental United States, it's really not practical for me to be part of the [Reunion Committee]. But I would like to stay informed in case I can work out a way to be in New York this summer.

"A major retirement project for me (now close to 40 years running) has been researching the life and work of my great-grandmother's first cousin, Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen. Everybody has at least some interest in their genomic ancestry and I'm no exception, but this has turned out to be an epic journey. A major driver for me was the receipt of a small gold wedding band, which came with the claim that it was the ring worn by Roentgen's wife in the image of the 'Hand mit Ringen' he circulated with the initial report of the discovery of the X-ray. It has not been an easy job authenticating that claim, but it has been fun. If the Reunion Committee is looking for wild-card presentations, I'd be happy to oblige. Roentgen, as you might know, was invited to come to Columbia after he had moved from Wuerzburg to Munich, but ended up not doing so because of WWI. He and his wife did not have children (they adopted his wife's niece) and his closest relatives all ended up in the United States. It's quite a tribe. The first ones who came did so with the intention of bringing the German Reformed Church to those living in the wilderness. I've already given a version of this talk in Zurich, at the Center for X-ray Analytics in Dübendorf."

Ralph Alster sends his memory of former Dean of the College

Steven Marcus '48, GSAS'61: "I'm deeply saddened by Steven's passing. I remember him, along with James Shenton '49, as the two faculty I had more than a class-attendance relationship with. I'd visit with Shenton regularly up in his attic office for that constant stream of jokes he always had pouring out of his miraculous psyche and, with most jokes not at all understood, I'd sit there with that stupid grin on my face that was my pretense to understanding — and prayed he didn't see through it. A bit less puzzling was his sometimes requesting some complaint or other of his be delivered by me to **Jerome Charyn**. The fact that we'd sat next to each other in his intro to American history class must have persuaded him we were closer pals than was the actual fact. But as I'd never wanted him seeing me as absolutely friendless as I was, I never tried correcting that misperception.

"There'd been also a sometime *New Yorker* poet (name unremembered) who'd been the critic/faculty advisor to a creative writing course I took in my first [59] senior year who'd very understandingly reviewed the long narrative poem I'd written for his course; and that alcoholic (name likewise unremembered) WWII-vet novelist who'd also reviewed some stuff I'd written, and whose parting words to my one meeting him in his office had been 'Don't let the bastards grind you down.'

"But Steven was most memorable of all for his kindness in the run-in with him on Broadway after my several-weeks-running not showing up to his Victorian novel seminar. I'd written this weird essay for him early on where I documented every 'bosom' reference in Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto*. I flatter myself now that maybe it had something to do with his having given so much attention to Victorian pornography in his groundbreaking 'The Other Victorians' that I'd not even been aware of at that time. He stopped me on Broadway one day in our near passing each other unnoticed that I'd been hoping to accomplish. He asked, 'What's happened to you, Ralph? How come I haven't been seeing you at my seminar the past few weeks?' I'd been too embarrassed to tell the truth — that I'd been too busy engaged in pleasuring myself with my nervous breakdown.

And too ignorant as well — because I'd not realized at the time that's what it was.

"But he must have seen it in my baffled silence, for he advised and urged that I avail myself of the counseling that the College provides to students lost inside their own emotional turmoil. Had I known of his own scholarship's deep engagement with Freud it might less have struck me an insult to some personal deficiency he detected in me, and more the kindest, most insightful advice he could right there on the spot have offered. ...

"I continue consolidating my 20-plus volume multi-generational saga that will be titled *The Killing of Warp Zona – Dex Dsame's Lamporn Starbuck's Soul-Dump Odyssey* when and if I ever finish consolidating it and getting it published before my passing that — as little as I want to believe it — I must be getting closer and closer to. So I pray for my having at least one year to enjoy its being published, if I ever manage accomplishing it."

1960

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Barry Epstein writes from Silver Spring, Md.: "I retired at the end of 2017 as a gastroenterologist in College Park, Md., after 46 fabulous years. My wife, Evelyn, and I were a couple throughout my years at Columbia and we were married in 1961 when she was able to graduate from Brooklyn College in two and a half years and I had finished my first year at Chicago Medical School. Evelyn was a full-time teacher in Chicago to support us and also had four part-time jobs. Our daughter, Amy, was born nine days after my med school graduation and eight days prior to my internship at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. After five years at Mount Sinai as an intern, resident and fellow we moved to Silver Spring, Md., where I served two years at Andrews AFB before starting my own practice.

"Evelyn went back to school and got an M.S.W. at Catholic University; she is a psychotherapist. Amy got an M.S.W. as well, in San Fran-

cisco, but her interest is in education and she helps run three charter high schools in the East Bay. She is married to Liat Barnea; no children.

"Our son, Michael, was born 51 years ago and he is a practicing attorney in Towson, Md. He and his wife, Rachel, have two kids: Jake (14) and Isabella (9).

"My career in medicine was never boring, as I was involved almost from my first day in practice in teaching and administration at Prince George's Hospital Center and Doctors Community Hospital, both in Maryland. At various times I was chief of gastroenterology, chairman of medicine, president of the medical staff, medical director of quality and a member of the Board of Directors at both hospitals.

"As a now 'old guy' I have thought about regrets. I do wish that despite being a pre-med and an experimental psychology major at Columbia that I was able to take more liberal arts classes rather than the single government class I took as a junior with Dr. Rothchild. In retrospect, I appreciate the CC and humanities exposure that I had. Likewise, because I was in Chicago for four years and then settled in the D.C. area, I almost lost touch with my many College and Phi Ep friends, who were an important part of my life 1956–60.

"Adjusting to retirement has been a work in progress and I wish that my golf game could be slightly less aggravating. I exercise daily, love spin classes and ski every year in Colorado, and Evelyn and I take at least one big trip every year. We have a house in Bethany Beach, Del., and welcome visitors."

Barry would love to hear from old friends and Phi Ep brothers. If you would like to be in contact with him, send me a note and I will be pleased to forward his email address.

A sad note: In corresponding with **Vince Russo** in July, Vince advised that Sheila Kay, his wife of 55 years, had died suddenly after taking a fall, and that he, their four children and 15 grandchildren were in the midst of grieving. Our deepest condolences to Vince and his family.

Finally, a sobering note. I received — you might have as well — an invitation to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Low Library, held on October 18. I must have overlooked

in prior years (and noticed only now) that inductees are categorized in the "Heritage Era" and the "Modern Era." We, lads, are in the "Heritage Era," which begins when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary — indeed, one of the inductees is Charles Sands CC 1887 — and ends prior to 1968–69. The "Modern Era" runs from and after 1968–69.

"Heritage Era?" "Modern Era?" Bah, balderdash! I quickly accessed a scene in the 2015 *Terminator* sequel, where Arnold Schwarzenegger reprises his cyborg role. Passed over for an assignment because of age, Schwarzenegger defiantly declaims, alone in the cab of his truck, "I'm old, not obsolete." And to lighten my mood I pulled up the Maurice Chevalier/Hermione Gingold duet, "I Remember It Well" by Lerner and Loewe, in the 1958 production *Gigi*. Maurice recalls his long-past rendezvous with Hermione as she interjects a correction to each of his factual lapses. I smiled as they reached the last verse: M: "Am I getting old?" H: "Oh, no, not you." (Does anyone in the "Modern Era" even know that song?)

Gentlemen, we're old, but we're not obsolete. Take a nap. And then, send us a note.

1961

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At 78, Professor **John Gregory Learned** continues to carry a full load teaching graduate courses, mentoring graduate students (three Ph.D.s launched this last spring) and carrying on research projects in Hawaii, the mainland United States, Japan, Antarctica and Europe. He has given several invited talks recently in Trieste and Paris. He says he expected to be resting in his rocking chair by now, but not so. In fact, he and his woodworking partner have recently entered several Maloof-style rocking chairs of koa and mango wood in the Hawaii's Wood Show. Hurricane Lane had a minimal effect where John lives.

Avrum Bluming reports on the recent publication of *Estrogen Matters: Why Taking Hormones in Menopause Can Improve Women's*

Well-Being and Lengthen Their Lives—Without Raising the Risk of Breast Cancer, which he wrote with social psychologist Carol Tavris. The book was available in hardcover and audiobook on September 4. Avrum has been studying the positive effects of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for more than 25 years, including its benefits for his patients who have had breast cancer. He was dismayed by the shoddy science and alarmist headlines generated by the Women's Health Initiative in 2002. Avrum and Carol provide the evidence that physicians and their patients need to make better informed decisions about HRT. More information can be found on estrogenmatters.com.

Avrum is a hematologist, medical oncologist and emeritus clinical professor of medicine at the University of Southern California. He is a former senior investigator for the National Cancer Institute and is a Master of the American College of Physicians, an award bestowed on fewer than 500 of the 100,000 board-certified internists in the United States.

Bob Salaman and his wife, Reva, celebrated their 55th anniversary with a brief stay at their favorite place in Cape May, N.J. Their granddaughter, Sydney Spiewak, began her residency in clinical dietetic nutrition in September at The University of Saint Joseph in Connecticut. Sydney is the great-great-niece of Columbia football icon Sid Luckman '39.

On the political front, Bob is active in New Jersey campaigns to help the Democrats regain control of the House of Representatives. After making his predictions at our October lunch he will see how well he did when he summarizes the election results on November 9 at Brookdale Community College.

The year 2017–18 was a major changeover time for **George Souls** for both work and play. At work he turned over future real estate deals to associates at Houlihan Lawrence realty, and will make referrals solely. George was with the group for 20 years, a richly rewarding experience "making people happy," he says.

On the sports coaching side, he stepped down from soccer travel team status with Shrub Oak Athletic Club, having served local youth for 38 years. He led 28 teams

during that time, coached more than 500 children and held leadership positions as well, including VP of fields, league select coach and head coach of a 400-player club. He was honored in 2009 with induction into the East Hudson Youth Soccer League Hall of Fame.

George now takes it easy, coaching a recreation team of second- and third-grade boys every Saturday and attending as Shrub Oak Club Liaison to the EHYSL, to a sister league (Westchester Youth Soccer League) and to the Yorktown Recreation Commission, which oversees sports facilities and games for 6,000 Yorktown children, including his granddaughter Anna.

Because he has more leisure time, George has transitioned to

more great-grandchildren to add to the two they already have is growing. Their five grandsons, four of whom who are older than 25, seem to be in no rush to marry. Phil and Maureen have 11 grandchildren.

1962

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Many thanks to all who sent in news.

Geza Feketekuty “remarried last December to Melissa Ravenel, my wife Carol Hanes having passed away in 2010. I enjoy retired life, dividing my time between Lake

president and CEO of the Overseas Private Investment Corp.

Writing from Scarsdale, N.Y., **Martin Kaufman** LAW’66, like many of us, chooses to talk of his children more than himself: “I work full-time as general counsel of a nonprofit public interest legal foundation — I am on track to file about a dozen amicus briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court this year (2018) — and my wife and I will soon celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. However, the real news is about kids and grandkids.

“Our oldest son is director of the medical ICU at NYU Langone Medical Center and lives only 20 minutes from us. His two boys have broken the 6-foot mark — much taller than their dad or me. Their oldest, who is captain of his high school tennis team, is in the throes of applying to college. Our younger son was promoted to vice chairman of thoracic surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital. This past summer the Romanian government invited him to Bucharest to operate on a senior government official. His oldest daughter started high school, and his younger daughter is a multi-sport athlete in junior high. Our youngest, a daughter, gave birth to a boy, her first child, seven months ago. She, her husband and the baby live in Manhattan, and spend quite a few weekends with us — to our delight!”

Bob Sobel and his wife, LaDean, enjoy their 95 acres of hardwoods and streams surrounding their home outside Hohenwald, Tenn., where they moved after Bob retired from medical laboratory management.

Bob and LaDean travel two to three months a year. Last year they drove to North Carolina, Missouri, Arizona, California, Missouri, Ohio, Colorado, Utah and South Carolina. Bob says: “We are always amazed at the productivity of American farms. The addition of wind farms and solar energy fields testifies to the country’s changing values.”

Writing from his iPad, **Larry Gaston** remarked: “Retirement: Half as much income; twice as much spouse. But seriously, I nap and read much more for pleasure.”

Ten years ago, **Carl Jakobsson** SEAS’63 retired from engineering, by which he earned his living. Now he coaches elementary and middle school students in math and chairs the Political Action Committee of

the Bremerton, Wash., NAACP.

“I take those roles seriously,” he writes, “because I am convinced that America needs the NAACP now, more than ever. Aside from that, I am just a family man with a wife, four children, three stepchildren and 23 grandchildren.”

Congregation Temple Beth Am in Framingham, Mass., honored **Don Splansky** on the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a rabbi. During his response to the congregation, Don invited everyone to his 75th anniversary, and wryly added, “Although in another 25 years, I may not know the difference between the ACLU and UCLA.”

After 23 years at Beth Am, Don retired from the active rabbinate and joined the faculty of St. Mark’s School in Southborough, Mass., where he taught until 2014. He recalls: “I enjoyed my time on the faculty. The others in the religion department were Episcopal priests, who were very welcoming. One, a frequent visitor to Israel and expert in Holocaust studies, has remained a dear friend. The required course we each taught was an introduction to Judaism, Christianity and Islam. I still teach at my temple; this year on the Zohar, Spinoza, Mendelssohn and Herzl. We of the Class of ’62 must keep our brains from rusting!”

Albert Wax LAW’65 retired after 50 years of criminal defense practice — principally homicide and death penalty trials of late — in New York and California. He and his wife, Margaret Jenkins, who is the artistic director of the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, have lived in San Francisco since 1970. Their daughter, Leslie, was a social worker for many years in the San Francisco Unified School District and now works at Dropbox. Albert stays in touch with his college roommate and basketball teammate **Marty Erdheim**, who captained the 1962 team.

The Summer 2018 issue of *Manitoba History* features **Dan Stone**’s article, “Climbing the Vertical Mosaic, Winnipeg’s Polish Community Between the Two World Wars.” It argues that folk dancing, craft shows and other cultural activities helped overcome prejudice and sped the integration of Poles into the Canadian mainstream. Dan dances with the Village Green Morris Men and participates in the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada.

Don Splansky ’62 was honored by Congregation Temple Beth Am in Framingham, Mass., on the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a rabbi.

some other areas to fulfill his keen interest in the environment and local and community organizations. He is active in the Bedford, N.Y., Audubon Society, performing annual stints with its garden and natural landscaping work. A devoted oenophile, he chairs the Westchester chapter of the American Wine Society and plans its monthly tastings throughout the county. With a serious concern for his community, George was recently appointed to a four-year term as a member of the Yorktown Economic and Business Revitalization Committee, reporting to the town board on business growth and vitality. Like many towns throughout America, Yorktown has had its share of business downturns, and George hopes to increase commercial tax revenue to minimize residential tax increases for the 36,000 town residents.

George reflected on how Columbia helped shape his outlook on what he would do with his life with a quotation from William Arthur Ward: “If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you dream it, you can become it.”

One of **Phil Cottone**’s granddaughters (the fourth of six) was married in June, so the prospect of Phil and his wife, Maureen, having

Anna in central Virginia during the summer and St. Pete Beach in Florida during the winter, with lots of kayaking, swimming, biking, jogging and sailing.”

Geza attended graduate school at Princeton and taught international economics there, at Cornell and at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. He then left academia and spent 27 years at the Executive Office of the President from Johnson to Clinton — first in the Bureau of the Budget (now the Office of Management and Budget), then the Council of Economic Advisers, the West Wing and finally the Office of the United States Trade Representative, where he became the senior civil servant as the senior assistant U.S. trade representative. After “retiring,” Geza moved to Monterey, Calif., to establish a master’s program to train trade diplomats and lobbyists at the Monterey Institute for International Studies (now the Middlebury School of International Studies at Monterey). After that he taught short training programs on the same subject to officials and business leaders in countries around the world, and was the senior advisor to the

From Maryland, **Frank Gargiana** PS'66 writes: "All goes well; 54 years married to Marie, two lovely daughters and six super grandchildren! In 2006 I retired from practicing diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine. Now I review the accreditation of other physicians. We lived in Columbia, Md., for 47 years and recently moved to an over-55 community in nearby Marriottsville, Md. This past summer we caught up with Ethel and **Bernie Patten** PS'66, who were on a major road trip from Texas. Through the years we've seen other classmates from CC and P&S. Although this is my first contribution to *CCT*, I read our Class Notes religiously."

Conversations With Colleagues: On Becoming an American Jewish Historian (2018) published **Gerry Sorin** GSAS'69's essay "Finding My Place in 'the Great Tradition.'" The Louis and Mildred Resnick Lecture Series, which Gerry has directed since its founding, has entered its 30th year. Gerry is working on a book about Saul Bellow.

Roman Kernitsky continues his full-time work as an ophthalmologist in central New Jersey. He writes, "I had the pleasant experience of having Dr. **Frank Grady** visit me from Lake Pleasant, Texas. He is also an ophthalmologist. I had not seen him since our days at Columbia, and it was wonderful to reminisce about those times. I also saw **Art Garfunkel** perform in Red Bank, N.J. It's bittersweet to see how we have aged."

Michael Stone recommends the play *White Guy on the Bus*, by Bruce Graham. Michael says: "It is the most thought-provoking play I've seen in years and deals with racism. It has already played in New York, but if it returns or comes to a theater near you, don't miss it!"

Vincent "Vinnie" Fasano died on March 17, 2017, in Montreal. He majored in philosophy and minored in archaeology. After graduation he was drafted and served two years in Mannheim, Germany, as an MP. On returning to the United States, Vinnie completed graduate work at the University of Alabama and McGill University and then accepted a teaching position in the anthropology department of Dawson College in Montreal. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Julie; son, Erik; daughter, Louise; and granddaughters, Isabella and Sophie.

Neilson Abeel and his wife, **Tori Bryer** BC'63, took an epic voyage in mid-July. After flying from Portland, Ore., to Faial, Azores — 850 miles west of Portugal — they spent three days in the village of Horta, where they visited the 19th-century sites of the American Consul. For three generations, the Dabney family — Boston cousins of Neilson's ancestors — held that position. Neilson had been there in September 1956, while aboard what he describes as "a crippled 'student ocean liner.'" It anchored outside Horta to await the shipment of parts and mechanics from Lisbon to repair the vessel. At that time Neilson knew nothing of his connection to the Dabneys.

Reverting to his 2018 trip, Neilson and **Tori** boarded a 75-foot Dutch ketch, *Anne-Margaretha*, which had sailed up from Antarctica. As working crew, they stood two four-hour watches a day: steering, keeping lookout, changing sails and washing dishes. The 10 fo'c'sle folk on board were in their 20s, 50s, 60s and 70s. Neilson was the oldest.

From Faial they sailed 1,000 miles in 12 days to A Coruña, Spain, and saw sperm whales and fin whales, porpoises, pelagic birds and glorious stars. On their sail to the Bay of Biscay on the North Atlantic coast of France, winds blew at 30 knots. Sailing a close reach with no assist from the engine, they drove *Anne-Margaretha* at eight to nine knots into a head sea. Upon arrival in A Coruña, Neilson's crewmates gave him a breakfast hurrah to celebrate his 78th birthday. Then Neilson and **Tori** drove along the Atlantic coast of Spain and Portugal and visited museums in Lisbon. As Neilson writes, "Adventures keep the blood flowing."

1963

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It was a long, hot and wet summer, and my recently-retired wife and I spent almost all of it at our house on the Jersey Shore. Very lazy and relaxing.

Henry Black let me know what he and wife, **Benita**, did last summer: "We decided to forgo our usual Chautauqua summer and instead

took a cruise called 'Jewels of the Baltic.' Embarking in Copenhagen, our ports of call were Tallinn, St. Petersburg, Helsinki, Stockholm, Warnemunde (with access to Berlin), Kiel (with access to Hamburg), then back to Copenhagen for disembarkation. As newbie cruisers, our verdict was, we'd rather visit cities on our own, but a cruise might be delightful by itself."

I read about many of your summer travels on Facebook. If you "friend" **Peter Broido** you can see pictures of his trip to Spain and Portugal, and various other points. Facebook is a great place to keep up with classmates. Spend some time looking for them (and if you friend me, you will find many classmates listed as my friends).

Richard Juro LAW'66 sent a long note about his recent Congo adventures. I have added it to cc63ers.com, which I have recently updated. He writes, "We were running out of countries in our quest to go to all 195 or so nations. Yemen and Afghanistan are still too dangerous for us to visit, and the small West African nations were just getting free of the deadly Ebola epidemic."

"We planned to fly into Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The DRC, as the big Congo is known, is a large country in Central Africa, rich in minerals and other resources, but near the bottom of the world list in helping its people become safe and secure, and lead a decent and happy life."

"Our decision to head to the DRC was firmed up when we met Professor Paul Williams of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Paul was born and raised in a village in the Congo by a missionary mother and engineer father. He assured us: 'I'm heading for the Congo for a month. I'll be happy to set my schedule so I can be in Kinshasa then and take you around.'"

"But a few days before we were to fly to Kinshasa, Paul regretfully told us: 'My own visa has not yet been approved, so I can't meet you there, and I can only get you a guide or driver if I'm there in person.'"

"But Paul did give us the name of Jeffery Travels, a reliable taxi company. We emailed them, but worried that no emails would get through because of a scheduled demonstration against Congolese president and long-term strongman Joseph

Kabila by the Catholic Church (which shows how convoluted things get in the DRC). Luckily, the email worked, and a couple of Jeffery's people showed up at the airport to meet us. We had planned well and had no checked baggage that could be broken into or disappear. We paid, and they took us the 25 miles to the surprisingly excellent Hotel Kempinski Fleuve."

"If you look on the internet for guides or tours in Kinshasa, unlike any other big city of 12,000,000, there is nothing listed. But when Paul couldn't make it, our travel agent contacted American Express, which came up with an expensive but real tour company with a Kinshasa 'branch office.' Sure enough, the next morning, our guide, **Norbert**, appeared in the lobby."

And so Rich's adventure to the Congo begins. He writes about the visiting the amazing Bonobos, and finding a Chabad in Kinshasa. You can read it all on our website.

Nick Zill sent the following: "Here's City in a Swamp's new music video: 'Statue of Liberty Leaving New York.' It has a wonderful vocal by Lena Seikaly, and artwork and animation by Michael Rimbaud. Concept and parody lyrics by yours truly. Go online to see it: youtu.be/NNEz8KEEtX0."

Michael Lubell writes, "For the last year and a half I have been on a roller coaster ride. The American Physical Society, for whom I had been director of public affairs since 1994, decided to terminate my consulting contract shortly after Donald Trump was elected. The society, a major publisher of physics journals, was beginning to face financial problems resulting from 'open access' pressures and, in hindsight, some unwise business decisions. The result was the unexpected departure of a number of senior staff. I was one of them."

"It took me a number of months to recover from the shock, but by the early summer, I was on to new things. I signed a contract for a book, *Navigating the Maze: How Science and Technology Policy Shape America and the World*. A historical narrative, it is replete with stories that explode long-held myths and is due out soon."

"I also began work on a proposal for joint venture of the Aspen Institute and *PBS NewsHour* on science and society. It took almost a year to

assemble the pieces but Aspen and PBS finally signed off on the project in mid-June, and it rolled out in early fall. I was executive director and was joined by John Holdren, President Obama's former science advisor, and Norman Augustine, retired CEO of Lockheed-Martin, as co-chairs of the advisory board. We are looking forward to an exciting year tackling big problems and having them featured in segments on *NewsHour* during the course of the year and at forums in Aspen next summer.

"On the personal side, my wife, Laura, and I live in Weston, Conn., and are renovating a house that dates to 1814. Laura is pursuing her passion for painting — abstract realism in acrylic. My daughter, Karina '02, lives and works in Washington, D.C., and is using her law degree as an analyst and journalist covering anti-trust issues for the Capitol Forum. She juggles her professional life with motherhood (two children: Tristan and Axel), as well as running, an avid interest she shares with her French husband, Romain Mareuil. In the last six months she has won a number of 5Ks and, at the end of April finished sixth out of 6,000 overall (and first in her age group) in the Women's National Half Marathon. I have no idea where she gets all the energy to do everything she does. I am still the Mark W. Zemansky Professor of Physics at CCNY, so perhaps it's familial."

Fred Kantor '64, who entered with our class and often sits with us at our regular class lunches, writes,

"I had the rare privilege of having lunch with the class I entered the College with in 1959, at which time, in my estimate, Columbia had one of the top three physics departments in the free world. It did secret work, and had three Nobel Prize-winning teachers — I.I. Rabi, Polykarp Kusch and T.D. Lee — and others so honored later.

"I already had a properly three-phase wired personal lab in Maryland, and experience with vacuum tubes and semiconductors. Kusch gave me two years of course exams he'd taught. I suggested a better way to answer one question; he said, 'Good point.' I did not take the final in thermodynamics. Kusch's remark was relayed to me: 'There are some courses in which a man shows good taste by getting an F.' My undergrad lab was terminated in less than three weeks; grad lab was waived by Professor Lucy Hayner on the basis of my publications. Kusch sent me to work in Maryland between first and second undergrad school years. Later, my father called me in school to tell me that my boss had been ordered to publish solely under his own name and not mention my name, and that my boss would find work elsewhere. I took grad courses as an undergrad and graduated from college a year later. Later, around the time of rioting, I stopped by to talk with Kusch, and said that I was going away for a while. Kusch said, 'You have your own way of doing physics ... [long pause] ... It seems to work.'

"There's lots more I could add, for example, my patent on the large-area X-ray telescope built at Columbia in the 1960s, but let's leave that for some other time."

Rich Juro passed on the sad news that **James B. Johnson** passed away on August 16, 2018, in Omaha. He is survived by his wife, Bev; four children (including Joel '90, who became a successful hip hop singer), and their spouses; and six grandchildren. Jim got a Ph.D. and spent his career at the University of Nebraska at Omaha as a professor of political science. He retired from the university a few years ago.

Rich writes, "Jim was in my political science senior seminar, and he continued with it into his professional life. Long ago we were both somewhat involved in recruiting and admissions for the College. I talked to him a few times through the years,

but not recently. His family, his students, his friends and his colleagues at UN-Omaha will miss him."

If you're in NYC, you can reconnect with your classmates at our regular class lunches at the Columbia Club (for now, we are still gathering at the Princeton Club). The next are on January 10, February 14 and March 14. Check cc63ers.com for details.

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

1964

REUNION 2019 MAY 30–JUNE 1

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Inspired by an article in *Financial Times*, and with our 55th reunion approaching, I have a two-part question: What do you wish you had known when you were 18, and what advice do you have for the members of the College's next graduating class as they face becoming "adults"? I will publish your reply (and please tell me where you live).

The **Alan J. Willen Memorial Prize** was awarded last May to Alexandra Fay '18 for her senior thesis in history, "*Crimes of Government: William Patterson: Civil Rights, and American Criminal Justice*." Expressing her appreciation for the award, Alexandra calls the paper the most challenging project of her College career, and explained why she chose to explore Patterson's life. She says: "This essay was the product of my Columbia education and my longtime interests in radical history. Since my early exposure to the Black Panther Party (local history in my hometown of Oakland, Calif.), I have maintained a passionate interest in the radical side of the Civil Rights Movement. My choice to study Patterson, the African-American Communist lawyer who came into conflict with the NAACP, certainly stemmed from this personal interest.

"Meanwhile, at the heart of my essay lies a body of questions

inspired by the quintessential Columbia College experience, the year of political philosophy in Contemporary Civilization. CC was my favorite class. To this day I pursue the meaning of justice; I live to discuss models of government. In studying Patterson, I pursued one of my favorite questions: What is the role of law in a flawed republic?

"I intend to continue my studies, and ultimately engage in the practice of justice, by heading to law school. But first, not unlike Patterson, I am off to Russia for a year. While I am teaching English as a Fulbright finalist, I will be on the lookout for traces of the world that so inspired my favorite American radical, William Patterson."

1965

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Dear classmates, a recurring problem I have had as class correspondent is the 1,500-word limit for each column. The eagerness of classmates to share their experiences and lives has truly caused my cup (or column) to run over. But for some reason, I have not received a single item from any of you recently. Do not let this continue! I know you enjoy reading this column, but it won't be of much interest if there is nothing in it.

I had dinner last May with **Michael Cook** and **Howard Matz**. The aforementioned space limitations precluded me from including it in previous columns. While we talked about what we are up to currently, the conversation inevitably turned to our thoughts about our days at Columbia. We all acknowledged the importance of the curriculum and professors on our experiences, but we came away from our dinner with a renewed appreciation for the inspiration and learning we derived from our classmates and other students. The influence of our fellow students is one of the principal things that make the college years so special, we agreed.

I learned that Howard and I share a passion for so called gypsy jazz, or "jazz manouche" in French. Howard and his wife, Jane, are good friends with Pat Philips-Stratta,



Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

the presenter of the annual Django All-Stars (which tours the United States with superlative French jazz manouche musicians). Shortly after the dinner, I attended one of the All-Stars' performances at Birdland Jazz Club in New York City, and I said hello and gave Howard and Jane's greetings to Philips-Stratta. **Dan Carlinsky** has written widely about jazz manouche and the clubs in Paris that present the music there. If you can catch this music wherever you are, I strongly recommend it.

Let's hear from you!

1966

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Happy 2019, Class of '66. Best wishes for the New Year, and thanks to all who wrote in.

Victor Kayfetz is a freelance Swedish-English translator, editor and ghost writer for the Nobel Foundation and for major banks in Sweden and Finland, dividing his time between a house in the Oakland hills overlooking San Francisco Bay and a pied à terre in Solna overlooking Stockholm. Aside from world travel, his passions include photography, a hobby inherited from his father, Dan Kayfetz '37. He is a supporter of the libraries at Columbia and at UC Berkeley, his other alma mater.

From **Geoff Dutton**: "By the time you read this, my daughter Deniz will know whether she got into CC. Of course I hope she does and will benefit from CU's vast resources as she prepares for a career in environmental science. My own career has circled from digital cartography R&D to geospatial consulting to software engineering to technical writing and now, in retirement, to writing fiction and nonfiction. After scattering some 400 scrivenings across the 'net, my first novel was co-published in September under my imprint, Perfidy Press. A radical literary thriller that tracks a group of young leftists in Greece mounting a terrorist attack in Turkey, *Turkey Shoot* (subtitle 'He might not be the terrorist you expected') is the result of three years

of research, writing, revision and obsessive pitching. Its principal protagonist is an Iraqi refugee who has bones to pick with the United States and ISIS, but each of my dirty half-dozen radicals and their tribulations share the limelight.

"Except for a nasty virus last spring and a gut-wrenching parasite that decimated me during my book launch, my health is good, my wife and daughter are well and I continue to contribute articles and stories to CounterPunch, Medium and my blog (Progressive Pilgrim Review). I wish you and your families good health and fortitude to withstand the multiple assaults our environment and polity face nowadays."

From **David Paglin**: "David's Conscience Drama Directive theater project in Washington, D.C., has formed around the aesthetics of two great Columbia professors whom we remember from the 1960s: the internationally renowned scholar/critics Eric Bentley and Robert Brustein GSAS'57. This past year, CDD produced Brustein's savagely sad and funny play about Lee Strasberg and Marilyn Monroe, in her unhappy final years, *Nobody Dies on Friday*. The hoped-for next show: Bentley's *The Recantation of Galileo Galilei*."

From **Bob Meyerson**: "My daughter Ella (named after a local lake and a wonderful woman from my youth who lived in our Dyckman Street apartment building and whom we called Aunt Ella, who had a dog named Pretzel, and whose brother was a steward on ocean liners from where he brought me back mint condition postage stamps of the beautiful Eva Perón, wife of the questionable head of Argentina in the 1950s — might we soon see cameos of Melanomia on USPS offerings?), yes, my wonderful daughter Ella was (finally) married on October 7 by a Conservative (but liberal) rabbi at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, where some might say 'Jewish Rabbi,' as if there were another variety. I've had nothing but good luck with American Swedes, despite their homeland's ticklish foreign affairs during WWII and some other recent, disturbing rumbles back in Sverige. My Korean son, Jin, and granddaughter Blue (so named long before Beyoncé stole the name) were also in attendance, jet-lagged but jazzed. *Skol pa fisken*."

From **Anthony F. Starace**: "On a day of pouring rain on the campus of the University of Chicago in late June 1968, my wife, Katherine, and I were married, so last year marked our 50th anniversary of that life-changing event. To celebrate, Katherine and I took three active vacations to places we had not been. The first, in late March, was a gathering with our son and daughter and their spouses at the Enchantment Resort outside Sedona, Ariz. We hiked in the surrounding Red Rocks scenic region, took a guided tour of Hopi Indian archaeological sites and enjoyed fine dining, a surprisingly good wine tasting at an Arizona winery and a marvelous spa.

"In May we joined a hiking tour of rural Umbria and Tuscany with four other couples and two guides. Near Norcia, which was devastated by a 2016 earthquake, we went truffle hunting with a farmer and his two trained dogs and hiked in a vast national park in which we saw few people, but large cultivated fields of Umbrian lentils. Our route passed through Assisi, where I hiked for an hour with an Italian schoolteacher/guide and discussed her economic and social situation, as well as the current political climate in Italy. Moving on to Cortona and Pienza in Tuscany, we hiked through vineyards and had a detailed lecture about and a wine tasting of the famous Rossos and Brunellos of Montalcino. Throughout our trip, lunches were typically prepared by farmers (couples or brothers) at their farms from ingredients grown/raised on the farms. Dinners were at Michelin-starred or other fine restaurants in first-class resort hotels.

"Following two physics conferences in England at which I gave invited talks in July, we took another walking/hiking trip through the Cotswolds, again with four other couples and two guides. We began at Stratford-upon-Avon and finished in Bath, walking/hiking primarily along the Cotswold Way. Our route passed through picturesque small towns with thatched roof houses and amiable pubs. One day we had afternoon tea at a sheep farm at which we discussed the farmer's regrets about having voted for Brexit, as most of his lambs are currently exported to France. Another day we toured Sudeley Castle, the resting place of Catherine Parr, the

last of King Henry VIII's six wives. In the evenings we repaired to first-class hotels with spas.

"I have been at the University of Nebraska for 45 years and continue to enjoy being an active senior scientist in my field. My wife and I, luckily, remain in good health with only the usual bothers of increasing age. I have made national and international professional commitments out to 2020."

CCT is sad to report that longtime CC'66 class correspondent **Rich Forzani** passed away on September 12, 2018. He will be missed. [Editor's note: See Obituaries.]

1967

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We heard from **Marty Oster**: "I closed my practice of medical oncology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center in October 2017 after more than 41 years. I am still associate professor of medicine at P&S and am semi-retired, practicing medical oncology three days a week at a Columbia affiliate in Westchester at NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital, where I have run into **Bob Klein**, who is practicing infectious disease. Semi-retirement gives my wife, Karen, and I more time to spend with our six grandkids, all of whom live within a half-hour of our home in Armonk, N.Y. I also have all Saturdays free now to see more Columbia Lion football victories! Last year, I was awarded the Practitioner of the Year Award at NYPH/CUMC, named after Jerry Gliklich '69, PS'75."

David Schiff GSAS'74: "My latest book is *Carter*, and it is a study of the life and work of composer Elliott Carter, with whom I studied at the Juilliard School. In contrast to the two quite different editions of my *Music of Elliott Carter* (1983 and 1997), I wrote the new book for general readers and kept technical discussion to a minimum, concentrating instead on Carter's complex and elusive character, and on the surprising developments in the outpouring of music he composed, amazingly, in the last 25 years of his

life. Carter died just a month before his 104th birthday and was composing nearly to the end. I first heard Carter's music live at concerts by the Group for Contemporary Music in what is now Miller Theatre, when I was an undergraduate and was fortunate to work closely with him first as a doctoral student at Juilliard and then for more than 30 years as a close associate."

Be well, all of you, and do write.

1968

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As I write this in the fall I am in Miami Beach, enjoying the slightly too-warm weather. I hope you will call me if you are going to be in South Florida — I would be thrilled to see classmates. Living here is a change of pace.

There is a Columbia Club here, with which I suspect I will be active. It seems that football will have a good season — maybe better than good. A toast to the student-athletes, the exceptional Coach Al Bagnoli and his extraordinary coaching staff. As of the time of writing, we had won four in a row and 10 out of the last 12 games!

The reunion feedback continues. I'm glad so many folks went and so many reported having a great time. The Class of 68's 50th reunion class giving was unprecedented, with comprehensive giving coming in at approximately \$2.6 million — exceeding our goal of \$1 million. And the Columbia College Fund hit the 50th reunion giving \$300,000 goal (with a small amount thrown in

after the bell rang for the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner). We had 181 donors — more than our goal of 165! And finally, the number of John Jay Associates-level donors was 38 — nearly double our goal and more than our historical average of nine a year. Our turnout for reunion being record-breaking for any 50th reunion and (I believe) for any class of modern times means we will do more. The Reunion Committee, led by **Tom Sanford**, deserves accolades for these results — importantly, our giving supports exceptional students and our uniquely special alma mater.

As for classmates, **Art Kaufman** sent some notes on watching the early Columbia football win. He went to a game with his grandkids. He and I have seen a number of basketball games too, and are hoping for a good season.

I received a picture of **Tom Sanford** rowing on a Connecticut river looking fit and in good humor. He and **Al McCoy** and, I suspect, others, are still rowing — quite impressive. It is surely the case that exercise in our age group is a good idea, though it is challenging. I swam this morning; I try to do it every day. **Neil Gozan** sent a note commending me for my swimming; I suspect he and **Frank Dann** and the swim crowd in our class are still at it. **Seth Weinstein** swam at my place in the city — modest, but the pool is great (at the top of the building). Seth loves to swim and sail.

Robert Brandt sent a great picture of his wife on a horse on a windswept beach in Capetown, though Robert was not on a horse ... hmmm. They had been in London enjoying the town and went to South Africa. **Buzz Zucker** went to India for a long vacation. We will get some great reports from him, for sure.

Great to see *U.S. News & World Report* listing Columbia as the number 3 school in the nation — still off by a bit, as I still believe the city (as a distinguished professor for the school) adds tremendous learning experiences and access to jobs.

I am working on our 70th reunion and figure that one will require some longer-term planning!

I got reports from **Barry Wick** on his knee surgeries — it appears he is up and around, recovering quickly and ready to rock and roll. Glad he is doing well.

Peter Janovsky and I have debated the best way to ensure good healthcare for the nation and how to look at the public health issues of the day. I continue to believe that access to a cardiologist is a good thing, but heart disease needs a cure, so I am hoping that we get beyond just taking Simva or other generics.

I hoped to make it to Homecoming and hoped to have seen you there.

Do send in updates when you can, and do stay well.

1969

REUNION 2019 MAY 30–JUNE 1

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Our 50th reunion approaches! If you are not receiving emails from Columbia College about Reunion 2019, please send a note to ccreunion@columbia.edu to update your email address. [Editor's note: Please also let CCT know: college.columbia.edu/cct/content/contact-us.]

From **Rick Winston**: "After many stops and starts, my book, *Red Scare in the Green Mountains: Vermont in the McCarthy Era 1946–1960*, has been published. It's a study of how the Cold War hysteria of the era affected one state with a strong streak of independent thinking, and unfortunately it is a lot more timely now than when I began work on it eight years ago. There are several fascinating stories in the Green Moun-

tains that I explore: a high-profile academic firing, a conservative senator who helped take down Joseph McCarthy, controversies involving left-leaning summer residents and some veteran newspaper editors who spoke out against McCarthy's tactics. Available through your local indie bookstore or Amazon in both print and Kindle (but please, don't buy from third-party sellers, as neither the publisher, Rootstock, nor I get anything!). Contact me with any questions or publicity ideas, like radio shows: winsrick@sover.net."

Gregg Geller shared the nearby photo of himself, **Woody Lewis**, **Bob Merlis** and **David Turner** taken at Moose Lodge # 652 in Burbank, Calif., during the celebration of Bob's 70th birthday.

David Parshall sadly reported on the passing of George A. Nelson III '70 (sharing a remembrance written by George's wife of 31 years, Bettina): "George Albin Nelson III, associate real estate broker, New York, N.Y., on May 29, 2018. George was born on July 6, 1945, and grew up in Wilton, Conn. He attended St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H., and the Atlantic College at St Donat's Castle in Wales prior to attending Columbia. There he received a B.A. in modern European history. George remained in New York City, where he worked at the Economic Capital Corp. before teaming up with his wife and becoming a real estate broker. Those who knew him best remember him as a man of great humor, wit and esoteric knowledge. 'George will be remembered for, among other things, an astoundingly brilliant mind,' said David Parshall. Friends often remarked, 'We didn't need Google. We had George.' An unabashed animal lover, he volunteered for many years at the Bronx Zoo and with Bettina took his therapy dog every week to visit children in the psychiatric unit at Mount Sinai Hospital. He enjoyed bridge, backgammon, tennis, farm team baseball games and, most especially, adventuresome traveling and scuba diving. Above all, he was a family man. 'George moved in sync with Bettina,' said David. 'They were inseparable and did everything together — working and playing.' He was devoted to his son, Alex, with whom he loved discussing the news of the world and the politics



The Class of 1968 had a record turnout at Reunion 2018!



Left to right: Gregg Geller '69, Woody Lewis '69, Bob Merlis '69 and David Turner '69 met at Moose Lodge #652 in Burbank, Calif., to celebrate Merlis' 70th birthday.

of the day. But he was truly happiest when he was out on a long, lazy afternoon walk in Central Park with his family and his dog."

George is survived by Bettina; Alex; Alex's wife, Winnie; and a grandson, Jack.

From **Howard Goldman**: "I plan to retire on May 1. I'll have been in practice nearly 42 years by then and will be turning 72. Having moved to Florida in 1977 I'm not moving anywhere, even though the state has changed in many ways, most of them not good, over the years we have lived here. We do have a place in Maine, where we will spend a few of the hot months. But my two daughters live locally and I have three grandchildren, including a 10-month-old boy whom I admit doting upon, so I don't want to be far away for long. I have loved what I do, especially the surgical part — I specialize in cataract surgery. However, I know the time is coming when one of my five partners might just say, 'Goldman, you seem a little too shaky to do eye surgery.' I'd much rather go out on a high with people missing me rather than saying, 'Good riddance!'"

"I intend to volunteer at the Caridad Center in Boynton Beach. It is an amazing free clinic with which I've worked doing charity eye surgery for about 15 years. Prior to that I traveled to developing countries including Ecuador, Panama, Jamaica and Guyana teaching and performing cataract surgery on indigent blind people. That got tougher after 9-11 and my wife started telling me I was too old to schlep through jungles anyway (we'd go with a team

of two or three surgeons and four or five nurses and technicians, along with 50 or so boxes and trunks of equipment and supplies). I view the charity work as paying my 'rent on Earth.' I've been very fortunate to do what I do and have done well at it, so I feel obligated to do what I can for those less fortunate; part of my Jewish heritage (or guilt?)."

From **Roy Feldman**: "The Columbia University Club of Philadelphia is again pleased to invite alumni to the Brandywine Hunt Timber Races at its beautiful Chester County race course, coming April 1. Nadia and I wish to host you for victuals and libations directly on the homestretch with a great view of the finish line. Last year, 35 Columbia folks joined us.

"The Brandywine race is fiercely competitive for amateurs and professionals alike in a family-friendly atmosphere and delightfully welcoming to fans of horses, racing, land preservation and fox hunting. Races include every aspect of the sport: Kids like racing stick ponies made from socks, face painting, even lead line pony races. Older kids race on the grass while horses prepping for the major spring venues run three miles over 16 solid jumps.

"All we expect from you is thirst, hunger and an RSVP that tells us how many we will feed. (I believe there is a \$20 parking charge.) Plan to come to the races! Not that far from NYC and a beautiful area."

Joe Materna LAW'73 writes: "I practice law (and love it every day) as a trusts and estates attorney, with my principal office at 40 Wall St. and satellite offices on Staten Island, N.Y.; in Naples, Fla.; and in Jersey City, N.J. I was recently honored with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by *Marquis Who's Who*, the world's premier publisher of biographical profiles. This award was given to me in recognition of my lifetime achievements, demonstrated leadership in the legal profession, credentials and successes through the years as a trusts and estates attorney and Law School graduate, having been highlighted in more than 50 editions of *Who's Who* during the past 40 years, including *Who's Who in American Law*, *Who's Who in Finance and Business*, *Who's Who in the East* and *Who's Who in America*. My wife, Dolores, and I celebrated our 43rd wedding

anniversary last December. My three daughters are true-blue Columbia alumni and I am so proud of them."

Joel Solkoff shared his bio from his website (joelsolkoff.com); here is an excerpt: "In 1976 while researching a book on international food policy, I interviewed Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz. I was 28 and had just had surgery to remove a lump under my right arm. My physician had left a message on my telephone answering machine. Before the interview, I called back Dr. Amiel Segal, who insisted I immediately come into his office. I asked why. Dr. Segal said he could not tell me over the phone. 'What's so important that you can't see me right now?' I said, 'I have an interview with the secretary of agriculture in 10 minutes; he's more important than you.' That is how I found out I had cancer. The interview progressed smoothly in an altered-like state. Afterward, following surgery, friends and relatives rushed to my hospital bed, convinced I would die shortly. I have come to regard agriculture policy in much the same fashion as the widow of the Winchester rifle fortune regarded continual work on her San Jose Winchester Mystery House. As long as the work continued without cease — her fortune-teller predicted — she would never die. I have maintained a more liberal approach than the fortune-teller insisted upon — fathering two daughters, greeting the approach of a granddaughter and publishing books on other subjects (including housing policy and surviving cancer). Throughout it all, I maintain the superstitious belief that as long as I continue to research and write about the politics of agriculture I will live forever.

"I am at work on a blueprint for economic policies that will ensure that no one dies of starvation. As I write, 20 million people are in danger of doing so; every 10 minutes, a child in Yemen dies needlessly for want of food. One consequence of the treatment for cancer that saved my life was that radiation permanently damaged my spine. For more than 20 years, I have been a paraplegic — not in a wheelchair but in a battery-powered mobility device that takes me so rapidly to my destination that friends and strangers on the street comment on the speed which takes me from hither to

yon. A frequent comment is, 'If you don't slow down, they will take your license away.' I get around on a POV scooter. Al Thieme, who invented the POV scooter and whose company, Amigo Mobility, makes the best scooters in the universe, and I have become friends. I am trying to get his company to think about 3-D in design construction more than it does. My basic mission is: integrate design of elderly and disability housing with 3-D modeling."

Joel's website provides greater detail (with graphics) on his work on this mission.

Planning continues for our 50th reunion, and you should be receiving periodic emails. (If you are not, see the first paragraph of this column.) Our main effort is to draw as many classmates as we can to the reunion. Please plan to attend; check college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/reunion-2019 to see who else plans to attend; and help us with our outreach effort to other classmates. Let's work together to create a terrific reunion for this landmark anniversary.

1970

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Gareth Williams, the Violin Family Professor of Classics and the chair of the classics department at Columbia, and Professor Eileen Gillooly, a professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia and former head of the Core Curriculum, are working with representatives of our class to plan a day-long seminar in early May for us.

The topic is presently open but initial ideas are for a program on the early philosophers we studied in Contemporary Civilization and their impact throughout history and even in modern times. We also plan to sprinkle some art history into the discussions. **James Periconi** responded immediately that he was interested in both planning and attending such a seminar. He noted that Professor Williams had given a thought-provoking talk at an All-Class Reunion (formerly known as Dean's Day), and Jim was thrilled that Professors Williams

and Gillooly would be part of the program. Jim reported that he had “just (in May) spent two weeks in and around Athens on a Grolier Club trip visiting great libraries and archeological sites, including the part of the Greek (as opposed to Roman) agora there, led by the guy in charge of agora excavations, John Camp from the American School of Classical Studies. He showed us where it is very likely Plato taught his students and the library was, and (elsewhere) where Socrates was imprisoned. Sent goose bumps up my spine with memories of CC, Lit Hum and three years of Greek with the Jesuits before that!”

Jim noted that both he and **Steven Schwartz** remain aspiring academics and that he lives that life vicariously through his Columbia professor life partner.

My old friend **Frank Motley LAW’74** is still trying to go for a Guinness World Record as the Class of 1970 graduate with the most grandkids (19) and great-grandkids (8). Retired for two years from a career in legal academics and administration, he is still waiting on his invitation to the Masters. I remember Frank as the general of our excellent basketball team, and he remains one of our most loyal and friendly classmates.

I also have news from **David Lehman**, who remains a dedicated scholar. He reports: “Having retired from my faculty appointment at The New School, I can now spend more time on literary projects. In September, both *The Best American Poetry 2018* (the selections made by Dana Gioia) and a new edition of *The Best American Poetry 1988*, the first volume in the series (the selections made by John Ashbery GSAS’50, now deceased), were published. In 1988, no one, not even my friend Pangloss, thought the anthology series would be going strong 30 years later.

“In honor of A.R. Ammons (1926–2001), I undertook an Ammons-like adventure — to write a long poem in daily increments chronicling the turn of the year. I began *Playlist* on November 21, 2017, and completed it on January 15, 2018. Largely concerned with the music I was listening to (classical, jazz, Sinatra and popular standards), *Playlist* will be published in the spring.”

David kindly sent me copies of *The Best American Poetry 2018* and the new edition of *The Best American Poetry 1988*. I am constantly amazed about how much David loves the subject matters he writes about, including two of my favorites, Bob Dylan and Frank Sinatra!

1971

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No column this time, but please do take a moment to send in your news for a future issue. I hope that you have an enjoyable winter and a Happy New Year.

1972

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Neil Izenberg hit a milestone — retirement. He says, “In my case, it’s after 42 years of being a physician. As a pediatrician with fellowship training in adolescent medicine and pediatric endocrinology, much of my life has centered on trying to improve children’s health — mostly within academic health systems — such as Jefferson in Philadelphia and the Nemours Children’s Health System in Delaware and Florida. Beyond that, my real love has been developing and distributing educational media products for parents and children, including creating the first (and still the most visited) website on the topic: KidsHealth.org, launched in 1995 (the Stone Age of the web). I’ve been a witness to, and an active participant in, a number of amazing social and technology changes that have shifted the world. When I retired last March, I was probably the longest serving founder/chief executive of a health website — or for that matter, almost any high-profile site.

“At KidsHealth.org, in addition to our main website, we distributed educational (and, I hope, persuasive) content to more than 90 children’s hospitals, along with libraries of patient instructions incorporated

into the electronic health record and libraries of instructional videos about a huge range of issues. Along the way, we received our share of awards and recognition. I took a few mementos when I left the office for the final time, but most remain in their cases at my former place of work. Sure, I loved it — or at least 95 percent of it. And, sure, I could have done more. Sometimes, though, it is time to move on to something new.

“Now, like many of you, I’m facing a challenge as I enter this new phase of life: What’s next? What will I do with all that time previously spent on answering emails and calls, attending meetings, and leading and collaborating with my staff of physicians, editors, designers, producers, marketers and technologists? What will I do with the creative drive I previously focused on products in the always-changing digital, connected world I lived in? I’m still working on the answers. I’d like to take some of what I’ve learned and apply it to other important spheres: the fight against climate change, encouraging civic participation and greater community in a divided world and fighting the pernicious ‘isms’ that are corroding our nation and the world (racism, sexism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia and the rest). I have some ideas there I’m working on, but, without my prior platform, it’s a challenge.

“Beyond that, I’ve enrolled in a writing workshop near Philadelphia, where I live, and have begun a humorous (I hope) memoir about my lifelong infatuation with snacks. Columbia plays a starring role there, of course. On a highly related note, I’m trying to lose some poundage that mysteriously has crept up through the years and whip myself into better shape. Those are challenges, too. Those damn snacks take a toll. The reality is, though, I guess I don’t fully know what’s next. I guess we never really do.”

If you have anecdotes or remembrances on the topic of food and eating during your Columbia years, Neil would love to hear them. (You can contact me for his email address.)

Something that’s not quite retirement is what **Steven Hirschfeld** PS’83 is experiencing. Although he retired from active duty in the U.S. Public Health

Service last August, after 28 years of uniformed service, Steven is continuing his activities related to clinical research as a civilian. Hence, he says, being retired is more of an administrative status than an actual lifestyle. He remains as busy as ever but, among other changes, will no longer be the first called for deployments for disaster response.

Finally, I’m pleased to share the good news that my daughter Avigail BC’05 and her husband, Aharon Charnov, have presented us with a new granddaughter, Meital Bracha. I can’t even wrap my head around the fact that she’ll be a college grad in 2040.

1973

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OK ... not a lot of response to my plea for reunion notes. Apologies for not being there!

Apologies also to **Robert Pruznick**, whose submission got lost and then found. Robert retired last April after nearly 37 years at the Arc of Warren County, N.J.; Arc provides lifespan advocacy and services to children and adults with disabilities and to their families.

Robert built it from a \$50,000 organization into a \$10 million organization, and today its HQ is named in his honor. He was named Humanitarian of the Year by the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce in June, and he has moved on to work with Aging in Place villages.

Robert and his wife, Kathy, celebrated their 45th anniversary the same weekend as our 45th reunion!

Raymond Forsythe has been named VP of the board of the National Cancer Center; he had been a board member for two years. Founded in 1953, the center funds basic research into the causes, diagnosis, prevention and cure of cancer.

James Firman BUS’77 is president and CEO of the National Council on Aging and was named to *The NonProfit Times*’ Power and Influence Top 50 list for the fifth time.

Thanks to those who wrote — entreaties to the rest. You can send your news to either of the addresses at the top of the column. *Hasta*.

1974

REUNION 2019 MAY 30–JUNE 1

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As George Jefferson said on the 1975–85 sitcom *The Jeffersons*, “We’re moving on up!” The latest *Wall Street Journal/Times* Higher Education College Rankings were announced late last summer. The rankings use 15 factors that emphasize how well a college prepares students for life after graduation, as well as surveys of students about how challenging they find their classes. Columbia was number 2 — behind Harvard, but ahead of Yale, Princeton, MIT and Stanford. Not too shabby!

Most of us would find writing a single novel outside our skillset. But **Les Bryan JRN’75** tells us of the publication of his second novel, *The Tale of the Small Town Boy* (available in print or ebook from Amazon). He writes, “If you are from a small town, studied abroad, know about depression or just wonder what in the world I might write, then this is a quick read.” He adds, “We are well and enjoying the ‘struggles’ of retired people with grandchildren on the other side of the Atlantic.”

I saw a cryptic posting from **Ken Marks LAW’77** on Facebook last fall. Mark is general counsel at Exostar and lives in Reston, Va. The note said he participated in the Grand Prix of Baltimore last September, driving the Flying Lizard Racing Porsche 911. There must be more to this story! Stay tuned.

An email came in from **Arthur Schwartz** saying, “I keep forgetting to update.” Therefore, this entry will cover three years. In 2016, Arthur was counsel to Bernie Sanders in New York and a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. In 2017, Arthur had a heart attack, but was back to work in three days. In 2018, he was counsel to Cynthia Nixon (then-candidate for New York State governor), Jumaane Williams (then-candidate for NYS

lieutenant governor) and Zephyr Teachout (then-candidate for NYS attorney general).

Arthur says he is “still plugging along” at Advocates for Justice Chartered Attorneys, principally doing union side labor work (mainly for the NYC transit union) and plaintiff’s employment law. He has a live one-hour radio show on WBAI, where he “talks politics from the ‘Berniecratic perspective.’”

His daughter Rebecca graduated from Tulane in 2017 and is now with Brooklyn Defender Services doing public defender work. His middle daughter is at the Packer Collegiate Institute and is starting to think about college applications. His youngest daughter just became a teenager. Arthur says, “The younger two daughters are top-level competitive gymnasts — but there are no gymnastics at Columbia!”

From Belfast, Maine, we hear from **Bob Adler** that his son, Jacob, has been appointed the rabbi at Congregation Kehilat Shalom, a Reconstructionist congregation near Princeton, N.J. Bob’s daughter, Rachel, recently graduated from Temple with a degree in occupational therapy. Bob continues his involvement with The Legal Aid Society.

There you have it. Classmates writing books, racing in a grand prix and being far too busy in politics. If you have news to share, please send it along!

1975

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Footloose and fancy-free, **Fernando Castro** has been on a grand tour of Europe. He’s been museum-hopping, wining and dining, people-mixing and sometimes even dancing in the streets!

After 40 years as a public servant litigating major civil and criminal cases on behalf of the United States, primarily in the federal courts of appeals and the United States Supreme Court, **Doug Letter** recently left the U.S. Department of Justice. When he left, Doug was at the highest rank of the career: Senior Executive Service. On his departure, Doug was honored at a ceremony

by several Supreme Court justices, as well as more than a dozen other federal judges. During his time at the Justice Department, Doug had served details as senior counselor to Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. ’73, LAW’76; as deputy associate attorney general under Janet Reno; and as associate counsel to President Bill Clinton in the White House Counsel’s Office. Doug has not retired, but merely shifted to being a senior litigator at the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection at the Georgetown University Law Center, where he is also a full-time faculty member.

At Georgetown Law, he teaches national security law as well as a seminar on constitutional impact public interest litigation. At the institute, Doug participates in litigation and other efforts defending freedom of speech and voting rights, advocating for immigrant interests, pursuing criminal justice reforms (designed to implement the principle that it is not a crime in the United States simply to be poor) and defending government whistleblowers. In its latest victory, the institute succeeded in obtaining court orders barring alt-right and neo-Nazi groups from returning to Charlottesville, Va., as organized armed private paramilitary groups. Doug asks that you please go online to check out the institute’s valuable work (law.georgetown.edu/icap).

Doug lives with his wife in Bethesda, Md. One of his daughters works on Capitol Hill for Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.). His other daughter is in the restaurant business in Bethesda.

Bob Schneider and his wife, Regina Mullahy BC’75, are traveling folks! Late last summer, they were in France. Highlights of their trip included the Cathedral of Notre-Dame du Paris, dinner at the Eiffel Tower, the Château du Fontainebleau and Chartres Cathedral, as well as Napoleon’s tomb and Père Lachaise Cemetery, with the graves of Eugène Delacroix and Jim Morrison. Shortly after returning, Bob was off to Chicago for the National Association of Bond Lawyers Bond Attorneys’ Workshop and a visit to their daughter, Meg. At the end of the week, he took in the Cubs-Cardinals game at Wrigley Field. The same week, Regina headed to Houston to visit their son, John ’07,

and his wife, Stephanie Pahler BC’06, and the grandkids.

Bob Sciafani and his wife, Chris, have also recently wine and dined their way across France, visiting museums and wineries.

1976

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Homecoming was a great day. CC’76ers in attendance included **Jim Bruno, Mark Joseph and Jon Margolis**. It was a fun day and, like the Spring Sports Day and All-Class Reunion in early June, it was a good chance to catch up with old friends. Check out the Columbia College Alumni website (college.columbia.edu/alumni) for details throughout the year on all events and opportunities. If you click through to the Programs & Events section, there are listings for regional events worldwide. Now on to the updates:

In March 2018, **Gordon Kit** initiated the inaugural year of the Dr. Saul and Dorothy Kit Film Noir Festival, a planned 10-year series in his parents’ honor, held at the Lenfest Center for the Arts on the Manhattanville campus. Eight terrific American noir films were screened during the five-day festival. They were the American films shown in Paris right after WWII, and resulted in the French film critics adopting the term “noir” to this new uniquely American genre. The festival’s inaugural year included talks by film scholars and a conversation with the film writer/director Paul Schrader, and was well attended despite the challenges of a late winter snowstorm.

Gordon sent in this preview for the 2019 festival: “This year’s edition of the Kit Noir Festival promises more of the same with a new set of films from the 1940s, all based on stories [by] Cornell Woolrich (also known as William Irish) [CC 1925], as well as talks by several film scholars. In early 2019, please check the Lenfest Center for the Arts website (lenfest.arts.columbia.edu) for tickets, more information and the lineup of films and talks for this year’s festival, which is scheduled for March 27–31.”

In addition to Gordon, **Derrick Tseng** was also in the audience last year. If some of you attend this year, let's try to get together for a mini-reunion at an area restaurant before one of the films. Since Gordon, Derrick and I will be there, we may already be a mini-reunion. Let's make it larger! Email me if you are interested.

Jon Margolis writes: "Not much new to report other than feeling old now that I have a 16-month-old grandson. Both daughters are long gone from our apartment, although they are three and five blocks away. It is nice since we see our grandson at least once a week."

Ira Breskin JRN'92, a senior lecturer at the SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx, checked in with the following: "My book, *The Business of Shipping* (ninth edition), recently was published. Substantially updated, the 448-page book offers unique insight into seismic industry changes, enabling readers to become quickly conversant with this arcane, but important, sector. A primer, it encapsulates much that I have learned during 15 years teaching maritime economics, history and regulation at SUNY Maritime College."

From **Bill Walker**: "A shout out to our fellow WKCR alumni. My wife, Beth BC'76, and I moved to the Hudson Valley 11 years ago when I was offered a position with the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Bard was a part of Columbia 1928-44. This is a footnote for Columbia, but an important part of Bard's history as it grew from a small college dedicated to prepar-

ing men for the Episcopal priesthood to the international institution it is today.

"Something that Columbia alumni would recognize at Bard is the required first-year Seminar. FYSEM, as it is known, is basically a combination of Lit Hum and CC. First-year students meet in small classes of about 15, sit around a table with a professor and read, discuss and write about the books on the syllabus.

"While some new faculty at Bard are required to teach FYSEM, there is a core group of us who volunteer. Every September, as I walk into the classroom, my mind goes back to that day in fall 1972 when I went into a classroom on one of the upper floors of Hamilton Hall and sat down at the table to begin Lit Hum. My professor, Donald Frame GSAS'41, clearly loved the course and guided us firmly but gently through the two semesters. It really hit home when I looked out the window while we were discussing the *Allegory of the Cave* in *The Republic* and saw the name PLATO engraved on Butler Library. I felt I had finally come home.

"I cannot promise I am as good a guide as Professor Frame was, but I enjoy the work. And in the first week of September, I went into the classroom, introduced myself and the syllabus, and for a few moments I was 18 again, on Morningside Heights, beginning my Columbia education. We opened with Plato, of course."

Our Class Notes correspondent emeritus **Clyde Moneyhun** checked in with this news from last summer: "I spent three weeks in Spain, using a grant from the Alexa Rose Foundation and funding from my university (Boise State) to visit with three of the Catalan-language writers I translate: Dolors Miquel (a poet from Catalonia), Jordi Can-tavella (a novelist from Barcelona) and Ponç Pons (a poet from the island of Menorca). Ponç and I have already published one book (*El salobre/Salt* — see "Bookshelf," Summer 2018) and have another one in the works. Dolors and I are working on her irreverent collection, *Missa pagesa* (*Peasant Mass*), and Jordi and I are working on his novel of the Spanish civil war, *El brigadista*, which focuses on the participation of African-American volunteers in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. My

son, Gabe (16), was along for the trip, so we did manage to have some fun too — visiting cathedrals and Roman ruins, sunning ourselves on Mediterranean beaches, eating tapas and paella. That's three summers in Spain for me now, and it's beginning to look mighty fine as Retirement Plan A."

Here is a contribution from **Gary Lehman** BUS'80, SIPA'80 that says he is "hanging around" but that seems like a real understatement! From Gary: "I am hanging around the house these days for now, going to the fitness center, downsizing, shopping and cooking dinner from time to time (but getting a little sick of not working). My wife (SIPA'80) is nurse case manager at a Manhattan hospital. I retired in 2015 after 36 years at a 'big blue-colored' technology firm (appreciating that pension). I earned a second master's, in homeland security, at CUNY/John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and graduated in June 2016. Took two gap years, but am now looking for work in homeland security, if I am not too old (although that seems to be the case — time will tell). During the two years off I refinished the basement and updated the kitchen (did some of that work, but to be honest not the plumbing, electricity or cabinetry!); my wife and I traveled to India and Sri Lanka and road-tripped in the United States and Canada; and I scuba-dived in the Red Sea and Bahamas. I am one of the directors at The Scuba Sports Club of Westchester and am the northeast news correspondent (volunteer) for Dive News Network and a on the Community Emergency Response Team.

"In recent years I submitted Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Elbrus in the Russian Caucasus (I was 1,000 feet short of the summit; the weather became dangerous), and Pikes Peak for Making Waves To Fight Cancer/Swim Across America (I trek and climb these days to fight cancer; can't open-water swim fast enough anymore). In June I concluded my mountaineering days with a trek to the Mount Everest base camp (can you tell I am bucket-listing?) — gaining donations for Sloan Kettering, MD Anderson, Northwell and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory to fight cancer (my older sister died of pancreatic cancer in 2009). My twin daughters are 30 (wow,

where did the time go?). J1 is a level-two hospital case worker with a Columbia master's in social work; J2 is a Tulane and LSU Law grad internet attorney inside the Beltway; and youngest daughter, J3, has a master's in social work from Boston College. J2 has our granddaughter (6 months) and J3 has our grandson (3), both the apples of our eyes (my wife is 'the lady in the phone' when we FaceTime). And among all our daughters, we also have six grand-dogs who go wild when I bring them dried codfish skin treats. So that is the beat of life around these here parts these days."

Gara LaMarche writes: "I'm happy to say that in the past year the number of our grandchildren has tripled to three, with Max joining his 7-year old brother, Sam, and Leo just blocks away in Brooklyn, where we all live. Lisa Mueller and I marked our fifth anniversary by returning to the scene of our wedding in Watch Hill, R.I., near where I grew up, and where I worked in the summers. I have been president of the Democracy Alliance for five years, working harder than ever to organize donors to take back our democracy from ... well, I'm sure we're a bipartisan group of CC grads, but ... from the deeply unfit occupant of the White House who has no respect for democratic norms or the rule of law.

"In my spare time, in addition to spending as much time with the grandkids as possible, I chair the boards of two public media organizations, StoryCorps and The New Press, and also am on a few human rights boards — The Fund for Global Human Rights, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and Scholars at Risk — while binge-watching as many noirish, anti-hero Netflix, Amazon and cable series as I can manage. **Dan Baker** and I remain close friends who see each other regularly — we made our annual trip to the Shelburne Inn during Columbus Day weekend with our wives — and our daughters are best friends, too! It's been 46 years since he embarrassed me on our first day in Carman Hall by observing in front of a dozen other freshmen that 'you have no hair on your chest.'"

No room for a Mika report, but a Syracuse trip is due for me. Thanks for the big response from all the



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college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.

1976 veterans. Keep enjoying life and telling your classmates about all the living that is still left to do!

1977

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I begin with an “information please” item, from **Jon Fraser**, a professor of theater and film at Long Island University. “I’ve been contacted,” he writes, “by someone at Barnard who is putting together a book about all of the Greek-language productions of classics that started, apparently, with my production of *Medea* in 1977. She wants me to write about the production. Alas, my memory of 40 years ago isn’t sharp, so I ask anyone who was either in the production or else saw it to contact me (jfraser212@gmail.com).”

Though I did not attend, I can remember it being advertised, because I remember thinking that a production of Euripides in ancient Greek was going to be a one-shot experiment at best; but happily, I turned out to be entirely wrong. In any case, anyone who remembers something about the actual production should contact Jon.

“I am so relieved to find out it is not too late in life for fabulous adventures!” writes **Peter Basch**, concerning a three-month leave of absence he took from CalTech’s Jet Propulsion

Laboratory, where he is a technical writer. Peter’s adventure began when he was hired to write marketing documents for a software company in France: the documents were in English, but the interaction with the engineers was in French. “Finally, my Lycée Français education pays off! I mean, aside from getting me into Columbia.” He continues: “My wife and I rented an apartment in Lyon and immersed ourselves in the local life. I recommend Lyon to anyone looking to visit France beyond Paris and the Côte d’Azur. The restaurants are amazing. My wife took a cooking class at the Institut Paul Bocuse (the national icon Paul Bocuse, possibly the most important chef in France since Escoffier, died six days after her class; I don’t think there was any causation).”

Harry Bauld sent a detailed report (those are good). Concerning the present: To date, Harry has spent more than 37 years teaching high school and writing. “My recent book of poetry is *The Uncorrected Eye*, and everyone should feel free to buy many copies; makes a great gift for family, friends, colleagues, bartenders and other dependents. *On Writing the College Application Essay*, based on my work at Columbia and Brown, is in its 25th anniversary edition.”

Harry worked in admissions for four years, first at Columbia, then at Brown. He was “rescued,” as he puts it, by a former Columbia admissions director, Michael Lacopo, who had become headmaster at Horace Mann, and threw Harry into a classroom. “After a few years at Horace Mann in the ’80s, and a few more tilling the rocky soil of the freelance written word, I ended up at the Putney School in Vermont for 16 years, and had two daughters (the elder of whom, Lizzy Straus ’09, SOA’14, is also a poet — *il miglior fabbro*). In 2007, I moved back to New York so my wife, Inés, could begin a year at Teachers College, and I returned to the embrace of Horace Mann.

“Two years ago, with current baseball coach Brett Boretti’s help, Jim Bruno ’76, Joe Cosgriff ’78 and I (three consecutive Columbia baseball captains) organized the 40th reunion of the 1976 baseball team at Baker Athletics Complex, a great event that included members of the ’77 team — back-to-back Eastern Intercollegiate Basketball League champions (the Ivies plus Army and Navy, in those days). We



Members of the Class of 1978 at Reunion 2018. Left to right: Paul Cutrone, Tom Reuter, Joe Greenaway, John Flores and Al Felieu.

have reveled in the impressive success of the Boretti era but also want to point out that we believe the ’77 incarnation was the first Columbia team in history to win a post-season game — in the ECAC tournament, against Fairleigh Dickinson.”

1978

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As I’m writing this issue’s column, the news is basically telling me that our grandchildren may well have to navigate a country that is debating the efficacy of democracy while dealing with climate change that will make large sections of the country unlivable — if not underwater. Makes our lives seem relatively mundane and predictable. Too bad the rest of the country didn’t take CC (so at least they would have a better sense of the consequences of bad ideas) and a few world history survey classes (to understand the consequences of foolish actions). Oh well, maybe next time. Or do you believe in parallel universes?

People are still talking about the great panel at reunion — and the fact that they couldn’t hear a lot of what was said. You guys are so picky!

Don Guttenplan notes, “Two milestones for me (apart from sharing a panel with my old friend **Tim Weiner** at reunion): In March I took over as editor of *Jewish Quarterly*, a 75-year-old London-based journal of culture, politics and

general *yiddishkeit*, which welcomes readers and subscribers from around the world. And in October, my latest book — *The Next Republic: The Rise of a New Radical Majority*, which blends history and reportage to offer a hopeful, and I hope realistic, sense of the political road away from the twin cliffs of Trumpism and corporate Democratic hand-wringing — was published.”

Don, I did some hand-wringing earlier. Sorry.

Talking about being underwater, **Wendell Graham** writes, “I retire in August after 24 years as a county judge in Miami, five years prosecutor, six years criminal law. Returning to practice law emphasizing mediation. My wife, Janice, works at a nonprofit helping bridge emancipated, dependent children from early adulthood to independent living. Oldest son teaches dance in Atlanta. Second son is an Army staff sergeant. Youngest is a sophomore (at Canterbury, in Connecticut), whom I hope applies to the College.”

From New Jerseyan **Barry Sage-EI**: “Recently retired from the technology consulting field. Have two granddaughters who turned 1 last year. My BC’78 wife’s independent bookstore continues to thrive after 20 years. Go, Lions football; good start to the season. I am concerned about the overall health and welfare of our government, as it is becoming a government based on partisan mob rule. The issue is no longer Democrat or Republican but rather what is right and wrong.”

Barry, what’s your wife’s name? And no hand-wringing.



Jeffrey Moerdler ’78 (left) met with Gary Pickholz ’78 while Moerdler was on vacation in Israel.



Members of Old Blue, alumni from Columbia Ultimate Frisbee teams of the late 1970s and early 1980s, had a reunion during Labor Day weekend with friends and family members. Front row, left to right: Jordan Hirschhorn, Jim Drennan '84, Phil Hirschhorn '84, Bob Kennelly SEAS'81, Ernie Cicconi '81, Chris Betts '84, Harry Betts and Adam "Sonofschotz" Silverschotz; back row: Bob Jarrett SEAS'83, Joe Strothman '84, Chris Schmidt '81, Steve Kane '80, Alex Bagley '80, Greg "Grog" Verbeck, Paul Tvetenstrand SEAS'82, Alex Lynch LAW'87, Tom Jacobson, Mark Silverschotz '78 and Ken Gary SEAS'81.

David Margules' kids could star in a whole evening of primetime TV drama plots: "I work in the Delaware office of the national law firm Ballard Spahr, where I lead the Chancery Court/Corporate Governance practice. I'm married to Michelle Seltzer BC'77; our 40-year anniversary is coming up in February. We have four sons — a doctor, a public defender, a chef and a college student. I'm hoping to do a better job keeping up with old friends this year."

Jeffrey Moerdler: "I had the pleasure of seeing **Gary Pickholz**, for the first time in decades, while I was in Israel on vacation. It was a great mini-reunion."

And while we often hear from Pickholz on the politics of Israel, we have never gotten a report about its infrastructure from him, until now: "First morning of operation, first 'fast' (125 kph) train from Jerusalem to civilization (not quite to Tel Aviv, only as far as the airport between the cities). I am on the fourth train ever to depart Jerusalem, first permitting hoi poloi rather than Mandarins, Mullahs and Rajahs. History of electric mass transit rail: 1881, Berlin S-Bahn; 1883, Brighton line to Victoria, London; and now 2018, Israel, half of one line."

Michael Wilhite is using Facebook and LinkedIn to help me do my job: "Social media has allowed that list to be long as I reconnected with classmates. I attended a retirement reception for Steve Singer this year. Steve was the academic counselor for Columbia Athletics when I was a freshman. By the time these notes

are published my youngest daughter will be 4. It's cool being a father again. Maybe this one will go to Columbia. Retirement is not in my vocabulary. I am still having fun and enjoying my life. I am humbled and appreciative of being inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. Thank you to those who attended games and always had an encouraging word. I love the new football coach, and the team is on the brink of a championship season. The start has been great. Women's soccer is also on the upswing. The Bubble will be up again at Robert K. Kraft Field; it has helped mitigate bad weather. The athletics facilities are first-rate. Go Lions!"

"I'm in full-time private psychiatric practice," reports **Richard Schloss**, "in Huntington, N.Y. Celebrated my 33rd wedding anniversary in August with Meredith Jaffe NRS'82 (now a full-time dentist). Had Saturday dinner in Butler Library at reunion and hung out with **Marvin Siegfried** and his wife, Sharon."

Richard laid out the next year for us, "I predict: Mueller will indict people close to Trump for 'conspiracy against the United States' for their role in the Russia meeting, including Donald Jr., and will also issue indictments for financial malfeasance against others close to Trump, such as Jared Kushner, but will be unable to charge Trump himself. His presidency will be damaged, but he will not be removed from office. Democrats will take full control of the House but will gain only one Senate seat and will divide the Senate 50–50; Pence will come in to break

the tie in every vote. Partisan rancor will worsen, and lawsuits between Democratic states and the administration will tie up the courts."

There were a slew of quips about the reunion and the campus; here are a few of them:

"Very impressed by how well manicured the place looked, practically Princetonian!"

"North campus was astounding. John Jay was amazingly unchanged."

"More joint events with Barnard."

"More discussion and debate and less passivity for participants."

"We need a barbecue."

"Caught up with a lot of folks."

"They could not get the sound right for panel discussion at the class dinner."

"Can I help to get the logistics right for the 45th?"

"Told **Chris Dell** that I wished he were secretary of state. He said, 'So do I.'"

1979

REUNION 2019
MAY 30–JUNE 1

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News from **Mark Fleischmann:** "The entire staff of *Sound & Vision* magazine has been laid off by a new owner, leaving me with time on my hands. I spent the first two months writing and publishing a short book, *The Friendly Audio Guide*, aimed at young people pondering their first stereo systems. I will spend the rest of this year working on other book projects before returning to freelance writing, which occupied about half of my previous career."

Andrew Semons reports, "Much to my surprise (and delight) I'm still hard at work. IPNY, the ad agency I started with some coworkers from my Ogilvy and Mather days seven years ago, is doing well and has been named for the past two years in a row one of New York's top agencies. Our roster of clients includes some high-profile for-profit clients in the financial services and healthcare sectors. But

the real joy of the past seven years has been building strong marketing, advertising and fundraising initiatives for major nonprofits, including The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, City of Hope, WNET Thirteen and, most recently, The First Amendment Museum, a non-partisan initiative to reacquaint U.S. citizens with their First Amendment freedoms and inspire productive civil discourse.

"I split my time between NYC and the East End of Long Island, where my husband manages a local newspaper. We sail as often as we can."

Robert C. Klapper: "My Columbia memory for this column involves our experience with the football team."

"As you might imagine, none of these memories involve any victories on the playing field. Winning in football was never our priority, which is good since it never happened. But as I recently learned, the big reason I loved our football program and couldn't wait for each game was to hear the comments of our coach, Bill Campbell '62, TC'64. We all became aware of his life beyond the field in Silicon Valley."

"That iPhone and iPad and iWatch and i-in-everything that seems to be surrounding us in life now was the vision of Steve Jobs and Apple. But if you read the biography of Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson, you will quickly learn that the key player and coach behind the scenes of this revolution was that very same Columbia football coach, Bill Campbell. His impact in helping to create the modern world is astonishing."

"One of the many careers that I perform as a modern Renaissance man, in addition to being an orthopedic surgeon here in Los Angeles, is I host a radio show every Saturday on ESPN, *Weekend Warrior*. (You can hear the podcast on the ESPN app). A recent guest was Columbia's head football coach, Al Bagnoli. For 23 years he was the head coach at Penn, and brought it nine titles. He is the most successful coach in the history of the Ivy League. President Lee C. Bollinger has done many great things at the school since we graduated, but I believe that even more impactful than the Manhattanville project will be convincing Coach Bagnoli to come out of retirement from Penn and to bring his magic to our football program."

"At ESPN I work closely each week with Marcellus Wiley '97, and

it was great to have him spend a segment on the air with me after the coach's interview. What became very clear to me in talking to both Bagnoli and Wiley was the tremendous impact Campbell had on their lives. I remember his raspy voice and tremendous charisma in the few times I saw him while on campus. Coach Bagnoli told a story about the day he went to visit Campbell in his office in Silicon Valley; prior to the meeting Campbell had just finished speaking with Tim Cook, now CEO of Apple. Bagnoli then said that after his appointment, Campbell was off to visit a Pop Warner football program he had created. This is happening all the while Campbell is CEO of a software company, Intuit.

"What I learned, while rediscovering the life, the myth, the man, the legend that was Campbell, was that during our four years at the College reading about those dead iconic thinkers (Hobbes and Locke, Voltaire and Thucydides), Campbell was an iconic thinker walking among us.

"Just like when professor Karl-Ludwig Selig taught me that Cervantes and his masterpiece, *Don Quixote*, was more than just a novel, Coach Al Bagnoli, Marcellus Wiley and Steve Jobs taught me that Bill Campbell was more than just a football coach.

"Roar, lion, roar!"

1980

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Every year since 1990, on the weekend after Labor Day, Old Blue (alumni from Columbia Ultimate



Left to right: Mario Biaggi '80, Charlie LaRocca '80, Joe Ciulla '80 and A.J. Sabatelle '80 at a gathering for Sabatelle's birthday.

Frisbee teams of the late 1970s and early 1980s) reunites. There is a reunion on Friday night to carbo-load at V&T and play disc golf on the Ken Gary SEAS'81-designed campus course — holes include hitting *Alma Mater* from Carman (par 4) and hitting the bust in the Van Am Quad from the Butler main doors (par 3) — and then play Ultimate on Saturday. This year Chris Schmidt '81 and Pascale Schmidt BC'83 hosted the Saturday game on Long Island.

In a major upset, after strategically and viciously fouling and breaking the rib of perhaps the finest player on the Legends (over 60) team in the first half, the Rookies (under 60) won 15–14. The photo on the opposite page shows the survivors of the contest, along with some of their family members and friends: front row, Jordan Hirschhorn, Jim Drennan '84, Phil Hirschhorn '84, Bob Kennelly SEAS'81, Ernie Cicconi '81, Chris Betts '84, Harry Betts and Adam "Sonofschotz" Silverschotz; and back row, Bob Jarrett SEAS'83, Joe Strothman '84, Chris Schmidt '81, **Steve Kane**, **Alex Bagley**, Greg "Grog" Verbeck, Paul Tvetenstrand SEAS'82, Alex Lynch LAW'87, Tom Jacobson, Mark Silverschotz '78 and Ken Gary SEAS'81.

I hope you are all doing well and that your New Year is healthy and happy!

1981

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Since most of the Class of 1981 is approaching the big "60," it is fitting that I should hear from classmates as they cross this threshold onto the next stage of life. In the case of **Richard Gentile**, he is lucky enough to have friends from Columbia surprise him with a 60th birthday party — one year in advance. The party was orchestrated by **Lenny Cassuto** and **Kevin Costa**, who flank Richard in the photo at top right. The three amigos and their wives spent Labor Day weekend at Cape Cod, talking about old days and the future. They extend best wishes to the class.

I also heard from **Frank Boyle**, who lived across from me on 7

Hartley about 40 years ago (yikes). Frank is a longtime professor of English at Fordham. He's taken a research leave this year to finish a book, *Opening Heads in Early-Modern and 18th-Century Literature and Science*. The term "neurologie" was coined in the 17th century; Frank's book is about the impact this new science had on the literature of the time. We used to have epic parties on 7 Hartley, I have fond memories of this dormitory (after Hartley it was the Fiji House, which at times was about as clean as the MTA stop at 116th and Broadway ... oh well).

I have a positive update from **Tom Glocer**, who is obviously not slowing down as he approaches 60. He writes, "The family is great. Maarit and I celebrated our 30th anniversary last summer; Walter, our second child, joined his sister Mariana at NYU; and Simba, our third Bull Mastiff, is 2.

"Work is busy, as I co-founded three firms last year: bluevoyant.com, a cyber defense company; capitolis.com, a Fintech platform; and communitascapital.com, a financial markets-oriented venture fund.

"I am on several public company and charitable boards (Atlantic Council, Cleveland Clinic, Columbia Global Center (Paris), Merck, Morgan Stanley, Publicis, Yale Law School) and find time to keep up my support of our beloved Columbia."

Have a great start to 2019, and please take a moment to write in with an update!

1982

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Greetings, gents! As I put cuneiform to clay tablet it is now the end of September. Here in Denver the days are growing shorter, the leaves are starting to turn and the last vestiges of civil political discourse are now just a fond receding memory. I've decided that I am now a single-issue voter: Our much-cherished Core Curriculum should be nationally mandated.

On that baleful note I was happy to receive news from our highly accomplished, globe-trotting media vanguard **Fred Katayama** JRN'83. In his own words: "I always believed



Lenny Cassuto '81 (left) and Kevin Costa '81 (right) surprised Richard Gentile '81 with a 60th birthday cake (a year early!) during Labor Day on Cape Cod.

the answer to 'How do you get to Carnegie Hall?' was practice, practice, practice — not a Columbia College B.A. in East Asian studies and a master's from the Journalism School. But I wound up with a private dressing room (complete with a Steinway) and my name in *Playbill* and on the poster outside the entrance. Sitting on stage next to the conductor and facing a sold-out audience of 2,800, I narrated portions of the last letters written by people who died in WWII. The concert was titled *The Last Message*. I synced my narration to the music performed by the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra and a men's chorus group. It's something else to hear your own voice resonate at Carnegie.

"I love getting together with guys from the College. I had dim sum in Chinatown late in the summer with Steve Carty '85, who has a daughter, Monica '15. Somehow, we got the memo and found ourselves sporting matching orange polo shirts instead of Columbia's Jordy blue. In February, I had dinner in Rome with **Greg Burke** JRN'83, who's got an ultra-cool gig: He's the chief Vatican spokesman for Pope Francis directing the Holy See's press office. Greg and I were classmates at the Journalism School and are both alumni of Time, Inc., where he toiled at *Time* while I wrote for *Fortune*. In April, I had drinks with my former uber boss, Tom Glocer '81, who was CEO of Thomson Reuters and now is on the boards of Morgan Stanley and Merck. I had coffee with **Alex Moon** last year. Every other year, I get together over dinner with **Mike Radigan**, **Jim Connolly** and **Mike**

Tubridy. In winter months, I tend to run into **Louis De Chiara** on the street. Before returning to the financial news beat, I every now and then would tap **Rob Polner** at NYU Wagner to find a professor to interview on a public policy issue.

"I recently had lunch in Tokyo with my Japanese literature professor, the esteemed Donald Keene '42, GSAS'49. I get together with him every year to celebrate his birthday. He turned 96 last June. And I still see professors Carol Gluck, Gerry Curtis and Paul Anderer from time to time."

Thanks, Fred — on stage at Carnegie Hall, what an extraordinary accomplishment! Really great update! Greg B., Alex M., Mike R., Jim C., Mike T., Louis D. and Rob P., I would love to hear from you guys as well!

1983

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Greetings, classmates. **Eddy Friedfeld** recently hosted a program with the actors from the TV show *The Flash* (watch the interview online at bit.ly/2NwPFbB or see a snippet at bit.ly/2A0IfKg). Also, see the review of the Sid Caesar set that Eddy produced (and wrote a booklet for) at bit.ly/2PqfMTl.

Wayne Allyn Root gave a speech at the September 21 Trump rally in Las Vegas: see it at bit.ly/2OM97pp.

On September 20, *The New York Post* reported, "**David Newman**, the team's senior VP of marketing and communications, will be leaving the Mets after this season. Newman has held the position since 2005."

Amelia Raftopoulos and her son, Philip '22, attended a Summer Sendoff event hosted by my wife, Debbie, and me. Amelia's brother is **Othon Prounis**.

Dan Loeb, founder and CEO of Third Point, is seeking to replace the entire Campbell Soup Co. board. Dan is heavily involved in education reform efforts, specifically supporting charter schools. He endowed the Daniel S. Loeb Scholarship for undergraduate study at Columbia University. Dan is a prominent art collector. His Wikipedia page states, "Dan has traced his love of art to his student years at Columbia, where he saw Poussin's *The Rape of the Sabine Women* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and took an art humanities class as part of the Core Curriculum."

Alex Treitler: "The piece about me in the Summer 2018 Class Notes has resulted in my making a connection with **Teddy Weinberger**, who lives in Israel. We both have degrees in religious studies and a professional background in this field. There are a number of other touchpoints, and it has been very rewarding to have made this connection.

"I have four children: a son who is 30 and is a professional violinist living in Sweden; he has his own quartet (the Treitler Quartet) together with his wife that has won awards and distinctions in Sweden. I saw him, his wife and my granddaughters (3 and 5) in December 2017 when they visited me and gave concerts in the Twin Cities. I have three daughters from a second marriage (7, 11 and 13). They too are musical (violin, cello and piano) and pursue many other interests. My oldest is a rising talent at an afternoon youth circus school, Circus Juventas, the largest of its kind in the United States.

"I started my own business, Life Language, last spring and am working to get it off the ground. The business creates interactive websites, books and audio that capture the lives, culture and memory of a family's oldest generation. Lots of work to start, but fascinating and rewarding. I have made a connection with Professor Peter Rudnytsky, at

the University of Florida, my freshman Lit Hum professor and hugely influential in setting a standard for intellectual rigor that has stuck with me. For our 35th reunion I made a gift in his honor to the Columbia Black Alumni Council Scholarship Fund. I don't have a lot of free time, but will likely continue to coach my daughters' basketball teams and continue to be engaged in addressing implicit bias in education."

Nick Paone: "I became a partner in the law firm of Fleischer Potash, which formed after the dissolution of my old firm, White Fleischer & Fino, in 2018. My daughter Abigail graduated last May from The Boston Conservatory at Berklee in the field of acting and musical theater and, as much as she has become addicted to Boston, is New York-bound because her colleagues told her it's the right thing to do — her parents' voices being inaudible to her. My daughter Lillian, a high school senior, has been discovered as a talented jazz singer, but will probably not pursue that in college, being very practical-minded (though who knows what will happen down the road). For the past few years, I have resurrected my musician past by playing in rock bands on keyboards at choice venues in New Jersey (a.k.a. dive bars) and am between projects, having accumulated too much gear to let it go to waste."

Ed Joyce: "On October 28, my wife, Linda Gerstel, joined our 17 teammates and nearly 400 other cyclists as we participated in the 19th Wheels of Love Bike Ride — a five-day, 300-mile ride through the Negev/southern Israel to raise money for the physically challenged children of the Alyn Hospital in Jerusalem. Alyn Hospital is one of the world's leading specialists in the active and intensive rehabilitation of children, regardless of their religion or ethnic origin (it is the only such hospital in the Middle East!). The name of our team is once again Grumpy Roadsters — apropos of our warm and fuzzy dispositions. Last year, we raised nearly \$115,000. This year, we have set an aggressive team goal of raising at least \$125,000. If you need more motivation, this year's ride also marks our 25th wedding anniversary, and we can think of no better way to celebrate it.

"Donations are tax-deductible for U.S. residents and can be made online by clicking on our individual

pages, wolusa.org/goto/edjoyce or wolusa.org/goto/lindagerstel, or by clicking on our team page: wolusa.org/goto/grumpyroadsters."

Jon Ross: "Major earthquakes recently caused widespread damage and loss of life on the Indonesian island of Lombok, near Bali. A series of magnitude 6-plus temblors killed more than 400 people and destroyed almost 80 percent of the homes, displacing approximately 350,000 men, women and children. Here at my nonprofit, MicroAid, our heart goes out to the survivors and the victims' families. And I am encouraged to see the first responders and relief supplies reaching the area. MicroAid is a long-term recovery organization, rebuilding permanent homes for families after the emergency workers have left, and I will go in later and help people get out of the temporary tents and the rubble of their homes, and help them return to self-sufficiency. MicroAid continues to rebuild houses for families affected by the 2015 earthquake in Nepal. I am also getting ready to help families whose homes were destroyed in the Caribbean by hurricanes in fall 2017. Please donate to help the earthquake survivors in Indonesia."

We were honored to have **Andy Barth** as our keynote speaker for our 35th reunion. Excerpts of his remarks: "Amazingly, 35 years ago we were graduating from the College. Where did those years go? For me, in those 35 years, I worked two summer jobs, attended Columbia Business School, worked 32 and a half years for the same investment management firm, the Capital Group, and have now been retired for six months. I got married (30 years in October), had four children (three girls, all USC Trojans; one boy, a Columbia grad) and have lived 30 of those 35 years in Los Angeles.

"In those 35 years, it is remarkable to me how the four years before at Columbia have consistently colored and influenced my life. There is rarely an instance in which the education, the people or the institution of Columbia has not played a role in causing, influencing or enhancing my life's major events. A recent perfect illustration was my involvement at the Rio Olympics in 2016. I had been chosen as the Team Leader of the U.S. Men's Freestyle Wrestling team, a role which allowed me to march in the



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Your
Photo**



CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Opening and Closing Ceremonies and reside in the Olympic Village during the wrestling competitions. Coincidentally another Columbian, Kyra Tirana Barry '87, was the team leader for the Women's Team. On a side note, her husband, Dave Barry '87, was the team leader for the Men's Greco-Roman Team at the 2012 London Olympics. This honor does not find me without Columbia. While I enjoyed some victories at Columbia, I was by no means a great wrestler. Our team won three Ivy League Titles, but the best that could be said about me was that I was a good wrestler who had a few great moments. What brought my name to the attention of USA Wrestling was my love for the sport and for the Columbia program.

"When I endowed the head coaching position here, I did not realize that it was the first of its kind in the country. Somewhat fitting as Columbia is the oldest college wrestling program in the country, now 115 years old. In 2011, I had the chance to bring attention to our sport and to Columbia by publicizing the fact that in its rare books division, Columbia held a 2,000-year-old papyrus manuscript that is the oldest written coaching manual in the world — and yes, it is on wrestling. The University helped me prepare beautiful copies that were presented in a ceremony held at Casa Italiana to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and the international governing body of wrestling, at that time named FILA.

"On to Rio, where the Columbia connections are plentiful. As I was standing, chatting with Kyra, outside the USA residence hall in the village, waiting to proceed to the opening ceremonies, we found Nzingha Prescod '15, who competed in fencing later that week. Also later that week, I watch Katie Meili '13 win a bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke. My son, Andrew '16, and I stood up and, to the bewilderment of those around us but only to the embarrassment of my wife and daughters (all USC graduates), broke out singing *Roar*, *Lion*, *Roar*. You never have to go far to find Columbia success and excellence. (No, I am not referring to the singing.)

"... The Columbia education is like an intellectual Olympiad. Four years of Core Curriculum, with the brightest students from every state in the United States and from 92 countries,

all mixing together, studying together, coming to understand and appreciate each other through a consistent set of disciplines and rigors. To me, this is a strong basis of hope for our future. ... I would like to close with a quote from Pat Riley, the former coach of the L.A. Lakers and New York Knicks. I met him at a book signing, shortly after his successful years with the Lakers. I was buying a couple dozen books for my investment team and getting them autographed. He was impressed (or grateful) with the number of books and inquired who they were for. I explained I was taking over responsibility for a group that needed to come together as a team. He looked at me and said: 'We may not be the Lion, but we can be the Lion's Roar.' I loved that phrase and have never had a chance to use it. So, there is no better way to end this. For those of you who still can, be the Lion. For the rest of us, let us be the Lion's Roar."

Finally, former Columbia basketball standout Jeff Coby '17 made the New York Knicks training roster this fall.

1984

REUNION 2019 MAY 30–JUNE 1

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David Stafford is in his sixth year as general counsel of McGraw-Hill, the educational publisher, based in NYC. He and his wife, Caryn BC'85, LAW'88 live in Scarsdale, N.Y., with the youngest of their three children, Allison, a senior in high school. Their younger son Andrew is a senior at Cornell and their son Daniel lives in Rockland County, N.Y. "I've always loved sports and fancied myself an athlete," David says, "but Allison puts me to shame. She is the best athlete in our family and has been recruited to play soccer by a number of colleges. She hopes and expects to play varsity soccer at Amherst College in 2019."

Also living in Scarsdale is **John Kornfeld**: "After 30 years of practice,



Left to right: Evelyn Jagoda '14, David Kahn '80, Dennis Klainberg '84 and Constantino Tobio '96 at Homecoming 2018.

I started my own firm, the Law Offices of John A. Kornfeld. I focus exclusively on family law. I have been named a Super Lawyer six years running, as well as one of New York's Leading Family Lawyers and one of New York's Best Lawyers in the field. My wife, Julie, and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary; our oldest child is a sophomore at the University of Chicago, our middle child is a junior at Scarsdale H.S. and our youngest is in the seventh grade at Scarsdale Middle School. I look forward to attending our 35th reunion (can it be that long?).

All hail outgoing Columbia University Senate alumnus **Kurt Roeloffs**! "After a year of our family traveling through Africa and Europe, we have landed in Cambridge, England, for local study and a new London-based real estate investment venture. My study will focus on theology and business ethics, which is a nearly completely abandoned field of study, and [my wife] Shyanne's study will be at the intersection of nutrition and psychology, one of the very hottest fields around. Our three younger children are in local schools and our oldest is finishing high school in Connecticut. In early July we hosted a send-off for Columbia's incoming students from the United Kingdom in the offices of Seaforth Land, the new venture that I chair. The students loved the cool WeWork sort of vibe that the place has and the very warm send off from local alumni who included Helene Tagliaferri SEAS'83,

Maria Shiao SEAS'86, Alexi Thomas '16 and Drew Feldman SEAS'17."

Rocking the internet is **Max Rosen**, president and founder of Indigo Productions, which specializes in the creation of social media videos to publicize the films of Sony Pictures, among others. Max has written an interesting and insightful blog that will benefit developers and awe just about everyone else with an interest on what attracts the most attention online: bit.ly/2OESiBJ.

Salutatorian **Cary Pfeffer** loves that dirty water (yes, Boston is his home): "Still a partner at Third Rock Ventures — the lifesciences venture firm I helped create 11 years ago. We have recently built and funded our 50th biotech company. Daughters Samantha and Ayla are a junior and a freshman respectively in high school. Wife Ruth does an amazing job balancing her leadership development consulting business and the kids. All's good."

Class President **Larry Kane** does a takedown! He reports: "Will be going to the 35th reunion and back to NYC for the Columbia 1980–81 wrestling team's induction to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame — classmates on the team include **Ed Gaudreau**, **Bill Lubell**, **Yossi Rabin**, **Chip Trayner**, **Karl Oprisch SEAS'84**, **Ron Wolowiec**, **Jack Bailey**, **Bill Goritski**, **Danny Hiller**, **Drew Scopelliti**, **Miles Vukelic** (who died a few years ago) and me. This is my third sports hall of fame. The others are my high



Several College and Barnard alumni met up at Judah Cohen '85's daughter's wedding on May 28. Left to right: Mark Moskowitz '85, Cohen, Sherri Cohen BC'91, MJ Kanner TC'93, Barry Kanner '85, Barry Schwartz '85, Roberta Schwartz, Dvora Reich BC'86 and David Reich '85.

school, Penfield H.S. in Western New York, and Galileo H.S. in San Francisco, where I was head coach of the varsity wrestling team for 15 years (and where O.J. Simpson went to school!)."

Let's get ready to rumblllllllllllll! Come back to campus and celebrate the 35th!

1985

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We got so many updates that I forgot to mention some of my recent reconnections at Columbia events, particularly with a number of Glee Clubbers. I ran into the Hon. **Timothy Tomasi** LAW'88 at our Law School reunion in June. Tim dispenses justice as a Superior Court judge in Vermont. During the same month, at the Kingsmen reunion on the Lower East Side, it was fantastic to see **David Zapolsky**, who continues his good work at Amazon.

And it was great to reconnect last fall at a Columbia dinner with **John Phelan**, who is pursuing a master's at the Mailman School of Public Health. It was also wonderful to see **Hector Morales** at the same event; Ambassador Morales practices law in Washington, D.C.

In other news, **Joe Novak** is a diplomat with the State Department. "After tours through Jeddah, Montreal, Jakarta, Manila, Colombia, Islamabad and Dhaka, I am the

director of the Office of Regional Policy Coordination in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs in Washington, D.C.," he writes. "The office focuses on several matters, including the G-7 process and on ways to support Israel in the UN and in specialized agencies. We also focus on U.S. linkages on multilateral issues with regional bodies, such as the African Union, ASEAN, the Organization of American States and the Arab League. We also develop analytical data and metrics, including with reference to UN voting by other countries and its coincidence with U.S. positioning."

Mark Scherzer started with Morgan Stanley in November 1985, and passed his 33rd anniversary, "having survived the dot.com bubble, the financial crisis, many changes in management and so on. I focus on large-scale projects across our third-party supplier base and have negotiated tens of millions of dollars of contracts. I remain active on the boards of a number of charities, focusing on at-risk youth, and fundraising."

Judah Cohen shares happy news: "My daughter, Gabriella Cohen BC'18, married Avery Feit SEAS'18 on May 28. In addition to many recent and current Columbia/Barnard students, we also had some friends from the Class of 1985 in attendance."

In late September, **Hector Morales** reported: "As of next week, I will join Macquarie Capital's Infrastructure and Energy Group full time as a managing director and chairman of Latin America."

Mitch Regenstreif moved to DLA Piper when his "legacy" law

firm merged into DLA Piper. He shares that it "has been a good move, as it's a really great firm with amazing real estate and corporate departments. I have also been able to work with firm lawyers nationwide and overseas. My three daughters are also doing well. Oldest Nina graduated from Penn last May and is in Vienna on a teaching Fulbright. Second daughter Claire is a junior at Colorado — we all love Boulder! And baby Grace, a junior in high school, is stuck at home with mom (Ellen '88) and dad. Too much attention for her liking!"

In 2018, **Philip Ivory** was named assistant director of The Writers Studio Tucson, a branch of the New York-based creative writing school founded by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Philip Schultz. He has been teaching creative writing on the intermediate level at Writers Studio since October 2016. In 2018, Philip had short stories published in *Ghost Parachute* and *Two Cities Review*, with stories slated to appear in *Menacing Hedge* and *Oklahoma Pagan Quarterly*. His story "Keep Me Company" was named third-place winner in Oklahoma Pagan

New Montgomery St. If you go to San Francisco you'll likely experience one of his projects.

Andrew's working on the renovation of the San Francisco Armory, a major project at UC Santa Cruz, as well as the reconstruction of the entire seawall along the San Francisco waterfront. He got married in 2015 to Michael TenBrink, and they are now the proud guardians of dog Bibi.

After a 23-year career as a gaffer (chief lighting technician) for film and television, **Brooks Tomb** left "the business" 11 years ago to be the director of regional offices for the nonprofit Sunshine Kids Foundation. He says, "We provide exciting group activities and trips for kids with cancer. I work out of our eastern region office in Hartford, Conn., and while I miss sunny Los Angeles, I have been able to reconnect with **Andrew Andriuk**, **Peter Strunsky**, **Robert LaPalme**, **Alex Spiro**, **John Adelman**, **Ron Schwartz** and occasionally **Jason Chervokas**. I was on campus recently and obtained an alumni library card. I hung out at Butler for a few hours between meetings.

Andy Ahn '86 recently moved from Indianapolis to Philadelphia. He is a neurologist and neuroscientist who focuses on the discovery of medicines for headache and pain.

Quarterly's Spooky Samhain 2018 Contest. He is working on a dark fantasy novel and maintains a blog at writeyourselfsane.com.

Andrew Wolfram GSAPP'88 lives in San Francisco and is a principal at the architecture firm TEF Design, the president of the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission and president of the Golden Gate Chapter of Lambda Alpha International, a land use and real estate organization. During the last 20 years he's had a role in some amazing projects in San Francisco, including the renovation of the San Francisco Ferry Building, a new building for Pixar, many projects in the Presidio of San Francisco, including the Presidio Officers' Club and the Presidio Landmark apartments, and the renovation of the spectacular Art Deco tower at 140

It was a wonderfully peaceful way to spend an afternoon. I highly recommend it."

I'm unfortunately ending this update on a sad note: **Jorge Hirter** told me of the passing last year of **Wylie Burgan**. After Columbia, Wylie received multiple master's and spent his career as a teacher. He taught social studies, English and special education in public high schools in Chicago; Fort Pierce, Fla.; Bedford, N.Y.; and New York City, as well as was an assistant or adjunct professor for several Florida community colleges. At Lehman H.S. in the Bronx he also was the coordinator of the Justice Academy and coach of the award-winning Herbert H. Lehman H.S. Law Team. Wylie last was an assistant principal at the School of Math, Science, and Engineering in New York City.

Jorge commented, "During his time at Columbia, Wylie was active in student government and received several awards and honors for his service to the College community. His private parties at John Jay were legendary. He was also a member of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity. The political and philosophical discussions often lasted to dawn. It was a pleasure and challenge to cross rhetorical blades with such an eloquent orator. He was always clear on what he wanted to do in life: teach in high school so that he could contribute to future generations in becoming valuable, aware and responsible citizens. He stayed true to this course."

"Wylie, you are greatly missed."

I second that.

1986

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I hope this column finds you well. Thank you for taking time away from your iPhone to read this analog column. Actually, did you know that you can read this column and *CCT* online? Just go to college.columbia.edu/cct; you can download issues as PDFs, or you can click on Class Notes and enter 1986 (or any class year), and the notes immediately pull up.

Andy Ahn is moving back east. He reports: "I am a neurologist and neuroscientist with a focus on the discovery of medicines for headache and pain. I recently moved from Eli Lilly and Co. in Indianapolis to Teva Pharmaceuticals in Philadelphia. At Teva I will be leading a clinical development group focused on the discovery and development of novel, non-opioid medicines for migraine and other headache disorders, including post-traumatic headache. Together with my wife and daughters (9 and 11), I will relocate in the spring. I am glad to connect with other Philly residents, or any classmates interested in developments in this field, through LinkedIn."

Joel Berg writes: "My biggest news is that, in addition to continuing my 'day job' as CEO of Hunger Free America, I am now the lead host of a new radio show, *America*,

We Need to Talk, Fridays 6–8 a.m. (online at bit.ly/2Rx1py9)."

Congrats to **Scot Glasberg** on receiving the Distinguished Service Award of the Plastic Surgery Foundation, the charitable and research arm of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, at its annual meeting in Chicago. Scot recently completed his term as president of the New York County Medical Society.

1987

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I'm so happy to report that I have started to hear from more classmates. Remember that you make this column special, so the more you write to me, the more enjoyable this column is for everyone.

Andrea Basora recently accepted a new position—she is now assistant VP of global digital communications for Chubb Insurance, with an office near Bryant Park. She also moved to the Upper West Side last year—97th and West End Avenue—and says she loves being back near our old stomping grounds.

Bob Boland, who entered with the Class of '86 but graduated with us, sent the following: "In July 2017, after 16 years of teaching sports law and leading the sports management programs at NYU, and more recently, the oldest and long-recognized number 1 program in the world at Ohio University, and occasionally representing players, coaches and professional teams as part of several sports representation firms and consultancies, I opted to take on a new challenge in a frontline role in major college sports as athletics integrity officer at Penn State."

"The role at Penn State is a first-of-its-kind position, created as part of the university's response to and recovery from the Sandusky scandal in 2011. I report to the president and Board of Trustees to ensure the university's 31 varsity sports are meeting not only NCAA and Big Ten Conference rules but also the university's highest values in integrity, fair treatment and responsibility. One person held the position before me, but given

the tumultuous times surrounding major college sports, the role is one I am very pleased to have and think is something of a blueprint for a position that is almost a necessity to help protect universities participating at the highest levels of athletic competition going forward. Perhaps the most important part of my work to date has been in helping prevent sexual harassment and misconduct—as #MeToo has definitively come to sports, sports will be forever changed as a result. It is only logical that for organizations where talent, earning or market power are critical that some process needs to exist to help the institution move forward.

"I also got remarried last June, at the Ladies' Pavilion in Central Park, to Regan Fad. Regan, an in-house counsel for a consulting firm, lives on West 79th Street between two old haunts of my Columbia days, The Dublin House and the American Museum of Natural History. So I am at least a part-time Upper West Sider again, which does feel a good bit like coming home."

"I will admit to being somewhat logistically handicapped in my life choices in that I had worked at NYU and lived in NYC, at least most of the time, since 1995, after a sojourn to the Southeastern Conference for graduate and law school and work in college sports. It was there that a former governor of Alabama, Albert Brewer (now deceased), who was my law school mentor, introduced me to our commencement speaker—then-chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Orrin Hatch—by saying, 'This fellow played football at Columbia University.' People in the SEC footprint tended to imagine that statement meaning a bit more than most Columbia students do; I never sought to correct them. But after divorcing in 2014 and moving to Ohio in 2015, I met the right woman on my first visit back to the Big Apple in October 2015. We've had a modern commuter relationship and now marriage since, but it does allow me a few more chances to get up to Morningside Heights and to Baker Field."

"So I am a lion once again, this time a *Nittany* one. But I'll always be a proud Columbia Lion."

Steve Abrahamson is VP of direct response for the National Audubon Society, in charge of all

mass fundraising for the organization. He and his wife, Maritza Guzman, my dear high school classmate, live in Montclair, N.J., with their daughter, Sofia.

Farah Chandu is in the news: She reported that her choir (she is the director) was recently profiled in *Newsday*, with lovely cover art and an even better story: online at nwsdy.li/2OI0Q66.

On a personal note, I have accepted a new position as adjunct associate professor in the communication arts and sciences department at CUNY's Bronx Community College. It is a wonderful opportunity to combine all my experience in journalism, film and psychology. I am continuing my other position as an adjunct professor of psychology at Mercy College.

1988

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Congratulations to Dr. **Heather Ruddock**, who was inducted in October into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. Heather, a former track star and one-time Ivy League record holder in the 400m race, was one of 15 student-athlete alumni who were selected by a committee of alumni and athletic administrators last year. Nowadays Heather is a physician with Advocare West Deptford Pediatrics in Pennsylvania. A graduate of Temple's Lewis Katz School of Medicine, she teaches in the emergency department of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children and is professionally involved with two homeless shelters.

Rebecca Wright is returning to Morningside Heights in January, after being named the inaugural director of Barnard's computer sciences program. Rebecca, a Yale Ph.D. who has been a professor at Rutgers since 2007, will run Barnard's new Computational Science Center, which will work closely with Columbia's computer science department. As one-third of Barnard students now major in the sciences, the center that Rebecca now heads "will provide opportunities to mesh STEM, the

social sciences, and the humanities,” according to *Spectator*.

Many of our classmates inspire us with their work — both their vocations and avocations. **Wallace “Todd” Johnson**, who wrote from Nebraska, is such an example. Todd heads the entrepreneurship and job creation practice at Gallup and spends “evenings and weekends in Nebraska prisons helping the men and women focus on their strengths so, upon release, they have a better chance of securing employment.”

Now that Todd and his wife, Mary, have three sons in college (TCU, LSU and Ohio State), they have marked their transition to empty-nestinghood by acquiring a Golden Retriever, Maggie.

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to hearing from you.

1989

REUNION 2019 MAY 30–JUNE 1

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The Arizona State Bar has awarded **Kim Harris Ortiz**, a native Tucsonan, the prestigious Michael C. Cudahy Criminal Justice Award in recognition of her tireless dedication as a prosecutor. Kim began her 25-year

career at the Santa Cruz County attorney’s office in Nogales, Ariz., where her first trial was a home invasion. An impressive and witty orator since her Columbia days, Kim presented the “longest opening ever” according to the judge of her first trial — both defendants were convicted after two weeks of trial. Kim left Nogales for the Attorney General’s Office, where she has been for 19 years under four administrations, supervising the Tucson prosecutors since 2011. Kim has also received awards for victim advocacy and outstanding trial team, and she sits on AGO’s Ethics, Brady and Wiretaps committees, is an elected member of Criminal Justice Executive Council and co-teaches sentencing at University of Arizona’s James E. Rogers College of Law. She enjoys vacationing in Mexico with her twin son and daughter and photographer husband, reading true-crime novels, making mouth-watering omelets and doting on her Labrador Retriever.

Also some good news from **Roger Rubin**, who has returned to his journalistic roots and is again covering sports for *Newsday*. Roger has been a part of the New York sports writing scene for nearly 30 years, covering high school and college sports for *New York Newsday* 1989–95. Some of my favorite articles Roger wrote were his reporting on **Frank Seminara** when he was an MLB pitcher. Before that Roger was a reporter for *Sports Illustrated*, covering college sports and Major League Baseball 1988–89 and, of course, he had a marvelous career at *Spectator* in the late ’80s when our football team finally broke the 44-game nightmare losing streak. I recently dug up Roger’s article (his lede is “It’s over!”) and also found a photograph of a cluster of Columbia students (including my husband, Dave Terry ’90) toppling the goal posts. (I’m not sure when a parent shows their children such a picture, as right now our kids seem both too young and too old — so maybe never?)

Roger writes, “The landscape of journalism is littered with good people put out of work by economics. I am one of the fortunate today. After freelancing for a variety of publications for the last two years, I am happy to report that *Newsday* — where I first worked after graduating — offered me a full-time gig. In many ways returning to *Newsday* feels like coming home. My six years at *New York News-*

day were some of the most enjoyable of my career, but also incredibly valuable. It also introduced me to the sports scene in New York and showed me the great connection that can form between a community and the news organization that serves it.”

The Class of ’89 continues to influence and impact Columbia in spectacular ways. Most recently, **Julie Jacobs Menin** and **Victor H. Mendelson** were elected to the Columbia University Board of Trustees which, with members **Lisa Landau Carnoy** and **Wanda Holland Greene**, means the Class of ’89 has four trustees.

Of her election to the Board of Trustees, Julie says, “I am thrilled to serve on the Board of Trustees of an institution that has personally been so formative in my life by sparking my interest and dedication to public service, and has been at the forefront of educating generations of students as one of the world’s premier educational and research institutions. Having started in one of the first classes of female students at Columbia College, to now see the university from this new perspective is a profound honor and I look forward to contributing to the next generation of Columbia.”

And Victor writes, “I’ve enjoyed just about every moment of my Columbia affiliation, from the first day of Freshman Orientation in 1985 onward, and staying involved is very rewarding. Not only do I find it intellectually stimulating, but also staying in touch with our fantastic classmates and meeting so many other Columbians is a true joy. I’ve made some wonderful friends from my Board of Visitors service and among alumni in the Miami area. I’ve also become friends with many of Columbia’s superb administrators, who are remarkably enthusiastic about our school. My children, Lindsey ’18 and Nicole ’20, feel the same way and watching them at Columbia has extended the Columbia enjoyment for me and my wife, Lisa.”

And the CC’89 news doesn’t end there — in November, **Lisa Landau Carnoy**, co-chair of the University Board of Trustees, became the first woman to be honored with the College’s Alexander Hamilton Medal, for her great dedication to Columbia over the years.

Congratulations to all!
See you at 30th reunion in May!

1990

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In August, I had the pleasure of attending one of the worldwide send-off parties for incoming first-year students. I ventured to the Bethesda, Md., home of Nairi Balian ’88 (she throws an awesome event) and was happy to see **David Javdan** walk through the door. It was probably one of his last few nights out because on September 1, he and his wife, Beth, became the proud parents of Chase Alexander, brother to sisters Parker (8) and Madison (11).

After several years working on this project, **Isaac-Daniel Astrachan** was thrilled to see the opening of citizenM Bowery on the Lower East Side. It’s the world’s tallest modular hotel. At the opening party in September, he might have had a few celebratory drinks on the rooftop.

Were you in Paterson, N.J., in the fall? If so, you might have seen a poem by **Ben-David Seligman** hanging on the wall of the Paterson Museum. The museum held a poetry contest in conjunction with an exhibit about environmentally conscious fashion, and his poem was one of four winners! Ben-David has had poems in journals over the years, but this was his first poem featured in a museum. Way cool, if you ask me.

I hope everyone had a happy, healthy and prosperous fall, and that you are itching to write to me with your news in 2019.

1991

Margie Kim
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My good friend **Elise Scheck Bonwitt**, an attorney and mediator in Miami, is such an amazing role model for compassion and service. She has always had a passion for helping others in her community and recently expanded her reach by starting a social enterprise selling products made in Latin America. The website (shopamenta.com) has beautiful, unique products and helps artisans gain economic security and support their own communities. CC’ers can email her at elise@amentagifts.com for a CC discount code.

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facebook.com/alumnicc

Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings, view photos and more.



Jacqueline Harounian '91 hosted Tova Mirvis '95, bestselling author of *The Book of Separation: A Memoir*, in her home in Great Neck, N.Y., for a book signing and lecture. Left to right: Harounian, Mirvis, Regina Ajodan '89 and Tamara Harounian SW'18.

Jacqueline Harounian hosted Tova Mirvis '95, SOA'98, bestselling author of the memoir *The Book of Separation*, in her home in Great Neck, N.Y., for a book signing and lecture. Also in attendance were Regina Ajodan '89 and Jacqueline's daughter Tamara Harounian SW'18, who plans to attend law school.

Among the themes discussed were Jewish divorce and co-parenting after divorce, issues that Jacqueline often encounters in her professional practice of divorce and family law. She is a partner in Wisselman, Harounian & Associates in Great Neck.

After three years at GlaxoSmith-Kline in New Jersey, **Joel Rubenstein** will relocate to Helsingborg, Sweden, where he will be the VP of sales and marketing at Nicovum AB, a small pharmaceutical company specializing in nicotine replacement products.

John H. Chun was recently appointed to the State Court of Appeals, Division One by Washington Governor Jay Inslee. John was a judge on the King County Superior Court and a trial judge for the criminal department, the Unified Family Court and the Maleng Regional Justice Center. Before his judicial career, John was in private practice, focusing on complex commercial and employment litigation. He was a partner at Preston Gates & Ellis (now K&L Gates) and Summit Law Group. John also was a judicial law clerk for the Hon. Eugene A. Wright on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. His community involvement has included sitting on the boards of the Judicial Institute and the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. Over the course of his career, John has worked to mentor young people of color to pursue higher education, including law degrees.

Congratulations, John!

For those who haven't sent an update recently, please let me know how you're doing at the email address at the top of the column. Hope you had a happy holiday season!

1992

Olivier Knox
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Anna Levine Winger wrote from Berlin. She reports that her Emmy-award winning TV series, *Deutschland83/86*, is available on Hulu. Anna also says she has "quite a few Columbia graduates" working with her at Studio Airlift, her Berlin production company.

My old friend **Sara Hall** was appointed interim director of the School of Literatures, Cultural Studies and Linguistics at the University of Illinois at Chicago after a three-year stint directing the campus-wide office of undergraduate research. "I continue to do research and teach at UIC and to lecture and lead audience discussions on German and Austrian film at Chicago's and Milwaukee's art house cinemas and international film festivals," says Sara, who lives in Evanston with her husband and her 12-year-old son, Spencer.

Kevin O'Connor, self-described "longtime listener, first-time caller" (please follow Kevin's example!) tells me that he's working with the Columbia University archivist "to donate my extensive documentation about student life — COÖP, Existential Despair and Postcrypt — on Morningside Heights 1988–1992."

More from Kevin: "Posters, clippings, photographs and drawings are all in the mix. I love that our/ my college memories will be moldering

in permanent repose in a cardboard box somewhere in a basement of a library of a large research university, somewhere in the City of New York."

(Cue *Raiders of the Lost Ark*'s "top ... men.")

Kevin's lively email ended with this, and rather than try to figure out what he meant, I'm sending it along in full:

"Ben Appen, CC'92

Bob Guay, CC'92

"Have Your Picture Taken with Edward Said" — Polaroid Instamatic November 3, 1991, River Hall"

New job? New family? Hang out with long-lost CC friends? Send me an update!

1993

Betsy Gomperz
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CC'93, it's a brand-new year! Any fun 2019 plans? Take a moment to send in an update and share what's going on with you — your classmates want to hear from you!

1994

REUNION 2019
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Nicole Sanders (née Johnson) writes that she and her husband, Omar Sanders, have three kids and "have been thinking about college a lot, as we have sent our firstborn off to Bucknell University to be a student-athlete!" Nicole adds that she still gets to spend time with College friends, including **Sharene Barnett** and **Kemba Dunham** at the Harlem Haberdashery Masquerade Ball.

Michael Cervieri and his wife, Homa Dashtaki, divide their time between New York City and Los Angeles. In July, they had their first child, Zomorod Ahoo Cervieri.

After many years in New York City and London, **Tom Lloyd's** family is now based in Houston. He says, "My wife, Alicia (a Spanish exchange student to the Law School

in 1993), and I feel blessed to have three growing-up children: Pablo (16), Alexander (15) and Sophia (9). We are starting to look at colleges, including CC, for Pablo. Crazy!"

Tom remains in the oil and gas business, now responsible for marketing and midstream with Marathon Oil after many great years with Hess. He says he would love to see any CC folks who are in Houston or traveling through.

And finally, **Dr. Richard Ponzio** is directing the Stimson Center's Just Security 2020 program in Washington, D.C., which is dedicated to advancing the Albright-Gambari Commission recommendations between now and 2020 (UN 75).

Thanks to everyone who shared updates — keep them coming!

1995

Janet Lorin
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Thanks to Dr. **Rebecca Gottesman** PS'00 for answering my call for an update. Rebecca, a vascular neurologist, was quoted in a *New York Times* article this summer about how dizziness upon standing may be a risk factor for dementia (nyti.ms/2RAz4qs).

Rebecca writes that she's happily married to **Ed Goldstein**. They live in Bethesda, Md., with their daughters, Leah (14) and Naomi (11). Rebecca is a professor of neurology at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore and Ed is an attorney at the Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C.

Nick Vita was honored last April at the Tribeca Film Festival with a Disruptive Innovation Award. He is co-founder, vice chairman and CEO of Columbia Care, the largest medical cannabis product development, manufacturing and dispensing operator in the United States. Columbia Care offers alternative treatments for illnesses and a variety of other health conditions, such as sleep disorders, depression and cancer.

Congratulations to **Mala Iqbal**, whose art show "Fellow Traveler" made it to Indiana, hosted at the Modelle Metcalf Visual Arts Center's Metcalf Gallery at Taylor University.

Happy 2019, classmates! Kick off the new year by sending in a note with your news!

1996

Ana S. Salper
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No news this time! Please take a moment to send in a note — this column needs you! What are you looking forward to in the New Year? What's new with you? Send me an email. Your classmates want to hear from you!

1997

Kerensa Harrell
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Dear classmates, I hope you are all doing well, and I send you my warmest wishes for the winter season! I am delighted to present the following updates.

Darrell Cohn shares this joyous news with us: "My wife, Leah Kahn, and I welcomed Hadar Yael Earth-side last January. We live in Berkeley, Calif. I do technical operations for Tapingo.com, and Leah is the senior Jewish educator at the UC Berkeley Hillel."

Paul Tuchmann writes: "After spending the last 11 years prosecuting corrupt politicians and soccer officials as an assistant United States attorney in the Eastern District of New York, in August I became a partner at the law firm of Wiggins and Dana. I'll work out of the firm's New York office as well as its office in New Haven, where I moved with my wife, Deborah Coen, and our chil-

dren, Amalia (in eighth grade) and Adam (in fifth grade), when Debbie joined the Yale faculty as a professor in the history department and chair of the program in history of science. It was hard to leave Morningside Heights, where we lived while Debbie was teaching at Barnard, but I have to admit that New Haven has its charms. Please let me know if you're passing through, as it would be great to catch up with CC'97."

Eva Garland founded Eva Garland Consulting. Based in Raleigh, N.C., her firm was recently featured in the news as one of the fastest-growing private companies in the country: bit.ly/2E9FjQ

Melinda Powers has published a book, *Diversifying Greek Tragedy on the Contemporary US Stage*.

Sarah Bunin Benor also has a book coming out: bit.ly/2NztLEQ.

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, I've been thinking how exciting it is to see so many women running for political office right now. The feminist in me is eager to cheer these brave ladies on as they throw their hats into the ring! One of them is my friend and fellow New Yorker, Barbara Cady, who lives in Florida and is running for a seat in the Florida House. She and I met here in Florida, in 2016, when we were volunteering for Hillary Rodham Clinton's field office in Orlando during the primary. We were so elated when our team won the DNC nomination, and then we were so crushed and shocked when we lost the presidential showdown afterward. I remember softly rocking in my green velvet nursing chair, at home in downtown Orlando in the early morning on that day of horror, November 9, holding my one-week-old baby in my arms as I was reeling from the unbelievable turn of political events, and I was thinking that were it not for the fact that I had this precious little bundle of joy to focus on, all the hours of every day, I would surely have slipped into a deep depression. My friend Barb fully commiserated with me and then — she got the bright idea to run for office herself! I am so proud of her and so excited for her. As I sit here wrapping up this column it is mid-September and I have my fingers crossed that my friend will win her election in November.

I'd like to end this column with some song lyrics, and dedicate them

to all those brave ladies who have dared to step up in these politically dreadful times and get themselves into the running to become a new wave of much-needed leaders for us. So let me cue one of my favorite songs: Shirley Bassey's rendition of the old Broadway hit "Everything's Coming Up Roses." When I lived in NYC, with all its ups and downs, this was a song I would play whenever I needed some hope for a better future for myself. Some people pray; some people listen to a melodic pep talk by Bassey (I just love how fairy-godmotherly she is in that song!). The song includes the verses

Now's our inning. Stand this world on its ear!

Set it spinning! That will be just the beginning!

Curtain up! Light the lights!

We've got nothing to hit but the heights!

We'll be swell. We'll be great.

I can tell. Just you wait.

That lucky star I talk about is due!

Baby, everything's coming up roses for me and for you!

Blessings to all, and please do send me your updates. Feel free to keep in mind that your updates needn't be just about the usual topics like career/marriage/birth announcements — they could also be on your exotic travels, your exciting adventures, your fascinating hobbies, your philanthropic endeavors, your charming children, your daring projects, your poetic musings and/or your flowery reminiscences. Or simply tell us about some delightful local event that you just attended or a family vacation that you just went on. If nothing else, you can always write to say hello! It would be splendid to hear from as many of our classmates as possible. I look forward to hearing from you all.

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
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Hello, Class of 1998! After our massive post-reunion column in the last issue, this set of Class Notes is short and sweet.

Congratulations to **Lori Meeks**, whose second child, daughter Penelope Ann, was born on August 21. Penelope joins brother Jupiter (3),

who is "especially proud and excited" to have a baby sister. Lori and her husband, Jason Webb, have been married since December 2012 and are both associate professors of religion at the University of Southern California.

Eric Leshinsky recently started a job as a senior designer and planner with Design Workshop in Austin, Texas, where he has been living with his family for three years. He adds, "If there are CC'98ers here in Austin or nearby, give a shout!"

1999

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Jenna Johnson
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Our 20th reunion is fast approaching! Will you be back on Morningside Heights this May? Send your news to either of us, and get ready for Reunion 2019!

2000

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Happy New Year! Kick off 2019 by sending in a Class Note — let the rest of the Class of 2000 know what's new with you!

2001

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No news this time, CC'01! Send me a note for a future issue. Let's kick off 2019 with full columns!

2002

Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani
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It's been 20 years since we all stepped onto the Columbia campus to start freshman year!



Submit
Your
Photo



CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

A throwback to the 1990s is exactly what I needed, and I got it at an amazing '90s-themed party with famed hip hop DJ Funkmaster Flex, hosted by Scott Ostfeld '98 and Jen Maxfield Ostfeld '99. It turned into a mini Columbia College gathering with Nafiz Cekirge '97 and Elias Dokas '91 also in attendance.

Exciting baby news: **Alex Cabrera** announced the birth of Jax Alexander Cabrera, who arrived at 7 pounds, 14 ounces.

Agnia Grigas (née Baranauskaitė) argued her points at the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in favor of positive national security, economic, political and geopolitical implications for the United States and its European allies. Others on the panel included Hon. Steven Winberg (assistant secretary of fossil energy, DOE), Kevin Book, Tyson Slocum and Mark Mills.

Calvin Look and Christian Bjoel were married in Pantelleria, Italy, on September 3. Columbia alumni who helped them celebrate were **Betty Shzu**, **Brandon Sproat** SEAS'02, **Su Ahn** and Kara Bauer '01. Interesting side note: It's supposedly the island where Odysseus was seduced by Calypso for seven years.

Have an excellent start to the new year, and please take a moment to send in a note with your news! Happy 2019!

2003

Michael Novielli
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I'm happy to share updates from classmates, spanning a wide spectrum of industries — from education to journalism, medicine to start-ups, and everything in between. Our class continues to crush it in every imaginable sector, and this is only the beginning ...

Mindy Levine '04, GSAS'08, an associate professor of chemistry at the University of Rhode Island, is the first recipient of the Sessler Early Career Researcher Prize.

Basketball alumna **Katie Day Benvenuto** BUS'12 is the senior executive director for development at Columbia and has three children with her husband, Dan: Nick (5), Adrienne (3) and Alexa (10 months). She had a great time at the 15th reunion last spring and was excited for the

2018–19 Columbia football season. Katie also shared that two classmates were inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame last year: **Katie Beauregard Sheehy** LAW'06 for volleyball and **Erin Raggio Eriksen** for track & field.

Yoni Appelbaum writes, "After nearly four unexpectedly news-filled years as politics editor at *The Atlantic*, I've taken on a new role, launching the 'Ideas' section. I'm in Washington, D.C., with my wife, Emily SEAS'03, SEAS'04, and our two kids."

Jennifer Baskin (née Last) writes, "After 15 years in NYC, I now live in Menlo Park, Calif., with my husband, Bryan, and our three children. Although I missed reunion, it was wonderful to meet up with **Leena Gupta**, **Jill Freedman** and Ali Nogi BC'04 recently in Arizona."

Jessica Beard is a trauma surgeon at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. She is involved in research and advocacy for gun violence prevention. She also works in Ghana, where she trains physicians to perform surgery. Jessica lives with her husband and 3-year-old son in Philadelphia.

Adele Burnes writes, "I live in Berkeley, Calif., with my husband and kids (4-year-old twins and a 6-month old — all boys). I am the COO of a tech startup, YouNoodle, and we support startup programs globally. I'm happy to report that Columbia's startup programs run on our platform."

Nicholas Carrier lives in Brooklyn and is an associate partner at Prophet, a global brand and growth consultancy.

Following 11 years as a book scout with Bettina Schrewe Literary Scouting, **Flora Esterly** joined Farar, Straus and Giroux as subsidiary rights manager in February 2018. She married Guyon Knight on August 31.

Pat Holder writes, "My wife, Kirsten, and I, and our kids, Finn (6) and Nora (3), live in Piedmont, Calif., a small community between Oakland and Berkeley in the Bay Area. Finn is thriving in his kindergarten class, and Nora adores her friends in preschool. Kirsten continues her work designing visitor use and large-scale landscape projects in the planning office at Golden Gate National Recreation Area. I

am two years into my role as a group leader in the department of protein chemistry at Genentech, in which I design biotherapeutics for oncology and ophthalmology. We keep in touch with friends from 116th, including a summer visit to see Brooklynite **Kim Grant** (and family), as well as regular weekends to Tahoe with our SoCal friend **Alex William-Resnick** (and family)."

Andrew Arnold writes, "I got a Ph.D. in machine learning at Carnegie Mellon University and was a quantitative portfolio manager for nine years. I recently moved to Google, where I am working on large-scale machine learning. In 2011 I married my grad-school

Brigham and Women's Hospital division of urology. She writes, "I am the division's first female pelvic reconstructive surgeon. Since moving here I've had the opportunity to reconnect with **Nyia Noel** and Merranda Logan BC'04, who are also physicians in the city."

Sean Benderly writes, "During the past year I have been working on the prototype of a revolutionary outdoor camping toilet (think Camco but with all of the bells and whistles of a construction grade outhouse). Look for us at the PSAI Convention and Trade Show in Mobile, Ala., in March."

Please continue to send updates, as we want to hear from as many

Adele Burns '03 is the COO of tech startup YouNoodle, which supports startup programs globally, including Columbia's.

sweetheart, Anne-Michelle Gallero, and we have a wonderful son, Henry, who's in kindergarten. We live in Chinatown, NYC."

Eli Akhavan writes, "I am a partner and chair of the private client and wealth preservation group at CKR Law, an international law firm with offices all over the world. My specialty is in estate and asset protection planning. I also advise foreign clients on their tax and estate planning with respect to their U.S. interests. My clients include high net-worth families based in China, Taiwan, Europe and the Middle East. I have also been a professor of international taxation at St. John's University School of Law."

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

Happy 2019, Class of 2005! Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year!

Bridget Geibel Stefanski moved to Toruń, Poland, in August for a two-year stay with her husband and kids (ages 8, 3 and 0). She'd love to connect with alumni in Poland or those who are there for a visit! You can reach her at bsg2001@columbia.edu.

In July, **John Zaro** was named to the 2018 *Forbes* magazine's list of America's Top Next Generation Wealth Advisors.

Claire Snyder married Dan Whalen (Ohio Wesleyan University '08) in August in downtown Jersey City, where they have lived since 2011. Guests included Yen Yen Ooi

2004

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Jaydip Mahida
jmahida@gmail.com

Elodi Dielubanza relocated to Boston in 2017 and recently finished her first year on the faculty of

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Congratulations!



1: Dr. Marianna Zaslavsky '07 married Paul Alexandrov on July 1 in Puglia, Italy.

2: Simone Foxman '11 and Benjamin Clark '11 were married in March in New Orleans. Left to right: Jeremy Sklaroff '11, Jessica McKenzie BC'11, Linette Lopez '08, the groom, Rajib Mitra SEAS'11, the bride, Mike Wymbs, Kamal Yechoor SEAS'11 and Mitch Newman '09.

3: Ari Schuman '15 and Becca Meyer Schuman '15 (who met during Days on Campus in 2011 and began dating during NSOP) were married on August 11 at the Green Building in Brooklyn. Back row, left to right: Sireesh Gururaja '15, Karl Daum '15, Gabriel Pestre '15, Joel Schuman '80, Eric Schuman SOA'17, Alex Mark '15 and Michael Gildin '15. Middle row, left to right: Sylvia Korman BC'18, Madeline Pages BC'17 and Audrey Crabtree-Hannigan '15. Front row, left to right: the bride, the groom; Rachel Chung SEAS'15 and Jess Kleinbart SEAS'14.

4: On September 8, Fabio De Sousa '16 married Alison De Sousa (née Overton) at the Rialto Theatre in Tampa Bay, Fla. Left to right: Sean Ballinger SEAS'16, Niger Little-Poole SEAS'16, the groom, Idris Sardharwala SEAS'16 and Alexander Roth '16.

5: Schuyler Brown '06, BUS'12 married Lucia Villar BUS'11 and celebrated in Mexico City. Left to right: David Kampfe BUS'12; Abbas Fawaz BUS'11; Nathaniel Greenberg '06, BUS'12; the groom (in white), Aaron Schiller '06; Craig Battin '06; Yago Amerlinck-Huerta '06; and Brandon Green '06.

6: Shira Burton '09 married Jonas Spektor on August 11 at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. Front row, left to right: Sasha de Vogel '09, Nathalie Aferiat (née Celcis) BC'09, Alison Powell BC'09, Priya Murthy '09, the bride, the groom, Brendan Ballou-Kelley '09, Henry Klementowicz SEAS'09, Claire Shanley '92, Ashraya Gupta '09, Robyn Gordon BC'11 and Adrianne Ho BC'09. Back row, left to right: Eric Rosenblum '09, Shakeer Rahman '09, Benny Shaffer '09, Katie Reedy '09, Jolene Richardson SOA'15, Stephen Christensen SOA'15, Max Friedman '09, Nick Kelly '09, Glover Wright '09, Andrew Lyubarsky '09, Ben Heller '09, Morgan Whitcomb SEAS'09 and Colin Kinniburgh '12.



ELVIRA KALVISTE



TANIA LEDESMA



LUCY HAWTHORNE

SEAS'04, SEAS'05; **Evita Morin** (née Mendiola); **John Paul Meyers**; Catharine Fairbairn BC'06; and Professors Jack Snyder SIPA'78, GSAS'81 (father of the bride) and Robert Jervis.

Claire and Dan also recently purchased their first home, in Teaneck, N.J., next door to the house where Claire grew up, and where her mother, and sister, Anna Snyder '11, still live. This year, Claire became lead teacher of the eighth-grade team at Link Community Charter School in Newark, N.J., where she has taught since 2011.

2006

Michelle Oh Sing
mo2057@columbia.edu

Hi everyone. I hope you are well! Here are some updates:

Raquel Otheguy Ph.D. is an assistant professor in the history department at CUNY Bronx Community College.

Andrew Liebowitz and his wife, Gail Liebowitz, welcomed a second daughter, Willow Hunter Liebowitz, in March.

Jonathan Ward completed the first year of his start-up consultancy, Atlas Organization, which focuses on China, India and U.S.-China strategic competition. He also finished drafting a book on Chinese global strategy and is engaging with U.S. Fortune 500 companies on U.S.-China relations and the Indo-Pacific, particularly as the trade war heats up.

Jonathan McLaughlin writes, "I've moved to Portland, Ore., on my second turnaround with Erickson Inc., a helicopter OEM focused on aerial firefighting and powerline construction. Portland is incredible — it reminds me of Brooklyn in the early

2000s, only better food and hiking (and less people). For any alumni nostalgic for that period, tell them to come on out — I have killer food recs."

Schuyler Brown BUS'12 married Lucia Villar BUS'11. The couple celebrated in Mexico City surrounded by Columbia friends and family, including **Aaron Schiller**, **Brandon Green**, **Yago Amerlinck-Huerta**, **Nathaniel Greenberg** BUS'12, **Craig Battin**, **David Whittemore**, **Michael Fasciano** and Courtney Fasciano BC'06.

Vickie Baranetsky JRN'07 (a.k.a. vdb2003) is a first amendment attorney and general counsel at The Center for Investigative Reporting in the Bay Area. She often sees her Columbia friends in California, visits family and friends in NYC and sends love to all of you. She writes:

*"We grounded oaks grow
Earning rings, knots; shooting roots
Readied for fierce floods."*

Thanks everyone for sharing, and best wishes for a joyous winter season!

2007

David D. Chait
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

Thank you, everyone, for sharing your exciting updates!

Marianna Zaslavsky married Dr. Paul Alexandrov on July 1 in Puglia, Italy. **Emre Cicek**, Joe de Pinho-Neum '06 and Danny Yagoda SEAS'06 were in attendance.

Marianna recently went full-time on launching a startup in the fertility space and hopes to help improve patient outcomes for fertility preservation and infertility treatment. She also recently moved to Rhode Island but works out of NYC every week. Ping her if you are in Rhode Island or want to chat fertility!

Jimmy Vielkind writes, "After five years at Politico, I have a new job at *The Wall Street Journal*. I'm still writing about New York State government and politics and remain based in Albany. Drop me a line if you're ever in the capital city!"

Jami Jackson Mulgrave earned a Ph.D. in statistics from North Carolina State University in December. She is a postdoctoral research scientist in the department of biomedical informatics at Columbia.



Members of the Class of '09 (along with their significant others) posed for a photo while waiting for the National Portrait Gallery to open. From top left, clockwise: Priya Murthy '09; Shira Burton '09's husband, Jonas Spektor; Burton; Eric Rosenblum '09; Rosenblum's wife, Allie Rosenblum; Ashraya Gupta '09; Nick Kelly '09; and Murthy's husband, Nick Goldberg.

Daniel Simhaee moved to Rochester, N.Y., last year for a two-year fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery. He has plans to return to NYC next year and is excited to start his career as a retina surgeon.

Capital markets attorney **Jinelle Craig** has joined Womble Bond Dickinson's Charlotte, N.C., office. From a press release: "Craig's practice focuses on commercial lending, corporate transactional and general commercial matters and her experience includes advising lenders on acquisition financing, real estate financing and working capital credit facilities, as well as assisting with public financing transactions for transportation, educational, technology and healthcare institutions. She also guides clients in cross-border transactions."

Happy 2019, everyone!

2008

Neda Navab
nn2126@columbia.edu

Carmen Jo "CJ" Rejda-Ponce has been promoted to senior trial counsel at Germer in Houston, Texas. CJ practices in the areas of employment law and civil rights defense for governmental entities.

Please take a moment to write in with some news — make it a New Year's resolution! Travel plans, job changes, family news, hobbies, funny CC memories — everything is wel-

come in Class Notes. Drop me a line and have a very Happy New Year!

2009

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[Editor's note: CCT thanks **Alidad Damooei** for his almost 10 years of service as class correspondent. This is his last submission. Please send notes to CCT at the address at the top of the column.]

Happy 2019, Class of 2009! Our 10-year reunion will be here in just a few months, so please make plans to come back to campus!

From **Shira Burton**: "Some of us got together in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the wedding of Nathalie Celcis BC'09 and Corey Aferiat. **Priya Murthy** and her husband, Nick Goldberg; **Eric Rosenblum** and his wife, Allie Rosenblum; **Ashraya Gupta**; **Nick Kelly**; and my husband, Jonas Spektor, and I took a picture sitting on the steps of the National Portrait Gallery while waiting for it to open so we could view the Obama portraits."

Have a great new year!

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

2010

Julia Feldberg Klein
juliafeldberg@gmail.com

Natalie Gossett got engaged to Kyle Bogdan, and recently was visited at the beach by **Chiara Arcidy** with her husband, Zach, and their dog, Charlie.

Shaina Low earned a J.D. from the CUNY School of Law last May. After sitting for the bar in July, she began working for an international children's rights NGO. She looks forward to a career devoted to fulfilling CUNY's motto: "Law in the Service of Human Needs."

For the sixth consecutive year, **Adam Lampell**, Preston Pohl '09, **Alexander Hamilton Sullivan**, Jeremy Theodore Whyte '11, **Timothy Tzeng**, **Sean Michael Xavier Quinn**, **John Ryan Withall SEAS'10** and Tom Davison '08 attended their Fantasy Football draft in Chicago, along with guest member **Robert Andrew Hartnett III**.

Derek Squires writes, "Last year was a roaring success (see what I did there?). Started a job at KINETIC, a wearable tech startup. Planning a wedding for this August at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. And raising a puppy, success TBD."

Chris Yim shares, "Yesterday, I found myself at the Encore Beach Club in Las Vegas watching the disc jockey Marshmello perform, and I had to wonder — is this life? I couldn't help but wonder if this was the epitome of American capitalism. It might be the American dream to get to a place where you can waste



Alumni friends met up in Chicago in August for their annual Fantasy Football draft. Left to right: Preston Pohl '09, Adam Lampell '10, Alexander Hamilton Sullivan '10, Jeremy Theodore Whyte '11, Timothy Tzeng '10, Sean Michael Xavier Quinn '10, John Ryan Withall SEAS'10 and Robert Andrew Hartnett III '10.



money in abundance without thinking about it.

"I got back from my second Burning Man a few weeks ago. It's been a weird transition back from a few months of travel, straight to the burn, then reintegration into 'normal' life. I still don't have a job. It's funny how that still is one of the first few questions that I get from people. I've noticed that people use that inquiry as a form of filtering or validating. My best response is to tell that person that I'm doing whatever it is that I am doing in that moment, whether it is drinking a coffee, dancing or talking to a stranger.

"I took a few friends to Burning Man this year who have never been — **Tiffany Jung** and **Varun Gulati SEAS'10**. We had an amazing time, and it was transformational in many ways for me. I have this tendency to judge, categorize and label things when I don't need to. I also have this inclination to create moments instead of letting them create themselves. On the playa, it's a good test of listening and observing. In normal everyday living, we're like rats in a maze, except the maze we've figured out. We go from our jobs to home, mill about our relationships and are used to our conditioning. Out there, the maze is stripped and — in a blank-slate world — you have to figure out where you want to go, what you want to be, and what you want to do. Of course, there is a lot of noise out

there like there is anywhere else, so it's still a challenge to listen.

"One of the best days that I had at this year's burn was by random chance. My friend woke me up to go see the sunrise, we rode our bikes out there, watched it break like an egg yolk over the mountain in the distance. We rode by a symphony at a giant silver orb as we went to find some tea. When we finally found it, we met a woman. Soon after the conversation started, a dust storm rolled in and forced us into a teepee. We stepped into that teepee and didn't leave for six hours. In those hours, other people came in, opened up their hearts and divulged their deepest traumas and intentions. We napped in there, and exchanged gifts, including hugs and stories. I exited that teepee with a more open heart.

"Three things I've cried to lately: Jamie Foxx's 2005 Oscar acceptance speech, my first sunrise at Burning Man this year and the U.S. Open Women's Tennis trophy presentation.

"Thanks for letting me share."

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and
Sean Udell
nurielm@gmail.com
sean.udell@gmail.com

Merry winter, CC'11! We hope that the change in season is filled with joy, the company of loved ones

and several gained pounds from good meals.

Your correspondents continue to be in good health and enjoy subjective happiness. Nuriel is halfway through his second year of neurology residency, which offers daily fascination and learning. Recently, he was able to administer alteplase (a clot-busting medication) to a stroke patient within 10 minutes of their arrival to the hospital. The experience of watching this patient's stroke dissipate was immensely rewarding, and Nuriel's quick action resulted in minimal stroke-related complications.

Sean recently returned from Botswana's capital, Gaborone, where he spent two months on a general medicine rotation through the Botswana-Penn Partnership. He learned a tremendous amount about advanced HIV and medicine in a developing country. He also made some friends and (he hopes) served his patients well, but he's glad to be back on this side of the pond, where filter coffee is served on every street corner. Sean's on the interview trail for psychiatry residencies, so be on the lookout for him as he crisscrosses the country.

While Sean is looking for a new job, **Ashley MacLean** is ready to announce her new post at Credit Suisse's sales team! Ashley has been living in NYC since graduation, where she had been working in finance as an equity derivatives VP

at J.P. Morgan. After seven years on the trading floor there, she made the move to Credit Suisse. Ashley continues to be an active member of the Columbia community, spending time as intern coordinator and a contact for the athletics department's career services division. When she is not working, Ashley can be found managing a softball team, spending time with friends or excitedly planning her next vacation.

Mazel tov, Ashley!

Alex Ivey was in Beijing and Hong Kong October–December for a work secondment. During this swing through China, he was training his colleagues, taking in the sights and making adventurous culinary decisions.

Ben Philippe is an adjunct associate professor at Barnard, where he teaches in the departments of English and film studies. When he is not professing, Ben is writing. His media coverage regularly appears in *Observer* and *The Guardian*, and on Thrillist and others. His 2019 debut novel, *Field Guide to the North American Teenager*, is forthcoming this January. Make sure to buy it in stores when it's out in hardcover!

Many congrats, Ben!

Kurt Kanazawa appeared on this season's third episode (October 4) of Shondaland's *Grey's Anatomy* as Tad, a 25-year-old arrogant stockbroker with a bloody nose who thinks he's the most important patient in the hospital. So, typecasting. (I had no idea this show is in its 15th season.) He also will compete in Takano Athletics' Olympic weightlifting competition in the 73kg class, under Italian coach Antonio Squillante — FORZA! Also, Kurt admits to stretching the truth in previous updates. (Class correspondents cannot independently verify the claims made by alumni who submit to this column. We take limited responsibility for the content of these updates.)

Simone Foxman and **Benjamin Clark** have some news: They got married in March in Ben's hometown of New Orleans! Columbians in attendance were **Jeremy Sklaroff**, Jessica McKenzie BC'11, Linette Lopez '08, **Rajib Mitra SEAS'11**, Mike Wymbs, **Kamal Yechoor SEAS'11**, Mitch Newman '09 and **Steve Lowenthal**.

Simone and Ben met during their time at Columbia, fulfilling

every mother's wildest fantasy for their children. (Or is that just my mother's fantasy?) Many, many, many congrats, Simone and Ben! We're thrilled for you both.

It is truly a joy to receive your updates. Feel free to send updates to the email addresses at the top of the column. Happy holidays, and have a very joyful and safe new year!

2012

Sarah Chai
sarahbchai@gmail.com

Hi friends. Thank you for continuing to submit your notes and photos. It is exciting to hear from all of you and to share your stories with our class!

Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti writes from New York: "I am rounding out my second year of working at The Public Theater with the opportunity to create a new position, development associate of leadership and capital giving. I find it deeply gratifying to support The Public's dynamic, inclusive programming and to help shape the magnitude of the institution's impact for generations to come. I chair the Columbia Alumni Association Arts Access Committee and am a CAA Board of Directors member, focused on cultivating a vibrant, creative community at Columbia."

I haven't received as many submissions as usual, but the class really wants to hear from you! So to put my money where my mouth is, I'll share an update. I recently started a job as an attorney in the player relations department of Major League Soccer, which is headquartered in New York. This comes after a three-year stint at Debevoise & Plimpton. I'm looking forward to attending many more soccer games and hope you will attend too!

Shoot an email with your news to sarahbchai@gmail.com, and have a great 2019!

2013

Tala Akhavan
talaakhavan@gmail.com

No news this time, CC'13! Make it a New Year's resolution to take a minute and send in a note about what you're up to. Can't wait to hear from you!



Kemji Jamil Ohayia '15 proposed to Naintara Goodgame BC'15 on October 27 at Barnard College.

2014

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Rebecca Fattell
rsf2121@columbia.edu

Happy 2019! Take a moment to send in a note about what's going on with you in the New Year. Travel, hobbies, work, family, adventures — we want to hear about it in Class Notes! Email me to be included in a future issue.

2015

Kareem Carryl
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2015! It's hard to believe it is already winter and a brand-new year!

As always, classmates want to hear from you — especially as we get into 2019! Please be sure to submit updates by writing to me at the address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. CCT also loves photos, so if you have one of you hanging out with College friends, share it via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo!

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
liluokrason@gmail.com

Hey Class of 2016, how's it going? It's been pretty busy in NYC here and all over the world for classmates! Please, please continue to write to me and nominate some of your friends and peers who are doing things big and small, impactful and fun!

I recently started a project with the UN Data Innovation Lab that's been really rewarding. We're trying to find new ways of using social media data to help prioritize and allocate funds to fight poverty. I've also been on an Asian-American content binge with *Crazy Rich Asians*, *Set It Up*, *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* and *Searching*.

Smita Sen; Joo Won Park SEAS'17, SEAS'18; Siena Sofia Bergt '18; Angela Wang '17; **Christina Tang**; and Aramael Peña-Alcantara '17, SEAS'17 have launched an interactive art exhibit, INTO THE SHELL, at the Imagine Science Festival. It premiered in New York City on October 12. INTO THE SHELL launched at Burning Man Festival, where it was sponsored by Voodoo Manufacturing and Fractured Atlas.

On September 8, **Fabio De Sousa** wed Alison Overton, now Alison De Sousa. The couple, joined by many friends and family, wed in a beautiful ceremony at the Rialto theater in Tampa Bay, Fla.



Taylor Gray '16, Alison Chang '16 and Sonya Li '16 had an impromptu NYC reunion last summer.

Taylor Gray, Alison Chang and **Sonya Li** had an impromptu NYC reunion last summer when they happened to fly in from Texas, California and Mexico at the same time.

Phantila Phataraprasit and **Caitlin de Lisser-Ellen** have started a furniture company, Sabai Design, that aims to offer affordable, cozy, convenient and sustainable furniture. After going through the apartment furnishing process themselves, they realized there was room for a furniture company that specifically prioritized the needs of young professionals. They are in the process of designing their first product, a sofa, and want your input! They will be posting design updates and polls on their Instagram (@sabai.dsg) to keep everyone updated and to ensure they are designing a sofa you'll love. The expected launch date is this summer, so be on the lookout for the Sabai sofa. For more information, or if you have inquiries, send a note to general@sabai.design.

Happy 2019, everyone. Please take a moment to write!

2017

Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Natalie Tanner competed at the European Athletics Championships for the German national team in the 10,000m (track) in Berlin on August 8.

Ethan Wu shares his feelings on pets: "Pets are an interesting conundrum post-graduation. On one hand, many of us desire a pet of our own as a stable companion in socially unsteady times (or perhaps just want to show off our newfound cash flow in aquariums). On the other, most of us can't ourselves be a stable companion to our pets, what with constant flights to client sites or travel to visit now-spatially-distant friends. This has led to a point in which some of us whom have adopted a pet now face the issue of knowing that we cannot provide the best possible living situation for our pets.

"I, for example, am in a living situation that precludes cohabitation with my cat, as my roommates are allergic. So I have left him with my parents. Am I a bad owner? Maybe. My advice for you? Get a bird instead. They're smart, surprisingly cuddly and easy to take care of — like **Steve Fan's** parrot, Mango."

Jeff Coby shares, "After graduation, I started my first professional basketball season in Barcelona. After that, I came back to America, where I was selected to represent my country in the FIBA AmeriCup pre-qualifiers. There I played for Haiti as the starting power forward. I am training with the Knicks organization, hoping to fulfill my dream!"

In exciting news, Jeff signed with the Knicks in late September!

Carlos Diaz is beginning his second year of teaching high school biology at La Salle College H.S., a

private, Christian brothers, all-boys school in Wyndmoor, Pa., a suburb of Philadelphia. He was the survival skills counselor last summer at Camp Lindenmere in the Poconos. He finished applying to medical schools and is waiting to hear back.

Sammi Bottom-Tanzer writes, "I started my M.D./Ph.D. at Tufts last summer. Here's to eight years in Boston!"

Karisma Price is a second-year M.F.A. candidate in poetry at NYU, where she is a Writers in the Public Schools Fellow. She is also a 2018 Cave Canem Fellow and has had work published in *Narrative Magazine*, *Four Way Review*, *Wildness* and elsewhere. Last year, Karisma was named one of the writers on *Narrative Magazine's* "30 Below 30" list and was named Writer of the Week at Maudlin House. She also is working on a photography project involving American street performers and 35mm film.

Justin Bleuel recently moved back to NYC.

Eric Ho began a doctoral study in the education department at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies this fall.

Bianca Guerrero writes, "A few months ago, one of the initiatives I worked on during my fellowship was finally funded and announced to the public! The mayor committed \$12.8 million to close the maternal mortality rate gap among mothers of different races (black women in NYC experience particularly high rates of pregnancy-related complications and mortality). The money will go toward new staff in public hospitals to support mothers with chronic conditions and high-risk pregnancies; a network of public and private hospitals to share best practices and introduce training in public and private hospitals; and a public education campaign to help mothers recognize the signs of important complications, among other things. It is so satisfying and encouraging to see some of the solutions I researched and pitched to my team now manifesting into real change!"

"My job at the Mayor's Office of Policy & Planning has been great so far — we are a small (but growing) team of three and I continue to learn so much about how New York City works. I took a weeklong trip to Wyoming last July and fell in love with the mountains, prairies

and wildlife. I'm hoping to road-trip from New Mexico up to Colorado, and separately, from San Francisco to Vancouver, Canada, this year to see more of the west.

"I recently became a member of Manhattan's Community Board 12. I was placed on the housing and human services and traffic and transportation committees. I'm a little skeptical of how effective the board might be at producing change but I am going to give it a try."

2018

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Alexander Birkel and **Maleeha Chida**
ab4065@columbia.edu
mnc2122@columbia.edu

Briley Lewis started a Ph.D. at UCLA and took last summer to work on her personal creative projects, which mainly focus on women in STEM. One of her zines is now in the Barnard Zine Library, and if you want to check out her work go to briley-lewis.com.

Last summer **Julia Zeh** spent three weeks in Santa Catarina, Brazil, doing field work for the lab she joined for her Ph.D. Each day she watched southern right whale mother/calf pairs from sunrise until sunset, counting an average of 17 pairs in this bay in Imbituba. She got the chance to watch mother whales swimming with their fins in the air and their babies lying on the moms' bellies. She says she's proud to rep Columbia while observing whale behavior in Brazil!

Alex Bass has been working on starting her own company, Salon 21, an art and social gathering space for young creatives in the New York area to come together, talk, dine and support the next generation of artists. The space aims to host monthly cocktail parties for members and artists to socialize, eat, connect, collaborate and discover talent.

We hope everyone is having a great start to 2019. Please send in your news to either of the email addresses at the top of the column!

obituaries

1946

Victorino Tejera, professor emeritus, New York City, on August 25, 2018. Tejera earned a B.A. in philosophy Phi Beta Kappa and a Ph.D. in 1956 from GSAS under the direction of classic American philosophers Justus Buchler GSAS'39 and John Herman Randall Jr. CC 1918 with the dissertation



Victorino Tejera '46

"Philosophy and the Art of Poetry." He also translated and wrote poetry for *The Columbia Review*. Tejera wrote 15 books, and his university teaching career, which included Stony Brook University, from which he retired, spanned 40 years. He redefined philosophy, considering the disciplines aesthetics, metaphysics and intellectual history, and widened the philosophical organon with the inclusion of the humanistic disciplines of literary and art criticism and semiotics in a time that restricted the organon to formal and philosophical logic. Tejera studied ancient Greek with Fred Householder Jr. GSAS'41. He used original sources to counter the traditionalist reading of Plato with its predilection for ethical or political propositions, and expounded a revised "dialogical" reading of the *Dialogues* through their literary construction and expressive speech. Consistent with Randall and Woodbridge, Tejera wrote that the dialogues were "brilliant ironical constructions abounding in wit and concerned with the way such matters as human excellence, knowledge, and the state ought to be conceptualized."

1952

Hugh C. Hackett, real estate investor, Naples, Fla., on June 2, 2018. Hackett, nicknamed "Bossman," was born on September 12, 1930, in the Bronx. He graduated from Ardsley H.S. in 1948 and served in the Army until 1955, during which time he was stationed in Stuttgart, Germany. Hackett married Regina Mary Purce on October 4, 1958, and they lived in Sayville, N.Y., for almost 40 years prior to relocating to Naples, Fla. Hackett was a successful real estate investor and developed properties for 7-Eleven and oil companies including BP Amoco, Shell and Texaco. He was an avid reader of biographies and history, enjoyed jogging and working out at his local gym, and derived immense pleasure from spending time with his dogs, Schultz, Baron and Finnegan. Hackett is survived by his wife; children, Hugh '81, John, Christopher and Elizabeth; daughters-in-law, Rita and Maureen; and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by a brother, John.

1955

James R. Hudson, research director, Santa Fe, N.M., on July 13, 2018. Hudson was born in 1933 in Cleveland. He attended the Army Language school in Monterey, Calif.,



James R. Hudson '55

and served as a special agent in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps in France. Upon his return he earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. in sociology from

the University of Michigan. Hudson employed his research expertise at the Russell Sage Foundation, conducting studies on issues of police-community tensions/relations, public education and economic development. He held faculty/research positions at Bryn Mawr College, SUNY Stony Brook and Penn State Harrisburg, serving there as the division head of the Behavioral Science Program. Hudson moved to the Bay Area, then to Santa Fe. With his wife of more than 20 years and research partner, Trish, he co-founded the Melos Institute, a nonprofit applied-research organization, where he introduced a groundbreaking paradigm for managing membership-based organizations. Hudson wrote, co-wrote and edited a number of books and articles including *The Unanticipated City: Loft Conversions in Lower Manhattan* (1987) and *Special Interest Society: How Membership-based Organizations Shape America* (2013). He is survived by his wife.

1957

James E. Abrams, retired sales and sales management executive, Downingtown, Pa., on April 1, 2018. Abrams was born and raised in New York City. After working for small and large companies, he fulfilled his dream by forming his own firm, Jener Associates. He was a proud member of the NROTC and a three-time Varsity C winner in baseball. At his College graduation, Abrams was commissioned and assigned to NS Norfolk (Va.). Shortly thereafter, he was reassigned to the *U.S.S. Bukwark*, a minesweeper, out of Charleston, S.C. After two years of active duty, he joined the Naval Reserve, where he rose to the rank of commander. Abrams loved baseball and coached kids for a number of years in his community. He served military veterans by driving them to appointments and was an active member of his church. Telling jokes and stories was another of his loves, though, admittedly, some were really "groaners." Abrams is survived by his wife of 56 years, Rosemarie, as well as his daughters, Jennifer and Erica; four granddaughters; and his brother, Tom '58.

Charles A. Straniero, retired ob/gyn, Mendham, N.J., on October 27, 2017. A native of the Bronx, Straniero was a lifelong Yankees fan. At the College, he earned a B.A., with a minor in art history, and in 1961 an M.D. from Georgetown University School of Medicine. After completing his residency at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Straniero served as a captain in the Air Force, stationed in Rantoul, Ill., 1966–68. He was a senior attending physician at Hackensack University Medical Center and a founding partner of Prospect Women's Medical Center, where he practiced ob/gyn for 38 years and ushered more than 4,000 lives into the world. Straniero is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marilyn (née Caputo); children, Carla and her husband, Robert Barone, and John and his wife, Dawn Trusio; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the "Charles Straniero MD Memorial Fund" at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (giftfunds.stjude.org).

1959

Robert L. Moore, retired businessman, Sudbury, Mass., on July 29, 2018. Born on December 10, 1937, Moore was raised in the mining town of South Fork, Pa. The first member of his family to graduate from college, he was a scholarship student at Columbia. In 1980, Moore launched Omni Apex, a corrugated packaging company, with offices in Acton, Mass., and later Concord, Mass., as well as a manufacturing plant in Fitchburg, Mass. A writer, philosopher and naturalist, Moore enjoyed reading, poetry, classical music, nature walks and time by the sea. He self-published three books after his retirement: the two-part *Compendiary: A Letter to My Children in the Form of a Commonplace Book* and *Gathered Thoughts: An Anthology of a Life Enjoyed*, a book of his poetry. Both are included in the collection at Harvard University's Widener Library. Moore's life was guided by a strong sense of curiosity, a fierce self-reliance and a wry sense of humor. He is survived by his wife of 59 years,

Lynn Hirsh Moore BC'59; three sons; and five grandchildren.

Harvey Seidenstein, physician, Stamford, Conn., on September 3, 2018. A major in the Army; known as the "Father of Cardiology" in El Paso, Texas; and a dedicated clinician at Greenwich (Conn.) Hospital, Seidenstein will be remembered for his devotion to his patients during his 55-year career. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Jacquelyn Peters Seidenstein; and children, John and his wife, Veronica, Ellen Janay and Benjamin.

1960

Thomas G. Waldman, medieval scholar, Philadelphia, on July 1, 2018. Waldman was born in Cleveland. He earned an M.A. in 1961 from GSAS and a D.Phil. from Lincoln College, University of Oxford. Waldman was a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He specialized in 12th-century France, in particular on the abbey of Saint-Denis in Paris and its abbot Suger. For many years he was an associate professor in the history department at Penn, where he was also director of corporate and foundation relations. Waldman was a co-founder of the Delaware Valley Medieval Association and helped secure a grant from the Lilly Foundation that enabled its success. He is survived by his brother, Ronald, and sister-in-law, Lee; nieces, Elizabeth Haspiel and her husband, Joseph, and Margot Waldman and her hus-



Thomas G. Waldman '60

band, Tim Lemmon; and five grandnieces and grandnephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Curtis Institute of Music, 1726 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19103 c/o Anthony J. Brown.

1961

Thomas J. Gochberg, real estate financier, New York City, on May 24, 2018. In 1979, Gochberg arranged a management takeover of Security Mortgage Investors, a publicly traded real estate investment trust, becoming its president and renaming it Security Capital Corp. Security Capital purchased and merged with Smith Barney Real Estate, making the combined firm one of the nation's largest fully integrated real estate financial holding companies. In 1991 Gochberg co-founded TGM Associates, a specialized money management firm focused on investing in multifamily real estate for institutional clients. Gochberg had been fascinated with sailing since his youth in New England, but had no opportunity to sail until the 1970s. He taught himself celestial navigation and competed in world racing events, including the Sevenstar Round Britain race and the OSTAR Single-Handed Trans-Atlantic race. He completed several transatlantic crossings, cruised the Mediterranean, circumnavigated Newfoundland and made a number of cruises to Bermuda. Gochberg was a patron of the New York Yacht Club, the University Club, the American Sail Training Association and The Cruising Club of America, and was an involved College alumnus. He is survived by his wife, Letty; daughter, Sarah '00; son, John; daughter-in-law, Kim, two grandsons; brother Donald; and numerous nieces and nephews.

1962

Vincent J. Fasano, retired professor, Montreal, Quebec, on March 17, 2017. Fasano majored in philosophy and minored in archaeology. After the College, he was drafted and served two years with the Army in Mannheim, Germany, as an MP. On returning to the United States, he completed graduate work at the University of Alabama and McGill University before taking a teaching position in the anthropology department of Dawson College in Montreal. Fasano is survived by his wife of 51 years, Julie; son, Erik; daughter, Louise; and two granddaughters.

Jack Hurwitz, retired, New York City, on December 24, 2017. Hurwitz was born on December 22, 1940, into a large, Upper West Side Jewish family. He went to Horace Mann, and majored in English lit at the College. Hurwitz was the third generation to run the family business, Robert Hull & Co. After he retired, he devoted his time to his favorite things: traveling the world, going to the theater, spending time with friends and family, and walking the city he loved. He is survived by his wife, Carol; daughters, Rudie, Diana and her husband, Nathan Tidd, and Tamara and her husband, Dan Dornan; seven grandchildren; sister, Lynn Zelevansky and her husband, Paul; nieces, Claudia and Nora; and longtime friends Alan Weinstein and Lloyd Perell. As his granddaughter Noa wrote, "We will celebrate him forever by reading the books he gave us, making the meatloaf he taught us was universally liked, and filling glasses just half full because you should never pour what you'd be bothered to spill." Memorial contributions may be made to The Center (gaycenter.org/support/give/gift/once) or Landmark West (nycharities.org).

1964

Edward C. Steinberg, retired urban planner, White Plains, N.Y., on June 19, 2018. Born on June 14, 1942, in Ellenville, N.Y., Steinberg earned an M.S. in urban planning in 1966 from GSAPP. He began his professional career that year as a planner for the New York office of the

Department of Housing and Urban Development. He went to White Plains in 1970 to work for the Urban Renewal Agency, where he was later named director. In 1985, Steinberg was appointed commissioner of planning for the city. He was often seen in his trademark Stetson hat walking the renewal areas. Later, he became director of the Stamford Urban Redevelopment Commission, and consulted until his retirement. Steinberg was an avid photographer and an enthusiastic participant in the hobby of model railroading, for which he authored dozens of articles in national magazines. He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Marian; sons, Joshua, and his wife, Rachael, and Alex and his wife, Esperanza; daughter, Jean Borup, and her husband, Kevin; four grandchildren; sister, Phyllis Greene; and brother, Clarence. Memorial contributions may be made to Congregation Kol Ami (White Plains), the Alzheimer's Association or The Nature Conservancy.

1966

Richard O. Forzani, IT sales executive, Garfield, N.J., on September 12, 2018. Forzani was born on April 25, 1945, in the Bronx. A student-athlete and active alumnus of the College (he was the CC'66 Class Notes correspondent 2012–18), Forzani served in the Navy Reserve. He enjoyed traveling, fine dining, military history, Columbia football, penning letters to the editor and spending time with his friends and family. Forzani was predeceased by a son, Troy, and is survived by his wife, Kathleen; children Daniel "Casey," Katelyn and Richard; younger siblings, Diana, Carol, Mary, Lillian, Edward and Michele; two grandchildren; 13 nieces and nephews; and countless others whose lives he positively influenced with his generosity, larger-than-life personality and ability to charm a room with his sense of humor. Memorial contributions may be made to Villa Marie Claire hospice in Saddle River, N.J.

1968

Gregory F.T. Winn, scholar, lecturer, civil servant, diplomat, author, Naples, Fla., on April 19, 2018. Winn was born on August 20, 1946.

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.

He worked at the United States Information Agency as division chief and senior program advisor and was involved with American support for the independence of Ukraine. For several years he was deputy director of Grants Management for AmeriCorps and as its senior grants advisor. Winn spoke six languages and earned master's degrees from NYU and the University of Southern California, where he also earned a Ph.D. in international relations. He received Fulbright scholarships for research and teaching in Korea and Japan and taught international relations at USC, American University and Ave Maria University. The author of 25 published articles, after retiring Winn completed two historical novels. He received the Army Commendation Medal for his service in military intelligence and held a first-degree black belt in judo. Winn and his wife, Vera, visited more than 60 countries. He is survived by his wife; sister, Claire; daughter, Natasha Lantz, her husband, Jon, and their daughter; and son, Tyler. Winn was predeceased by a daughter, Alanna Alexandra, 20 years prior. He also leaves his wife's daughters, Anya Mendenhall and her three daughters, and Masha Sharma and her husband, Jony, and their two sons. Memorial contributions may be made to the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, c/o Fr. Victor Potapov, 4001 17th St. N.W., Washington DC 20011.

1971

Eli A. Rubenstein, attorney, Newton Center, Mass., on January 27, 2018. Raised in Silver Spring, Md., Rubenstein graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the College and earned a J.D. in 1974 from NYU. After three years at Cabot, Cabot & Forbes, he launched a 40-year career at Goulston & Storrs, becoming a partner and director in the firm's Boston and New York offices, with expertise in real estate development and financing strategies. Rubenstein donated his time, talent and support to several charitable organizations, including the cause closest to his heart, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. He served on the society's national board, including three years as chair, and spent decades on the Greater New England Chapter board. Rubenstein

will be remembered by friends and family for his dry wit, excellent cooking and mixology skills, pragmatic advice, and steadfast kindness and loyalty. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Emily Broner Rubenstein BC'72, SW'74; son, Isaac, and his wife, Michelle; daughter, Abigail '05, and her husband, Maxwell Bogue; and two grandsons. Memorial contributions may be made to the National MS Society (main.nationalmssociety.org/goto/eliRubenstein).

1989

Charles A. Radi Sr., global managing director and chief information security officer, Miami, Fla., on August 21, 2018. A fourth generation Miamian, Radi was a star student athlete at Miami Southridge Senior H.S., where he was a key player in baseball, wrestling and football and on into college ball. He had a successful



Charles A. Radi Sr. '89

career that spanned nearly 30 years as a highly sought-after authority in computer and network security. While he enjoyed many achievements, Radi's proudest and happiest moments were the times spent with family. He will be remembered for his fun-loving, jovial and spirited personality. Radi is survived by his father, Gabe; sisters, Heather and her husband, Mark Bermudez, Michele and her husband, Bob Vicente, and Shawnee and her husband, John McFadden; children, Charles Jr. "CJ," Kristin, Zachary and Courtney. He is also survived by his children's mother, Valerie Radi, who was his wife for 23 years. Radi was predeceased by his mother, Jackie. Memorial contributions may be made to the ALS Association Florida Chapter in honor of Radi's mother.

— Lisa Palladino

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College Today also has learned of the following deaths. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that CCT receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear.

- 1944 **Philip E. Duffy**, neurologist and neuropathologist, Easton, Conn., on September 21, 2018.
- 1949 **Eric M. Olson**, retired engineer, Lincoln, Mass., on November 24, 2018.
- 1951 **Andrew P. Siff**, retired attorney, New York City, on September 24, 2018.
- 1952 **Daniel C. Seemann**, retired university director of student activities and professor, Sylvania, Ohio, on September 3, 2018.
- 1953 **Gordon G. Henderson**, retired, Atlanta, on April 24, 2018.
Alfred E. Ward, dentist, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., on November 26, 2018.
John H. Wuorinen Jr., Blue Hill, Maine, on March 21, 2018.
- 1954 **Robert F. Ambrose**, retired attorney, Mahwah, N.J., on August 25, 2018.
- 1956 **Barry M. Beller**, retired cardiologist, Santa Fe, N.M., on October 2, 2018.
- 1958 **Herman M. Frankel**, retired pediatrician, Portland, Ore., on July 11, 2018.
Joseph Geller, retired physician, East Patchogue, N.Y., on September 24, 2018.
Edward N. Halperin, retired psychiatrist, New York City, on July 30, 2018.
Paul L. "Dr. Z." Zimmerman, retired pro football writer, Noblesville, Ind., on November 1, 2018.
- 1960 **Martin B. Pincus**, Williamstown, Mass., on September 6, 2018.
- 1965 **Peter Mound**, attorney, Santee, Calif., on November 3, 2018.
- 1967 **Christopher P. Kirk**, Cambridge, Mass., on October 31, 2018.
- 1968 **Ronald M. Pristin**, IT professional, New York City, on October 27, 2018.
- 1971 **Eugene "Gene" J. Kisluk Jr.**, independent appraiser of books and manuscripts, New York City, on November 19, 2018.
- 1980 **Thomas H. DeMott**, New York City, on October 23, 2018.
- 1985 **Wylie G. Burgan Jr.**, assistant principal, Jamaica, N.Y., on December 22, 2017.
- 1986 **Steven J. Soren**, attorney, Staten Island, N.Y., on November 3, 2018.

A Father-Daughter Duo Takes on Dostoevsky

The Columbia College Alumni Association recently launched Core Conversations, a virtual book club that allows alumni around the world to reengage with the Core in a close reading of texts, guided by Columbia faculty. The first Core Conversation began in October with more than 400 College alumni signing up to tackle Fyodor Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, led by Professor Deborah Martinsen. Among those readers were Bill Gray '77 and his daughter Campbell Gray '11. Columbia College Today caught up with the Grays to ask them about the book club and the family College connection.

CCT: What inspired you to sign up for the book club together?

Campbell: I've had many conversations with my dad over the years about the Core, going back to freshman year and *The Iliad* and everything in Lit Hum. We always had this bonding experience [over books], but haven't done so in a few years, since I graduated. My dad heard about the book club first and signed up and encouraged me to do the same.

Bill: Campbell has a love of reading, as I do, and we occasionally read the same books together and then talk about them over dinner. When I saw this digital book club, I thought this would be a great opportunity to do it together!

CCT: What have your conversations about *Crime and Punishment* been like?

Campbell: They've been really good; I was just home for Thanksgiving, when my dad caught me finishing off the latest assignment, and we worked through the questions that Professor Martinsen had provided. We've had really casual conversations about it, usually using the provided questions as jumping-off points.

Bill: There's also the issue of bragging rights; Campbell has posted a few times, I've posted a few times, but it's Campbell's posts that have gotten the most appreciation from Professor Martinsen. So there's a bit of a competitive angle here — I have to come up with something good!

CCT: Did you read *Crime and Punishment* as part of Lit Hum and, if so, is there anything that stands out as different this time?

Campbell: *Crime and Punishment* was part of the syllabus when I was at school and I remember really enjoying it. But as much as college students are theoretically adults, I would say that my reading it at 18 versus reading it now at 29 has been really different. Professor Martinsen's introductory post talks about the political atmosphere in Russia at the time and the religious implications of the text, which I'm sure were explained when I was 18 but weren't at the forefront of my mind while reading. Now I have a lot more background going into the reading that has informed it quite a bit. Reading a book 10 years later really gives a different perspective.

Bill: I'm pretty sure it was not part of my curriculum — I think we read *The Brothers Karamazov*. I did read *Crime and Punishment* 10 years or so ago when Campbell was talking about it — I think it



was one of her favorite books from Lit Hum — and I realized it was a gap in my reading. It's funny reading it now, because I remember reading things as a College student and being very judgmental of the characters' flaws, and their failures and their weaknesses; now I read them with much greater sympathy. I don't know, maybe as an older person you're more aware that humans are flawed. It's fun reading something and seeing how your perspective changes as a 60-plus-year-old.

CCT: Thanks to the Core Curriculum there is a shared education across generations of College alumni. What does that mean to you as a Columbia family?

Campbell: When I was applying to colleges, the Core was at the forefront of my decision-making process. It always really appealed to me that everyone at the College has some of the same experiences — shared experiences that span so many years. I loved the Core; I think it's one of the most special things about a Columbia education.

Bill: I was in one of the last all-male classes — that didn't change until the '80s — so it was great having a daughter go to Columbia. Despite that huge difference in the composition of our classes, I believe in the whole concept of the Core, that there are some things that are fundamentally human that are captured in books. Yes, the books may change from time to time, but the issues that are discussed and our common humanity are always there. To be able to participate in this book club, where there are people younger than Campbell, people who are middle-aged, people who are older, all discussing the fundamental human issues that are in these great works of literature, I think it's pretty inspiring.

Columbia College is celebrating the centennial of the Core Curriculum in the 2019–20 academic year.

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www.college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion

One hundred years ago, Columbia College altered the landscape of American higher education with a pioneering experiment we now know as the Core Curriculum. The works have evolved, but the dialogue, inquiry, reflection and consciousness ignited in each small class remains unchanged, yet more fundamental than ever — forever transforming each student and therefore society.

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