


# CCT

Columbia  
College  
Today 

Winter/Spring 2023

## A DEEP DIVE

CAN ANSWERS TO CLIMATE  
CHANGE BE FOUND AT THE  
BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN?

## HARRY POTTER IN THE HOUSE!

A RISING YOUNG  
STAR MAKES HIS  
BROADWAY DEBUT

# The Practice of Positivity

Cassie Mogilner Holmes '02 has the secret  
to happiness – and it's about time



“Columbia welcomed me with open arms. I have never felt more at home than at the University, which would not have been possible without my financial aid award. I am so grateful for the opportunities that I have been offered here.”

— Natalie Brokish CC'23



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**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Alexis Boncy SOA'11

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**

Lisa Palladino

**DEPUTY EDITOR**

Jill C. Shomer

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**

James C. Katz '72

Alex Sachare '71

**ART DIRECTOR**

Eson Chan

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

**ADDRESS**

Columbia College Today  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 4th Fl.  
New York, NY 10025

**PHONE**

212-851-7852

**EMAIL**

cct@columbia.edu

**WEB**

college.columbia.edu/cct

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## Message from the Dean

# A Time for Renewal

**T**he many ways that we engage with time — past, present and future — are themes running throughout this issue of *Columbia College Today*. They also form a thread connecting many of the experiences, traditions and people I have had the pleasure and privilege of engaging with since becoming dean. And, with an opportunity over winter break to pause and reflect on the past six months, I have been struck by how the living history of our alumni community, and the centuries-old ideals that define Columbia College's traditions, play such vital roles in shaping today's campus.

Since moving into Hamilton Hall last July, my immersion in the work of the College — beyond the quotidian — has centered on an ongoing series of illuminating and broad-ranging conversations with numerous alumni, faculty and students. This exploration has been guided by a simple but expansive question that I expect to revisit continually in the years to come: What does it take to meet the mission of the College?

Of course, any discussion of the College's mission is inextricably bound up with the Core Curriculum — our most tangible link to the deeper history of the College and the intellectual tradition that defines it. By extension, the delicate balance between continuity and innovation at the heart of the Core is also essential to the College's drive to ensure that the experience we provide for today's students remains as transformative and attuned to the present moment as it has been for generations. And while this curricular link to the College's past is critical, it does not address the full holistic scope of our mission.

Developing that more complete view requires a broader grounding in the College's living history, a critical frame of reference for current circumstances. As Shakespeare aptly put it, "what's past is prologue," and our vibrant alumni community is our best link to that shared history, making the time I have already spent with alumni particularly rewarding. In addition to providing me with opportunities to receive a host of welcome and practical counsel, these encounters have deepened my appreciation for the enduring connections our students form while on campus. Spanning geography, fields of study, professional endeavors and time, these connections bind generations of students and inspire many to give back in support of generations yet to come.

Throughout the Fall term, the power of those connections could be seen anew on our campus. With the increase in chance encounters, we witnessed the type of impromptu gatherings that spark curiosity and friendships, and that build camaraderie and a sense of community. These elements, essential in the life of a residential college at every level — academic, co-curricular and personal — had been stifled by the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. And, while consciousness of the lingering public health situation remains, the return of student events, unrestricted gatherings and even co-curricular programming like on-campus employer recruiting have all fostered a renewed energy across the College.



I've felt this same energy throughout the many meetings, events and conversations I have participated in since last summer. It has been accompanied by an undercurrent of deep appreciation for what we have regained and a concerted effort to refocus on what is most central and essential to the experience we deliver for our students.

My role as steward of that experience would be impossible without the voices, experience and commitment of our alumni. I thank you for your support. It is my firm belief that any vision for the College's future must evolve from a community-focused context, drawing on knowledge and insights from all corners. Your lived experience of the institution and its cherished traditions, and your investment in its ongoing excellence, are an invaluable resource for ensuring student success and well-being.

With the Spring term just begun, I encourage you to carry this spirit of renewal forward in your own connection and engagement with the College. Beyond returning to campus for Columbia Reunion 2023, Thursday, June 1–Saturday, June 3, there are many ways to stay involved and give back. The voices, energy and commitment of generations of alumni is one of the College's great strengths, and it will remain critical in the years ahead.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josef Sorett".

**Josef Sorett**

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

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# Around the Quads



EILEEN BARROSO

**CLAIRE C. SHIPMAN '86, SIPA'94** was honored with the Alexander Hamilton Medal on November 17 at a black-tie dinner in Low Rotunda. Shipman, a journalist, author and public speaker with deep expertise in international relations, U.S. politics and women's leadership, is the second woman to be presented the Hamilton Medal in the 74 years since its inception. This year's event raised more than \$600,000, which will benefit College students by supporting the Core Curriculum and financial aid.

At the dinner, left to right, were: Dean Josef Sorett, Shipman, President Lee C. Bollinger and Columbia College Alumni Association president Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94.

## Columbia Giving Day

The 11th annual Giving Day, held on October 26, raised \$29,999,683 for the University through 19,229 gifts. Columbia College led the way among the schools, with 1,868 contributions totaling \$3,724,122.08. These gifts provide resources for the College's central priorities: financial aid, stipends for internships, the Core Curriculum and student life.



## 2023 John Jay Awards

The John Jay Awards Dinner, which celebrates alumni for their distinguished professional achievement, will be held on Wednesday, March 1. The 2023 honorees are **Anna Brockway '92**, co-founder and president, Chairish; **Alicia D. Guevara '94**, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City; **Dr. Ashish K. Jha '92**, a national leader on public health and Covid-19 response; **Victor Lopez-Balboa '82**, vice-chairman, Global Financial Institutions Group in Global Banking & Markets, Goldman Sachs; and **Raymond**

**Yu '89, SEAS'90**, president, Yuco Real Estate Co. and Yuco Management. For more information, go to [college.columbia.edu/alumni](https://college.columbia.edu/alumni).

## Sherwin Award Recipients

The Gerald Sherwin Young Alumni Service Award, which honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service to the College's young alumni community, was presented to the 2022 recipients, **Julian Richardson '14, BUS'21, SIPA'21**



Left to right: Outgoing CCAA president Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94; honorees Richardson and Heinrich; and Dean Josef Sorett.

and **Andrew Heinrich '13**, at the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting on October 22.

Richardson, an investment banker at Credit Suisse, is president of the Columbia College Young Alumni Board, CCAA Executive Board, CCAA Mentorship Committee and CCAA Nominating Committee. Heinrich, the founder and president of Project Rousseau, is a Young Leaders Council board member, co-chair of the 10th Reunion Committee and a Class Agent. Both Richardson and Heinrich are active members of the Alumni Representative Committee and the Odyssey Mentoring Program.

## Four Lions Named Rhodes Scholars

One alumna and three College students have been awarded 2023 Rhodes Scholarships, which provide funding for two or three years of postgraduate study at Oxford. The honors this year are especially significant for Columbia; for the first time, three Lions were selected to be part of the U.S. cohort: **Ilina Logani '22**, **Sophie A. Bryant '23** and **Astrid Liden '23**. And **Gloria Charité '23** was awarded the scholarship for the East Africa constituency, making her the first Columbia recipient from the region.

Logani, an economics major; Bryant, a double major in East Asian language and cultures and mathematics; and Liden, a double major in Latin American and Caribbean studies and political science, are among 32 Americans chosen for the prestigious scholarship. The Rhodes for East Africa selects a single scholar each year; applicants come from Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan and Burundi. Charité, who is majoring in psychology, came to the United States from a small village in Rwanda in 2019, when she was admitted to the College.



Clockwise from top left: Logani, Bryant, Charité and Liden.

"I am thrilled to see Ilina, Sophie, Astrid and Gloria recognized in this way," says Ariella Lang, associate dean of academic affairs and director of undergraduate research and fellowships. "They are part of an inspiring group of nominees and finalists. I want to recognize as well the faculty, advisors, staff members, alumni recipients of this award and many others who so generously supported, mentored and cheered on our applicants."



## DidYouKnow?

### Four Great Thinkers Reside in Low Library

Carved from Istrian marble, statues of (left to right) Euripides, Demosthenes, Sophocles and Augustus Caesar stand watch over what was once Low Library's general reading room. The upper galleries are supported by 16 29-foot green granite columns, with space at the top of each for a statue. Only four were ever installed, however. Euripides was gifted by architect Charles McKim, Demosthenes by W. Bayard Cutting CC 1869, Sophocles by George Wheelock CC 1864 and Augustus Caesar by F. Augustus Schermerhorn CC 1868.





BRIE MULLIGAN

# Gregory J. Wawro

By Jill C. Shomer

Professor of political science Gregory J. Wawro has taught “The American Congress” to undergraduates since 1997; in nearly all that time, his lectures about the essentials of functional government and peaceful transitions of power were in the abstract. Until January 6, 2021.

“I never, ever, *ever* thought that I would have a concrete example to discuss the fundamental features of U.S. democracy being in danger,” Wawro says. “To have the Capitol be the locus of a violent insurrection is so, so striking. And it’s why I think it’s so important for students to learn about the national legislature.”

Wawro, whose research focus includes elections, campaign finance, judicial politics and political economy, joined the faculty in 1996 after completing his Ph.D. at Cornell. Raised in Pittsburgh, he attended Penn State with the intention of going to law school; by chance, his advisor was married to a poli sci professor who steered him away from pre-law. If Wawro were to change his mind about law school,

she reasoned, a political science degree offered greater flexibility.

He started taking poli sci courses and quickly became hooked. The discipline was evolving away from qualitative, non-statistical methods for explaining political phenomena (such as studying individuals, events or contexts), toward a more quantitative approach — one that used surveys and numerical data to analyze concepts like political preferences or party identification.

Wawro was intrigued; then at Cornell, he fell in with associate professor Walter Mebane, who changed the course of his scholarship. “He is one of the most quantitatively talented political scientists in the field, and I realized, this is the kind of work I want to do,” Wawro says. He emerged from grad school as a sort of hybrid scholar, he says; doing quantitative work with qualitative sensibilities. “And, luckily for me, Columbia thought I was a good fit for its brand of political science.”

In October 2022, Wawro spearheaded the launch of a master’s of science in political analytics, a partnership between

the Department of Political Science and the School of Professional Studies. “There’s a lot of bad analytics that happens in the political world,” Wawro says. “And I thought, ‘Columbia is well positioned to create a new kind of program that could train students to do better analytics.’ We’re working with great people who have a lot of interaction with the real political world — we’re all really excited about it.”

Because political science is currently the second largest College major (economics is number one), Wawro regularly interacts with large numbers of students. Asked what he enjoys most about teaching, he says, “It’s observing when students realize how the tools of the discipline of political science can help them understand something they care deeply about — whether it be an election result, the passage or failure of landmark legislation, or a Supreme Court decision.”

Wawro is the author of three books; the most recent is 2022’s *Time Counts: Quantitative Analysis for Historical Social Science*, co-written with Ira Katznelson ’66. Wawro is on leave this year and in the early stages of two projects related to social media and Congress. The first aims to determine to what degree platforms like Twitter might be making congressional elections more competitive; the other is analyzing how people use social media to communicate with and about their representatives (spoiler: not always very politely).

In addition to being expertly attuned to the rhythms of American politics, Wawro is an accomplished musician; he was formerly a drummer for the popular French-language rock band *Nous Non Plus*, performing under the pseudonym Harry Covert. (When he thought he’d go to law school, his intention was to pursue entertainment law and help other artists navigate the music industry.) He lived an exciting double life as his early years at the College overlapped with NNP mini-tours, but he says the two dovetailed nicely.

“It helped me make connections with more senior faculty who also had musical interests. And it buttressed what I was trying to do as a scholar.” Wawro thinks for a moment, then says with a laugh: “I might be the only Columbia professor to appear in *The New Yorker* for both his musical exploits and his academic research.”

# ROAR, LION, ROAR

## Megan Griffith '07 Gives Women's Basketball an Edge

By Alex Sachare '71

Sometimes you have to follow the bouncing ball. As a senior, Megan Griffith '07 was on the fast track for a career in finance. The three-time captain of the basketball team and one of the best point guards in Columbia school history was checking all the appropriate boxes, majoring in economics and completing two summer internships at Lincoln Financial Group in Philadelphia, near her hometown of King of Prussia, Pa. But a conversation with a workout buddy, Dennis Stanton, who had played collegiately at Ursinus and professionally in Europe, caused Griffith to pivot.

"He told me, 'You should think about playing pro overseas,'" recalls Griffith, now head coach of the Columbia women's basketball team, which is coming off two highly successful seasons. "I didn't even know that was a possibility. At the time there weren't many women in the Ivy League who were doing it. But I did some research, looked into getting an agent and realized that I could go in that direction."

So upon graduation, instead of heading to Wall Street in New York or Center City in Philadelphia, Griffith was off to Finland to play basketball. Even though it was the first time she had traveled overseas, it wasn't long before she knew she had made the right decision.

"I realized the game was really important to me," she says. "I trusted the voice inside of me that was saying, 'Go do this.' It was my gut. That's how I operate. It's kind of all or nothing."

Griffith was team MVP of FoANice Basketball in 2008 and led Espoo Basket Team to the Finnish National Championship in 2009. After one more year of playing, this time in Denmark, Griffith returned to the United States and began

six years at Princeton, two as director of basketball operations and four as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator.

In March 2016, Griffith was named the Lions' women's basketball coach. "During our initial interview with Megan, it was quite evident that she had a vision for what it would take for the women's program to succeed and ultimately compete for an

Ivy League championship," says Athletics director Peter Pilling. "She displayed an understanding of the complexities of the task at hand and embraced the challenge."

And a challenge it was. Following the advent of coeducation, Columbia had begun women's basketball competition in 1984-85 at the Division III level, then joined the Ivy League and Division I two



BRYCE TODD





Among Griffith's goals for the 2022–23 Lions, who won 10 of their first 12 games, is the team's first Ivy League championship.

COURTESY COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

years later. During the next 30 seasons, under eight coaches, the Lions came away with only one winning record.

Griffith was unfazed, because she knew Columbia. “That’s 75 percent why I took the job,” she says. “It was a place where I knew I could be successful, and a place I really believed in. Also, I knew where the holes were in the program. I was not caught by surprise by anything.”

Griffith drew on her background overseas and at Princeton in tackling the job at hand. “In Finland I learned how to win,” she says. “I got to win a national championship and saw how to sustain winning and develop a winning culture, a winning mentality. At Princeton, I learned about the importance of work ethic, paying attention to details and being organized.”

After three years laying a foundation and building Columbia’s recruiting efforts, the Lions compiled a 17–10 record in 2020 and earned their first berth in the Ivy League’s postseason tournament, which was canceled due to Covid-19. The following season also was wiped out due to the pandemic, but the Lions roared back in 2022 with the winningest record

in program history, 25–7. After losing to Princeton in the championship game of the Ivy tournament, Columbia earned a trip to the postseason Women’s National Invitation Tournament and beat Holy Cross, Old Dominion and Boston College before bowing to Seton Hall 78–75 in the quarterfinals, which were played before a raucous, sellout crowd of 2,072 at Schiller Court in Levien Gym.

“It was a unique feeling, really special,” Griffith says of that atmosphere. “Even before the game, it was so loud you could hardly hear yourself think.”

Griffith and the Lions are hopeful of building on their success in 2022–23, with a veteran team led by Abbey Hsu ’24 and Kaitlyn Davis ’23. They got started before the school year began with a trip to Spain and Morocco, where they competed against local teams in between sightseeing and bonding. “It was an amazing experience,” says Griffith, “being able to start in August with this group, get everybody back together and enjoy something like that together.”

Coaches often talk about changing a losing culture and building a winning program. What does that mean for Griffith?



For more on Griffith, check out the “Free Throws” Q&A at [college.columbia.edu/cct](https://college.columbia.edu/cct).

“The best way to sum it up is not skipping steps in having a vision and bringing the right people with me, the right staff,” she says. “Every success in my life was because I was able to find an edge, and here we have the Columbia EDGE, which stands for Energy, Discipline, Grit and Excellence. It’s everywhere in our program: We wear it on our shirts, it’s on the walls in our locker room. It’s our why — why are we doing this?”

As the Lions go for their third straight winning season, Griffith says the approach remains consistent. “It’s the same mission, the same standard. The goals haven’t changed, but we’re in a much different place from where we were even two years ago. We want to achieve and maintain a championship culture.”

**Alex Sachare ’71** has written, edited or contributed to more than 20 books about basketball.







Feeling the crunch?

Cassie Mogilner

Holmes '02

has the secret to  
happier days

Cassie Mogilner Holmes '02 wants you to be happier.

Holmes admits that, despite this being the touchstone of her workday, “be happy” has the potential to sound, well, cheesy. The truth is anything but. Cheesiness suggests corniness or inauthenticity, a pursuit of cheap and easy feeling. Holmes, on the other hand, is genuine in her motivation and rigorously scientific in her approach. A professor of marketing and behavioral decision making, she has studied the role of time in cultivating happiness for more than a decade. She can say with empirical precision what leads to more fulfillment and, just as importantly, what doesn't. (Hint: Put down your phone.)

Three years ago Holmes launched a course on happiness and life design that quickly became one of the most popular at UCLA's Anderson School of Business. In it, she shares insights from her research and practical advice for better investing one's time. But the how-to aspect is only one facet of a deeper discussion about making time more meaningful. To that end, Holmes keeps the class relatively small; intimacy is key to encouraging honest conversation, she says, and her assignments take students to some emotional places. When deciding how

to apportion your hours, it helps to wrestle with weighty ideas like defining your purpose, or to hear from an elder how they wish they'd spent their days.

By now, Holmes has taught the course long enough that her earliest students report lasting change to their perspectives. They speak with the zeal of the converted, sharing how they've introduced more happiness into their lives in ways small and large. One started taking his dog along on afternoon bike rides; another traded her pursuit of a VP title for a freelance life in France. They have saved their class notes, revisited them when stress creeps in, passed Holmes' advice along to family, friends, employees.

“People often have a bias when they think of business school — that it's students who want an education so they can make a lot of money as a CEO or other business leader,” says Patricia Godefroy, Anderson's associate dean for marketing and communications. “But there has to be an orientation to something beyond just profit, and I think this course helps get at that. It's not only about helping students learn how to find happiness in their own lives; it's also aimed at building a mindset around supporting other people's happiness, and learning to value happiness, and a desire to help create that in a broader sense.”

Indeed, while Holmes' influence may not yet have catalyzed a movement, it's hard not to wonder if we're

# A Matter of Time

By Alexis Boncy SOA'11

Illustrations by Scott Bakal

looking at the next self-help star à la Brené Brown. (Though Brown focuses on vulnerability and shame, both are academics with a gift for translating their research into emotional wisdom for the rest of us.) Holmes certainly seems poised to make the leap: In September, she published her first book, *Happier Hour: How to Beat Distraction, Expand Your Time and Focus on What Matters Most*. Since then, she's been interviewed on shows like *Today* and *CBS Mornings* and made frequent stops on the audio circuit. She even joined Gwyneth Paltrow in November for a turn on *The goop Podcast*.

Holmes is coming into the spotlight at a time when many of us could use a little more happy in our lives. Before Covid-19, she says, she often had to explain why the pursuit of happiness merited everyday attention. But with the experience of the last few years, our collective need for an intervention — and to approach happiness with intention — has become all too apparent: The World Health Organization has reported that the global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by 25 percent in the first year of the pandemic.

"Nobody takes our emotional well-being for granted anymore," Holmes says. "The pandemic has taught us that our lives are fragile and our time is finite, and everyone is trying to figure out, 'How do I invest the hours so that they feel more meaningful?'"



Cassie Mogilner Holmes '02

DIANA HENDERSON

**Two to five hours.** That's the sweet spot between having too little and too much time, according to Holmes' research. Less than that and we feel stressed ("time poor" is the term); more, and we risk running headlong into aimlessness — and not of the pleasantly-wandering-with-an-ice-cream-cone variety. "When we spend hours of our days with nothing to show for them, it undermines our sense of purpose and makes us less satisfied," Holmes says.

The California native has studied happiness since around 2008, having made the leap from an initial interest in choice satisfaction while doing a marketing Ph.D. at Stanford. But one especially tough experience on the time-poor end of the spectrum sharpened her focus. It was 2013, and Holmes was traveling from NYC to Philadelphia, where she was on the tenure track at the Wharton School

of Business. She'd had a *day* — incidentally, spent at Columbia — filled with meetings and a presentation and dinner with colleagues, capped off by a rushed cab ride to make the last train of the night. At home, her husband and 4-month-old were waiting.

"I remember looking out the window as everything was passing by so fast, and thinking, *life* is passing by so fast," Holmes says. "Between the pressures of work, of wanting to be a good parent and partner, of wanting to be a good friend, of the never-ending pile of chores waiting for me at home, there was too much to do. And I didn't feel like there was enough time to do it, let alone to do any of it well, let alone to enjoy any of it along the way."

She considered the fantasy of quitting and moving with her family to a sunny, slow-paced island. But while most of us in that moment would shake it off and then get back to work, Holmes just got to work. As a social psychologist, she knew she had articulated a question that she and her collaborators could investigate: Are people with more free time happier?

Discovering the existence of that two-to-five-hour sweet spot suggested to Holmes that, for most people, more contentment was attainable — and the hours were already in hand. They just weren't being used in a way that produced overall positivity.

So how to change that?

Happily, Holmes has learned a lot about how to increase our feelings of satisfaction and time affluence. And bonus: When we feel like we have time to do everything we want to achieve, we are both more confident and more optimistic. Her exercises help people home in on the activities that inspire the most happiness in their lives (cultivating social connection is a universal); inject fun or bring meaning to the meh moments (transform a subway commute by reading); and recognize the benefits that come from spending time differently (get out in nature more, or consistently sleep seven hours a night).

Crucially, Holmes also addresses ways to improve the quality of our hours. This is where putting down our phones for a digital detox — to better connect with ourselves and the world around us — is highly recommended. She also walks right up to some uncomfortable truths, including the fact that our time is limited (gulp) in the largest, most mortal sense; there's even an assignment for calculating how many more times you might do a favorite activity. But reckoning with that reality leads us to protect time for the things that matter, as well as promotes a healthier appreciation for the everyday joys.

And about your purpose: "I know it sounds like such loaded idea," Holmes says, "but having that in mind helps you step away from general notions of what a good life is or what success is." In the "Five Whys Exercise," she encourages people to ask themselves why they do the work that they do, then consider the answer and ask why it's important, again and again, to drill down to their core motivation. "This way, it's about, what do I ultimately care about doing and accomplishing in my life? And that helps clarify which activities are in service of that goal, and which don't actually move you forward."

**Full disclosure:** In the course of reporting, I too became a Holmes believer. With her advice in mind, I tried treating my weekend like a vacation (yes, please, to a Bloody Mary at brunch). I "bundled" my least-favorite chore, folding laundry, with listening to music to make it more palatable (thank you, Bruce!). And I started putting my phone away for a few hours every night, from when my 6-year-old arrives home to when she goes to sleep.





Though each change in my routine delivered its own kind of mood boost, less phone time was the game changer. Without the device on the kitchen counter, tempting me to check email or send a text, I found my feet firmly planted in the present tense of my family's nightly routine. Fun or frustrating — and let's be real, those hours can be both — my mind was noticeably less scattered. I was really *with* my family. (When I giddily shared my story with Holmes, she noted the sizable role inattention plays in undermining uplift: "The research shows that we are distracted almost half the time, and that we are less happy when we are distracted.")

Speaking with Holmes' former students, I found myself wholeheartedly identifying with their enthusiasm. Pranav Joshi, the cyclist whose beagle joins him for rides, recalled his experience with the Five Whys, which put him in touch with how much he valued contributing to community; he also realized how much he missed the volunteering he'd done as a teenager. Last summer he took a job with the education nonprofit City Year: "When I go to work now, it feels less like work and more like I'm volunteering. I'm doing something that's kind and that I love," he says.

Erin Wood, a Starbucks district manager, says the lessons around sleep were the most critical. "It was always the first thing to go [when I was busy]," she says. "But you cannot make up for lost sleep; the damage to your health is already done." Instead of five or six hours a night — "exhausted the next morning, surviving on all the coffee I have at work" — she now makes sure she gets eight hours, even if it means an 8 p.m. bedtime. "My brain is more highly functioning, I'm in a better mood. It's one of the principles I teach my team," she adds. "They're leading other people, and if they aren't taking care of themselves, they can't show up and be their best."

For Ashley Caffey, a sales consultant at Bayer, the lessons had a cascading effect. "Going in, I felt like I was on a treadmill and moving for the sake of movement, without a real destination," she says. "I had an agenda of things to accomplish each day, but how was it relevant to my life? How did it align with my purpose? These were things I didn't understand or even give thought to for the most part."

It all culminated in what Caffey described as a "shift in my universe and my awareness." She confronted the fact that she hadn't been prioritizing family as much as she thought, and now she's more intentional about blocking off time for bonding with her kids and husband. She started scheduling it into a planner, a Holmes pro tip called "time crafting." "I highlight it with colors — pink for time with me and my daughter, green for me and my son, purple for the whole family," Caffey says. She laughs in an almost wondering way. The unspoken takeaway: "I can't believe I do this. But it works."

For many, Holmes herself is a leading source of inspiration. "She lets her own humanity and normalcy be very present," says Shelby

**"We can control how we invest our time and prioritize our time, and how we make time for the things that matter, knowing the things that matter."**

Chambers, another former student and the one who moved to France for better work-life balance. "She was really rooted in her research, but also approachable and candid." In Holmes' book, as in the classroom, she uses examples from her own life to illustrate her research points. "She shares very personal stories," Wood says. "And she is so passionate about her work. When she speaks you hear it — in her voice, in the way she exhibits and demonstrates all the things that she's teaching."

Holmes does happen to be someone who falls on the cheerier side of the personality spec-

trum. In her book, she confesses that her nickname growing up was Little Miss Happiness; her colleague Godefroy describes her as "a blue sky." But Holmes emphasizes that there are three components to happiness, of which inherited disposition is only one part. A person's situational circumstances, such as income level or marital status, also has an impact (though less than you might think). The third part, meanwhile — which essentially makes all of Holmes' work possible — is intentional thought and behavior.

"I don't like using the word 'schedule,' because then you get into this experience of time management where it's all about efficiency," Holmes says. "But we can control how we invest our time and prioritize our time, and how we make time for the things that matter, *knowing* the things that matter. And also how we minimize the spending that feels wasteful and therefore un-fun."

The title of Holmes' book is deliberate, she adds. She is not promising happiness, full stop, a blissful state of being without down days or hardship. She is interested in making a difference of degree, to help people feel more joy and fulfillment than they might otherwise, and also to build their muscles so they have the capacity to get through the difficult times when resilience is required.

"We have a choice in how we spend our time and how we think about our time," Holmes says. "And *that* has a significant effect on happiness."





Aboard the *JOIDES Resolution* this past fall, Jerry McManus '89 removes veneer from a newly opened core to reveal sedimentary structure and colors; the latter begin to fade immediately upon exposure to air.



# DRILLING

For most of October and November, Jerry McManus '89, GSAS'97 was on a cruise off the coast of Portugal, though not one you'd likely be envious of — even if you like cruises. McManus spent 12 hours a day, seven days a week, looking at thin slabs of brown and grey mud pulled up from the seafloor.

This wasn't just any mud, though. It was sediment deposited over millions of years and with a story to tell. As a paleoceanographer, McManus — chair of Columbia's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences — studies the ancient ocean, in particular its relationship with the climate over timescales both long (millions of years) and short (thousands).

McManus was one of about two dozen scientists aboard the *JOIDES Resolution*, a 470-foot scientific drilling ship that travels the world as part of the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP). (JOIDES stands for Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling.) At select locations, the ship drills into the seafloor, pulling up cores — cylinders of soft sediment 10 meters long and a few inches in diameter. Once on board, the samples are sliced in half lengthwise and placed on tables for scientists to inspect for clues about what happened long ago. At a given spot, the drill can retrieve core after core, going a kilometer or more under the seafloor.

The researchers who joined this particular expedition — officially, IODP number 397 — were there to collect samples that will complete an archive of sediment going back three to five million years, through the geologic periods known as the Quaternary and the Pliocene. From that raw data, they will

eventually be able to reconstruct the natural variability of the North Atlantic climate, which is to say, how the weather worked before humans came along to leave their mark. McManus is especially interested in the ocean's storage of carbon (it holds 50 times more than the atmosphere) as well as “the dynamics of how the ocean moves heat around our planet.”

“The overarching question in my mind is: Does the ocean affect climate change on a wide spectrum of timescales?” McManus says. “And then within that, there are many specific questions: How fast does climate change? How fast does the ocean respond to that? What is the role of the ocean in heat transport? What's the ocean's role in storing carbon?” Answering these questions could shed light on climate change, but more fundamentally teach us about an evolving Earth.

**McMANUS' CAREER** in Earth science was not carved in stone, so to speak. Born and raised in the Bronx, he and eight of his nine siblings graduated from Bronx Science. “Which doesn't necessarily mean that we thought we'd be scientists, but I had some interest in science,” he says. At the College he considered a major in comparative literature before focusing on the sea.

McManus owes his career in part to the late Wallace S. “Wally” Broecker '53, GSAS'58, a giant in geochemistry. McManus took a couple of his courses at the College, “and it opened my eyes to thinking about how Earth's climate system varied through time, and how the record of that was captured in the sedimentary and rock record of the earth,” he says. Still, he recalls that Broecker was unimpressed by him. “He described me in his old-style language as

# DOWN

Jerry McManus '89, GSAS'97 is looking for answers  
to climate change at the bottom of the ocean

By Matthew Hutson

a 'ne'er do well.'"McManus later did his Ph.D. with Broecker. "I told him, 'Ne'er say ne'er.'"

He credits Broecker for another awakening. "At one point, he told me, 'Someone like you can go to graduate school for free and get paid,'" McManus says. "And for a kid from the Bronx, this was a revelation. I didn't know that such a world existed. That wasn't about scientific inspiration. It was more about the realm of the possible in one's life."

Graduate school was not the next step, however. Instead, McManus spent a few years interning at a German optics company. He provided technical support to researchers who used its image-analysis equipment; then they'd continue with their project while he moved on to the next assignment. "And I got to thinking that I was on the wrong side of that interaction," McManus says. He returned to New York with the aim of going back to school and took a job at the American Museum of Natural History as he worked on applications.

McManus says he chose Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory over other renowned options such as

the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Scripps Institute of Oceanography because it "was very strong in looking at the modern climate in the context of how Earth's climate has evolved through time. And those aspects trumped the appeal of oceanographic institutions for me."

For his dissertation, McManus researched the last time that planetary temperatures were as warm as today — a period between ice ages that occurred about 120,000 years ago. He looked at seafloor fossils of single-celled organisms called foraminifera that live near the ocean's surface. Many foraminifera species have environmental preferences; McManus studied one that thrives in cold water. "Just using that one indicator, looking at how its rela-

tive abundance came and went at multiple locations in the North Atlantic, we could reconstruct patterns of climate change," he says.

McManus went to Woods Hole as a postdoctoral investigator before taking a job and staying for a decade. He taught some MIT students there, "but I kind of missed the intellectual diversity of a university," he says, "and I was interested in getting involved in undergraduate education." So he was happy when Columbia recruited him, and he returned to Lamont in 2008.

**THE LAMONT-DOHERTY** Earth Observatory, founded in 1949, sits on a donated family estate of 189 acres about 15 miles north of Manhattan. It's home to hundreds of researchers studying land, ocean and air. It also houses the



JORG MEYER



CARLOS ALVAREZ

A barbecue meal was a weekly affair aboard the JOIDES.

Lamont-Doherty Core Repository, a collection of 20,000 seafloor samples, where I received a tour before McManus headed to Portugal. Large rooms hold racks of narrow 1.5-meter-long trays of dried sediment collected since the 1950s. For years, two ships, the *Vema* and the *Robert Conrad*, traveled the globe taking samples daily. Unlike the *JOIDES Resolution*, they'd lower a metal tube overboard, then use a piston to shoot it into the seafloor muck and pull up whatever it captured.

The Core Repository is not just a warehouse but also an active research center for scientists at Columbia and elsewhere. Each core is "this limited resource that brings the community together," says Brendan Reilly, head of the repository. "There's this core from this one location that we think is useful, then you get many people together working on it. Anyone with a valid scientific question is allowed to come here."

Reilly showed me some of the equipment on site. One instrument shoots gamma rays into cores to reveal their density. Another shows how much magnetizable material a core holds. An X-ray fluorescence scanner creates something like a fingerprint of a core's elements based on how it glows when hit with energy.

McManus and Celeste Pallone BC'19, GSAS'24, a graduate student who would accompany him on the cruise, took over the tour. Foraminifera shells are still central to McManus' work, and, upstairs from the Core Repository, they bring me to a microscopy lab where researchers use paintbrush bristles to place the grain-of-sand-sized shells under lenses.

Afterward, we walk to the shiny geochemistry building, completed just before McManus arrived as faculty and home to dozens of labs and offices. One room contains two large mass spectrometers, named Wallace and Gromit, that can differentiate not only elements from the cores but also isotopes. In a nearby clean room, staff must wear protective



clothing to do their work of purifying samples. As Pallone heads back to Manhattan, McManus and I go to his office to discuss his upcoming trip.

The cruise's destination off Portugal is called the Shackleton site, after the late Sir Nicholas Shackleton, a paleoclimatologist who discovered that cores from the area could be aligned with ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica, allowing scientists to piece together global timelines for climate change. That's in part because waters from the north and south mix in the area, and in part because sediment collects there copiously, allowing for high-resolution study of its layers. Ice cores in Greenland and Antarctica go back only about 120,000 and 800,000 years, respectively, so alignment with those cores means researchers can use deeper sediment layers to infer what happened near the poles before that time. "Nick Shackleton did something really beautiful to align the North Atlantic with Antarctica," McManus says.

On the cruise, scientists took turns working 12-hour shifts, running initial analyses on the cores as they were brought onboard. Specialists looked at the samples' physical, acoustic or magnetic properties, or described their foraminifera. They drafted a report of the findings while still on the ship.

The data will, in part, help them explain short-term changes in the atmosphere that happened on a scale of 1,000 years or so, what's known as millennial climate variability. Many scientists point to the so-called Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC), a focus of McManus' work, as the reason for this variability. In his office at Lamont, he draws a diagram on the whiteboard: Picture a conveyor belt. Warm water in the Atlantic flows northward, where it cools and sinks, then spreads southward, where it eventually rises again. Changes in this circulation can affect global climate. Scientists worry that Greenland's melting glaciers could slow or halt the process.

While McManus' AMOC work might be his best known, Robert Anderson, a geochemist at Columbia, sees another area of his research as even more important. McManus has shown that Earth's abrupt climate changes

tend to happen halfway between full ice age and interglacial periods. "The two discoveries are linked," Anderson says. Together they explain when and how such changes happen. "This has become a very hot topic," he adds. If the AMOC shut down today, it could chill Western Europe and perhaps the East Coast by 10 degrees Fahrenheit, which would be a "disaster."

**McMANUS** has been on about 10 sampling cruises, to the Pacific and Antarctic as well as the North Atlantic, spending more than a year of his life total at sea. He could theoretically have stayed at home and waited for core samples to come to him. But "the participants on the ship will have the first crack at it," he says. Beyond that, "I can contribute by being a more experienced voice and helping some of the junior scientists."

Kassandra Costa GSAS'18, a paleoceanographer at Woods Hole who earned her Ph.D. in McManus' lab and still collaborates with him, appreciated his guidance. While being supportive, he allowed freedom. "He gave me a project and then I sort of ran with it." As for his scientific style,

**McManus has been on about 10 sampling cruises, to the Pacific, Antarctic and North Atlantic, spending more than a year of his life total at sea.**

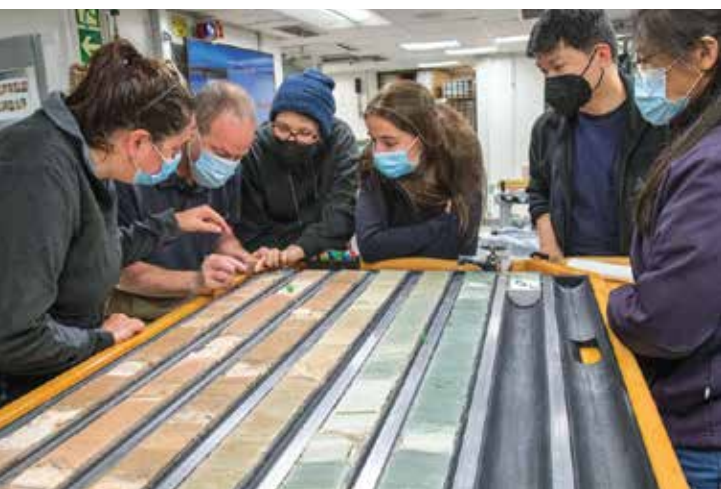
Pallone says, "if he's exploring a hypothesis, he rules out every other possibility. He's encouraged me to be really sure about the claims that I'm making."

Anderson was a faculty member at Columbia when McManus was a student. "What I remember most is that he was fun to be around," Anderson says. "Whether talking about science in the lab, or when we used to play on the same basketball team. He was actually pretty aggressive on the basketball court." Anderson rethinks the word *aggressive*. "He pushes all the time. In everything, not just his research. Whether it's playing a sport or working on something. And also with his students."

Aside from ocean sediments, there's another kind of core that's important to McManus: the Core Curriculum. It didn't make him a scientist, he says, but "I did like the idea of learning about different aspects of civilization and culture and knowledge." He passes on the tradition. "Sometimes threads spring up that I remember from the Core, and I torture my students with them when they think they're there to learn about the ocean or the climate."

Humans, for better or worse, are now an integral part of the climate. "I spend all my time thinking about what happened in the past at this location at this time," McManus says, "but I don't forget that there's this bigger realm of the whole Earth and the life that it supports and the human role in that."

**Matthew Hutson** is a freelance science writer in New York City and a contributing writer at The New Yorker.



CARLOS ALVAREZ

Scientists from France, Germany, China and the United States begin initial examination of a surprisingly colorful core recovered at the expedition's first drilling site.



# Expecto Stardom!

JOEL MEYERS '21 DEBUTS ON BROADWAY AS THE  
LEAD IN *HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD*

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**O**n November 15, Joel Meyers '21 stepped into the Broadway spotlight for the first time. Starring as Albus Potter in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, Meyers wasn't just making his own debut — he was also launching a new version of the sellout show.

The original *Cursed Child* was written as a two-parter — separate two-and-a-half-hour shows performed over two nights (or a doubleheader on Wednesdays) at the Lyric Theatre. When the play reopened in 2021 after more than a year of Covid-caused Broadway closures, it had been condensed to a one-night show. But behind the scenes, the script continued to be tinkered with, and it was finally ready in November, just in time for Meyers' debut. The revamped script features some additional magical moments and a few other surprises.

The runtime is nearly three and a half hours, making it the longest play currently on Broadway. For Meyers, who's in nearly every scene, each night is like a marathon: "I think of the show in terms of benchmarks," he says. "If I can do the one dance, I'm good. If I get through this spell, I'm good. And if I get through this trick, I'm good, you know?"

BY ANNE-RYAN SIRJU JRN'09





Landing the role is quite the accomplishment for a first-time Broadway gig; not only is Meyers performing hours of lines each night, but he is also pulling off a string of physically demanding feats throughout the show. However, he says it's all worth it for the audience reaction: "It's really fun when the tricks all go right and you hear the 'Whoa!' from the audience, or when they go, 'How do they do that?'"

**F**or more than 25 years, tens of millions of people around the world have been spellbound by the adventures of a boy wizard. Released in the United Kingdom in 1997, the first book in the Harry Potter franchise spawned a seven-book series, eight movies (more if you count the spinoffs) and legions of super fans who have grown up identifying with the series' themes of friendship, perseverance and the desire to belong. When *Cursed Child* opened in London's West End in 2016 it brought the story to a new generation — quite literally, as the sequel follows the children of the original series' main characters. The show came to Broadway in 2018.

As the play opens, Albus (Harry's second son) is lonely and struggling to fit in with his family and his fellow students at the famed Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. He quickly bonds with Scorpius Malfoy, the son of the antagonist of the original series, Draco Malfoy. He and Scorpius adjust to life at Hogwarts, but dark forces conspire against them and the two get pulled into a time-traveling adventure that crosses both their and their parents' timelines.

With dark wavy hair, glasses and an affable smile, Meyers definitely looks like he could be Harry Potter's

son (described in the books as having unruly black hair, glasses that are often held together with tape, and bright eyes). In fact, the first step of the audition process was simply sending a photo to the casting agents; he quickly got a callback. But it was Meyers' talent on the stage that carried him through the demanding audition process and into the spotlight.

A double major in theater and astrophysics, Meyers has never been one to shy away from difficulty. But taking on the role of Albus has posed a new kind of challenge. The show is magical, not just in the "theater is magic" sense but also in its over-the-top, incredible practical effects — objects and people fly across the stage, characters transform into other characters, and wands light up with spells and shoot real fire. (The Lyric Theatre actually closed in 2017 for a yearlong renovation in order to accommodate all the effects.) It's a physical, grueling show, and Meyers performs it eight times a week for an audience of nearly 2,000. "It's very humbling in a way, because you quickly become aware that this is an experience that not many people get to have so early in their careers," says Meyers. "I've just been trying to take in every moment."

Meyers grew up in Seattle and got into acting when he was 10; he and a cousin joined a local theater group, and he was hooked. It remained a hobby throughout his middle and high school years, and he balanced acting in local shows with soccer and academics. When it came time to look at colleges, Meyers knew he wanted to be in a city with acting opportunities, but didn't want to limit himself to one career possibility. At the College, he was able to pursue his varied interests in science and theater; among other shows, he performed with the King's Crown Shakespeare Troupe in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet*, and was the lead in the 124th Varsity Show. "I think the best actors I've worked with and met and read about all really embody the mentality that it's more than just getting on stage and doing it. It's also about being interested in the world," he says.

Balancing double majors wasn't easy (his senior thesis drew analogies between theories of acting and Einstein's theory of relativity), but Meyers says the experience made him a better actor. And yet when he spotted the open casting call for Albus, he almost didn't apply. Then he thought back to his thesis advisor, Barnard professor Gisela Cardenas, and the lessons she taught him about confidence. "I give her credit for reminding me to let *others* say no," he says. "I was about to tell myself no."

The audition process lasted nearly two months; Meyers had to submit a self-tape, then try out in what he jokingly calls a "not-dance dance callback," a test to see how well an actor can follow choreography. Even though *Cursed Child* doesn't have musical numbers, it still has fight scenes and magical sequences; the callback tested Meyers' ability to follow the moves.

Meyers (right), in character as Albus Potter, in a magical scene from *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*.



MATTHEW MURPHY

Meyers (far right) waits with other characters on Platform 9 3/4 to catch the train to Hogwarts.



MATTHEW MURPHY

"Honestly, one of the hardest experiences of my life was that first hour-long callback with a bunch of actors, many of whom are Broadway-trained dancers," he says. "I struggled my way through that and went home, probably the most exhausted I have ever been. I sat on my couch and I thought, 'Well, my Broadway career just ended before it began.'"

Fortunately, the casting directors had a different assessment. Meyers was brought back for three more rounds, including a reading and movement audition where he was tasked with performing one of *Cursed Child*'s flying sequences. ("A bucket-list item come true," he says.) After one final audition in front of the producers, he got the news that he was cast as Albus in late September, surrounded by family on a visit home.

While the experience has been a whirlwind, it has also been deeply satisfying. "When I stop and think about what I want to do, it always comes back to acting. When you're not doing it, it's what you want to be doing," he says. "And whether you call that the acting bug, or something else, there is some truth to that. As I sit here now, I can't imagine wanting to do anything else."

Cardenas says of Meyers, "As a student, Joel was humble and playful, and worked very hard. The way he thinks is very exciting. He's going to bring his

physicality to the role, and his sharp mind. Those eyes of his are always percolating with ideas."

Those percolating ideas also keep Meyers grounded as a small-business owner. He co-founded Hyper-space Tutors with his friend and fellow physics major Gabe Matos '21 in July 2021. Meyers teaches students from middle school through college in science and math; in fact, in December he was on the Columbia campus for a tutoring session on a Monday, his one day a week off from the show. "It's been really nice to have that totally separate focus and interest," he says of the side gig.

The Lyric Theatre holds a special place in Meyers' heart. Not only is it where he made his Broadway debut, but it's also where he saw his first Broadway show, *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*. As an "absolutely 100 percent" Harry Potter fan growing up, playing Albus Potter in the theater that means so much to him has been a dream come true. "One of my cousins asked me what it's like doing the show every day, and I said, 'It's kind of like playing Harry Potter in the backyard, but with real fire,'" says Meyers.

"AS I SIT  
HERE NOW,  
I CAN'T  
IMAGINE  
WANTING  
TO DO  
ANYTHING  
ELSE."





# Spice Up Your Life

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

**Michelle Tew '15** doesn't shy away from bringing "full-on" Malaysian flavor to U.S. audiences

JORG MEYER

**A**dorm room seems an unlikely place to launch a culinary empire, but for Michelle Tew '15, sharing food with classmates led to a lightbulb moment. As CEO and founder of the spice kit company Homiah, Tew has gone from cooking traditional Southeast Asian food for friends to bringing the flavors of her culture to customers across the United States.

When Tew arrived at the College from her native Malaysia, her bag was packed with spices for her favorite red curry recipe — she was worried that she wouldn't be able to source the right kinds of coriander, curry leaves or galangal in the States and knew she wanted a taste of home while far away. She had always loved to cook, having been inspired by her grandmother Nonie, who ran a

cooking school in Penang that taught housewives regional Malaysian Nyonya home-cooking basics. Instructions for creating traditional dishes like noodle soups and different types of stews and curries filled Nonie's typed recipe book, which Tew grew up with. At Columbia, Tew recreated many of those meals, sharing Nyonya food and culture with classmates who had never tried it. The experience was eye opening.

"At first, with my grandmother's recipes — something that was very personal, maybe almost like a secret — I didn't think people would be interested," Tew says. "But then I realized that people were not only interested in it, they were celebrating it."

Now those recipes that were an early hit on campus are flying off the shelves after Homiah's nationwide launch in early 2022.



**Nyonya culture is a melting pot.** From the 14th to 17th centuries, Chinese settlers came to Southeast Asia and lived, intermarried and combined their traditions with locals, eventually forming the Nyonya culture. The food and art bring together influences from across the Southeast Asian region. “It’s a unique and specific culture,” says Tew.

The aromatic, spicy and deeply flavorful cuisine uses local herbs and spices while the dishes reflect the convergence of traditional Chinese, Malaysian and Indonesian cooking styles. In addition to the food, the Nyonya culture is known for its intricate batik art, examples of which can be seen on the Homiah spice kit packaging (Tew had a Malaysian artist create the design).

Homiah spice kits provide a base that’s used to easily create Malaysian red curry, Indonesian rendang (similar to a stew) and Singaporean laksa (a noodle soup). The company also sells sambal (a chili-based condiment). The spices are packaged as pastes, rather than a dried mix; Tew says the ingredients, like torch flower ginger and galangal, taste better and more authentic when blended fresh. Just add a protein and vegetables of your choice to a Homiah paste, simmer with coconut milk and/or water, and just like that, anyone can have an authentic Nyonya meal with minimal effort.

Tew earned an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business and began her career in advertising, then moved to consulting. But building other people’s brands didn’t give her the satisfaction she was craving. “I came to a crossroads: Am I going to continue in corporate? Or, do I do the thing that I really wanted to do, which is to take my heritage — something that no one thought could be a career — and make that into something different?”



JÖRG MEYER

The idea of using her grandmother’s recipes but turning them into quick, easy dinners for a younger generation on the go stuck out to her. “I thought, I believe that there’s a need for this and that people are going to be receptive,” she says. “I’ll trust my gut and put it out to the public.”

Tew and her friend and early business partner, May Hnin ’15, BUS’23, started a Kickstarter to raise funds for their business on April 5, 2021 (the first iteration of Homiah also included Hnin’s Burmese recipes, but Hnin took a different job before their official launch); the campaign took off, smashing their goal of \$8,000 with 459 donors giving more than five times that amount.

With ample funding secured, Tew spent several months in Malaysia searching for a small family business to become her local producer. She visited wholesale markets to find ways to source fresh herbs in order to capture the authentic flavors she wanted; once production facilities were set up, she secured FDA approval. In spring 2022 the products began shipping to online customers and launched in U.S. stores. It has been a whirlwind since, with Homiah products now available in more than 20 locations nationwide.

Joanne Kwong ’97, owner of New York City shopping institution Pearl River Mart, became an early mentor after seeing Tew and Hnin’s Kickstarter announcement in CCT’s Class Notes. She met with Tew early on and later began stocking Homiah products. “At Pearl River, the stories behind the product are important,” Kwong says. “And to hear Michelle’s story about trying to preserve her grandmother’s recipes and to do it in a way that works for her generation and generations after, that’s what attracted me at first. When I met her and tried her products I realized they were also amazing.”

Kwong adds, “I like that Michelle didn’t shy away from full-on spice, you know? She didn’t water it down, which I was pleasantly surprised by. She made it legit.”

For Tew, keeping it legit has always been the goal, even when adapting to challenges. When she moved to New York, she says she had to adjust her approach to cooking — seeing just chicken drumsticks or thighs packaged in grocery stores, rather than a whole chicken, was a novelty and meant adjusting some recipes. As Tew began cooking for classmates, she realized that as much as she loved sharing meals with friends, she also loved how her food could be adapted to fit in with other cultures. That experience inspired her to think outside the box on how the spice kits might be used, and she has welcomed creative twists on her products. The Homiah website features recipes for traditional dishes like Malaysia’s national dish of *nasi lemak*, but also has recipes for fusion dishes like a rendang spaghetti and meatballs or a laksa risotto.

“There’s no one right way to enjoy these flavors,” Tew says. “In the same way that I want Americans to be inclusive of my culture, I want to be inclusive of how Americans might want to adapt the recipes.”

In the Nyonya language, Homiah means “to live the good life.” As her company takes off, Tew is seeing her grandmother’s recipes have a momentous revival, embraced by customers halfway around the world.

“Food can create a deep sense of memory and form relationships,” Tew says. “It can be the precursor to all these good things.”

**“Food can create a deep sense of memory and form relationships.”**



## Women's Wisdom

Nicole Ellis '10, JRN'16's debut collection aims to inspire

**Nicole Ellis '10, JRN'16's** debut book was inspired by inspiration.

Ellis, a journalist and filmmaker who is the digital anchor for *PBS NewsHour*, found her focus for *We Go High: How 30 Women of Color Achieved Greatness Against All Odds* (DK, \$19.99) when she considered the ways she had navigated challenges in her life and career. "I thought of the roadblocks I've hit and how I've self-soothed and persevered through them, and a lot of it came back to reading about other women of color," she says. "So I thought about this book through the lens of, 'How can I add value in the ways that so many of these women and authors have added value to my life?'"

Ellis considers *We Go High* as "self-help by proxy"; the collection includes encouraging life stories, motivational quotations and personal philosophies from role models such as Vice President Kamala Harris, actress Issa Rae, Olympic gymnast Simone Biles and, of course, former First Lady Michelle Obama, whose wisdom inspired the book's title. The profiles are accompanied by striking photo illustra-

tions by Natasha Cunningham, who communicates a sense of growth by embellishing each portrait with flowers and natural elements.

By detailing how these women overcame obstacles, Ellis hopes to remind readers that they are not alone in the hills and valleys of their own lives. The book took more than a year to research and write, done in her free time from *NewsHour*. She wanted to represent a range of industries, skills, aspirations and lived experiences; while the emphasis for some pieces was clear because of the person's celebrity, Ellis needed to dig deeper with others to glean "that nugget of identification" for readers to connect with. "That reporting was the most fun part because I got to read so much," she says.

Ellis got hooked on storytelling at the College, and credits one seminal class — Pegi Vail's "Film and Culture" — with setting her on her path. "I thought it would be easy: just watching documentaries one night a week," Ellis says. "I ended up falling in love with the visuals and the exposure to different cultures." She became an anthropology major,



Nicole Ellis '10, JRN'16

NATASHA CUNNINGHAM

and after graduation took two years to backpack solo around the world. While publishing a travel blog about her adventures, it occurred to her that a storyteller can shed light on lived experiences for others. That awareness eventually led her to enroll in the Journalism School.

"When I came back from my trip, I was maybe a little impatient with family and friends who hadn't had the experiences that I had had. And I didn't like that it was annoying me," she says. "I thought that by moving into journalism, I would be able to channel that energy into a sense of responsibility to guide other people's experience of different cultures, different perspectives or just absorbing new information."

Ellis joined *The Washington Post* in 2017, hosting, producing and directing original and breaking news videos that aired on the *Post's* website. She was nominated for an Emmy for her coverage of Hurricane Harvey in 2018. Three years later, Ellis joined *NewsHour* as its first-ever lead anchor for digital video, which includes hosting pre- and post-shows and livestreams.

“My passion is being a chaperone for people so that they feel safe enough to learn something new,” Ellis says. “It’s why I became a journalist in the first place. Whether it’s the nightly news, or learning about their bodies, about science, about gender, about identity, you name it — learning how people navigate a hurricane! I want to facilitate the kind of spaces that make my subjects feel comfortable.”

Sharing the ways in which people weather hurricanes of all kinds is the work of *We Go High*. The profile of politician, lawyer and activist Stacey Abrams, excerpted here, is one Ellis felt especially connected to. Abrams believes that while it’s important to grieve after you get knocked down, you should either harness the experience and those emotions to strategize how you intend to achieve your goal, or move on to something else.

“That one sticks out the most for me, because it’s something I always have to remind myself when dealing with seemingly insurmountable mountains,” Ellis says. “That how I advocate for myself as I move through the experience is integral.”

She references the voting rights initiatives that rose from Abrams’ lost gubernatorial race in 2018. “The takeaway of her story doesn’t leave you at the conclusion of a personal or professional grieving process with just your feelings in your hands,” she continues. “Taking action afterward can be the difference between living with something and living with a future outcome that feels even better than what you thought hurt so much at the time.”

— Jill C. Shomer

## Stacey Abrams

### Creating strategy out of setbacks

On a breezy November night in Georgia, Stacey Abrams made her way across the stage in a purple blazer to a podium carrying a matching purple campaign poster with her name on it. The sign said: STACEY ABRAMS GOVERNOR.

Abrams’ 2018 run for Governor of Georgia made her the first Black American woman to become a major-party gubernatorial nominee in the United States. Her loss was one of the most widely reported instances of voter suppression in American history. For others, this might have been the end of a career in politics. For Abrams, it marked the beginning of an even bigger mission to make sure every eligible adult in America is able to exercise their right to vote. Within two years she created the most influential initiative to fight voter suppression in the country and founded a coalition of non-profits to register over a million Georgians to vote in elections for years to come.

#### Barriers & Bias

Like most women of color, Abrams is familiar with barriers to access. This was not even the first time Abrams had been held back when trying to reach the Governor’s Mansion. When she was made the first Black valedictorian of her high school, Abrams and her family were invited to a dinner for the state’s top students at the Governor’s Mansion. The family traveled by bus, as they could not afford a car. Seeing this, a guard insisted they didn’t belong at this private party. Her parents pushed back and the family were admitted. Abrams doesn’t remember the party, meeting her fellow valedictorians, the governor, or anything else from that day except being turned away at the door.

#### From Struggle to Strategy

Abrams’ recollection and response to being singled out in high school is one of many examples of how she processes adversity. She has felt the pain and trauma of being undervalued, overlooked, and excluded based on skin color, gender, and income. Once that initial sting subsides, she pivots to analyzing the problem, the contributing factors, and above all, herself to decide how to change it. In this case, it was to one day show the state, and the country, that she deserved to be at the Governor’s Mansion by running for governor.

This hallmark trait of leveraging setbacks is laid bare in every aspect of her life, including money. One of six children growing up in a low-income household, Abrams frequently bore the responsibility of financially supporting her family. With little access to financial literacy or capital, Abrams still had \$200,000 in debt during her gubernatorial run in 2018 — \$50,000 in deferred taxes and \$170,000 in credit card and student loan debt.

Abrams recognized she was not alone in this struggle, noting in an article for *Fortune*: “Debt is a millstone that weighs down more than three quarters





of Americans ... It should not — and cannot — be a disqualification for ambition.” Abrams first began taking on considerable debt to go to college and graduate school. The risk seemingly paid off when she landed her first job after graduating from Yale Law School. Her salary was \$95,000, three times her parents’ income combined. However, as Abrams began to pay off those debts, even bigger financial obligations emerged. Hurricane Katrina battered her parents’ community, leaving Abrams to be the breadwinner and provider for her family again. Abrams’ financial strain was exacerbated further when her parents became responsible for her brother’s newborn daughter.

Rather than cast light away from her financial challenges, Abrams put them front and center in her campaign for governor, pointing out that race and gender play a major role in determining just how big of a financial disadvantage we’re likely to face. Understanding the systemic nuances of how and why she found herself thousands of dollars in debt, Abrams used her platform to encourage financial literacy and advise others about what they can learn from her experiences.

Abrams’ unrelenting dedication to deconstructing the barriers she experienced growing up led her to pursue a career in politics in 2006 as the State Representative for Georgia’s 89th district. Growing up with Methodist pastors as parents, Abrams knew how to connect with congregations of all sorts, including policy makers and voters. She brought everything learned in church to the halls of the Georgia State Capitol — whittling big ideas and political jargon down to the basics of how policies affect the everyday lives of the people she represented. She was so skilled, her fellow representatives on both sides of the aisle would ask her to review their bills before presenting them.

In 2014, Abrams created the New Georgia Project, a voter registration program to make voting more accessible to people of color ahead of the senate election that same year. Abrams led the organization part-time while still holding office. The small but ambitious organization registered roughly 69,000 new voters in its first year.

In 2017, Abrams stepped down as minority leader to run for Governor. Her opponent, then-Secretary of State Brian Kemp, was in charge of voter registration. In July 2017, Kemp purged more than 500,000 voter registrations, the largest mass disenfranchisement in US history. Between 2012 and 2018, Kemp canceled 1.4 million voter registrations, using tactics that date back to American Jim Crow laws. In most elections, a winner is decided within 24 hours of election day. For Abrams, this process took ten days. She describes the days between the election and formally stepping out of the race as compounding stages of grief hitting her all at once. Voter suppression hotlines managed by her campaign and nonprofits banked over 80,000 calls from Georgians whose ballots were not counted, or whose names were purged from the voting rolls. “Until this election, I had never considered myself an angry person,” Abrams would later write.

### Propelling Pain

By the sixth day, still in the heat of a legal battle, Abrams again pivoted to analyze the root of the problem to decide what to do next. Still grieving, she decided to add another stage to the mourning process. It’s called plotting. Some of us heal through a drawn-out grieving process that ends in acceptance. In Abrams’ case, accepting defeat also meant accepting inequality. Plotting offered a new path where healing and making the difference you want to see in the world can make perceived failures integral to future successes. She grabbed the nearest legal pad and began to write out what would later become a coalition of organizations dedicated to ending voter suppression, disenfranchisement, and inequality. Abrams’ newly reclaimed purpose made her path forward clearer than ever despite being in the midst of an unbearable loss.

On November 16, 2018, Abrams ascended the stage one last time as America’s first female Black American gubernatorial candidate not to concede, but to announce the beginning of a mission to uphold a right her enslaved ancestors died fighting for: the right to vote.

Despite narrowly losing to Governor Kemp, Abrams received more votes than any Democrat in Georgia election history, including President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton during their presidential campaigns. Abrams’ run became an inflection point for voter turnout among Latinx, Asian, and Black American voters. That progress would serve a multitude of purposes through the creation of Fair Fight Action and Fair Fight PAC to



Stacey Abrams

tackle voter suppression, Fair Count to address the census and beyond, and the Southern Economic Advancement Project, and bolstering New Georgia Project’s voter registration drives. For Abrams, winning a single election is not a victory; ensuring that every election is a true reflection of the will of the people is.

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A light dusting of snow on St. Paul's and College Walk makes for frosty fun on campus. From snowball fights to sledding on Low Steps, the Columbia community stays active in the winter months no matter the forecast!

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# Closing a CCAA Chapter

By Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94

**B**ittersweetly, I pen my last letter to you as president of the Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA). The last three years have flown; I became president just months before the Covid-19 pandemic changed all our lives. And while it upended my expectations for the role, it was incredibly rewarding to see our community come together and find new ways to connect despite the distance. I'm proud of our work during this time and look forward to seeing how the College's next chapter unfolds under Dean Josef Sorett. I've been privileged to work with him in these early months of his tenure, and am excited about his leadership in the years ahead.

As I write, my successor, Sherri Pancer Wolf '90, is set to begin in the role on January 1; more on her background follows, but first, I share exciting news of two recent events.

First, the College community delivered another fantastic and generous performance on Columbia Giving Day on October 26: The College received nearly 1,900 gifts totaling \$3.72 million! The vast majority were from alumni, but we also received donations from students, parents and friends. These monies will sustain financial aid, the Core Curriculum and a plethora of opportunities beyond the classroom. Thank you to all who participated.

Second, on November 17, the 2022 Alexander Hamilton Medal was presented to Claire C. Shipman '86, SIPA'94. The dinner in her honor, held in Low Rotunda, was warm and festive despite frigid weather. Beyond being a stalwart Columbian, Claire is a trailblazer in the field of television journalism. She has made a lasting mark on the world, writing the first draft of history through firsthand reporting on monumental geopolitical events. We eagerly anticipate the publication in June of her next book, *The Power Code: More Joy. Less Ego. Maximum Impact for Women (and Everyone)*, in which she explores and explains the nature of women's power.

I also want to mention the work of three CCAA committees that I'm particularly proud of; I encourage you to participate.

- **The Homecoming and Reunions Committee** strives to ensure these marquee events meet their full potential in bringing alumni back to Columbia for fun and fulfilling experiences that lead to long-term engagement. Alumni on this committee are able to implement their ideas, working closely with Alumni Relations, Athletics, and other staff and administrators. The committee's goal, among other things, is to design programming to engage and attract the widest possible alumni participation.
- **The Mentoring Committee** facilitates connections among alumni as well as between alumni and current College students, primarily through the Odyssey Mentoring Program. Ideally, every student and alum can participate in the network for lifelong development.
- **Class Agents** solicit donations for the College Fund, which provides critical current-use resources with a focus on financial aid, the Core Curriculum, student life and internships.



EILEEN BARROSO

Schweitzer (left) at Homecoming with Mila Atmos '96, SIPA'05; Alisa Amarosa Wood '01, BUS'08; and Michael Behringer '89.

All alumni are encouraged to volunteer, whether for the committees mentioned or any of the many other available opportunities. Please reach out to Thandiwe Jarrett-Abdulali, director, Alumni Relations, for more information: [ccalumni@columbia.edu](mailto:ccalumni@columbia.edu).

The CCAA also has two esteemed faculty members on its Board of Directors: Virginia W. Cornish '91, the Helena Rubinstein Professor of Chemistry, and Noam M. Elcott '00, a former chair of Art Humanities who teaches in the Department of Art History and Archaeology. You will hear more later this year about efforts to strengthen the CCAA's relationship with Columbia's professors.

Returning to the subject of our next president, the CCAA is thrilled to welcome Sherri, who has sat on the Board of Directors since 2006. She has been on almost every volunteer committee; some of her most notable roles have been as a founding member of the Alumnae Legacy Circle, as president of the Columbia College Women Board of Directors and as a co-chair for the Columbia College Fund. She was presented a Columbia Alumni Medal in 2017. Sherri earned a B.A. in economics and, in 1994, an M.S. in finance from MIT's Sloan School of Management. She lives in Boston with her husband, Doug Wolf '88 (a CCAA president emeritus). They have three children: Stephanie, Alexandra '21 and Jason '24.

Sherri enjoys a distinguished career in finance, technology and entrepreneurship. We are delighted she has committed to the role of president and know she is the best person for it.

I look forward to seeing you soon at an alumni gathering, maybe the John Jay Awards Dinner in March, Class Day in May or Columbia Reunion in June.

I leave you with this: With the world full of geopolitical turmoil and ignominious scapegoating of vulnerable groups, we as a community must stand up and ward off injustice wherever we see it.

Roar, Lion, Roar!

# bookshelf

## When Michaels Met the Unusual: The Perfect Couple by Dr. James Marsh

*Sternberg '58.* Sternberg, a champion bridge player and instructor, describes the Michaels Cuebid and the Unusual Notrump, the most popular two-suited bridge hands (AuthorHouse, \$17.99).

**Hidden Maryland: In Search of America in Miniature** by Eugene L. Meyer '64. An illustrated guide of the Free State's various regions, with profiles of famous Marylanders (independently published, \$27.78).

**Witness 2017–2020** by Hilton Obenzinger '69. Obenzinger's poetry collection chronicles four years of trouble in America (Irene Weinberger Books, \$16.95).

**Memories of a Gay Catholic Boyhood: Coming of Age in the Sixties** by John D'Emilio '70. A memoir of D'Emilio's life, from a working-class Bronx childhood to becoming a pioneer in the field of LGBTQ history (Duke University Press Books, \$29.95).

**The Mysterious Romance of Murder: Crime, Detection, and the Spirit of Noir** by David Lehman '70. Lehman explores a variety of outstanding noir films and books, from the famous (*The Maltese Falcon*, *Double Indemnity*) to the lesser known (Cornell University Press, \$26.83).

**Our Unfinished March: The Violent Past and Imperiled Future of the Vote — A History, A Crisis, A Plan** by Eric H. Holder Jr. '73 with Sam Koppelman. The former attorney general charts the history of voter discrimination and argues for new protective measures (One World, \$28).

## SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!  
[college.columbia.edu/cct/  
submit\\_bookshelf](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf)

**Late Life** by Stephen Ackerman '79. This debut poetry collection from Ackerman, a retired attorney for the New York City Law Department, is described as "21st-century love poems for grown-ups" (Silverfish Review Press, \$18).

**Ever After: Forty Years of Musical Theater and Beyond 1977–2020** by Barry Singer '79. Originally published in 2003 as a history of the previous 25 years in musical theater on and off Broadway, this new edition extends the narrative from 2004 to the recent present (Applause, \$37.95).

**Habsburg Madrid: Architecture and the Spanish Monarchy** by Jesús Escobar '89. Escobar, a professor of art history at Northwestern, argues that the buildings of Madrid tell a different story about the 17th-century Habsburg dynasty (Penn State University Press, \$102.35).

**A Vision Splendid: The Discourses of David O. McKay** by Anne-Marie Wright Lampropoulous '89. Speeches by McKay, a former president and apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, are compiled and analyzed in categories including dedications, sermons and civic addresses (Greg Kofford, \$22.95).

**Panes of the Glass Ceiling: The Unspoken Beliefs Behind the Law's Failure to Help Women Achieve Professional Parity** by Kerri Lynn Stone '97. Stone reframes the discourse about the "glass ceiling" that women face with respect to workplace inequality (Cambridge University Press, \$34.99).

## From Bureaucracy to Bullets: Extreme Domicide and the Right to Home

by Bree Akesson '01 and Andrew Basso. The authors focus on domicile, or the violent, intentional destruction of a home, as an overlooked human rights issue (Rutgers University Press, \$38.95).

**Messi vs. Ronaldo: One Rivalry, Two GOATs and the Era That Remade the World's Game** by Joshua Robinson '08 and Jonathan Clegg. How the rivalry between two of the world's greatest soccer players has grown from a personal competition to a multi-billion-dollar industry (Mariner Books, \$29.99).

**The Monsoon Diaries: A Doctor's Journey of Hope and Healing from the ER Frontlines to the Far Reaches of the World** by Dr. Calvin D. Sun '08. Sun's account of working in the epicenter of the Covid-19 pandemic is interspersed with reflections on his global travels (Harper Horizon, \$27.99).

**Hacking Artificial Intelligence: A Leader's Guide from Deepfakes to Breaking Deep Learning** by Davey Gibian '12. AI is transforming the world but is vulnerable to hacking; Gibian sheds light on hacking risks and provides a framework to assess them before problems arise (Rowan & Littlefield Publishers, \$33.48).

**Bad Jews: A History of American Jewish Politics and Identities** by Emily Tamkin '12. Drawing on more than 150 interviews, Tamkin, a senior editor at *The New Statesman*, tracks the evolution of Jewishness throughout American history (Harper, \$28.09).

— Jill C. Shomer







## Rebecca Sheir '99

**Y**ou might know the stories *Cinderella* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*, but what about the Turkish tale of *The Unwelcome Guest*? For author and producer **Rebecca Sheir '99**, the more obscure the story, the better. Sheir and her husband, composer Eric Shimelonis, co-produce *Circle Round* — a children's storytelling podcast distributed by WBUR, Boston's NPR station — which turns folktales from around the world into radio plays. "I'm constantly trying to find stories that aren't as well known outside of their home country or culture," says Sheir. "You're not going to hear *The Three Little Pigs* or *Little Red Riding Hood* on *Circle Round*; you're going to hear a Nigerian fable about where thunder and lightning come from, or a Korean story about why dogs and cats don't get along."

Sheir was a host and reporter at a number of NPR member stations before she and her husband decided to move to Western

Massachusetts to start an audio production company. In 2016, WBUR reached out to her about starting a kid-focused podcast; Sheir then came up with the idea to retell folktales as old-fashioned radio plays. She created a pilot featuring a Yiddish story she'd heard as a child from her rabbi (*Seinfeld's* Jason Alexander voiced the lead). WBUR loved the pitch; the series officially launched in 2017 and is now in its sixth season with more than 180 episodes.

Sheir focuses on finding a breadth of stories — recent episodes have highlighted tales from Armenia, Finland and the Cherokee Nation — and in 2022 she partnered with a Massachusetts publishing company to produce books based on some of her favorite episodes. The first book was released last summer and two more quickly followed; the fourth will be released this year.



## Charles Morrow '62

**F**or many people, background noise just fades away; for **Charles Morrow '62**, it's the star of the show. As the founder of MorrowSound, he creates soundscapes that use ambient tones to create a sense of atmosphere in locations from banks to museums to hospitals.

Morrow's dozens of installations include the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History's 2017 narwhal exhibition, where he immersed audiences in the Arctic via the sounds of glacial movements, melting ice, whale calls and whipping winds. At Ohio's Nationwide Children's Hospital, Morrow put together an audio background for the hospital's Magic Forest and Aviary play area, with whimsical birdsong, rustling leaves and animal noises.

Morrow's long career has always celebrated sound. In his early post-College days he arranged music for bands and performed in concerts (his favorite instrument to play is the pocket trumpet), but he wanted more than what he saw as a staid concert hall life. In the early '70s, he was hired by the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation to stage an event in Central Park for the summer solstice. The experience was a revelation: "When you're in a concert hall, you are basically working with a *tabula rasa* kind of quiet space, in which everything that's being performed is intended to be heard, as opposed to moving into a location where the sound is part of what's going on," he says. "If you're immersed in the space, you can react to people; you can move smoothly between different forms of interaction."

Morrow's summer solstice show was a success, and continued for more than a decade; he began experimenting even more with sound and space. In 1974, he received widespread publicity for his "concert for fish," in which he and a friend set up underwater speakers and a microphone to broadcast marine sounds into Little Neck Bay. In the '90s he developed the True3D speaker system, to surround audiences with sound, and he began creating the large-scale soundscapes MorrowSound is known for. Most recently, Morrow has launched a podcast, *IMMERSE!*, in which he interviews colleagues working and innovating in the soundscape industry — a natural fit for someone whose entire life has been dedicated to the art of sound.

## Gerrard Bushell '83

On September 8, New York business leaders and politicians gathered in Queens to kick off a massive undertaking: the groundbreaking of a new international terminal for JFK International Airport. “It was just joy, there was excitement,” says **Gerrard Bushell '83**. “It was a hard-earned achievement, considering that [when we started the project] we were building an international-only terminal at a time when international borders were shut down.”

As president and CEO of The New Terminal One at JFK, Bushell understands how an airport can shape a city. He has embarked on a journey to bring new jobs to Queens and create an unparalleled welcome to New York City for passengers arriving from international destinations.

Planning for the terminal began in 2019, but the project was delayed by Covid-19. The September ceremony marked not only the beginning of construction, but also what felt like the beginning of a return to normalcy. For Bushell, celebrating and supporting the local community is a major goal, both during construction (which will create roughly 6,000 jobs) and in the longer term. Once the terminal opens, he says, it will create thousands of opportunities, with at least 30 percent of jobs coming from minority- or women-owned business enterprises

and with a goal of 40 percent workforce participation from local ZIP codes. “There’s no divide between the terminal and the community,” he says, “as opposed to, ‘Here’s this shiny new object that the community does not benefit from.’”

Bushell is also passionate about what The New Terminal One at JFK will mean for NYC as a whole. “This is *the* global city,” he says. “When

you really think about the history of the United States, coming through New York City has always been the front door. Now here we are coming into Queens, getting this richness, this diversity that is so prevalent. It’s an incredible opportunity.”

The New Terminal One at JFK is scheduled to open in 2026.



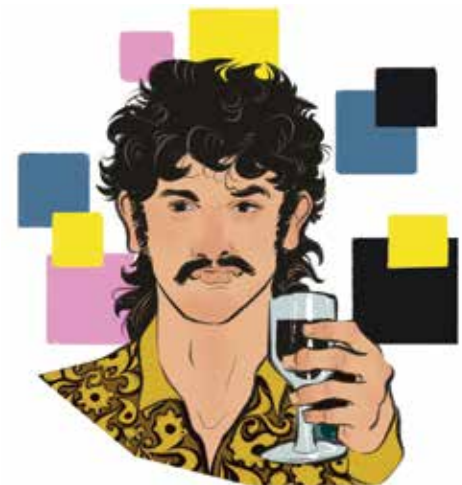
## Jeff Petriello '09

**Jeff Petriello '09** was at a drag show when inspiration struck. His friend Rob Truglia performed a Q&A to determine audience members’ pasta-personality types, assigning each person a noodle he felt expressed their spirit. As a Tarot reader, Petriello instantly imagined the possibilities pasta could have in a deck. A linguine sword? An orecchiette cup? Why not combine his interest in Tarot with his pride in his Italian-American heritage? And because the idea was born at a drag show, he wanted the deck to also portray a diverse representation of gender and sexuality. Thus, The Pasta Tarot was born.

Petriello and Truglia reached out to artist Lindsay Mound, and the trio worked to design a new type of Tarot: one that celebrated the co-founders’ queer identities and Italian-American heritage while staying true to the substance of the cards. In October 2021 they launched a Kickstarter for The Pasta Tarot, hoping to raise \$29,000 to produce the deck on a large scale. They quickly surpassed their goal, raising more than \$45,000 from an audience that was hungry for a modern Tarot interpretation.

The four traditional Tarot suits — wands, cups, swords and pentacles — are deliciously reinterpreted as corta (short pasta), ripiena (stuffed pasta), lunga (long pasta) and minuta (tiny pasta), and the illustrations portray the diversity of the human experience. “This deck is such a joyful expression of our unique identities,” Petriello says. “It’s something that I never had access to when I was growing up. So it’s become a beautiful, culturally significant thing to me.”

Clarkson Potter, an imprint of Penguin Random House, acquired the rights to the deck; The Pasta Tarot became available in stores and through major online retailers in December. Says Petriello, “I imagine myself as the teen Tarot reader and how much it would have meant to me to see not only the culture that I was growing up in, but also my identity, reflected in a deck.”





# classnotes



MICHAEL EDMONSON '20

Lights on  
College Walk  
keep spirits  
bright all  
winter long.

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.

## 1945–53

*Columbia College Today*  
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. **Lawrence S. Ross '45**, PS'51, of Voorhees, N.J., sent a wonderful note: "I applied to Columbia in 1943 at the recommendation of my high school advisor, with no knowledge of which schools were the most prestigious and largely because I could commute from Hempstead, N.Y. I was 16 and had an easy time in high school. It was not until I was admitted and began my studies that I learned, most happily, that Columbia was one of the finest colleges in the nation.

"WWII was at its peak and we were on a trimester schedule: almost no holidays; six days a week; 18–20 credits per semester; and, for many of us, a three-to-four-hour

round-trip commute! I decided to join the yearbook staff to do relevant illustrations, and *Jester* for my cover art and cartoons. I enjoyed acting, so I joined the *Varsity Show* (with some lead parts) and found time to 'paint the flats' for the scenery.

"I wanted to get my A.B. before I went into the service, so college was but a two-year affair. This made my cohort's and my program quite heavy, and I found myself struggling for the first time in my young life to keep pace with the immense workload. I slept on the trains while I dreamed I was reading.

"At most, I garnered four to five hours of bed sleep per night, when there weren't exams. I don't know how I managed to maintain a B+ average while working weekends for spending cash, and doing gardening for my mother. Still, it toughened me for the future ahead!

"Although the tight schedule and commuting minimized the opportunity to get to know many of my classmates, I was fortunate in my friendships with **Fritz Stern '46**, GSAS'53 (future star of the history department) and **Paul Marks '46**, PS'49 (future head of Memorial Sloan Kettering).

"The College made me a 'good candidate' for med school upon return from the infantry, where my stint as a Columbia yearbook associate editor gave me entrée to the Eighth Army Headquarters Public Relations Office. There, I wrote articles, becoming head of the News Department. I handled publicity for its surgeon general, who wrote my recommendation to medical schools.

"My esteemed degree from the College got me into P&S after the war, and that carried me to pediatrics training at New York Hospital

Cornell, 14 years of successful private practice and then another residency at Cornell-NYH in the burgeoning intellectual field of radiology. My life was replete with many years of further reward in that specialty on Long Island and in Florida, before my retirement in 1997.

"I spent my fulfilled years with the lessons learned in the Core Curriculum and my campus activities enriching my opportunities and perspectives in a lifetime of physician practice, fine artistry, traveling the globe with my beautiful wife, Marilyn (lost to cancer in 2003), raising my accomplished boys and now enjoying the warmth of my partner, June, my grandchildren and my new great-grandchild.

"My Columbia experience was a lifelong gift for me. I am grateful that my son David '80 and now his son Benjamin '26 likewise share in this Columbia exceptionalism still echoing in the Hudson Valley and beyond!"

Please share your news, updates, and College memories and stories with us for inclusion in a future issue. You may email us at the address at the top of the column, or use our webforms to send us a Class Note ([college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note)) or a photo ([college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo)).

## 1954

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

CCT is sad to announce the September 26, 2022, passing of class correspondent **Bernd Brecher JRN'55**, who had written this column since 2014. He will be deeply missed.

We also learned of the December 23, 2021, death of **Donald Elliott** and the November 18, 2022, death of **Stanley Friedman**. Our condolences to their family and friends.

**Bob Viarengo BUS'58** writes, "On the occasion of my 90th birthday, I thought I would check in. Few of us are left. My last three very close friends from Columbia, **Bob Ambrose**, **John Timoney** and **John Lees**, died in recent years.

"After a successful career as a group president at Honeywell, my wife, Del, and I retired to a small village in western Massachusetts. Del and I have now been married

for 67 years. There I have rebuilt the stone walls around our 243-year old home and have written, mostly for friends and family, eight books of essays and 12 travel books.

"The son of immigrants, I only discovered during freshman week that there was an Ivy League and that Columbia was part of it. Despite my best efforts and mostly because of the Core Curriculum, I received a basic grounding that I was able to build on as I matured. After my Air Force service, anxious to provide for my wife and first child, I earned an M.B.A. at Columbia and in subsequent years was able to expand my knowledge in many areas that had been *terra incognita* before my Columbia years.

"It has been a wonderful journey."

**Arnold Tolkin** writes, "I will turn 90 and I am still actively selling travel, particularly cruises. For 2023 I've already surpassed more than \$1 million in volume, but it keeps me busy, occupied and healthy. We are going to celebrate my 90th birthday by gathering my entire clan, 42 of us. My wife, Barbara, and I now have quite a few great-grandchildren, a mix of girls and boys. Teddi Morrow Tolkin arrived in October at 6 pounds. She is beautiful. A little cruise in honor of my birthday was to be during Thanksgiving, and the family has a great deal to be thankful for this year.

"This year my wife and I will be married for 70 years, and we both fondly remember those wonderful Saturdays at the John Jay Lions Den in the '50s when the entertainment was the likes of Edith Piaf. That was dancing with the stars.

"My great-grandchildren are Elizabeth, Alexandra and Isaac Tolkin, whose dad is a graduate of the College and the Business School; Rylee, Zoey, Pierce and Teddi Tolkin; Mia and Jordan Miller, whose mom and dad were graduates of the Business School; Henry and James Tolkin; and Charlotte, Caitlin and Jack Tolkin, whose mom graduated from Columbia with a master's. All are potential Columbia or Barnard graduates. I may not live to see it, but will definitely know it."

This column will continue collect your news and memories; please do write in. Your classmates want to hear from you! Please send your updates to us directly at [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu).

## COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

## 1955

**Columbia College Today**  
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We heard from five alumni for this issue. Read on for their notes!

**Gordon Silverman SEAS'56**, SEAS'57 writes: "The Silverman family has a long history with Columbia: first, brother Burton Silverman '49, then me, then my daughter, Nomi Silverman BC'81 and then my son, Mark Silverman SEAS'83.

"In the ensuing 67 years since I left CC, I spent significant time at Rockefeller University (21 years) and Manhattan College (23 years, department chair, interim dean of engineering). I now keep myself alert with ongoing publishing, (co-author of *Cognitive Science: An Introduction to the Study of Mind*, fourth edition), as an Alumni Representative Committee participant and with the Odyssey Mentoring Program. I have been enlisted to teach a graduate course, 'Artificial Intelligence,' at Manhattan College. I am a grant

## Send Us Your News!



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



consultant to the National Science Foundation. Columbia was a springboard to a complex world and I owe it my undying appreciation.”

Dr. **Allen I. Hyman** writes, “I was honored to give the Emeritus Professors in Columbia annual speech on October 18. Go to YouTube for more: [bit.ly/3VkmOLk](https://bit.ly/3VkmOLk).”

**Stanley Corngold** writes: “At Princeton, where I am an emeritus professor of German and comparative literature, I have been lecturing on the subject of my recently published books: *The Mind in Exile: Thomas Mann in Princeton and Weimar in Princeton: Thomas Mann and the Kabler Circle*. A new book is in press: *Expeditions to Kafka in a Variety of Lights*. My wife, Regine (née Üllner), an accomplished photographer, is preparing a volume of portraits that juxtaposes the faces of women who are alive with those of women who are long dead or preserved in paintings and sculpture.

“I recently delivered a paean of praise to my brother, Noel Robert David Corngold ’50, who passed away last January. Noel was a physicist of considerable renown at Caltech, where this tribute to his life and work took place.

“I would be very glad to hear from classmates.”

**Costas Katsigris** BUS’56, Professor Emeritus, Food and Hospitality, at Dallas College, writes: “My proposal for a textbook on wines, beers and spirits has an expected publication date of no later than 2025. The book was born out of courses I taught on wines, beers and spirits at El Centro College/DCCCD in Dallas and the University of North Texas in Denton.”

**Gerald M. Pomper** shares news of a classmate’s death: “**Ezra G. Levin** LAW’59, our accomplished and beloved classmate, died in Israel on October 31, 2022, after a period of physical and mental decline. He maintained strong ties to Columbia College from his dorm room in Livingston Hall to his long residence in neighboring Morningside Gardens and Riverdale.

“Ezra made his mark as a corporate lawyer, becoming chair of the international law firm Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, and receiving frequent designation in annual listings of Best Lawyers in America. He also taught courses on corporate law at Columbia, Wisconsin and Connecticut. Still more broadly,

Ezra was active in promoting human rights and defending the Jewish community and other groups. These included service as secretary of the Defense Fund for Racial Equality, co-chair of the New York Coalition for Soviet Jewry and treasurer of the Jewish Communal Fund of New York. He brought those experiences into the classroom when he returned to Columbia College as an adjunct professor, co-teaching a colloquium on human rights.

“Our friend is survived by Batya BC’60, his wife of 60 years and a colleague in law; children, Ayala GSAPP’15 and Zach ’85; and five grandchildren, all now residents in Israel. He will be remembered for his soft voice, his empathy for the needy and his firmness in the quest for justice.” [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries” online at [college.columbia.edu/cct](https://college.columbia.edu/cct).]

The Gerald Sherwin Young Alumni Service Award, established in 2013 “to honor an individual or group of individuals who has demonstrated exceptional service to the College’s young alumni community” and named for **Gerald Sherwin**, was presented this past fall to 2022 recipients Andrew Heinrich ’13 and Julian Richardson ’14, BUS’21, SIPA’21. Read about the award, and these recipients, at [college.columbia.edu/alumni/about/honors/young-alumni-service-award](https://college.columbia.edu/alumni/about/honors/young-alumni-service-award).

We’d love to hear from more of you! Please send us your latest news and happenings, and we’ll include them in a future issue. Write to us at the email at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

## 1956

**Robert Siroty**  
[rrs76@columbia.edu](mailto:rrs76@columbia.edu)

**Ron Kapon** has been honored by the North American Travel Journalist Association for his journalistic efforts on wine from throughout the world. His citation noted his extensive travel as well as his extensive knowledge and teaching efforts through the years.

**Ed Rabin** is retired and is an Emeritus Professor of Law at UC Davis.

We had a “reunion” luncheon at Bonnie Briar, **Dan Link**’s country club in Larchmont, N.Y. Attend-



CC’56 classmates and guests got together in late August at Bonnie Briar, Dan Link’s country club, in Larchmont, N.Y. Back row, left to right: Bob Siroty, Alan Broadwin, Jerry Fine, Paul Bergins, Jordan Bonfante and Link; and front row, left to right: Margo Siroty, Barbara Fine, Martha Gordon and Elinor Baller.

ing were Dan, **Jordan Bonfante**, **Ed Gordon**, **Paul Bergins**, **Jerry Fine**, **Alan Broadwin** and me, and very welcome guests. (See the nearby photo.) Just a thought: If any are interested in arranging luncheons in different parts of the country, let me know, and I’ll try and get you a class list for your area. These get-togethers are really a lot of fun.

In October, **Ralph Kaslick** DM’62 completed his 15th year as chairman of the Visiting Professor Program at the College of Dental Medicine at Columbia. He is now president of the Lyceum Society of the New York Academy of Sciences, which is composed of the semi-retired and retired members of the academy.

**Damon Raphael** writes from Tucson, Ariz., that he is retired from the practice of ob/gyn but continues to be an avid amateur radio operator. “My ham call is W7MD,” he writes.

**Murray Watnick** reports on his service as a medical officer with the Strategic Air Division in England during the Cuban Missile Crisis, having been warned that “nuclear war was imminent.” He notes that it is important that the Columbia community is reminded of those historic 13 days in 1962. He can be reached at [mwatnick@aol.com](mailto:mwatnick@aol.com), or 89 The Laurels, Enfield, CT 06082.

## 1957

**Herman Levy**  
[hdllditor@aol.com](mailto:hdllditor@aol.com)

**Herman Levy** attended the 60th reunion of the Yale Law School Class of 1960, October 21–23, which had been postponed from 2020 on account of the Covid-19 pandemic. He is the last survivor of the CC’57 contingent of four in YLS’60; **Saul Cohen**, **Bob Gnaizda** and **Steve Ronai** have died.

Reunion events included, among others, a breakfast, a brunch, luncheons, dinners, addresses by present dean Heather Gerken and former dean and present Second Circuit Judge Guido Calabresi, and a panel discussion by U.S. senators and alumni Cory Booker (New Jersey) and Chris Coons (Delaware), moderated by Dean Gerken, on the subject of legislators working together in enacting legislation.

The week before the reunion, Herman attended the American Bar Association Section of Public Contract Law 2022 Public Procurement Symposium in Austin. He is a fellow of the Section and a vice-chair of the Commercial Products and Services Committee.

Symposium events included plenary sessions on “Government Contracts Implications of the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act,” “Ethical Considerations with Flexible Workplaces and Frequent Job Transitions,” “Trends in Procurement Enforcement: Issues for Contractors to Watch: State and Local Bid Protests for Federal Practitioners,” “The Intelligent Practitioner: Using Modern Communication Principles for Success and Problem-Solving,” “Hot Topics in Cost Accounting Standards,” “Revision of the Model Procurement Code-Background,” “Setting Priorities and Engagement Opportunity,” “The COVID Contracting Era: Lessons Learned and Key Take-Aways” and “Hot Topics in State and Local Procurement.”

There also were two Section receptions and a luncheon. The symposium concluded with the Section Fall Council Meeting.

CCT learned that **Gary L. Greer**, an attorney who lived in Littleton, Colo., died on December 3, 2021; that **Alan I. Fine**, a physician who lived in Warren, N.J., died on February 18, 2022; and that **Richard J. Brower**, a retired professor who lived in River Edge, N.J., died on September 27, 2022. [Editor's note: See “Obituaries” online at college.columbia.edu/cct for more on Greer.]

Please send me your news and updates. Classmates would enjoy hearing about you.

## 1958

### REUNION 2023

JUNE 1-3

Reunion Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Peter Cohn**  
petercohn1939@gmail.com

There have been no new contributions to the class mailbag. I hope we will get some updates from classmates before the 65th reunion, scheduled for Thursday, June 1–Saturday, June 3, to share in the Summer 2023 issue. Please reach out to me with your news.

Based on CCT’s publishing schedule, reports from reunion itself will have to wait until the Fall 2023 issue,

but in the meantime, please save the dates for our gathering. If you’d like to get involved, please send an email to the appropriate address above (either for planning or for development). Read more about the event online at college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/reunion-2023, and watch your email in the months to come for details from the Alumni Office.

## 1959

**Norman Gelfand**  
nmgc59@hotmail.com

I hope that all of us are enjoying the relaxing of Covid-19 restrictions, but as **Josh Fierer** has reminded me, the dangers from the virus that causes Covid are still very present and we need to be careful.

**Bruce Schlein** writes, “We are all well in my family. Our older son, Willy, is an architect and works in Greenville, S.C., at LS3P, a prime architectural firm. He has been made a partner as well as director of medical facilities planning. Erik, our younger son, decided to go to law school at 50, graduated from CUNY Law School, passed the New York Bar and now lawyers at the New York Supreme Court.

“My wife, Alice, is still weaving and teaching the art/craft to students all over the world via Zoom. I still actively make photographs and teach the same at Furman University in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program. I am able to hear and enjoy music at home as well as at live concerts.

“I keep in touch with **Stan Feld** and occasionally **Albie Padwa**.

“For those who might be interested in seeing my pictures, my blog is cameralucidity.wordpress.com.”

**Bennet Silverman** has an idea for a class contribution: “... in connection with our next reunion, I wonder if our class would like to support the crew with enough of a contribution to have a new shell bear the name *Class of '59*. It is my thinking that this shell would be purchased for the use of whichever crew has the most wins in the year preceding our next reunion.”

From Dr. **Richard Engelman** we hear, “It surely doesn’t seem like 63 years since graduation but that is a fact of life. I go to my office five days a week; the administration wanted

me to retire so they would not have to foot a salary. In the discussion, I indicated I did not want retirement and wished to remain chief of cardiac surgical research. They agreed to have me remain employed but I had to agree to work only several hours a day. That was OK with me. I therefore remain chief, and am at work at this moment.”

**Harvey Leifert** tells us, “I am afraid that I have nothing exciting to report about my life during the past few months or past few years. I am fully vaccinated and boosted and have so far avoided contracting Covid-19. I made my first international trip since 2018 with a friend last March: a Road Scholar voyage to Costa Rica for birding in the southwestern part of that beautiful country. Switzerland and Scandinavia are scheduled for this June, assuming that all goes well between now and then.”

It sounds exciting to me.

From **Matt Sobel**, “The past year has been fine. Susan Slotnick, my wife, and I are reasonably healthy, I had three research publications, a grandson was All-American in Division 3 basketball, other grandchildren (and their parents) progressed well and we had the best cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the 24 years we’ve lived in northeast Ohio. We continue our avid road bicycling, but we’re slowing down, and there are barely enough daylight hours to complete our centuries.”

**Morton Klevan** informs us, “Reflecting on my Columbia years, I think the most important thing I got from my Columbia education was my lifelong friends: **Jerry Wacks**, who, as a commuter, stayed in my room to do a term paper and slept in my bed during the day, keeping it warm for me to sleep in at night; **Isser Woloch**, who married Nancy, the girl I introduced him to and whom I predicted he would marry; **Bennet Silverman**, who invited me to room in his fraternity, Beta Sigma Rho, which gave me **Harvey Leifert** as a roommate. I have lunch with Harvey once a week most weeks. Last, but certainly not least, is **Ken Scheffel**. He could not go home for Thanksgiving freshman year, so I invited him to my house for dinner. In addition to the usual items, we had my mother’s homemade potato knishes. I smile when I think of Ken trying to explain to

his parents what they were. So, in addition to a first-rate education, I got five lifelong friends. Not a bad return on my investment.”

**Placido Lavalley** tells us, “Since my retirement from the University of Windsor in 2002 plus the end of my work on the shoreline monitoring program at Point Pelee National Park in 2007, and my involvement with rugby union football in 2007 (as a player 1969–76, as a referee 1976–96 and as an old boys team player 1997–2007), I have settled down to a life of bass fishing, travel, contemplation and being a sideline critic at local rugby games. However, in the past three years my enjoyment of life has been interrupted by the Covid-19 lockdowns and the seditious actions of Tronald Dump (aka Donald Trump), which have run afoul of my conservative upbringing.”

**Ralph Risley** writes, “Last summer we did a three-months long RV road trip. My wife, Sara; our dog, Bandit (a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel); and I spent 90 days (12,000 miles) covering 16 states and Ontario. The anchor destination was a family reunion at The Mountaintop Club on Loon in Lincoln, N.H. The balance of the trip was taken up with visiting friends from past years and revisiting prior residences in Cape Elizabeth and Falmouth Fore-side, Maine, and Rockport Mass.

“After 14 RVs and 25 years we finally have a rig that will meet our future needs and that Sara is comfortable driving. Do not let anyone tell you that this cannot be done at our age; we are planning for another 5–10 years.”

My apologies to **George Mann** GSAPP’62 for only having enough space for another part of his interesting submission to the Fall 2022 issue. Here is more: “I was born in Vienna, Austria, and we fled to Shanghai on an Italian ship and in June 1940 fled Shanghai on a Japanese ship. Both were later torpedoed by the Allies. In the 1980s I began documenting our family history with my parents and did so for about 10 years. We lost and documented 119 people in the Holocaust, and that seemed to tick in me like a delayed fuse. It had a great deal to do with my career direction, and with the belief in the sanctity and preservation of life.

“I have had a very interesting and productive life, and am also thank-



ful for the wonderful education I received at Columbia. My roommates at the TEP house for one semester were Dr. **Jerry Friedland** and Dr. **Arthur Rudy** GSAS'65, a psychologist, both fine people and good friends, and both very accomplished. Other than that semester I commuted. Am also so thankful for meeting and for studying with many other diverse, accomplished and bright students in our class from all over.

"Today I very much enjoy good conversation, music, travel, reading, lectures at Texas A&M and on YouTube and history (which needs to include herstory). I walk early, while it is still in the 70s, and swim at sunset. Otherwise, it is too hot to be outdoors. Not enough hours in the day."

To be continued.

I am sorry to report that we have lost another classmate. **Jerry Wayne Monroe** died on July 13, 2022, in San Diego. May his memory be for a blessing. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" online at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).]

## 1960

**Robert Machleder**  
[rmachleder@aol.com](mailto:rmachleder@aol.com)

**Rene Plessner** submits the following note tracing his life, and ending with an encomium in praise of Professor James P. "Jim" Shenton '49, GSAS'54, in whose memory he is funding a biography.

"After Columbia, I went into the Army Reserves for six months, and

then got my first job working for 'the Helena'/'Madame' Rubinstein. I did this for a more than three years, ending in a marketing position. I learned a lot, especially how it is to work in a 'family' business where loyalty and nepotism beat competence. Then for three years I was a marketing manager at Fabergé, also a family business. And finally, to Revlon, when Charles Revson was still running it. That was for a year, again in a marketing position.

"I had 10 years of experience in the cosmetics field, saved some money, lived in a studio and decided to strike out on my own and — with a partner — began Spectrum Cosmetics, with products dedicated to women of color based on foundations that matched their skin color. We were before our time and ultimately failed. We did well in stores, but had insufficient funding.

"I started an executive recruiting business, specializing in cosmetics, in 1971, and I continue. It has been very successful, primarily working with smaller, entrepreneurial companies needing professional help but without over-bureaucratizing the process.

"Around 1995, **Larry Mendelson** BUS'61 took control of Heico Corp. in Miami, Fla., which made engine parts for Pratt & Whitney engines. He gave me business and I recognized it would be a growing company. I bought stock in the company that ultimately was so successful, it allowed me to start a charitable fund that has given me the pleasure to fund causes such as Columbia College, and several other non-profit, do-good charities.

"My involvement with Columbia has reminded me repeatedly of my reverence for American history Professor James P. 'Jim' Shenton '49, GSAS'54, who was a great teacher and showman, and a wonderful human being. I now want to fund a journalist to produce a biography of Jim.

"If anyone who reads this was taught by Jim and has tales to tell, please contact me at 212- 421-3490 or [rene@plessner.com](mailto:rene@plessner.com) and I will put you in touch with the person doing the book."

Brace yourselves: The rest of this column memorializes three classmates.

**Bruce Ettinger** died of a heart attack on June 15, 2020, in San Francisco.

**Larry Rubinstein** recalled that Bruce had been Phi Beta Kappa, was a member of Phi Sigma Delta and earned an M.D. at Harvard.

Indeed, and following his residency in Boston City Hospital and a fellowship in metabolic research, Bruce joined The Permanente Medical Group as a senior physician in internal medicine and endocrinology at Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center. From 1980 to 2003, he was chair of the chiefs of endocrinology for the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Endocrinology Group. He retired as adjunct investigator, Division of Research, Kaiser Permanente Northern California and clinical professor (emeritus) of medicine and radiology, UCSF.

Bruce was credited with more than 200 publications and was best known for his research on kidney stones, osteoporosis and women's health (menopause).

An avid model airplane and sailing enthusiast, Bruce was on the board of the San Francisco Model Yacht Club 2016–20, where he developed programs for youth to learn model yacht sailing.

Larry further advised that **Steve Zwerling** GSAS'61 passed away on June 18, 2022, in New York City.

Steve was regarded as a charismatic educator, gifted writer and poignant commentator on current events. After graduate school he taught at Queens College and became an assistant dean at CUNY and associate dean at NYU. A dedicated writer, he started a small literary magazine, *Niobe*, and wrote short stories and novels. After the publication of his first book, *Second Best: The Crisis of the Community College* — a history of America's community colleges — he was recruited by the Ford Foundation and became senior director for education, media, arts and culture. With the advent of blogging he created Behind the (New York) Times, relating his views on current events. It attracted a following of avid fans. Steve described his interest in writing about current events as follows: "When I was 7, my father began to leave a copy of *The New York Times* on the breakfast table each morning before he went to work. Unread copies piled up for three years. At 10 I began to peek at the sports pages: poring over Dodgers, Giants and Yankees scores. Later, I glanced at other sections,

and by 20 I was addicted. At 40, I had my first Letter to the Editor published — it was about Israel bombing Iran's nuclear reactor. (How times haven't changed!). My father called from Florida to tell me he saw the letter and that he was proud of me. That was the first time he said that. It made me cry but also kept me reading the paper every day. Now this blog. I hope he would be proud of this, too."

**Art Rosenbaum** SOA'61, an educator, folklorist, painter and musician, died on September 4, 2022.

Art was a brilliantly talented and gifted man of the arts. In his early teens he developed a passion for tape recording relatively obscure musicians — banjo and guitar players, old-time fiddlers, bluesmen and gospel singers. On a holiday job in Michigan he taped the songs of migrant workers. This pursuit was more than just a passing fancy. As he described it, "Along with being a passionate enthusiast for the type of music I loved, I was a documentarian." It was a passion with an objective that expanded and filled his entire life.

At Columbia, majoring in art history, Art was intrigued by the folk music scene prevalent in New York. With **Tam Gibbs**, **Jeff Stewart** and **Steve Cogan**, a group of musicians formed — banjo, fiddle, guitar and voice — that performed at a number of folk clubs and coffeehouses. (Tam and Steve are deceased; Jeff and Steve were my classmates at Music & Art H.S.)

Art earned a master's in art. In 1973 he was teaching art at the University of Iowa, and then in 1976 at the University of Georgia in Athens, teaching at the Lamar Dodd School of Art for 30 years. He became the university's first Wheatley professor of fine arts.

Art continued his passion of recording and documenting American music in prose and paintings. In 2007 he produced a four-disc set, *The Art of Field Recording Volume 1: Fifty Years of Traditional Music*, which included traditional American music dating from the 1920s and 96 pages of commentary, sketches and paintings of the musicians, and photographs.

Art's paintings have drawn great praise for their vibrancy.

In 2008, the *Volume 1* set was awarded a Grammy for Best Historical Album.



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name: [college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect).

Art was featured in a *CCT* Alumni Profile in the November/December 2008 issue ([college.columbia.edu/cct/archive/nov\\_dec08/alumni\\_profiles1](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/archive/nov_dec08/alumni_profiles1)).

We extend our deepest condolences to the families of **Bruce Ettinger**, **Steve Zwerling** and **Art Rosenbaum**. [Editor's note: Read more about these alumni in "Obituaries," online at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).]

My hope is that you are all in good health. If you have any experiences that are uplifting and joyful, please send them to me.

## 1961

**Michael Hausig**  
[mhausig@yahoo.com](mailto:mhausig@yahoo.com)

**Philippe de la Chapelle** became a grandfather. He is pleased to announce that at this rather late date, his son and his son's wife produced the first grandchild, Lila! Philippe and his wife look forward to this new chapter in their lives.

**Bob Salman** spoke to our monthly lunch group on October 19 offering his predictions and analysis of the midterm elections, a look back at key 2021 elections and a look forward to the 2024 elections. He gave a similar analysis on October 26 as part of Brookdale Community College's Lifelong Learning Program. The Brookdale lecture also included an analysis of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent abortion and gun rulings and the potential impact of these decisions on the 2022 and 2024 elections.

As a member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, Bob was active in the 2022 midterm Congressional elections. Among other things, he introduced Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) at a rally held on behalf of New Jersey Democratic Reps. Mikie Sherrill, Tom Malinowski, Josh Gottheimer and Andy Kim.

Bob's granddaughter Sydney was married on October 22. His grandson Jack is a senior at Wharton, where he is a teaching assistant; granddaughter Taylor continues in Morgan Stanley's Wealth Management department; and granddaughter Mackenzie is a sophomore at the University of Florida.

**Stuart Sloame**'s daughter, Joanna Sloame '09, was married on Septem-

ber 18 in Newburyport, Mass., to Ian Wallace. They live in Longmont, Colo. Joanna is creative director of a digital ad agency and creates video ads for digital platforms. See the nearby photo of Stuart and Joanne at her wedding rehearsal dinner.

Stu recently moved back from Los Angeles to Chevy Chase, Md., where he is active in the CC'61 group that meets monthly for lunch or as a book club. Stu lives in an apartment complex that houses two Columbia sports captains: Rich Rodin '60, LAW'63, basketball team captain, and Al Butts '64, BUS'68, LAW'68, who captained both the baseball and football teams.

**Don Savini** SEAS'63 and his wife are in the process of selling their home in Wheaton, Ill., and moving to their new home on their farm in central Pennsylvania, near Penn State. They love it there!

**Avrum Bluming** PS'65 was guest editor for the May/June 2022 issue of *The Cancer Journal*, which was subtitled "Estrogen Reconsidered: Exploring the Evidence for Estrogen's Benefits and Risks." Contributors included opinion leading researchers from around the world. The journal cover and Table of Contents can be found online: [bit.ly/3TrxjKY](http://bit.ly/3TrxjKY).

Since its initial publication in September 2018, *Estrogen Matters*, a book Avrum co-authored with social psychologist Carol Tavris, has been translated into a British version and a German version, and a Chinese version will soon be published in Taiwan.

**Dr. Gerald Acker** left Columbia after three years with a scholarship in medicine and surgery to attend The Johns Hopkins Medical School and then was a resident plastic surgery surgeon at Penn. His plastic surgery career spanned 49 years in private practice and he was director of three plastic surgery departments in private hospitals.

Gerald and his wife, Carol, have four children, two sons and twin daughters. Son Robert is a trial defense lawyer in Manhattan. Son Andy earned two honors degrees from Harvard and lives in Denver. He is the named manager of a multi-billion-dollar healthcare fund and a newly launched biotech hedge fund. Daughter Ashley is completing a master's in biotechnology at Northwestern, while Alixandra works for Accenture in Washington, D.C.,



ELLEN SLOAME

Stuart Sloame '61 and his daughter, Joanna Sloame '09, at her September 17 wedding rehearsal dinner in Newburyport, Mass.

and plans to attend graduate school at The London School of Economics.

Carol is a competitive Latin dancer and an accomplished artist. They have traveled to more than 72 countries as both tourist and teacher.

Gerald sends his regards to all classmates in their lives and careers and wishes them all happiness and good health!

Two classmates passed away.

**Clifford Miller** reported that **Stanley Nash** GSAS'72 passed away on June 28, 2022 in Bloomington, Ind., and was buried in New Jersey, where the Nash family lived for many years. Stanley spent his last years in Bloomington, where his daughter, Dr. Rebecca Cohen '98, cared for him. He had been weakened by Parkinson's disease. Stanley was predeceased by his wife, Edna, a teacher of Spanish language.

Stanley was a member of the Rabbinical Assembly and a professor emeritus at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Manhattan, where he taught many of today's Reform rabbis and cantors.

Stanley and Clifford were classmates in rabbinical school and in the Student Zionist Organization together. For two years, they were a team at Beth El Synagogue in New Rochelle, N.Y., Stanley as student cantor and Clifford as student rabbi.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Stanley's son, Ethan: [nashethan@yahoo.com](mailto:nashethan@yahoo.com) and to his daughter, Rebecca: [cohenrebecca@gmail.com](mailto:cohenrebecca@gmail.com).

**Dr. Norman J. Schneider**, a dentist, passed away on September 3,

2022, after a courageous battle with cancer. Norman was a ZBT fraternity member. He graduated from the NYU College of Dentistry in 1965. Norman volunteered and served two years as a captain in the Army, spending one year in Vietnam before being honorably discharged after being injured. He was a distinguished dentist for 45 years in his East Harlem practice. After retirement, Norman was a volunteer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. A loving husband and father, and friend to all, he is survived by his wife of 52 years, Stefanie, and son, Andrew.

[Editor's note: Read more in "Obituaries," online at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).]

## 1962

**John Freidin**  
[jf@bicyclevt.com](mailto:jf@bicyclevt.com)

As the following notes make clear, we're a bunch of moving old men.

Last July **Andy Jampoler** SIPA'81 and three generations of his family traveled to Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to victims of the Holocaust. Their principal purpose was to participate in the induction of the late Father Józef Czapran into the Righteous Among the Nations, men and women who at great risk to themselves had acted to save Jews from death during WWII. Andy and his cousin had nominated Father Czapran several years ago. "He was," Andy writes, "the Catholic priest in Lwów, Poland (now



Lviv, Ukraine) near my grandmother's home, where I was born. In 1942 he issued and signed counterfeit church documents that enabled my mother, grandmother and me to survive the coming pogrom by fleeing to Warsaw. We immigrated to the United States in 1946 and were the only members of my immediate family to survive WWII."

A decade of retirement has enabled **Paul Gitman** to travel and photograph the world. In July he and his wife, Gail BC'64, spent 35 days in Antarctica. Last October they were making plans to take two of their grandchildren to the Galapagos Islands in December, go to Sea of Cortez in March and, they hoped, visit Indonesia and Bali in 2024. Their three grandchildren attend college at Cornell, Brown and Duke. "Grandchildren," Paul remarks, "are much easier than children."

**Richard Toder** attended our 60th reunion last June and regretted that so few of us were there. He and his wife, Joan, recently took an 11-day vacation in Morocco. "The souks in Casablanca and Marrakech are so narrow," he observes, "that one wonders how the carts, donkeys and pedestrians co-exist. Sleeping in a tent in the Sahara is a unique event (including the obligatory camel ride). The Moroccans are very friendly, and we had no safety concerns. Upon returning to Naples, Fla., we found that Ian had fortunately missed our house."

For those of us who have contemplated or will contemplate moving into a retirement community, **John Kater** describes his experience: "Five years ago, I moved from California to a retirement community in my hometown in Virginia. Last September I moved again, this time to return to Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where I lived from the late '60s until the mid-'80s. I'm convinced that retirement communities are the worst possible place to spend old age! Fortunately, I've been liberated and hope to avoid one. Hong Kong has finally lifted restrictions on travel, so I can again teach at HKSKH Ming Hua Theological College this fall."

**David Cohen** and his wife have made a more modest transition: "We've moved from Houston to Austin. All our sons have master's degrees from the University of Texas, and, as you surely know, once a person discovers Austin, they never leave! So my wife and I are nestled

here in a house midway between our sons. Not an ideal time to make a housing trade, but the quality of life it brought is worth it."

Another living option was chosen by **Ken Lipper**: "Since selling my investment firm, I split my time between Santa Monica and Easthampton. Bookend my day with yoga each morning and a three-mile beach walk at sunset. Spend a few hours on my investments in the stock market, reading research and making adjustments. Also writing an autobiographical novel and co-publishing with Columbia University Press an encyclopedic book about neuron diseases, particularly Alzheimer's and dementia. I'll donate my share of any profits to Columbia's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind-Brain Behavior Institute, where I am on the Board of Directors."

During the height of Covid-19, **Armando Favazza** and his wife nearly stopped traveling, but last fall they were headed to Verona, Italy, for a 10-day culinary tour. They planned to stay in a farmhouse hotel and take day trips for cooking lessons, visit balsamic vinegar- and wine-producing venues, and eat lots of Italian food. Armando has been dealing with "the usual and sometimes unexpected aches and pains that come with growing old but nothing serious. I still enjoy golf several times a week and see psychiatric patients part time."

Writing in October, **Larry Loewinger** penned this recollection of his friendship with **Armand Bartos**, his college roommate: "In our senior year four of us rented an apartment where we studied and cooked great meals. One of our roommates was a member of a professional string quartet. Our apartment became a venue for making music, and we bonded over classical compositions. Recently Armand and I reestablished our connection through a mutual love of opera. In 2021 and again in 2022 Armand convinced my wife, Julie, and me to join him and his partner, Kathleen, for a weekend in Parma, Italy. We attended the town's Verdi opera festival, ate some of Italy's finest food, and explored the rich heritage and architectural beauty of that small city — all of this framed by college experiences 60 years ago!"

Last September, **John Freidin**; his sons, Abe and Luke; their girlfriends; and his sweetheart, Kathryn

Thompson, spent six luxurious days aboard a small barge gliding down the Burgundy Canal. "How perfect," he says, "to be for so long in a place where your adult children cannot escape!"

**Geza Feketekuty** lost his second wife to cancer last year, and now happily has a new girlfriend, Cindy Yost Perret, a champion triathlete. Geza says, "While I can't keep up with her, she makes me feel like a young 82-year-old and motivates me to stay fit by biking, swimming and jogging. Speaking of staying healthy and enjoying our age, I recommend reading *The Great Age Reboot: Cracking the Longevity Code for a Younger Tomorrow* by Michael Roizen et al. and *The Longevity Paradox: How to Die Young at a Ripe Old Age* by Steven Gundry."

**Gerry Sorin** GSAS'69 is the director of the Resnick Institute and its annual lecture series. (Go online to [newpaltz.edu/resnickinstitute/events.html](http://newpaltz.edu/resnickinstitute/events.html) for details.) He is in his 57th year at SUNY, and his ninth book — this one on Saul Bellow — should be out by the time this reaches you. "It's hard to contemplate where our world is and seems to be headed. May the planet and its human population survive us all," he says.

Reporting from the Washington, D.C., suburbs, **David Nathan** reports that he has been phasing out of work. In the process he started two men's sports book groups to force himself to catch up on reading he always wanted to do. He highly recommends *Friday Night Lights* and two recent lesser-known works: Billie Jean King's *All In: An Autobiography*, which outlines the history of women's tennis during the last 60 years, and Abe Strep's *Brothers on Three: A True Story of Family, Resistance, and Hope on a Reservation in Montana*, which tells the bittersweet story of a Native American high school basketball team facing challenges in Montana. David also belongs to a couples' non-sports book group that has been meeting for 42 years! Two of that group's favorites are by Patrick Radden Keefe '99: *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland*, a stunning explanation of the Troubles of Northern Ireland wrapped around a notorious kidnapping, and *Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty*, a provocative portrait of the Sackler clan.

**Frank Stoppenbach's** book *Mission Possible?* — recounting

adventures in New York State politics, law, health and the environment — includes some stories about Columbia.

**Charles Morrow** is featured in this issue's "Lions" section; he has also launched a podcast, iMMERSE! with Charlie Morrow, which explores the world of immersive soundscapes through interviews with sound and technology innovators.

## 1963

### REUNION 2023

JUNE 1-3

Reunion Contact  
[ccreunion@columbia.edu](mailto:ccreunion@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
[ccfund@columbia.edu](mailto:ccfund@columbia.edu)

**Paul Neshamkin**  
[pauln@helpauthors.com](mailto:pauln@helpauthors.com)

Our 60th reunion is rapidly approaching! Please mark Thursday, June 1-Saturday, June 3, on your calendar and make arrangements to meet once again — in person! We have formed a Reunion Committee and are busily scheduling great events for all of you, starting with our Thursday evening cocktail reception at **Phil Satow's** SoHo loft. Let's make this as much fun as our 50th!

Homecoming this past fall was almost ruined by our unfortunate loss to Dartmouth, but I still had an enjoyable meetup with **Steve Barcan** at the Homecoming picnic beforehand. We saw **Bob Kraft** and his new bride, Dana, on the field at halftime, but unfortunately were unable to congratulate them in person.

**Peter Broido** and **Gary Rachelefsky** couldn't make it to the game, as they met up in Amsterdam to tour some of the artistic treasures of the Low Countries. Peter did briefly join our regular bimonthly Thursday Zoom Virtual Lunch to tell us about their search for the works of Jan van Eyck and said that Howard McParlin Davis would have been pleased with their efforts.

**Nick Zill** writes: "Here is some news that may be of interest to you and other classmates: I am in North Hollywood, Calif., right now, rehearsing a dozen actors/singers/comic impressionists for a national tour of performances by the Capitol Comedy troupe in fall 2022 and

early 2023. Hope that some classmates and their family and friends will make it to one of these shows.

"The Capitol Comedy troupe is on a national tour with the political satire musical comedy show I wrote and produced, *Two Cheers for Democracy*. We have gotten very positive feedback from audience members and venue directors in our appearances thus far. Here is a link to a three-minute video on YouTube that presents some highlights of the show, filmed during two preview performances given in West Hollywood: [bit.ly/3iorJwd](https://bit.ly/3iorJwd). The video also contains a sampling of the enthusiastic comments we got.

"On a more personal note: My wife, Karen, and I have both enjoyed and been somewhat frustrated at being 'bicoastal' grandparents to two lovely, bright and energetic young granddaughters, Zelda (in the Bronx) and Nyla (in San Mateo, Calif.). Our sons are Oliver '02 and Zachary '06. Karen and I have been pleased to see what warm and involved fathers our sons have turned out to be. We are just frustrated at not being able to spend more time with them."

**Peter Gollon** GSAS'69 and his wife, Abby Joan Pariser BC'67, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary by taking a mini-vacation to New York City, where they went to museums and saw the Broadway show *Come from Away*. They met in 1965 at an anti-war fundraising party in Peter's apartment. They recently spent a week on Martha's Vineyard, volunteering with The Nature Conservancy to help restore conservation areas to their natural, wild state.

**Martin Greenfield** writes, "Finishing 50 years as a practicing physician. My daughter Elizabeth '91's son will be starting at Columbia next year."

**Steven Cahn** GSAS'66 writes, "I am Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the CUNY Graduate Center, where I was for nearly a decade provost and VP for academic affairs, then acting president. The most recent of my 20 authored books is *Professors as Teachers* (2022), in which I maintain that too many professors view themselves primarily not as teachers but as researchers. I suggest how the system can be changed so that success in the classroom will be promoted and receive greater emphasis.

"My edited volumes continue to be widely used to teach philosophy. Among the 50 I have done are the anthologies *Exploring Philosophy of Religion*, now in its second edition; *Political Philosophy*; *The Essential Texts*, now in its fourth edition; *Exploring Ethics*, now in its sixth edition, and *Exploring Philosophy*, soon to appear in its eighth edition.

"I remain grateful to those wonderful professors at the College who meant so much both to me personally as well as to my outlook on the academic world: Montaigne scholar Donald Frame GSAS'41; translator of Spanish and Portuguese Gregory Rabassa GSAS'54; historians James P. Shenton '49, GSAS'54 and Bernard Wishy '48, GSAS'58; musicologists William J. Mitchell CC 1930, GSAS'38 and Richard Franko Goldman CC 1930; and philosopher Ernest Nagel GSAS 1931, who inspired and encouraged my choice of career.

"My professional autobiography is contained in my book *The Road Traveled and Other Essays* (2019), a work that also includes some of my articles on free will, religious belief, academic ethics and happiness."

**Elliott Greher** writes: "We are trying to continue living in the Washington, D.C., suburbs, our hometown since 1967. We have lived in our current house since 1977. It is very comfortable, but we never realized that a four-story Colonial might become difficult as you age. I now have a chairlift between the main floor and the bedroom floor, go to the basement less than once each day and rarely go to the attic (which has a bedroom and an art studio). Also, the walk to synagogue, an easy three-quarters of a mile up to 10 years ago, has become difficult and lengthy for me. But the home is comfortable and filled with mementos and possessions we do not want to part with. It is a physically beautiful neighborhood, with great neighbors, and the nearby shopping/entertainment amenities are marvelous. (I use taxis and Uber/Lyft since I have not driven in 22 years.) We have joined a 'village,' a movement to help the elderly stay in their houses, as opposed to moving to some form of assisted living. The village members are great, and well and diversely educated, and helpful."

**Bill Burley** writes, "The profile in the Fall 2022 issue of Dave Obelkevich '65, who was about

to run his 45th consecutive New York City Marathon, brought back memories. In fact, the first Columbia College graduate to compete in the event was me. In the first race (1970), I finished just under three hours, placing 16th out of 55 finishers. The next year (1971) I finished 24th with a time of 2:47:30.

"Then I switched my training to race walking, winning some junior national Amateur Athletic Union championships and placing in senior events. In 1972, I qualified for the 20K race walking Olympic Trials scheduled for Oregon, but alas, a lack of funds glued me to the East Coast.

"At 81, I still engage in aerobic exercise, but on a bicycle. I still have my original issue of ankles, knees and hips."

Benita Black sends best regards to all of **Henry Black's** Class of '63 cohort, and writes, "Hello from Henry, who, despite having health struggles, is always happy to hear from classmates. He appreciates being remembered, even if he cannot always participate in class events. He has front-row seats (at his home) to all Lions games."

Henry, we all miss you, and hope you can join us at one of our Thursday Zoom Virtual Lunches!

I've been following **Lee Lowenfisch's** blog ([leelowenfisch.com/blog/posts/41698](https://leelowenfisch.com/blog/posts/41698)) and enjoy his wise observations on professional baseball, and occasionally, our Columbia team. Great reading! If any classmates have blogs they would like to share, let me know.

When you're in NYC, you might be able to reconnect with classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club. Please email me if you are interested and I can confirm the date of our next lunch. In any case, we will continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m. EST. Let me know if you'd like to join us, and I'll send you an invite.

I just learned that **Zev Bar-Lev** (né **Robert Lefkowitz**) has died. Rest in peace. An obituary may be found online at [college.columbia.edu/cct](https://college.columbia.edu/cct), and I will write more about him in the Summer 2023 issue.

And please go to our column at [college.columbia.edu/cct](https://college.columbia.edu/cct) for a note from **Gerald Berkowitz** GSAS'64.

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

## 1964

**Norman A. Olch**  
[norman@nolch.com](mailto:norman@nolch.com)

As I wrote in the last column, the editor has imposed a shorter word count because of the international paper shortage, so I could not include every note I received. Trying to catch up:

**Paul Zeitlin** writes: "**Allan Sperling's** Class Note in the Spring/Summer 2022 issue about attending The Beatles' performance at Carnegie Hall in 1964 in a Chicken Shirt and formalwear left out a few details. Among his other achievements at Columbia, Allan was editor-in-chief of the 1964 yearbook. As part of the Chicken Shirt PR campaign, he gave the shirts to a bunch of his fellow yearbook editors. I was the managing editor and one of the recipients. Fifty-eight years later, I have the shirt sitting in a bedroom drawer. Maybe it qualifies for *Antiques Roadshow*? I am alive, well, retired and single here in Los Angeles. Best wishes."

On the topic of Jackie Robinson, **Bruce Lefkon** writes from West Orange, N.J.: "For my June birthday, my dad (from Williamsburg, Brooklyn) took my brothers and me to Ebbets Field. We sat along the third base line near the Dodger Sym-Phony and could see Happy Felton's Knothole Gang along the first base line. Number 42 was there, between PeeWee and Gil, and when on base was an awesome presence, but did not attempt a steal home. (I was pissed off in Cooperstown when unable to find any film of Jackie stealing home, which I did see in Washington, D.C., at the National Museum of African American History & Culture.)"

**Steve Singer** saw Jackie play at all three New York City baseball stadiums: Ebbets Field, the Polo Grounds and Yankee Stadium. Steve reports that Jackie was a "very dangerous base runner" and a "major threat" to his beloved Yankees.

**Mark Rogers** writes: "The single experience at Columbia that influenced me the most was taking Contemporary Civilization. Having grown up in the Bronx with little cultural exposure (my only museum experience was one time with my eighth-grade class to the Ameri-



can Museum of Natural History), the effect of the exposure in CC profoundly changed my life.

"I was pre-med and went on to a long academic career in medicine (professor at Hopkins, CEO of Duke Health) as well as in medical entrepreneurship (running a biotech hedge fund and starting multiple pharma companies), but I used that success to become a citizen of the world. It was a lifetime exposure to CC in real places, not just at 116th Street and Broadway.

"My wife, Elizabeth, an academic physician in her own right, and I have traveled to more than 90 countries. Among other adventures, we have driven the Pan-American Highway from Alberta, Canada, to Santiago, Chile; gone around the world multiple times; and lectured in Iran, where we got to tour Persepolis, more than 50 years after I learned about it reading Herodotus. Even in the last year, during Covid-19, we have been able to go to Paris, Munich, Athens and Macedonia, to visit the tomb of Phillip II (Alexander the Great's father) in Vergina. We were able to take many of these trips with our two children and five grandchildren.

"As I look back on 80 years, I am profoundly grateful to have had my experiences at Columbia ignite the rocket that carried me on this marvelous journey!"

From **Richard Epstein**: "Columbia College prepared me, as the other members of the Class of 1964, for the years that followed. My career was from start to finish an academic one. Columbia sent me to Oriel College, Oxford, to study law

on a Kellett Fellowship. I remembered when I got there that I felt that I had received from Columbia a stronger education than some of the ablest American students who were in Oxford with me. After Oxford it was to Yale Law, where I had the same sense of a comparative advantage. For the last 54-plus years I have been a law teacher and writer, with stints at the University of Southern California (1968–72), the University of Chicago (1972–present, in various capacities), the Hoover Institution (2000–present) and NYU Law (2007–present, again in various capacities). My intellectual orientation was shaped by the Core Curriculum, as I have avoided working in one specialty and constantly have sought to see complex relationships that cross disciplines. I continue to teach and write, and as of late even to litigate on major issues involving a wide range of economic and constitutional issues.

"And yes, I do remember Jackie Robinson as a boy growing up in Brooklyn. To say that he was idolized is an understatement. He was a great cohesive force for just about everyone.

"And best to my many classmates. Always happy to hear from you, whether near or far."

**Mark Kovey** writes: "The decades seem to have flown by. I married the woman I started dating my first year in law school; Myra BC'65 was a year behind us, from Richmond. We moved to Washington, D.C., and then to Chevy Chase, Md.; have two kids, a son living in an Astoria house, copywriter with BBDO and no kids, and a daughter, not married who lives in D.C. and runs her own leasing business. After law school, I spent two years at NASA, almost four years at the IRS and then a full career at a small law firm specializing in corporate tax. I loved it but was happy to retire about 11 years ago."

**Joe O'Donnell** writes from New England: "All is well in Manchester, Vt., where we have lived for some 30 years — the first 15, semi-commuting to NYC for a Fortune 100 consulting company, started after leaving the advertising business. Time at 80 is now spent with seasonal skiing, golfing, two daily dog walks, an almost-daily swim, family time split among four children and six grandchildren, and six to eight weeks trading Vermont views for doses of city life in Paris,

London and NYC with 55-year life partner, Barbara. Still supportive of Columbia and in fairly regular touch with football teammates. Recall the Class of '64 is the last class with three winning seasons and the only Ivy title. Advice to younger college undergraduates and alumni? Don't get so caught up with your 'who's he/she' working life that you fail to allow time to enjoy later years. It is as rewarding as being a who's he/she, and no one knows how long the who's he/she years last."

**George Marcus** writes: "I am emeritus professor of political science at Williams College but principally live with my wife, Lois, in Paris. Harsh life (not). After rowing four years on the lights, I continued by starting the men's and then women's rowing programs at Williams and coached the women's program for more than 12 years. My wife and I created an endowment for the Columbia lightweight program."

The word count for this print column is unforgiving. There is some additional, but limited, space online. Go to [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct) for notes from **Ted Kovaleff**, **Doug Ingram** and **Marty Krieger**. More next issue. But for now, in the immortal Looney Tunes words from our childhood, "That's all Folks."

## 1965

**Leonard Pack**  
[leonard@packlaw.us](mailto:leonard@packlaw.us)

**Richard F. Taruskin** GSAS'76, described in his *New York Times* obituary as "a commanding musicologist and public intellectual whose polemical scholarship and criticism upended conventional classical music history," died on July 1, 2022. The *Times* quoted Alex Ross, *The New Yorker's* music critic: "He was the most important living writer on classical music, either in academia or in journalism. He knew everything, his ideas were potent, and he wrote with dashing style." Here are some links to press coverage: [bit.ly/3EuW7kA](https://bit.ly/3EuW7kA), [bit.ly/3hVftmB](https://bit.ly/3hVftmB) and [bit.ly/3Xfd9Hr](https://bit.ly/3Xfd9Hr). [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).]

Closer to home are some reactions from classmates.

**Leslie Brisman**, whom I wrote to, as I knew that he was Richard's cousin, wrote, "Thank you from saving

me from wondering if I should send the [*Times*] obit to you. It's a sad death but a beautiful obit. I'm particularly grateful that Cathy is described as 'wife' and not 'former wife.' The dear lady continued to take care of Richard years after they separated and proved an inspiration to me, having now cared for Susan, my poor Alzheimer's-stricken wife, for 13 years.

"There is one amazing connection between my wife's deterioration and cousin Richard. Susan avidly read everything Richard published in the *Times* and came to share his abhorrence of original instrument recordings. Long after she lost all ability to communicate verbally or understand speech, I would play a Bach piece on the harpsichord or viola da gamba and she would wrinkle her nose in disgust. But if I then played the same piece on the piano or cello, she'd smile with delight. I'm not sure if Richard formed her taste, but he gave her (and me) license to enjoy what we enjoy!"

I responded to Leslie with a protest that I've heard some riveting "original instruments" live performances of Bach and others. He answered, "I have to make the same distinction you have made. Performances with period instruments can be dazzling; it's the recordings where modern instruments can do a much better job. Richard used to call [Christopher] Hogwood 'Deadwood.' Yes, Richard was my cousin, and we were also classmates at Columbia (though he was a year younger than I). I erred in my earlier email: Richard and Cathy never divorced; they 'separated,' meaning that he started sleeping in his studio, on the same lot as their house, though Cathy saw him through broken limbs and a heart attack as only the most loyal partner could. Unfortunately, she could not curb his smoking, and hence the death by esophageal cancer."

**Gene Feldman** contributed a memory: "I met Richard while we were still in the King's Crown Hotel. I heard him playing cello in his room and introduced myself, because I'm also a cello player (very much an amateur though). I played in the University Orchestra, sitting on the last stand. Richard was the principal cellist. We remained friends through college.

"In the early 1970s, I came back to campus one June for that event where professors gave mini-lessons. Richard was still at Columbia, and



## 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](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

gave a talk about university composers. I remember him saying that the music of these composers was played only by other university composers. It's like they took in each other's laundry."

Allen Young '62, SIPA'64, JRN'64 sent news of **Les Patlove's** death. The obituary from Les' local paper, *The Recorder*, detailing his fascinating life path, may be read in our column for this issue at college.columbia.edu/cct.

I reached out to Allen about his connection to Les, and he replied: "How nice of you to remember me as both editor-in-chief of *Columbia Daily Spectator* and a participant in the 'upheavals' of 1968. I was arrested at that time! I write about all of this in my 2018 autobiography, *Left, Gay & Green: A Writer's Life*."

"You ask, how did I know Les? I met Les when I was a senior and he was an incoming freshman; it was Freshman Week, and Les was sitting at a table with me. Also with Les was his friend from Massachusetts **Jim Aaron**, who is alive and well in Massachusetts. Anyway, Les and Jim were passing around a book and I noticed it was published by International Publishers. That was the publishing arm of the Communist Party of the USA, and I was surprised and amused to see that, since I am a 'red diaper baby.' So I got into a conversation with Les and Jim. Later, they participated in some of the political activity that I supported involving a group called ACTION, which was founded by Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69, one of my best friends in college and later a renowned history professor and Pulitzer Prize winner.

"You ask for personal thoughts about Les. I think if one reads his obituary, you can see that he led a very unusual life and could perhaps be called a Renaissance man because he had so many interests and accomplishments. He was a family man, musician, farmer, community member, adventurer, worked with his hands — so many things. There's something of a vague 'back to the land' community here in Western Massachusetts and those of us in this community, a sort of political/social/environmental movement launched around 1969–70, feel an attachment to one another."

**Richard Kagan** sent a great update: "The Autonomous University of Madrid awarded me the degree of doctor *honoris causa* last

June in recognition of my ongoing contributions to Spain and its history. The investiture, as the ceremony is known, was replete with all the pomp and ceremony one might expect from a European university. By coincidence, I shared the spotlight that day with Paul Auster '69, GSAS'70, a well-known novelist, whom was awarded the same degree.

"Otherwise, I am well, keeping busy and working on a number of book projects related to Philadelphia, the city to which I moved with my spouse, Marianna Shreve Simpson, a Penn graduate, following my retirement from Johns Hopkins in 2013. One is a biography of Henry Charles Lea, a 19th-century Philadelphia publisher and municipal reformer who was also a historian and author of several books on the Inquisition — I just finished the manuscript — the other, still in a formative stage, focuses on 'la famosa Filadelfia' and the city's role in the independence movements in Spanish America at the start of the 19th century. That project promises to keep me occupied for several years."

Finally, **Jim Siegel** brought to my attention a publication celebrating **Stuart Newman's** contributions to biology and evolution. In a nutshell, "Stuart Newman has long championed that biology should take seriously the importance physical factors such as adhesion, surface tension, viscosity, phase separation, gravitational effects, etc., that determine organismal form." Here is the complete publication: templeton.org/discoveries/extended-evolutionary-synthesis.

## 1966

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

Greetings for the New Year, Class of 1966! Make it a resolution to send a Class Note to CCT in 2023; your classmates want to hear from you! You can write to us at the email at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

**Stephen Mark Dubrow** shares some exciting family news: "Bursting with pride, I break my silence of more than 56 years to announce in this forum the publication by the university press that bears the name

of alma mater — Columbia University Press — a book of creative nonfiction by my daughter, Jehanne Dubrow: *Taste: A Book of Small Bites*; for more information, you have only to go to [jehannedubrow.com/books/taste-a-book-of-small-bites](http://jehannedubrow.com/books/taste-a-book-of-small-bites)."

CCT is sad to announce the January 5, 2022, passing of **Paul A. Burt**; the September 16, 2022, passing of **Thomas H. Kappner**; and the November 21, 2022, passing of **Michael E. Feingold**. Our condolences to their family and friends.

## 1967

**Albert Zonana**  
azonana@me.com

We heard from several classmates for this issue.

**David Blanchard**: "As I write, we are closing out a beautiful autumn here in Richmond, Vt. My wife, Eve, and I are both retired for some years now and appreciate the time to volunteer and enjoy our gardens, and the many hiking, cycling and paddling opportunities that Vermont affords. We continue to get together with Columbians who live in the area.

**Gerry Botha, Eric Dannemann, Robert Chapla '68, Bruce Chattman and Bob Malsberger SEAS'67** met up at Gerry's home in Barnard, Vt., in September for some hilarious lawn games and a delicious potluck. Eric and I still row our single sculls, and we competed in a couple of head races this fall: the Green Mountain Head Regatta organized by the Putney Rowing Club, where we won a bag of apples and a gallon of juice, respectively, and the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston. (See the nearby photos.) All the best to you and all classmates!"

**David Galinsky**: "I retired eight years ago from the clinical practice of geriatric medicine and two years ago from being the medical director of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. In addition to reading literature that I never got around to on Morningside Heights, I enjoy biking, gardening and, of course, seeing grandchildren and appreciating my wife. I have taken up art. My drawings have improved. When I started drawing, I was terrible but am now better than mediocre. I have given up the guitar due to osteoarthritis in my left hand. All in all, I am grateful for my life."

**Brant Fries**: "I am now retired (Professor Emeritus) from the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. I am president of interRAI Corp., a nonprofit research collaborative of more than 100 members from 37 nations that develops better ways to assess vulnerable populations and use these data scientifically to provide better care and improve health outcomes. My latest work, which was to be published at the end of last year, is a self-reported assessment system for caregivers — those who care for aging family or friends with failing health."

**Tom Blinn**: "Still alive and seemingly well, living in Amherst, N.H., with my wife, Susan, and our Maine Coon, Chloe. Last summer we bought some tickets for our local public radio station's car raffle and won the grand prize. Took the cash option and used it to replace our high-efficiency gas furnace with a better one."

**Arnold Eggers PS'71**: "I retired four years ago from joint appointments as a professor in the neurology department at SUNY-Downstate and attending at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, N.Y. I then wrote a book, *Meltdown and the Neuroscience of Stress*. My daughter started a master's in learning and teaching at Oxford University and my son started Cornell Law."

**Martin Goldstein**: "After many years as a writer in the film business, and just as many as a teacher at Santa Monica College, I'm leaving Los Angeles and moving up north to the Humboldt area to be close to my daughter and her three kids, as well as one of my sons, a dean at Santa Rosa Junior College. My other son is a doctor at a UCLA clinic."

**George Farkas**: "I've retired as Distinguished Professor of Education and Sociology at UC Irvine. Still doing some research, however, and enjoying the beautiful southern California weather."

**Jon Buller**: "My wife, Susan Schade, and I are now pretty much retired from doing kids' books, but this year our first book for adults, *Nudism Comes to Connecticut*, will be published. It's a graphic memoir about optimism, debt, nakedness and real estate, as her grandfather tries to establish a nudist colony in the early 1930s. Susan did most of the writing, and I did most of the drawing, but we both did a little of each."

**Harry Sticker**: "I am an IT consultant and live in Manhattan. For





David Blanchard '67 (left in both photos) and Eric Dannemann '67 at the Green Mountain Head Regatta in Bellows Falls, Vt., on October 2, and at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston on October 22.

a time, I was a research physicist at The Rockefeller University and then a consultant at Bellcore. I helped found a startup and then started my own consulting company. I have a daughter who lives in Queens. My wife Gail died last year and I recently married Anne."

**Lew Perin:** "I'm (mostly) retired from writing software for Cornell Medical College. I continue to work on my decades-old passion project, babelcarp.org, a web application that defines and cross-references Chinese tea terms, more than 5,000 so far."

**Jack Harris:** "There is nothing at all interesting about my life, now. I play golf every day in the summer and swim in the winter. My wife, Barbara, and I look forward to occasional visits with our grandchildren. I read and play violin. I go to doctors. Just the ordinary life of an old person."

Be well, all of you, and do write.

## 1968

### REUNION 2023

JUNE 1-3

Reunion Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Arthur Spector**  
arthurspector@gmail.com

Greetings from Miami Beach. Do visit, especially this winter.

I have heard from a few classmates who are doing well post-Covid-19,

including **Robert Brandt**, who went to Africa, and **Jeff Franklin SEAS'68**, who went to South Africa. **Paul de Bary** and his wife, Stefania, went to Romania twice. **Art Kaufman** has been visiting grandkids on Long Island. **Tom Sanford**, Paul and I were at Homecoming on October 22 and had a good chat with our new dean, Josef Sorett.

Importantly, Columbia Reunion 2023 is Thursday, June 1–Saturday, June 3. I sent a mailing to our class — a huge postcard. I hope you saw it. CC'71 wants to join us, as its reunion was disrupted by Covid. We are also inviting CC'67, CC'69 and CC'70; more to come. This will be a new construct for a reunion and should produce an amazing turnout and lots of good cheer. (Remember, we had the largest turnout for any class for our 50th in 2018.) This new construct will ensure we get to see others from classes with whom we have a lot in common. The dinner is likely to be the most extraordinary event, with surprises being planned. So please save the date! I have already heard from a number of folks who are planning to come: **Tony Kao, Seth Weinstein, Ken Tomecki, Randy Vaughan** and **George Ting**. Let me know if you plan to attend!

If I may, I again recommend women's basketball. Coach Megan Griffith '07 is exceptional. [Editor's note: See "Roar, Lion, Roar."] The student-athletes also are very talented and went far in the Women's National Invitation Tournament last year. The last time we had an Ivy championship it was **Larry Borger**,

**Billy Ames, Dave Newmark** et al., so it is time to have another.

I hope you are all doing well. I try to swim daily. I love Miami! It's way different from Boston and NYC, and the New World Symphony is here, led by Michael Tilson Thomas. I was able to go recently with the wondrous Peter Hiebert '71. We saw Yefim Bronfman perform Rachmaninoff's *Concerto 3*.

Come to reunion!

## 1969

**Nathaniel Wander**  
nw105@caa.columbia.edu

**Bob Waldman** writes, somberly and poetically: "Just finished more than 40 years of representing the misbegotten, the desperate, the cruel, the craven and the dumb ... the violent and the just-along-for-the-ride, the liars, the lawless and the lowly — all flawed — and have realized the mountain of suffering I have been walking around on is so vast that one cannot circumambulate it in only one lifetime. I wonder what is at the top of this vast, termitic squalor of clambering souls. Is there a golden portal into some kind of peace, of satiation, or does the misery simply become more distilled and concentrated into a black hole into which all of this gets gurgitated and regurgitated out into more of the same? An endless supply?"

"Nevertheless, I lead a simple — relatively simple — life. I walk behind the hind of the dog; we get

older together; we look at each other calculating the same bets as to who will predecease or whether the bunny will get into the briars before the hound can get her tooth into it. I sail the Chesapeake. I tutor a student into English literacy; little does she know of the vast library that awaits her. I chair the Planning Commission of the municipality here; we try to see into the future. I engage with my community association, with my principal achievement being leading a parade of illuminated costumes, umbrellas, wagons and a New Orleans marching band into the night and around and around in a circle only to light up the darkness and be silly.

"Silly in the face of our generation finally achieving world leadership, and what a fine job we are doing! Idiocy or gerontocracy at the controls of a speeding freight train and social controls of the finest sort being inflicted on the passengers in each wagon behind. Yet, in my path, I meet only the finest people.

"Oh, and the Columbia education was exquisite. It taught, among other things, that this has been going on for a long time and we can presume it will be going on for a long time more."

**Hart Perry SOA'71** continues to work in holography, having received a National Education Association grant following his teaching at Bard College. He states: "I have a laboratory and lasers."

He adds, without amplification, "In June I was shot by a crazy person and am recovering," and that he is "now a grandfather. My son, Nick, a doctor, has a 1-year-old."

**Nathaniel Wander** reports his first art show was successful. “Never a flood, the visitor trickle remained steady and allowed me quality discussion time. I liked that the audience appreciated what I was doing, particularly, showing birds in dynamic scenes.

“Visit my Facebook profile: bit.ly/3Vq1BzM.”

These were replies to my question, “What science(s) were important to you at Columbia; how may you have continued to work with them professionally and/or avocationally?”

**Henry Jackson** replied: “Even before I took geology at Columbia, I was an amateur rock collector. What I learned in class enhanced my pleasure.”

The quintessential “Rocks for Jocks” story we all heard was of the teacher holding up a red stone, asking if anyone knew what it was. A student shot from his desk and keeled over crying: “Yaah. It’s red kryptonite.”

Henry added: “Later, I had to translate articles on mesothelioma. I soon developed an appreciation for the life sciences, even though I had no training in them. Translating pharmaceutical package inserts over the years enhanced my appreciation.”

**Ed Hyman** replied: “In my path to a science career, I took several courses, including graduate courses, in anthropology, then turned to Middle East languages and cultures and completed a major there. Nearly simultaneously, I realized I was bitten by the bug of psychological research, inspired by graduate courses in social psychology and research under then-psychology department chair Richard Christie (who unified the University’s Departments of Psychology and Social Psychology). I followed Dick’s advice (we became lifelong friends, as I did with his wife, Dr. Dolores Kreisman), to get what I could from Harvard’s Department of Psychology and Social Relations, then switch to UC Berkeley, where he had earned a doctorate under Nevitt Sanford (senior author of *The Authoritarian Personality*) and behaviorist Edward Tolman; I never looked back.

“Following a Ph.D. under Nevitt focused on both social and clinical psychology, I joined with colleagues in creating what we now know as forensic psychology and the American Psychology-Law Society. I have

had the pleasure of working in hundreds of both criminal and civil cases, participating in some of the most confounding and challenging cases of our day, as well as teaching and researching forensic assessment and evaluation. Along with Dick, Nevitt, Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.) and Stanford political scientist Seymour Martin Lipsett, I was also a founder of the International Society of Political Psychology.

“Dick gave me my first entrée into forensic psychology in the area of jury selection, as I assisted research he was conducting with NYU social psychologist Jay Schulman and Columbia graduate students Alice Ross Gold GSAS’72 and Lucy Freidman. I helped expand and balance the political distribution of the sample with material from radical students who had dropped out of college for political reasons. The emerging data was first used in the Harrisburg Seven case at the request of the lead defense attorney, former Attorney General Ramsey Clarke. Our jury selections were 100 percent correct, and started the National Jury Project, though neither Dick nor I persisted in that endeavor.

“At 75 I am still actively engaged in forensic work, with periodic teaching, inspired throughout with a passionate love for the psychological sciences instilled in me by a great Columbia psychologist and a century-long tradition of sophisticated and groundbreaking psychological research at Columbia.”

**Neal Handel** observes: “The science classes I took at Columbia were extremely important and instrumental in my subsequent personal and profession development. Particularly noteworthy for me (and for many classmates, including **Michael Rosenblatt** and **Steve Valenstein**) was Professor Ronald Breslow’s organic chemistry class.

“I have always endeavored to base therapeutic recommendations upon sound scientific principles. My exposure to science and the scientific method at Columbia engendered an interest in clinical research that has culminated (thus far) in publication of 65 peer-reviewed medical articles, 12 textbook chapters and the opportunity to co-edit a major textbook on revision breast surgery. In addition to my busy practice in Beverly Hills, I remain active in academic

medicine as a clinical professor in the Department of Plastic Surgery at the UCLA School of Medicine.”

**Jack Schachner** LAW’72 reports: “A number of our classmates had no sciences (other than the social variety) that were important to them in the College. Perhaps you’d like to include this as an anecdotal reply from one of them.

“The only science course I took at Columbia was the one known as ‘Poet’s Chemistry.’ As soon as the professor, William Reinmuth, started to write an equation on the board during the first lecture, many students began repeatedly yelling ‘No numbers!’ He tried to explain that it would be close to impossible to teach a chemistry course without using any numbers, but they never relented. He tried to compromise, but every time he wrote a number on the board, the ‘No numbers!’ chant resumed.”

## 1970

**Leo Kailas**  
lkailas@reitterlaw.com

I had several reports shortly after I submitted my last set of notes in June. Professor **John D’Emilio** GSAS’74, a pioneering gay academic, wrote: “In October 2022, Duke University Press published my memoir, *Memories of a Gay Catholic Boyhood: Coming of Age in the Sixties*. Using my own life as the entry point, it traces how the conformist baby boom years of the 1950s morphed into the tumultuous years of the 1960s. The last third of the book focuses on my years at Columbia and how it changed me so profoundly — a boy from a conservative Italian immigrant family becomes a lapsed Catholic, a pacifist and anti-war activist, as he is also discovering and exploring the hidden gay sexual underworld of Manhattan. Anyone interested in purchasing it can go to the Duke U. Press website and use the code E22DEMIL for a 30 percent discount.”

I got a note from my Bronx Science classmate **Michael Klekman**, who caught me up on his life: “I retired from the Office of the New York Attorney General four years ago and have not regretted that decision. While I found the work there as an employee discrimination and education law litigator in the

public sector much more intellectually stimulating (if not more financially rewarding) than my prior private practice experience, I became worn down by the constant stress. Since then I have continued to take continuing legal education courses but have spent the bulk of my time making up for the lack of time I spent with my wife of 48 years, Meryl, and now middle-aged children during the 45 years I was a litigator. I can never recover that lost time but am trying to make the most of the time I have now. Looking back is not useful except for learning from mistakes. Meryl and I have two grandchildren: Skylar (6), who lives right near us in Tarrytown, N.Y., and Desmond (4), who lives in Austin. They are the joy of our lives. We take so much pleasure in seeing them regularly and watching them grow up. I hope we are setting good examples for them.

“In addition, prior to the pandemic I was able to indulge my deep love of classical and popular music much more than I ever did while working or attending school. I attended numerous concerts at Carnegie Hall and David Geffen Hall and operas at the Met. I also began taking piano lessons ... In closing, I truly appreciate the work you have done in keeping our class updated about our lives, activities and, unfortunately, as the years go by, deaths. Who ever thought about being our current ages when we graduated from Bronx Science in 1966 and Columbia in 1970, but here we are in what seems like the blink of an eye. We all need to live in the moment.”

Michael retired after 45 years of practicing law and I will complete 50 years in June — the good times keep rolling!

Professor **Michael Aeschliman** GSAS’91, who keeps me apprised of his prolific essays, sent his latest essay on Professor Daniel Bell GSAS’60, who taught for more than 10 years at Columbia. It is an excellent read and brings me back to my days at Columbia: *Understanding — and Misunderstanding — Daniel Bell*, M.D. Aeschliman, National Review Online (New York), 17 July 2022.

**Richard Yospin** reports: “I was planning to get to the 50th reunion, but it may never happen until the pandemic ends (if it ever ends), so it’s time to write to the class, which I’ve never done.



"After a career as a public defender in Alaska, and then another as a civil trial attorney in Massachusetts, I stopped practicing law almost 10 years ago. These days I've reverted to my first love — music. I play clarinet in a couple of orchestras, write and arrange for wind quintet and sometimes for a klezmer band, and perform on guitar and mandolin, currently as half of a duo with a terrific pianist and singer, doing mostly American Songbook tunes. I sing in a big chorus, and until recently, led a small choir (and wrote or arranged most of what it sang) in a havurah near Boston.

"Last summer, I rode my bike, alone, from Marseille to Florence along the Mediterranean (really hilly, really hot and totally gorgeous), and when I'm not on two wheels, I'm usually on a tennis court, or painting (oils and oil pastels on canvas) or writing to friends (paper, envelopes and stamps) around the planet. As I write this, I'm about to get on a plane to visit one of my three kids, the biologist and brew-pub owner, and

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*Dr. Tony Kestler '71, the 1969 NCAA Foil Champion, has been coaching young champions at the Freehold Fencing Academy for 15 years.*

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spend a couple of weeks demolishing and rebuilding his kitchen. Meanwhile, my other son, the patent attorney (CC'98), is vacationing with his wife and kids in Québec, and my daughter, the musician and teacher, is in South Africa, learning their fabulous choral music from local teachers, before she leads a music camp somewhere along the Mackenzie River in Oregon. Things are good."

**Steven Schwartz**, who has worked with me on many reunions, reported on the passing of a friend: "**Ronald Fischman** passed away last spring in California, where he was a nephrologist. We were classmates in junior and senior high school in Great Neck and roomed together freshman year in Carman Hall. Our suitmates were **Joel Greenspan** and **David Aborn**. Ron was a football player in high school and at least considered the lightweight team at Columbia." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

## 1971

**Lew Preschel**  
l.a.preschel@gmail.com

Hello, Class of 1971. It has been 55 years since we set foot on the Morningside Heights campus to start our journey toward graduation. At times it feels longer and at times it feels as though it never happened, but here we are.

**Robert Bobrick** entered with the Class of 1967 but he did not graduate until 1971, receiving a degree in Chinese language and culture. He pursued this line of education, attaining two master's, one in Asian studies from Seton Hall University and the other in historical studies from The New School. He spent six years teaching English and social studies in Japan. During that time, he received a compliment from one of his students: "You are half Japanese!" He married a lady from Guangzhou. Robert lived in China for consider-

able lengths of time in the recent past. For the last 14 years, his teaching career was spent in New York City, mainly at Lafayette H.S. He lives in Chelsea, and, ironically, after all his world traveling, it is close to the West Village, where he was born. His newest endeavor is to increase his proficiency in Latin so that he can read Caesar and Virgil from the original text.

Robert spearheaded the successful campaign to lift the Covid-19 vaccine mandate and testing requirements at the Success Academy Charter School last winter. This inspired him to run for the New York State Senate, District 47, as a candidate for the Medical Freedom Party. His district would have run from Waverly Place to West 103rd Street along the entire West Side of Manhattan. Because of his fluency in Chinese, and the diverse constituency of the district, he had his campaign material translated into Spanish and Chinese.

Robert offers to meet classmates for tea or coffee and to get acquainted, or reacquainted as the case may be. He is always up for a good conversation.

**Dr. Tony Kestler**, one of our class's fencing greats, and a neighbor from my New Jersey county, reports, "The Irving Martin Preschel Trophy was reinstated several years ago." My family and I are eternally grateful to Tony for his efforts in that quest. We also thank Coach Mike Aufrichtig for its renewal after 40 years of hibernation. Tony tells the story of his hard work every year at the fencing dinner.

My father, Dr. Sheldon Preschel '43, endowed the trophy initially. It memorializes my Uncle Irving, who attended NYU. During WWII, the brothers came up with a plan. My father, the older of the two, would attend college and then medical school while his brother discharged the family obligation for military service as an Army Corps medic. Once Irving returned from the war, my father would provide the monetary wherewithal to put Irving through school and then they would practice medicine together. This plan failed to be realized when Irving was killed during the war. My father set up the trophy in his memory.

Tony was the 1969 NCAA Foil Champion. That team included several close friends of mine, including **Mark Haselkorn**. He set my wife, Carole, and me up on a blind date in 1970. It will be 50 years of marriage in June. Not many creations last happily that long anymore.

However, getting back to Tony, he retired from the practice of general dentistry, in Plainfield, N.J., in 2019. He has been coaching young champions at the Freehold Fencing Academy for 15 years, transmitting his insights and talent with the passion he holds for his sport. Tony remains active with Columbia fencing and gives the annual Kestler Award at the team dinner every spring. He is on the Governor's Council of the Jewish Federation in the Heart of N.J. He chaired its Overseas Allocations Committee for 16 years. He and his wife, Barbara, have four children and five grandchildren. Tony enjoys retired life in Manalapan, N.J.

I love how our class has been and is making waves in the political process locally and nationally. We haven't stopped being that group that spoke

out against what we felt was wrong. I believe that moral sense was driven by our CC courses and the Humanities course from our freshman year.

If you have an interesting story or biographical information that you wish to share, please send it to me at the email at the top of the column. Be well and be safe.

## 1972

**Paul Appelbaum**  
pappel1@aol.com

**Lee Davies** expressed his sadness at not having been able to attend our 50th reunion, held last June. "I had a kidney transplant in May and am on massive doses of immunosuppressants. That means all of you are walking petri dishes to me. The most amazing thing is that my sister was a perfect match, and we are both recovering quite well ... If any of you is a science or medical denier (and I doubt that is the case with our class), think again! This transplant process is nothing short of a medical miracle!"

Lee also included an update on the last 50 years, for 48 of which he's been married to Jody Messler BC'73, a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst. "We have two amazing daughters: Jocelyn, an executive editor at Disney and the author of four young adult novels, and Shelby, who wrapped up her fellowship in adolescent medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and started a full-time position there as an attending and assistant professor. Jocelyn and her husband, Jeremy, have blessed us with Max (2). Shelby and her boyfriend, Chris, have a row house in South Philly."

After earning an M.B.A. from Wharton, Lee spent his career in the biopharmaceutical/biotech and medical device industry. He held senior leadership positions at Pfizer, Schering-Plough and Merck, and at several medical communications agencies (including starting his own) and he currently is a consultant to a number of companies. Now retired, he serves on the board of The Galien Foundation and the advisory council of The Hastings Center.

"We've been spending most of our time at our house in Cornwall, Conn. (northern Litchfield County)," Lee says. "When the pandemic hit,

we basically went into lockdown in Cornwall (although we still have our UWS apartment of 38 years). I've thrown myself into local initiatives, including being on the boards of the Sharon Playhouse and the Civic Life Project, whose mission is to get eligible youth to get out and vote. In my 60s, I decided to learn to play the piano and took lessons for six years. I now awkwardly take golf lessons."

Lee would like to hear from classmates (contact me for his email address). And he encourages us all to "cherish your health and treasure your families. Count your blessings!"

**William "Jack" Hartford** sent a note "as my way of participating in our 50th reunion. There are too many people I would like to mention. Some we lost too young, like Chris Donald '71, blues guitarist extraordinaire who could channel BB King, and who was one of the sweetest people I ever met, and like Daniel Judd, who shared his apartment on Claremont Avenue with me during summer 1969. While I worked for WRVR in the tower of Riverside Church and played with the Pythons seven nights a week at the Café Bizarre, Dan was at Woodstock. The great teachers, like Ismar Schorsch, who taught Contemporary Civilization and told us he wanted to be a rabbi and then went on to become chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, and who gave us his own take on CC while we looked down from the windows of Hamilton Hall at the SDS marching across the campus below. And a few more whose names I can remember, like Albert Goldman GSAS'61 and Andrew Sarris '51, GSAS'98, whose courses were famous for comedy or for Wednesday (or was it Thursday?) Night at the Movies, but who taught us with unique insight, or Howard Shanet '39, GSAS'41, who taught us Music Humanities in a classroom fronted by a bank of speakers I have only seen in a recording studio, and who blasted it as powerfully as a rock band and taught us as intensely ... Unforgettable characters like Sam Steinberg, whom I got to know while he sold his paintings and candy bars in front of Ferris Booth Hall while I manned the front desk, and who painted the drumhead on my bass drum with his trademark Rainbow Snakes. I spent my first Thanksgiving away from home alone

at Hartley Hall but went that night to see Jimi Hendrix at An Electric Thanksgiving at Lincoln Center.

"Our class was impacted by the events of 1968 and Kent State and the uncertainty of the draft. Although my life didn't follow the path of Albert Schweitzer (who fascinated me when I was in grade school) and instead ended up more like the *Odyssey*, I am grateful for everything I received through the kaleidoscope of my Columbia experience."

**Toby Thaler** remembers something about our initiation to Columbia in fall 1968. "I was present when Dean Carl Hovde '50 welcomed our class to Columbia College ... As I recall the event took place in Low Library. We were set up in rows of temporary chairs. There was a wire fence separating us from the entry area open to the outside, and my seat was not too far from it. I don't recall, but we must have had to present ID or something to get into the seating area. During Dean Hovde's welcome a person came up to the fence, shook it to get attention and began a loud harangue about Columbia's behavior as an institution, the specific words and content of which I have no memory. He must have been escorted out quickly. I do clearly recall Dean Hovde calling out that the shouter represented something contrary to what Columbia College stood for. He must have been fairly eloquent about it, because most of our class arose to applaud him. I remained seated. Columbia has come a long way since 1968, but at that time I had far more sympathy for the anti-establishment forces then gathering to stop the United States' immoral behavior in Vietnam, with which Columbia was clearly complicit. On that point, the harangue was undoubtedly accurate even if the messenger and moment were not diplomatically acceptable."

Toby, who earned a J.D. from UWashingon, is a legislative assistant in the Seattle City Council. "I was a prime mover of the change in its electoral system from all at-large (in a city of more than half a million!) to seven districts, two at-large. It took a citizens' petition-driven charter amendment by ballot to accomplish. We're now going through the first redistricting under the charter provision I co-wrote."

**Steven Hirschfeld** PS'83 continues with his work at Uniformed



Tina Bilofsky, Jon Bauman '68 — aka Bowzer from Sha Na Na — and Allen Bilofsky '73 at an October 12 rally at the Democratic Headquarters in Syracuse for Rep. Francis Conole (D-N.Y.). Bauman was being hosted as the president of Social Security Works PAC.

Services University, the National Institutes of Health and in the private sector. Though technically a veteran and retired military, he is "fully scheduled and occupied every day, with the word 'retirement' remaining an unfamiliar and probably unknown concept." He and his wife are proud of their son, Josh, who entered college at McGill this past fall.

Congratulations are due to **Mike Gerrard**, the Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice at the Law School and director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, who was named a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the *New York Law Journal*.

scratch-fact-and-fiction-about-the-middle-ages.buzzsprout.com.

**Allan Solomon** is semi-retired from his psychotherapy practice, seeing some patients, but remotely. He and his wife, Patrice, live in a "lovely" condo overlooking the San Francisco Bay (since 2015). They have a son in Boulder and one in San Francisco, and a 2-year-old grandson from a son (and his wife) in Boise.

Finally — also in grandson news — my wife, Janice Wolf BUS'75, and I have one as well, Zev Etra Lindahl; he and his mom and dad live in Wellesley, Mass.

Until our soon-to-be-50th! Hasta.

## 1973

### REUNION 2023

JUNE 1-3

Reunion Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Barry Etra**  
baryetra@gmail.com

Slow few months in note-land. Must be my breadth ... or lack thereof.

**Richard Abels** GSAS'82 has retired from teaching at the United States Naval Academy and is doing a podcast from his field, The Middle Ages. Titled 'Tis But a Scratch, it is streaming on Apple, Spotify and other platforms. Go to tis-but-a-

## 1974

**Fred Bremer**  
fbremer9@gmail.com

I recently was surprised to learn how similar many of our classmates are to the demographics of Vladimir Putin. He was born in 1952. He was married in 1983 and has two kids. Vlad got a law degree in 1975. He is 5-foot-7 and weighs 180 pounds (a couple of inches shorter and 20 pounds lighter than the average American male). But I bet few in the class have an itchy nuclear trigger finger!

It's not too early to start planning your trip to Columbia for our 50th reunion in early June 2024. Why not take advantage of the affordable campus housing to make this a family vacation to Manhattan and use the savings to pay for Broadway theater, ballet at Lincoln Center or some great



dining? If you add in a few days you can also show the kids and grandkids Ground Zero, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rockefeller Center and all the other sites that you may have not seen in decades.

A lot of news came in from classmates on the West Coast. **Garrett McKinley Johnson** (a self-employed attorney in Los Angeles) wrote to reflect on the February 2022 passing of **Ray Reed**. He attended the memorial service in Los Angeles and relates, "Ray left a mark on the world ... the memorial service certainly did justice to a life well lived." Garrett adds that he looks forward to seeing all of us at the 50th reunion and notes he wants to catch up with **Sylvester Conyers** (who lives in Greenbelt, Md.).

**Andy Wang** (who lives in Pacific Palisades, Calif.) says his thriving child psychiatry practice has gone into overdrive to deal with what he calls "the significant mental health issues" children have faced during the pandemic. He still hopes to retire in the next few years if this condition slows. An active globe trotter before Covid-19, he is planning a trip to the Paris Olympics in 2024.

Long absent from this column, **Paul Sumner** (a private practice attorney in tiny Madras, Ore.) tells us that after earning a law degree from the University of Oregon, he worked at a city attorney's office in equally small Coos Bay, Ore. Not too surprisingly, Paul says his practice involves representing small cities as part of his general practice. He said he was "recently recruited by an indigent defense consortium, so I'm on salary for the first time in 40 years!" He is married with two daughters, four granddaughters and two grandsons.

Moving off from the West Coast, Msgr. **Fred Dolan** writes that he recently moved from Montreal to Toronto and continues to work for the prelature of Opus Dei. In addition to various assignments in the greater Toronto area, he also travels twice a month to London, Ontario. Fred was also part of a group that visited the Holy Land for a 10-day pilgrimage.

Longtime real estate lawyer at Mintz Levin et al. in Boston **Stuart Offner** recently left to join a group of lawyers that split off to form Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott (also in Boston).

There are two weddings of the children of classmates. **Bob Adler**

(retired in Belfast, Maine) tells us his daughter, Rachel, was married last October. Rachel is an occupational therapist in a local Belfast hospital. **George Van Amson** (a longtime managing director at Morgan Stanley) celebrated the September wedding of his daughter Victoria '15 (who is known as **Tori**). She graduated last May from the Harvard Business School and is working at the Boston Consulting Group in Manhattan. George made us proud when last May he won the gold medal in the U.S. National Judo Championship in its veteran's division.

There you have it. Classmates busy coast to coast, our children marrying and everyone looking forward to our 50th reunion. See you there!

## 1975

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

[Editor's note: Effective with the Summer 2023 issue, we welcome **Robert Katz** to the role of class correspondent! Please send your news to him at robertdkatz@gmail.com or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.]

CCT received the following notes:

**Moses Luski** has been recognized in the 2023 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Commercial Litigation, & Employment Law – Management. He is a partner and real estate and development regional service line leader in the Charlotte, N.C., office of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick.

**José Díaz** writes: "I would like to remember two friends and colleagues who have passed on with whom I had a great relationship at WKCR-FM. I had the honor and privilege of working with **Phil Schapp '73** and **Carlos DeJesus '77**. Phil was famous for his morning show, *Bird Flight*, and Carlos for his Latin music show, *Alma Latina*. My show was *The Mambo Machine*. We were all at the station during the early '70s. I miss them. I mention them and my years at Columbia in my best-selling book, *From the Streets Of New York City*, under the name **José Cheo Díaz**."



LISHI BAKER '26

Dan Baker '76 (left) and Gara LaMarche '76 strolled through campus on August 27 to commemorate their 50 years of friendship. They met on Carman 9 on the first day of Orientation, September 1, 1972, and have been best friends since. Baker's nephew Lishi Baker '26 was participating in his Orientation that same day, and will graduate the year his uncle celebrates his 50th reunion.

**Dov Fischer** (formerly **David Fisch**, when he served in the mid-1970s as University senator representing the college student body), recently was named VP of the Coalition for Jewish Values, an association of more than 2,000 traditional American Orthodox rabbis, and is a senior contributing editor at *The American Spectator* and a regular contributor at *Arutz Sheva/Israel National News*. He recently stepped down after nearly 20 years as a law professor at Loyola Law School and several years at the UC Irvine School of Law. He continues as rabbi of Young Israel of Orange County, an Orthodox synagogue congregation.

And now, a few words from **Robert Katz**: "Fellow members of the Class of 1975: I am excited to take over as class correspondent, as it will give me a chance to get in touch with classmates whom I haven't spoken to for a while. Unfortunately, the position only opened because our longtime and diligent class correspondent, **Randy Nichols TC'79**, passed in May 2021. I hope everyone will be forthcoming with news items.

"We are not too far off from our 50th reunion and we will try to make plans for special events to increase participation. I have been on the Reunion Committee for several reunions and would be willing to assist again.

"About me: I am divorced and remarried. I have two boys from my

first marriage, **Aaron Katz '04** and **Adam Katz '08**. I also two boys from my second marriage, to **Jane (Penn '81)** — **Harry**, who recently graduated from The Ramaz School, and **Joseph**, who is a 10th-grader at Ramaz. We live in Manhattan, but unfortunately don't take enough advantage of all that the city has to offer.

"Once again, I look forward to hearing the news from everyone so that we can fill this column in the next issue and those thereafter. All the best!"

## 1976

**Ken Howitt**  
kenhowitt76@gmail.com

After going to Homecoming on October 22, I was inspired by the collection of '76ers to start writing with **Aaron Copland's** *Fanfare for the Common Man*, because outside of me, there was a collection of three lawyers and **Jim Berquist**, who is anything but common. Hence, I was the only Common Man from the Class of 1976 gathered in the tent or at **Frank Furillo '70**, **SEAS '76's** tailgate.

Of course, **Jim Bruno** and **Berquist** were checking out the beers at **Frank's**. The other two lawyers, **Jon Margolis LAW'79** and **Mozelle Thompson SIPA'79**, **LAW'81**, were holding court (so to speak) at a table inside the tent, equal distance from

the food and beverage tables. My legal representatives saved me a spot at a great location!

Everyone is still working and making a living. Berquist thanked me for sending the cutout that was used at last year's basketball game, which he has proudly displayed in his reception area for his financial services customers. He also has the hard copy of the report on the "two-dimensional" reunion that I recounted in my Spring/Summer 2022 column.

Jon splits his time between Manhattan and Long Island while practicing law. In Manhattan, he is only a couple of blocks from grandchildren! Mozelle is in Rehoboth Beach, Del. Make sure you visit him, because he knows great lunch spots and will even drive you past the summer/weekend White House. Bruno is still lawyering in central New Jersey. I was going to take another picture of the two Jims overlooking Robert K. Kraft Field, but it would have been a repeat from last year and they look way younger than they did a year ago. Take my word for it.

I am going to continue mentioning music and my arts goings-on, as after the publication of the Spring/Summer 2022, column, which mentioned the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts in Katonah, N.Y., I received an invitation from Michael Skelly '77, the longtime piano instructor in Columbia's Department of Music. He invited me to his home in Hyde Park, N.Y. for a Sunday afternoon piano recital that benefited a local food pantry. His performance was terrific! A great afternoon! So, this correspondent's job comes with perks!

Speaking of music, if you are heading to Virginia, look up **Joe Graif** BUS'78. He recently received a sizeable grant from the National Association of Music Merchants that will fund the 2023 schedule of performances in his new home. Joe has a room dedicated to staging these events, and as previously mentioned, formed a nonprofit, The Susan A. and Joseph N. Graif Foundation.

Next on the arts list is **Gordon Kit** and the Kit Noir Film Festival at the Lenfest Center for the Arts, on the Manhattanville campus. This year's festival (the fourth!) will run Wednesday, March 1–Sunday, March 5; tickets will go on sale in

February. The theme is "Beyond the Femme Fatale: The Women Who Made Noir," exploring the role of female writers and filmmakers in the noir films of the 1940s and 1950s. Each day will be devoted to one of the roles women played behind the camera as screenwriters, producers, noir novelists, and, in one celebrated case, as director. The festival will have guest lecturers and films will include *Gilda* (1946), *In a Lonely Place* (1950), *Strangers on a Train* (1951) and *The Hitch-Hiker* (1953), among others. If you want information about the festival's first three years, which includes great movie viewing suggestions, go to [arts.columbia.edu/noir](https://arts.columbia.edu/noir).

One of my predecessors as class correspondent, **Dave Merzel**, checked in: "I recently returned from the 2022 North Shore Inline Marathon in Duluth, Minn., the country's largest skating marathon (26.2 miles). I skate every organized event in my Columbia jersey and shorts! Good fun, and a good soaking, was had by all. After the race, hot chocolate and a beer never tasted so good."

Dave sent a great picture of himself on skates with his Columbia outfit, but photos are only published in *CCT* if they feature two CC alumni. I suggested that he get fellow Minnesotan **Tim Tracey** to root him on one day.

**John Connell** sent in the following on his activities from last summer: "My wife, Colleen, and I celebrated the wedding of our third daughter, Brigid '16, to Annie Bryan '18 on June 10 in Radnor, Pa. The beauty of the day was only exceeded by the beauty of the brides, who have now taken up residence in Philadelphia. Colleen and John could not be happier. As if that were not bliss enough, Colleen and John's second daughter, Erin '13, gave birth on August 14 to her first child, Colleen and John's third grandchild, all of whom are boys.

"On a professional note, as a member of *New Jersey Lawyer* magazine (a publication of the New Jersey State Bar Association), I was co-editor, with Rutgers Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus Robert F. Williams, of a special edition dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the New Jersey Constitution. The magazine published on October 1, covering a range of state constitutional law topics from abortion to firearms regulation."

Talk about low-hanging fruit: too easy to insert another lawyer comment here, so I will pass.

John is not the only Class of 1976 member to marry a daughter last summer. My daughter, Katherine '13, married Evan Casper-Futterman at an Adirondack camp near Lake George in August. What a great three-day weekend for the family! I took the weekend off from everything except being a family member, so I have no photo for *CCT*. Oh, well.

There is one photo from **Dan Baker**, who sent in a great shot of himself and **Gara LaMarche** on campus last August. They got together to celebrate 50 years of friendship; they met at freshmen Orientation. The photo was taken by Dan's nephew Lishi Baker '26, who will graduate when we will be celebrating our 50th class anniversary.

Yes, the 50th is fast approaching. Please stay in touch with me and with your friends from your Columbia years. If you have any ideas for reunion, get in touch because we will get things rolling soon. In the meantime, please send in your news, updates and photos, as long as there are two CC alumni in the photo. [Editor's note: All photos also must be at least 750 kb and should be sent directly to *CCT* though the Class Notes photo webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).]

I am concluding with Copland's *Appalachian Spring*. I listened to that a lot in the last few months to help get me through Howitt's Hoboken Winter.

Stay safe and stay in touch.

## 1977

**David Gorman**  
[dgorman@niu.edu](mailto:dgorman@niu.edu)

The last big event was our 45th reunion, last June. Sorry for the delay in reporting. Although I swore up and down in a previous column that I would be there, in the end, I missed it. A number of us turned out, however. This is the list of attendees at the class dinner, provided to me by the Alumni Office, with apologies to anyone whose name was not included: **Russ Behrman, Peter Buxbaum, Mark Goldberger, Bill Gray, John Hallacy, Charles Knapp, Jon Lukomnik, Brent Rosenthal, Daniel Sang, Walter**

**Simson, David Stanton, Chris Sten** and **George Whipple**. Only a bit more than four years until the 50th reunion. Just saying.

Meanwhile, **Bart Holland** PH'79 wrote that after 37 years, he retired last August from his tenured position at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, becoming a Professor Emeritus of Biostatistics. Bart recollects that, at the College, he majored in anthropology, "but subsequently traveled a few intellectual pathways to arrive at [my] ultimate career." He has been married since 1985, and has a grown son, and a daughter about to be married.

To which I might add that, by the time you read this, my son will be married (his mom being Jackie Laks Gorman BC'77).

## 1978

### REUNION 2023

JUNE 1–3

Reunion Contact  
[ccreunion@columbia.edu](mailto:ccreunion@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
[ccfund@columbia.edu](mailto:ccfund@columbia.edu)

**Matthew Nemerson**  
[matthewnemerson@gmail.com](mailto:matthewnemerson@gmail.com)

Last issue we had to cut this great submission from **Chris Allegaert**: "Last winter, I hosted at my family's Adirondack Mountain retreat in Keene **Don Endrizzi** PS'82, recently retired from his orthopedic practice in Portland, Maine, and **Ken Smith**, also recently retired, from HSBC in Switzerland, where he lives in Luins, a picturesque village east of Geneva overlooking Lac Léman and Le Mont Blanc. At Columbia, Don, Ken and I made up the stern three of various Heavyweight 8s from our freshman year on. The three of us also worked together in a Brooklyn warehouse every summer during college organizing the massive paper records of a failed stock brokerage firm for the estate's bankruptcy trustee. It was a gritty job but getting paid \$5 an hour and being together made it seem like an extension of the crew season: hard work, sweat and lots of laughs.

"While I've gone to Geneva and so had regular contact with Ken, and I've crossed paths with Don intermittently, the three of us hadn't



gotten together in many years. Don's housewarming present was a really impressive, framed watercolor he painted of a rustic fly-fishing scene. Don paints and fishes in retirement with the same enthusiasm and dexterity he employed doing years of shoulder replacements. Ken's contribution to the festivities was bringing from Switzerland the ingredients for and preparing a fantastic fondue, showing off his culinary chops to great effect.

"We topped off our get-together holiday with a wonderful dinner hosted by our teammate Adrian Shoobs '79, prepared by his wife, Abbie, at their *This Old House* project in the Berkshires, joined by fellow oar **Allan Cox** and his wife, Sally, who live down the road from Adrian. If it's possible to squeeze more fun and memories out of few hours, I'd like to know how!"

**Jonathan Haft** LAW'82 fills us in with his more recent life journey: "I was an SVP at Disney Music for quite a few years. Unfortunately, I suffered a traumatic brain injury about 11 years ago while in Mexico and had to be flown back by medevac to Los Angeles, where I spent several months in the hospital in intensive care and another four months in a rehab. I had to retire soon after trying to return to the Disney job.

"My wife, Judy, works at Mattel as a stylist for advertisements for its American Girl line of dolls while our daughter does the same things for its Barbie dolls. My son works for Amazon as a software engineer for its Alexa division. Aside from our home

in L.A., we have a place near Joshua Tree National Park and another near Orlando, where Judy's family lives."

**Alfred Feliu** tells us, "I am pleased to report that my daughter, Julie, was married in October by none other than Hon. **Joseph A. Greenaway Jr.**"

**Dr. Kevin Vitting** spent last summer bicycling and sailing, and has these wise words on Columbia's recent ups and downs in the college rankings: "We've always been a great university — a bastion of diversity and academic excellence and classical education in the greatest city on the planet. Whatever numerical machinations the other top universities may resort to for jockeying for position on the leaderboard, it does not detract from Columbia's strengths in the long run!"

A few updates from the Spring/Summer 2022 column from editor **John Glusman** GSAS'80: "W.W. Norton is proud to have published more Columbia writers, such as Saidiya Hartman's *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments* and *Sexual Citizens* by Jennifer S. Hirsch and Shamus Khan.

"I'm also very proud of my son, Graham, studying international criminal law in Amsterdam, and daughters Jenny, a pediatrician, and Isabel, to be a Ph.D. in psychology."

**Robert Anthony** updates us, "Happy to be back covering real, in-person tech and travel media events again and seeing colleagues I've missed for so long. My paper, *PC Picks* — *Best in Tech*, on Pinterest, has 1.1 million followers (same as the Chicago Cubs) and my Tech Tips column appears in *Sree's Sunday Note*, a newsletter curated by Columbia's former chief digital officer, Sree Sreenivasan. Finally, I predict that Aaron Judge will play for the Yankees this year along with the Mets' Jacob DeGrom."

Sports analyst **Tom Mariam** writes, "Of the many things I learned at Columbia, my WKCR radio skills may be the handiest. I've been doing a lot of work for AP Radio Sports, including covering Aaron Judge's historic home run chase all season and anchoring and producing once a week the nightly *AP Sports Wrap*. It brings back memories of producing and hosting WKCR's *Jockey Shorts* show.

"The big baseball story in New York this year was not the Yankees

or Mets — it was Columbia's baseball team. Our Lions were a number 3 seed in their region and won two games. National champ Mississippi was also a number 3 seed in its region.

"Finally, as even Lou Gehrig CC 1923 experienced, every long streak comes to an end. This was the first year in 40 that I missed Homecoming. It coincided with Parents' Weekend at Tulane, where my daughter is a sophomore. At least the Green Wave wears light blue uniforms for most home games."

I also missed Homecoming for the first time in decades, opting to go to Penn State's homecoming with my brother David Nemerson '83 and his wife's family, where 109,000 fans all dressed in white was a slightly new experience!

**Mark Blackman** did attend the game: "Just returned from the Homecoming game, which I attended with my brother **Gary Blackman**; **Tom Bisdale** and his wife, Leslie; and Chris Sten '77. Beautiful day, big crowd and an exciting game that went down to final seconds, before Dartmouth prevailed.

"Gary and I are still with ArtsPower National Touring Theatre, the company we founded 38 years ago. In April 2022, we were invited back to Tallahassee to receive Florida State University College of Music's Ella Scoble Opperman Faculty Citation for Graduate Alumni Distinguished Achievement. We still play and look forward to continuing as active musicians into our post-ArtsPower years."

"Since leaving Columbia," **Bill Hartung** tells us, "my career has centered on foreign policy issues at think tanks including the World Policy Institute, the New American Foundation, the Center for International Policy and, as of January 2022, the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft. My areas are Pentagon spending, global arms sales and nuclear policy. I write on the Forbes website, for *The Nation*, and on occasion for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and other national publications. It's in many ways a scary time in world affairs, but I'm glad to be in a position to contribute to the debate on what role the United States can most usefully play."

Having a similar kind of impact, but in different circles, **Gary Pick-**

**holz** SIPA'81, of Oxford University notes, "I have been appointed head of academic partnerships and social impact investment for the S8 Nations NGO in Zurich, a consortium of the eight innovative small nations: Singapore, Israel, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Ireland and New Zealand."

Gary is exasperated by the silly questions I often ask to provoke people to send in extra notes, and he is not wrong.

And we close with the ambassador, **Chris Dell**: "Took a three-month trip to Portugal, Germany, Bulgaria, Mozambique, South Africa and Eswatini (The Country Formerly Known as Swaziland). A mix of work and adventure. Lots of game parks, whale watching and birding.

"Back in the United States long enough to collect the mail and get a Covid-19 booster, then it was back to Europe and Africa, as my wife is on an extended temporary assignment in Maputo before taking up a posting to Kyiv next summer. Maybe. We're not sure how that one will play out in terms of when, where or how."

Go to [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct) for bonus notes.

Thanks everyone for responding to your humble scribe's many exhortations to write.

## 1979

**Robert C. Klapper**  
[robertklapper@aol.com](mailto:robertklapper@aol.com)

**Xavier Huguet** has "retired from my job at the European Commission in Brussels, and I now split my time between this city and Barcelona. My wife, Nadine, is a choreographer and teacher at the Institut National des Arts de la Scène in Brussels."

**Stephen Ackerman** was an attorney in the Legal Counsel Division of the New York City Law Department for more than 30 years and retired in 2019. His debut poetry collection, *Late Life*, won the 2020 Gerald Cable Book Award and was published in August 2022. He writes in the Acknowledgments section of the book, "In college ... I took courses with two extraordinary poets and teachers: Kenneth Koch and David Shapiro. I was then, and I am now, grateful to them."

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DEREK JUENGEL

**“Oar, Lions, Oar!”** On July 27, a contingent of Lions — left to right: Bernie Crinigan ’79, Brian Tolan SEAS’81, Terry Jones ’85, John Schutt ’80 and Lance Warrick ’79 — tackled the Bowron Lake Canoe Circuit, in the wilderness of British Columbia’s Cariboo Mountain Range. Jones holds a Columbia blue paddle that was added to the collection of miniature paddles that canoeists traditionally leave at “The Chute,” a shelter located at the halfway point of the circuit, which is 72 miles of lakes and short portages laid out in a natural parallelogram and widely considered one of the world’s finest canoeing destinations.

**Robert C. Klapper:** “You know we’re getting old when the only two letters are about finally retiring! For those of us still working, try not to look in the mirror.

“Today’s Columbia thought is about the massive sculpture in front of the Law School, *Bellerophon Taming Pegasus*, by Jacques Lipchitz. The installation occurred in 1977, and I remember it well. **Jack Garden** described it as giant muscle cramp. His description has stayed with me all these years.

“On a recent vacation to ride the wild surf in Hawaii I mistakenly entered what’s known as the ‘impact zone.’ This is where waves traveling for thousands of miles across the ocean hit the reef on the shores of Oahu and kick the water to become these glorious mountains of water that one can surf down. But if, as in my case, the wave was big enough, it throws you off in midflight and down the face of the wave. The lip of the wave acts as a pile driver pushing you through the surface of the water literally into the reef. As I tumbled under the ocean, I was quite disoriented. I actually did not know which way was up or down. I have since been coached by other surfers to feel your ankle, feel your leash and follow the leash, because the surfboard floats on the surface and you will know which way is up.

“I will be honest ... there was a distinct moment when I was swimming with all my might and suddenly realized that I thought I was swimming the wrong way. I was diving deeper down, and not going to the surface above. As I struggled in the white water I told myself I had only one breath left and as I pushed my arms to break the surface to take that last breath, I inhaled water instead of air.

“I am here to tell you that you can inhale water and survive. This experience of tumbling and turning and twisting in the white water took me back to that day in 1977 when I first saw that Lipchitz sculpture. It’s 23 tons of metal and at the time only *The Statue of Liberty* was a bigger metal statue.

“Why, you might ask, would I be thinking about that sculpture all these years later? It’s because I always wondered why the Columbia-trained architect, Max Abromovitz, commissioned Lipchitz in 1964 to make this piece of art (it was installed after Lipchitz’s death).

“What do surfing and wiping out have to do with this titanic piece of art? The answer lies in these words from Lipchitz himself regarding the piece’s backstory: ‘You observe nature, make conclusions, and from these you make rules. ... And law is born from that.’

“The twisted figures in Lipchitz’s work might have related to the study of law to him, but on that day in Hawaii, feeling my limbs twisting in nature, I made my own conclusions, and this sculpture was all I could think of.

“My connection to the Law School library and the trek across Amsterdam Avenue were key parts of my years at the college. I did not find the stacks at Butler or the grub room to be quiet enough to concentrate. I found the Law School library to be the best place for me, with the fewest distractions. And so in my junior and senior years I saw this sculpture, as many of you did, every day.

“I would love to learn more of the backstory of why Abromovitz chose Lipchitz to showcase in front of the Law School. How did they meet? These men came together on the campus and even though I was thousands of miles away in the middle of Hawaiian waters tumbling for my life, their creation was on my mind ... like a muscle cramp.

“Roar, lion, roar!”

## 1980

**Michael C. Brown**  
mcbcu80@yahoo.com

Seasons change with the scenery  
Weavin’ time in a tapestry  
Won’t you stop and remember me?  
... Look around  
Leaves are brown  
And the sky is a hazy shade of winter  
— *Simon & Garfunkel*

Well, another year has passed and many of us are entering our 65th campaign. As I like to say, “aging like a fine wine.” We still have a long way to go, so stay positive and keep those legs moving.

I had a wonderful call with **Pat DeSouza** regarding his company, Water Intelligence, where he is the executive chair. As you might know, Pat is our go-to guy on everything water. His company is a leader in water and water-related infrastructure solutions in both the European Union and the United States. Given the recent headlines surrounding Jackson, Miss., and the recent hurricane in Florida, the need for his services is greater than ever. Pat and his family live in Connecticut.

We caught up with **Charles LaRocca** at **A.J. Sabatelle’s** daughter’s wedding. (Go to college.columbia.edu/cct to see a photo of a few of us at the wedding.) Always the consummate gentleman, Charlie is the co-founder and CIO at LCJ Associates, a registered investment advisor in Brooklyn, N.Y., which specializes in financial planning and asset management and is highly regarded in the NYC area. His son, Andrew, recently joined the firm, making this a true family business!

On a personal note, my wife, Marianne, and I have moved to Boynton Beach, Fla., but plan to spend time in the NYC area during the summer. Please feel free to reach out to me at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

## 1981

**Dan Albohn, Kevin Costa and Rich Gentile**  
daniel.albohn@gmail.com  
kevinyc@icloud.com  
r.gentile@snet.net

**Tom Kelliher** and your correspondent **Dan Albohn** shared memories of and experiences from our time on Morningside Heights. Tom reports: “I’ve been at Northridge Preparatory School in Niles, Ill., near Chicago, for 30 years. I teach AP U.S. history to juniors, geography to sixth-graders and a Civil War elective to high school students. I also enjoy advising juniors and seniors as they explore colleges and the admissions process. Each summer for 25 years, I led a Civil War trip for Northridge. Although a long drive from Chicago, it was always a great experience with much learning, some recreation and many fond memories. Our base was The Heights School (Potomac, Md.), where I taught in the 1980s. Our itinerary included two days at Gettysburg and visits to Bull Run, Antietam, Harpers Ferry and Ford’s Theatre. The students would spend July 4 visiting museums and taking in the fireworks on The Mall. When people ask me why I stopped running the trip, I quote the famous philosopher Clint Eastwood: ‘A man’s got to know his limitations.’ Some of my closest friends in the Chicago area are former students who went on the journey.”

Among Tom’s Morningside memories is a one-day 1980 stint



as a chauffeur for Independent presidential candidate John Anderson, together with **Mark Gordon** SIPA'82, founder and president of the nonpartisan League of Student Voters. We “picked up Anderson and two staff members in my dad’s 1973 Nova,” Tom recalls, and Anderson pulled rank with a police officer to allow them to make an illegal left turn onto 110th Street. Anderson cracked a joke or two and I remember saying, “I need to drive congressmen more often!”

Tom and Dan also remembered Dean Robert Randle GSAS'66’s CC class, which they took together. Dean Randle sat in a chair up front, our class assembled in a U with no desks. He frequently assigned additional material that we typically had to obtain in Butler Library. On several occasions when he was away, Randle’s counterpart, the amiable Dean Ainslee Embree, who led his own popular CC section, was the special substitute.

Five years after graduation, Tom returned to New York for the summer and made his way to campus, where he took a course with the legendary history professor James P. Shenton '49, GSAS'54. Funded by The National Endowment for the Humanities and offered for high school teachers, the course included several of Shenton’s always-popular walking tours of the city. “Professor Shenton’s enthusiasm and his personal interest in the students was an inspiration for my own teaching career. He enjoyed taking students out for dinner, a custom that I have continued with my school’s alumni,” Tom says.

Tom and Dan recalled the memorable debate, a few weeks into our freshman year, between Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and William F. Buckley. Presented by The Debate Council of Columbia College to more than 400 people packed into Low Library and later airing on PBS’ *Firing Line*, the debate centered on the resolution “That the welfare system in the United States should be federalized.” To decide the winner, audience members literally voted with their feet, as they chose whether to exit to the right or left. Moynihan prevailed by 259 to 166. According to *Spectator* (September 26, 1977), “Buckley expressed some disappointment, while Moynihan said he

was surprised that he won by such a small margin at Columbia.”

**Arthur Geller** PS'85 enjoyed the news in our Fall 2022 column from **Ed Kelly**, his freshman-year roommate in Carman, and was prompted to write. “After practicing gastroenterology in an academic setting early in my career,” Arthur reports, “I have been in private practice in Monmouth County (N.J.) for 22 years. I hope to continue in practice for many years to come. I am blessed with a wonderful family — my wife and two daughters, the older a medical student at Rutgers and the younger a dental student at Penn.”

From his Columbia years, Arthur remembers a conversation with the now-late, great professor Karl-Ludwig Selig, a professor of Romance languages and teacher of a well-known course on *Don Quixote* (which he pronounced “kwik-sit,” an eccentricity recalled even by those who didn’t take the course).

“Many pre-med students considered Selig’s course a prerequisite for medical school, as much as organic chemistry,” Arthur says. “We were standing on the steps of Hamilton Hall where Professor Selig said, ‘Geller, when I interview a young prospective faculty member, I will intentionally state an incorrect fact. One applicant will reply, ‘I think that is wrong, Professor,’ and the other applicant will say, ‘You know Professor Selig, I’m not sure I remember this as you say. Let us go the library and research this. We can come back for some schnapps and discuss further.’ I will always recommend the second applicant for the position.’ This lesson in humility and sensitivity made a profound impression on me and helps to explain why Professor Selig was such a legend at Columbia.”

**Rich Gentile** is winding up his long political career with his landslide election to the office of Probate Judge in East Hartford, Conn. Rich’s ascent began with his successful campaign for Student Council in high school. A brief misstep followed early in our freshman year, when posters that urged a vote for “Rich Gentile” had to be hurriedly replaced with others that said “Richard Gentile,” as some streetwise classmates who had not yet met Rich suspected a prank. But Rich showed his perseverance and was elected class president during both our junior and senior years. From there



Dining at Lusardi’s in NYC on July 10 were, left to right: Dr. Basil Pace '81, Erik Jacobs '81, Dr. Martin Stransky '78, Ron Torres, Guido Amati and Dr. Yuri Baransky SEAS'81.

the path wound ever upward. After a few years practicing law in New York City, Rich returned to East Hartford, where he entered town politics. The voters soon made him chairman of the Board of Selectmen, and of the Town Council and then the Redevelopment Agency, where he helped to shape the now-thriving downtown of East Hartford. He soon assumed the role of harbormaster, and in his spare time performed dozens of marriages as justice of the peace. In consideration of his long service to the town, the Republican Party declined to nominate a candidate to oppose Rich in this, his last election, hence the landslide result.

Dan caught up with Rich on the campaign trail, where he asked the candidate to reflect on his long years of service. “I’ve been fortunate to have been able to represent the people of my hometown during the past 35 years,” Rich said, adding, “It all started at Columbia.”

## 1982

**Andrew Weisman**  
columbiacollege82@gmail.com

Gents, as I sit down to assemble the notes for this issue, the days have grown shorter and colder, while the U.S. midterm elections loom large.

Great turnout for the notes this time! This was the first occasion that I had to shorten the column to fit within the editorial guidelines; for that I apologize.

Checking in first this period, the multi-talented **Nobuhisa “Nobu” Ishizuka** LAW'86: “Been very busy

with my duties as chair and president of USRowing, traveling to the Czech Republic for our World Championships in September, attending US Olympic and World Rowing congresses and overseeing the overhaul of our high-performance program as well as all our domestic programs.

“Otherwise, I’m still teaching comparative law at the Law School and running a research center. With two daughters in the academic world (one working at Harvard Law School, the other teaching at Groton School), we are fully immersed in academic life. And my wife, Marcia GSAPP'86, and I welcomed our first grandchild, a boy, last year.”

Also checking in this period, our esteemed citizen of New York City, **Francisco Navarro** SIPA'86: “This past September I completed my 36th year of working at the New York City Mayor’s Office of Operations, where I got my first job after earning an M.P.A.

“This year concluded the 42nd year of the Roach Motel League (RML) fantasy baseball league, with members including Nat Saffran '20, son of the late founding member of the RML, Alan Saffran '81, PS'86; Mark Allen '81; **Steve Georgeson**; Jaime Prieto '83; Larry Hardin '83; **Jay Shevins** BUS'84; Rob Clarick '83; Tim Hughes '83; and Ed Koral '83. In summer 2021, the RML took a four baseball-city road trip and visited Cleveland (and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum), Cincinnati, Chicago (Wrigley Field) and Milwaukee. See the nearby photo!”

On behalf of all your classmates I thank you for your contribution to the well-being of our city!

We received a wonderful communicate from **Sam Silver** LAW'85: "It was nice to see everyone at our 40th reunion. I am retired from the practice of law and doing a lot of skiing in the winters. Plus, I contribute extensively to Wikipedia and still enjoy performing in musical theater."

Next this period, we received a note from **Jim Geoly**. I must say, I found this note really heartwarming to read.

"Professionally, I wound up as a lawyer in Chicago. After 35 years of practice in law firms, two years ago I became general counsel of the Archdiocese of Chicago, which I love. It's an interesting and fulfilling job at a very challenging time for the Catholic Church, which is embarking on an effort to reenergize its mission in this country. I'm glad to be part of it.

"Personally, I have a wonderful wife and seven (yes, seven) kids. The youngest is 9, so unlike others in our class, I'm still going to elementary school conferences!

"Lastly, I continue to believe that my education at Columbia was the most valuable learning experience of my life. Even in law, I draw more on what I learned at Columbia than on what I learned in law school, because of the focus on critical thinking and the expansion of our world view. In my 60s, I still miss the environment at Columbia and my friends from that part of my life. And, like all of us, I still miss Mama Joy's. My

favorite was the brisket with hot red peppers and extra gravy."

Thanks, Jim!

Also checking in this time is our stalwart classmate **Skip Parker** BUS'91 with some info on the 40th reunion: "Special thanks to Brian Krisberg '81, LAW'84, who hosted the nicest evening of our 40th reunion last June. A number of us attended, and Brian had the foresight to invite the Barnard Class of 1982 alumnae, who provided a festive touch for the gathering. The Class of '82 dinner was lightly attended and held in a sub-optimal room at Faculty House.

"My wife and I still live in Greenwich, Conn., and travel regularly. Last May I resigned from UBS to form my own independent wealth advisory practice in Greenwich, and I anticipate working another decade. I am a District 5 member of the Representative Town meeting and serve as senior warden of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Riverside. I sing with the church choir, the University Glee Club (founded by Columbia College grads in 1873), the Greenwich Choral Society and the Columbia Alumni Singers. In late September, I sang the national anthem with 25 glee club members at Citi Field prior to a Mets game!"

Thanks for the update! My wife, who grew up in the shadow of Shea Stadium, is profoundly jealous!

Our globe-trotting and accomplished humanitarian classmate



Meeting up at Columbia Reunion 2022 on June 6 were, left to right: Eric Altholz '82, Jonathan Fox '82 and Wallace Wentink '82.

**Tom O'Keefe** sent in the following interesting note: "After a 16-year absence, I again find myself working on a U.S. Agency for International Development project in the West Indies, only this time as chief of party for the Caribbean Business Enabling Environment Reform project, based in Barbados. In 2005-06 I lived in Antigua and worked on trade-related issues in the Eastern Caribbean. This time the project is broader in scope. Among other issues, it is looking at ways to attract renewable energy investments to promote energy security and enhance resilience as ever-stronger hurricanes due to climate change knock out electricity grids for weeks on end."

Important work indeed!

Our esteemed classmate **Paul Riordan** also checked in to wish everyone well: "My wife, Mary, and I have been living in Shrewsbury, Mass., for 25 years and have raised four children, all in their 20s now. The best part about having adult children has been having a grandson, Connor (2), who visited for Halloween. We are hoping for more!"

"I retired from P&G/Gillette a few years ago and work in marketing for Foster Grant Sunglasses and Readers.

"I hope all is well with the rest of the CC'82 team. Best wishes and good health to all!"

My good friend **Wallace Wentink** wrote that he had "an enjoyable evening with **Eric Altholz** SIPA'83 and **Jonathan Fox**, and their respective spouses, on the Friday evening of Columbia Reunion 2022." See the nearby photo!

Following up on Wally's note, Eric wrote: "It's true — the three of us and our respective spouses had a wonderful dinner at Tessa during reunion. Of course, as early '80s graduates, we declined to attend the formal class dinner that same night. Jonathan and I did attend the welcoming lunch on Friday, at which we encountered not one classmate. Jonathan and I also had lunch at Community with **Evan Charkes** on Saturday afternoon.

"In the photo of Wally, Jonathan and me, there is a gap between me and Jonathan to acknowledge the absence of **Amelia Zalcmann** BC'82, who was under the weather."

Thanks to all for writing in!

## 1983

### REUNION 2023

JUNE 1-3

Reunion Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Roy Pomerantz**  
bkroy@msn.com

My son David '26, my wife and I attended the Homecoming game, with its loss to Dartmouth. I ran into **Andrew Barth** and his son, Andy Barth Jr. '16, BUS'23 at the pre-game lunch. I also attended the wedding of Marc Ripp '80, LAW'83's daughter Elena Ripp SEAS'14. Elena's sister, Brandi '12, and her grandfather



Some members of the "Roach Motel League" watched the Cleveland Indians take on the Houston Astros at Cleveland's Progressive Field on July 21, 2021. Left to right: Francisco Navarro '82, Nat Saffran '20, Mark Allen '81, Jessica Foster and Larry Hardin '83.

FRANCISCO NAVARRO '82





Celebrating with Marc Ripp '80 (seated, far left) at the October 23 wedding of his daughter Elena Ripp SEAS'14 were, seated, left to right: the groom, Igor Schneider; the bride, and her sister, Brandi Ripp '12; and standing, left to right: Dr. Daniel Pahl '14, Kayla van de Bunt '14, Diane Wang SEAS'14, Michael Ramadei '13, Jessica Geiger '14, Roy Pomerantz '83, Alex Wallach GSAPP'12, Yael Willner '14 and Ken Robinson LAW'83.

Joseph Ripp '48, GSAS'49 are also alumni. (See the nearby photo.)

**Jeffrey Walker:** "My son Harris '21 graduated in December 2020. It was a great experience for him, brought us closer and made it clear that I needed to stop talking about how important the school was to me and do something."

"Through Harris and one of his close friends, I was fortunate to encounter a program that is doing important work with NYC high school kids. There is an immediate need for financial support. I hope you will find it as compelling as I do and reach out. The Freedom and Citizenship program is a humanities-based education program that was launched in 2009 as a partnership between Columbia's Department of American Studies and the Roger Lehecka Double Discovery Center. There are many aspects to F&C's story, but the most important are:

"Mission: To introduce dedicated New York City public-high-school students (primarily those who are low income, attend underperforming high schools and are likely to be the first in their family to go to college) to college-level work in the humanities. The goal is to prepare them for lives as active, informed citizens, while offering a path and guidance to applying to and getting into college. As of today, more than 400 students have attended F&C, at no financial cost to them.

"Method: Students live on campus for a month in the summer and

attend a seminar program modeled on Contemporary Civilization. They are introduced to everything from Plato and Aristotle to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. The program is taught by a combination of seminar instructors and guest lecturers across multiple humanities disciplines.

"Last summer, I sat in on a class on the Civil War led by Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69. It was amazing.

"F&C goes far beyond a classroom program. It stays with the students and monitors them during their senior year in high school. The program runs a nine-month after-school project in civic leadership that every student participates in, while offering college-application support (including helping to secure letters of recommendation and other important foundational elements critical to getting into college.)

"Results: In short, spectacular (as were the students I met).

- 100 percent of students have received college acceptances since 2010;
- 99 percent of students complete college within six years;
- more F&C students major in humanities and social sciences than their peers do (not that we don't need more data scientists, but how great to be exposed to so much of what the world has to offer when you are in college?); and
- enhanced civic participation, including significantly higher rates of voter registration and involvement in political campaigns.

"Need: At its peak, 45 students are admitted each year. However,

current funding considerations might result in the program being reduced by a third, from 45 students to 30. F&C is working diligently to find ways to increase awareness of the program and to garner support for what is clearly an outstanding commitment to NYC and its most important asset: the next generation.

"There is an active effort to increase F&C's endowment to support the operational needs of the program and help implement the program model at other colleges and universities, including at Yale and the University of Rochester. My family is committed to supporting F&C and I am working to broaden awareness of the program in both the Columbia universe and the foundation and philanthropic world. As a NYC public school student who benefited deeply from the education and exposure to the Core, I cannot think of anything more important than F&C."

**Kevin Chapman:** "My wife, Sharon, and I recently returned from a bucket-list trip to Hawaii (finally traveling again post-Covid-19) and are preparing to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary in May (coincides with our 40th reunion!). Meanwhile, the fourth book in my Mike Stoneman Thriller series, *Fatal Infraction*, was named the number 1 Police Procedural of 2021 and winner of the CLUE Award, and is a Finalist (top five) for the 2022 Kindle Book Award. My newest novel, *Dead Winner*, is now available in

paperback, hardcover and audiobook, and as a Kindle ebook. This writing gig has really turned into a passion and a retirement plan. And, the icing on the cake is that our youngest son, Ross '18, graduated from Boston University School of Law, our law alma mater, as valedictorian in May and is planning an August 2023 wedding. There will be much to celebrate in the Chapman family this summer. We wish all our Columbia friends a festive post-Covid year ahead!"

**Allen Shelton:** "I am celebrating my 21st year as a pastor in northern New Jersey, where I live. I am also celebrating as an educator focusing on high school students. During my time at Columbia, I participated in the Debate Club and the Speech Club, touring the Northeast. I still use these skills in my work as a pastor."

**James Reginato:** "My latest book, *Growing Up Getty: The Story of America's Most Unconventional Dynasty*, was recently published. I am delighted to report that it has received excellent reviews in, among other places, *The New York Times* ("Growing Up Getty" Shakes the Dust off a Family's Aristocratic Name) and NPR's *Morning Edition* ('A Billion Here, A Billion there. A New Book Tells the Story of J. Paul Getty'). *Vanity Fair*, where I am writer-at-large, excerpted it. Fellow Columbians, I hope you will pick up a copy!

"Otherwise, I still reside, after all these years, in the West Village. I'd be happy to hear from classmates."



Honoring Claire C. Shipman '86 at the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner on November 17 at Low Rotunda were, left to right: Michael Schmidtberger '82; Sina Ahdoot '23; Dr. Allen Hyman '55; Janet Lorin '95; Schmidtberger's wife, Margie Sung; and Roy Pomerantz '83.

**Ken Chin:** “I got my Fall 2022 issue of *CCT*. The shocking piece was that the 40th reunion is coming up, meaning we were there more than 40 years ago.”

**Ed Joyce** is now president of the Fordham Law Alumni Association.

In preparation for the March 2022 memorial service for Gerald Sherwin '55, I contacted several of his classmates. Dr. Allen Hyman '55 was previously the senior physician at Columbia University Irving Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and a tremendous supporter of CC. Allen and I have become friends, and I escorted him to the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner on November 17. I also have remained close to Sina Ahdoot '23, who attended the Summer Sendoff at my apartment before starting at Columbia. Sina was recently named a 2022 CAA Scholar, and sat at our table at the dinner. (See the nearby photo.)

I am proud to be the link between CC graduates from 1955 to current students.

Love to all! Everywhere!

## 1984

**Dennis Klainberg**  
dennis@berkley.com

Congratulations, **Richard Manion**, on publishing yet another fabulous monograph of your exceptional life's work in architecture. In *Streamlined*, Richard's internationally acclaimed designs for the world's rich and famous are beautifully photographed for all to see. It's truly a magnificent gift: Thank you, Richard!

**Todd Sussman** is the liner notes editor for Barbra Streisand's new album, *Live at the Bon Soir*. Recorded at the tiny, upscale Greenwich Village nightclub in November 1962, this was designed to be Streisand's first solo release. However, once the recording was completed, Streisand and Columbia Records opted to go with a studio album instead, and the live album went into the vaults ... until now. The release is timed to celebrate Streisand's 60th anniversary as a Columbia Records artist. Todd is proud to have worked on this historic project, which includes a lavish 32-page booklet containing the liner notes and rare, archival photos.

In addition, Todd also wrote the cover story for the November/

December 2022 issue of *Cabaret Scenes* magazine, offering an in-depth look at Streisand's new album. The piece features exclusive recollections from three individuals who were at the Bon Soir in 1962: 1) longtime manager Marty Erlichman; 2) lyricist Alan Bergman, who with his wife, Marilyn (now deceased), wrote more songs released by Streisand than any other songwriter; and 3) yes ... Streisand herself! This special issue marks the first time she has appeared on the cover in the magazine's 28-year history. *Cabaret Scenes* is the only print publication in the world that focuses on the excitement of cabaret and its performers. Todd wrote the cover headline, “Introducing Barbra Streisand,” to accompany a vintage photo of Barbra at the Bon Soir, as if the issue was being released back in 1962. Copies might still be available at cabaretscenes.org, with proceeds benefiting the nonprofit American Songbook Association. Write to Todd at toddaos@aol.com.

Last September, **David Cowan** received the Ronald M. George Award for Judicial Excellence from the Beverly Hills Bar Association. This award is named after the former Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court and recipients have been very prominent jurists. “I have sat on the Los Angeles Superior Court for 17 years, initially as a court commissioner, and since Gov. Jerry Brown appointed me, as a judge. I have heard criminal, family, probate and civil cases and served as the supervising judge of both the Probate Department and Civil Department, the latter of which is composed of more than 150 judges.

Attending this special event, along with David's wife, Libby Kauper, was his “local Columbia gang”: David Schwarz '83, Cary Berger '85 and Christopher Mount '85.

**Wayne Weddington III** celebrated his 60th in Dubrovnik with his wife, Gabrijela; son Augustus (18 months old at the time); Alain Kodsi '86; and Imran Shah SEAS'84.

Wayne writes: “If there is any consolation to the advanced passage of time as one ages, it is the joy of sharing it with the love of family and great friends. ... It is important in life to take inventory of one's angels periodically ... to remember the advocates or pivotal relationships that helped define one at his/her



PHIL SOHN

Langham Gleason '84 (left) celebrated his 60th birthday on October 1 with close friends in Corpus Christi including John Soulis '83 (center) and Marco de Sa e Silva '82.

best. I have been blessed with many. Many were at Columbia, including Karl Okamoto '82, LAW'85.”

Finally, at Homecoming this past fall, which yours truly sadly could not attend, dear friends **Robert Zecker** and **Jim Weinstein** were kind enough to check in during the event and report on the new “spirit band” that made its debut. My beloved Marching Band met its demise at the outset of Covid-19.

“Roar, Lion, Roar” and “Who Owns New York?” once again woke the echoes of the Hudson Valley.

## 1985

**Jonathan White**  
jw@whitecoffee.com

We got a few updates for this cycle, but would love to hear from more of us.

As my note indicated, as our class approaches a milestone birthday (a number divisible by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 20, 30 and 60), I wanted to know how you are adjusting to life in general, interacting with Columbia and the like.

Our updates touched on a lot of these themes.

After 35 years of investment banking (JPMorgan, Lazard and BofA), **Larry Slaughter** recently became a full-time wine maker in Provence. “Château de Mille is in the heart of the region, between Bonnieux and Apt. It is the oldest winery in the region, first cited in

the Papal archives in 1238. It is fully organic, making red, white and rosé wines, with 25 hectares under production. We have a good harvest this season (notwithstanding the water shortfall) and are looking forward to building our U.S. wine distribution network. We have a daughter and son (CC'19) living and working in NYC and another son in London.”

**Andrew Hayes** LAW'89 and his wife, Monica SIPA'91, enjoyed Family Days this past October, particularly a talk by an Engineering professor on creating sustainable communities, with Manhattanville and West Harlem as testing and research areas.

**Erik Gaul** ran the Berlin Marathon in September (tied his PR of 4:36:32 to the second) and was to run the Philadelphia Marathon in late November. This was to be followed by a visit to Tuscan for a friend's birthday and then Munich for Oktoberfest. In October, Erik spent two weeks in Ukraine helping train Ukrainian medical providers in trauma care.

Another adjustment as we age includes growing our families. Congratulations to two very dear friends: **Lane Palmer**, on the wedding of his daughter Samantha to fellow doctor Jacob Greenberg, and **John Phelan**, on the wedding of his daughter Unity to fellow dancer Cameron Dieck.

As for yours truly, I was happy to spend Labor Day with my favorite John Jay juggler, baby toy distributor and fellow class correspondent, Roy Pomerantz '83. I find greater desire to reconnect with friends from



near and far, and to try not to be “hyperfocused” on work alone. I was able to get to Atlanta and Alabama for a really cool trip among the civil rights landmarks in this area, including a walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, and Sunday services at Ebenezer Baptist Church. I also had a business trip to Costa Rica to see coffee and the environs. In the post-pandemic world I hope to travel more to Europe, go back to Israel, go to Alaska and travel through more National Parks. I had a great trip with my youngest son through six ballparks last summer, including a “catch” on a certain movie set/baseball diamond in Iowa. Unfortunately my season ended too early, in October.

Here’s to a happy and healthy 2023!

## 1986

Everett Weinberger  
everett6@gmail.com

**Ken Stuzin** BUS’93: “I’ve been in Baltimore for 25 years at an investment firm that I helped start, Brown Advisory. My daughters are Maddie ’19 and Devon ’21, who also played varsity lacrosse for Columbia. It’s evidently something garnered from the drinking water in this town! I also have a son, Jack, who unfortunately has gone off to that vocational school in New Haven, where he too is a varsity lacrosse player, with an expected graduation year of 2025. My wife, Anne, and I recently celebrated our 30th anniversary, and it’s worth noting that our first formal date was a Columbia-Dartmouth football game. She too bleeds light blue!

“I still see a fair number of old Lions; **Mike Gilligan**, **Steve Stuart**, **Larry Walsh** and **Dave Silvera**, to name a few of the lads from rowing and football. We have a country house in the Adirondack Mountains, in the town of Keene Valley, and spend a good chunk of the summer there, so if you’re in the neighborhood, look us up! You can’t miss the 40-foot flagpole flying the old Columbia crown!”

**David Poppe** writes: “I retired at the end of 2018 as co-manager of the Sequoia Fund and an executive at its parent company after a 20-year tenure. After a wonderful year off that included seeing the band The National in concert eight times, I

launched a boutique investment manager, Giverny Capital Asset Management, with a Montreal-based partner. Just in time for the pandemic. I’m having a lot of fun in this role, uncooperative stock market notwithstanding. My wife, Cherie Henderson SPS’14, JRN’21, a former journalist, is closing in on earning a Ph.D. in communications at the Journalism School. And our son Doug graduated summa cum laude (bragging!) from Tufts in 2021 and is heading his own indie rock band, An Triangles, based in Boston. First album out this year!

“I recently caught up with fellow Carman 7 alum **Scott Weber** in Dallas. Scott’s practicing trusts and estates law there and looks the same as he did in fall 1982.”

**Peter Oxman**: “I practice real estate law as a partner with Seyfarth Shaw, although I now work on a fully remote basis. In 2019, my wife, Sondra, and I bought and renovated the 1896 Oscar and Mary Walker House in Galveston, Texas. We intended to use it as a weekend retreat, but we love our Galveston neighborhood so much we sold our house in Houston and relocated full time to Galveston. In fall 2021, we bought the 1894 Adolph and Augusta Helmann cottage, two doors down from our home, and completed renovations in early spring 2022. We use the cottage as a short-term rental. Both houses survived the infamous 1900 Storm (the worst natural disaster in U.S. history). Last June, the properties were featured on the Galveston Historic Foundation’s annual Historic Homes Tour, with more than 5,000 people touring the homes across two weekends. This past fall, we received Historic Preservation Awards from GHF for the rehab of the houses.

“I keep in touch with a number of my FIJI brothers, including Cory Weinbel SEAS’84, SEAS’85, who lives in North Houston with his wife, Debbie. Cory’s son David and my son Chris became friends while attending Sam Houston State together. In 2021, while on a business trip to San Francisco, I had dinner with Louie Napoli ’83, **Steve Marder** and Randy Bessolo ’87.”

**Tom Marrinson**: “I’m in my 15th year as a partner in the Insurance Recovery Group at Reed Smith, working out of its Chicago office. All three of our children have now graduated from college, with our

daughter having graduated from the University of San Diego last May. I am teaching my second term of ‘Mediation and Mediation Advocacy’ as an adjunct professor at University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, starting this January. I really enjoy teaching thus far, though creating a syllabus was way more work than I thought it would be.”

Please share your news with me and the class via the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 1987

Sarah A. Kass  
sarahann29uk@gmail.com

This past fall I received a breaking news alert from *The Washington Post* informing me of **Leslie Voss**’s latest research discovery — that if one is a mosquito magnet it is likely based on the way one smells! According to the article, Leslie, the chief scientific officer at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and her colleagues at Rockefeller University in New York City, found that “people who have higher levels of certain acids on their skin are 100 times more attractive to the female *Aedes aegypti*, the type of mosquito responsible for spreading diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever and Zika.” The findings were published in the journal *Cell* and have the potential to lead to new products that could mask human odors that in turn could curb the spread of mosquito-borne illnesses.

Way to go, Leslie!

**Sharon Block** writes: “Last spring I left the Biden White House, where I headed the regulatory policy office, and headed back to Harvard Law School, where I will teach labor and administrative law and running a labor policy program.”

Congrats, Sharon!

In sad news, **Melanie Roche** passed away on September 29, 2022, at her home in The Hague, The Netherlands. Her husband, James, wrote that in lieu of flowers, Melanie requested contributions to be made to Human Genome Foundation, a nonprofit that helps patients with rare diseases get the best treatments possible and furthers research. The founder was a friend

of Melanie’s, and this is a cause Melanie believed in very much. You will see the donate button on the website: [humangenomefoundation.org](http://humangenomefoundation.org). [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries” at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).]

## 1988

### REUNION 2023

JUNE 1–3

Reunion Contact  
[ccreunion@columbia.edu](mailto:ccreunion@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
[ccfund@columbia.edu](mailto:ccfund@columbia.edu)

Eric Fusfield  
[eric@fusfield.com](mailto:eric@fusfield.com)

**Steve Stastny** is a partner in the national law firm Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, attached to its Birmingham and New Orleans offices. Steve has a varied litigation practice and has been AV-rated for more than 20 years. He first appeared in Best Lawyers in America in 2006. Steve is married to the former Lauren Olvey. They have two sons, John Michael (20) and Ross (17). He wrote, “I am president of my temple here in New York and have been fortunate to have the time to volunteer for the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue for many years.”

I recall a time when classmate weddings were an opportunity for Columbia friends to reunite. We’ve now moved on to classmates’ children’s weddings, it would appear. **Doug Wolf** recently attended the wedding of a classmate’s daughter and had a chance to catch up with several fellow alums from the College and Engineering.

Speaking of our children reaching milestones, congratulations to **Laura Norman**, who reported from San Francisco that her daughter Mia Raneri SEAS’26 is at Columbia.

Best of luck to Mia on her Columbia journey.

**Joe Wanner** retired from his real estate and property management company.

**Jonny Roskes** offered some kind reflections on our late valedictorian, **Sherry Colb**. “Sherry was my Hartley suitemate our senior year. Upstairs in the suite was a reasonably low-key crew; downstairs was a bunch of boisterous, fun football players. So you can just imagine —

'Never the twain met.' At graduation, I said what I felt at the time (and still feel) to Sherry's mom: She wasn't just the smartest in our class; she was also the nicest. Two and a half years later, I danced (badly) at her wedding. Sherry was something special." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Keep the updates coming! We look forward to hearing from you.

## 1989

**Emily Miles Terry**  
emilymilesterry@me.com

When my husband, Dave Terry '90, and I took our two oldest kids to college a few years ago, I was struck by the flood of memories it elicited of my first day at Columbia, when I was dropped off by my mother and met my Carman 11 suitmates. **Matt Engels** just dropped off his eldest and he shot me this note: "When dropping Ellie for her first year at University of Wisconsin-Madison I was swept back to moving into Carman 11 in the fall 1985. Not sure it sunk in, but I told Ellie how just next door and across the hall from me were three of my most dear and best friends — **Amy Weinreich**

ing and challenging two-plus years in primary care! I have learned a skill — telehealth — and am lucky to work for an organization that was able to pivot quickly to remote medicine. I am grateful to all my emergency and hospital medicine colleagues, as I was relatively protected during the initial surge of Covid-19.

"During the first year of the pandemic, I worked mostly from home, something that I never really imagined doing as a family doctor, and gradually added back time in the office. Once vaccines were available, I did a lot of vaccinating, mostly through city-run clinics. During the 2021–22 school year, I mentored an awesome alum, Sam Mickel '14, in his third year at Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University (though I never really saw the lower half of his face)!

"And on the homefront, my daughter, Ellie, is in her junior year at Brown, and loves it despite the lack of curriculum."

**Gil Greenman** has published on Amazon a memoir, *A Fortunate Man With MS*, his story of living with multiple sclerosis. Gil went to Harvard Law and went on to a career as a lawyer. He praises his Columbia education: "The approaches of the

moved to Fort Lauderdale thanks to the acceptance of remote telework."

Also, in the making-the-world-better category, I heard from **Minh N. Vu**, who as a partner with Seyfarth Shaw specializes in Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act. "While I do represent businesses when they get sued, I also advise them on a variety of compliance issues that result in greater access for individuals with disabilities to facilities, goods and services offered by public accommodations and housing."

**Jason Carter** has some interesting career stories to share. He is "in my 27th consecutive year as an attorney at the Department of Justice, where I am an associate director managing our cooperation with Europe and Central Asia on criminal justice matters (extradition, evidence gathering and the negotiation of relevant treaties). As I type this email on my phone, I am packing to head to London tonight to meet with British prosecutors this week. And in two weeks, I head to France, where I am the U.S. representative to a law enforcement committee at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. I also will soon be in NYC more often as my wife, Dorothy, a Cornell grad, was assigned to an attorney job at the United Nations. Classmates and friends can find me in D.C., Manhattan or Bethany Beach, Del., when I'm not traveling abroad!"

Someone else who has got to have some good stories to share as well, **Lorne Teitelbaum**, wrote: "After 30 years working in the U.S. intelligence community and the past year working for the White House on the National Security Council, in November I started an assignment as the professor of intelligence and national security at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. I teach third- and fourth-year midshipmen about U.S. intelligence and how it supports U.S. policy-makers and military operations. It won't be the same as teaching young Columbia Lions, but I was looking forward to teaching future naval officers about the intelligence community and what it does."

**Heidi Wolpov** SEAS'90 "recently returned from trip to Italy with my husband. We went to Venice, Florence and Rome. Each city was so beautiful and interesting in its own unique way. I found myself thinking

back to our Columbia days quite a bit, specifically what we learned in the Core. In the artwork there were so many references to what we learned, bringing back memories of all the Greek poets and philosophers we read about in Lit Hum. And I felt fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from such good professors (I remember Professor James Mirollo!). I also realized how much I forgot and added to my list of goals to relearn some of what we learned, but certainly with a different, more adult perspective."

And to close out, I heard from **Meg Lockwood**, who is in the Bay Area working in digital payments. Meg has a senior in high school and a son, Benjamin '25: "He writes for *Spec* and is rowing heavyweight crew this year so he's busy but loving it," Meg wrote.

And as we can all attest from our shared Columbia experience, being a student was pretty wonderful.

Enjoy it, Benjamin!

## 1990

**Rachel Cowan Jacobs**  
younggrache@hotmail.com

Exciting update from **Margaret Robison**: "While most of our classmates are becoming empty nesters, I had my second child, Mariel, in August. Her brother, Carson, and I are so happy to have an addition to the family. We live in Manhattan, where I have been for the majority of time since graduation. I switched careers from tech startups and advisory services to venture/private equity firms to financial advisory about 10 years ago and have been able to stay involved as a volunteer with my son's schools as well as with Columbia. I recently became the president of Columbia College Women, and some of the Alumni Office staff outfitted Mariel with Columbia gear just in time for her debut at Homecoming. Several CC'90 friends visited her, including **Karena O'Riordan**, **Lisa Dabney**, **Craig Nobert**, **Judy Shampianer**, **Brian Kennedy** and **Dean Temple**. **Hayley Jares Kondon**, **Kirsten Mellor** and **Lisa Feldman Babel** BC'90 have been my California support team throughout."

**Jonathan Penders** and **Brooke Penders** happily celebrated their

*Jason Carter '89 is the U.S. representative to law enforcement committee at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France.*

**Rinzler, Elisabeth Socolow** and Emily — and that Ellie should be on the lookout for her lifelong friends next door or down the hall. I told her how even though we were all from vastly different areas — one from Westchester County, one from New York City via Princeton and one from California's Orange County, and me from north suburban Chicago, we bonded over late-night Chinese food (chicken and snow peas for Elisabeth), cheering for and playing freshman football and being together as we transitioned from high school to college at a great time to be at Columbia and in New York City."

**Cristina Mitchell** GS'93 wrote: "It certainly has been an interest-

Core and the history courses that I took from likes of Eric Foner '63, GSAS'69 and Jim Shenton '49, GSAS'54 were just what I needed to hone my writing and research skills."

Just do a search for Gil's name on Amazon, and the book will pop up.

For the last 30 years **Michael Glikes** has served as a federal employee at the U.S. EPA. Of this he writes, "I register nontoxic, biological pesticides that promise to replace more toxic pesticides, which might cause cancer and kill wildlife. While monetary compensation isn't [equal to] what others collect in law, medicine and finance, I love helping to protect human health and the environment. And now after 30 years in Washington D.C., I recently



25th wedding anniversary in October. Separate from that, they had the unexpected and joyful occasion of meeting up with **Chris Millward** and his beautiful family on the Eastern Shore of Maryland last April.

I know everyone joins me in extending a huge congratulations to **EveAnna Manley**, president of Manley Laboratories, for being honored last June at the 2022 She Rocks Awards, which honors women in the music and audio industries. EveAnna was presented with the Mad Skills award for her many achievements in the industry. I encourage you to read more about her: [sherocksawards.com/2022-honorees](http://sherocksawards.com/2022-honorees).

In other entertainment news, **Rick Minnich's** latest feature

Embassy in Israel, living in Tel Aviv, since 2019, spanning both the Trump and Biden administrations with lots of VIP visits and policy developments. (Prior we were in Amman, so we've been working on both sides of the Jordan River since 2016.) Mariana is the deputy economic counselor and I have been covering Iran and counterterrorism in the political section, but recently moved to public affairs, running the ambassador's social media.

"Our older son, Alex, began at Boston University in August, likely majoring in political science (following in our footsteps, especially if he takes the Foreign Service exam). Our younger son, Martin, is in 12th grade and is all about science,

as the Olivier Shield in 1984. Ziggy offered condolences to Chris' family and friends on Instagram, saying, "... the bonds we made during the years of playing soccer together, traveling, eating, walking the streets, laughing and sometimes fighting can never be broken by distance or time: JAH guide your spirits home ..." Andrew Price, another member of that team wrote, "Glad we could have shared such great memories from childhood to adults. To know you is to love you. Walk good Christopher P. Ziadie. I will miss the camaraderie, your realistic mentality, the don't give a two hoots attitude, your zest for life. I will keep the fire burning in your honor Bro 🍕🍕🍕. RIP Cee Zee. One Love Forever ❤️."

It can fairly be said that Chris' Columbia teammates and friends recognize him in these warm and heartfelt statements and share these sentiments. After graduating from the College, Chris continued his soccer career, representing the Jamaican national team six times between 1992 and 1993. He came from a footballing family that includes his father, the late Dennis Ziadie, a former Jamaican international player and coach who coached Chris through his childhood but died far too young in a bus crash in Mexico during the 1986 World Cup Finals. This tragedy affected Chris greatly. After retirement from the Jamaican national team, Chris went into soccer management, and was named assistant coach of the Jamaica Under-20 squad in 1999. Prior to that he was coach of Real

Mona and was also head coach at Waterhouse FC.

Chris is survived by his loving daughter and son, and another former Columbia soccer great, his brother Nick Ziadie '91. Memorial services were held October 9 in Pembroke Pines, Fla. Those wishing to leave thoughts or remembrances can visit [wilcoxffh.com/obituaries/Christopher-Ziadie/#!/Obituary](http://wilcoxffh.com/obituaries/Christopher-Ziadie/#!/Obituary). [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).]

## 1991

**Heather E.G. Brownlie**  
[heatherhj@yahoo.com](mailto:heatherhj@yahoo.com)

Greetings, classmates! I really appreciate all the news and notes and look forward to hearing from more of you this year!

Dr. **Jennifer Ashton** PS'00, HN'16 shared her amazing news: "I am happy to announce some exciting news that has come out of the pandemic. On November 5, I married Tom Werner, television producer, chair of Fenway Sports Group and co-owner of Liverpool Football Club, the Boston Red Sox and the Pittsburgh Penguins. Our wedding took place at The Harmonie Club with the reception at The Temple of Dendur at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, which I frequented as an art history major! Tom's great-grandfather x 12 generations is Gershom Mendes Seixas, who was the first native-born Jewish religious leader in the United States, participated in the inaugura-

### *On November 5, Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91 married Tom Werner, a TV producer and co-owner of the Liverpool Football Club, Boston Red Sox and Pittsburgh Penguins.*

documentary, *The Strait Guys*, was released theatrically throughout Germany on June 2. It tells the story of the 76-year-old Czech-born mining engineer George Koumal, who was on a mission to connect the United States and Russia with a 100-km train tunnel beneath the Bering Strait. [Editor's note: Koumal died on April 16, 2022, at 80.] In the film, Rick travels along the proposed railroad route through Alaska and Siberia with George and his fast-talking protégé, Scott, as they endeavor to convince international governments, corporations and Indigenous tribes to greenlight their \$100 billion railway project, with the promise to become the Panama Canal of the 21st century.

With *The Strait Guys*, Rick fulfilled a lifelong dream to travel to the American island of Little Diomed in the middle of the Bering Strait, where he looked into tomorrow at the Russian island Big Diomed only two miles away, on the other side of the International Dateline. The documentary is playing film festivals around the world, and was released in the U.S. in late 2022 or early 2023.

Time for another update from **Peter Neisuler**. "My wife, Mariana, and I have been serving at the U.S.

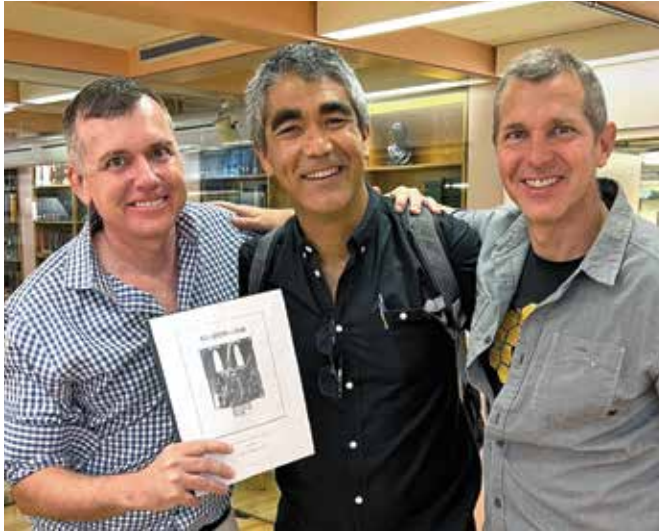
particularly molecular biology and cancer research. We'll head back to Washington, D.C., in the summer for training and from there will figure out where we go next."

My turn for some professional news. Last July, I changed employers but not careers. I like to say that in addition to trading religious affiliations (Episcopal/Jewish), I switched letters, going from NCS (National Cathedral School) to CESJDS (Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School). A highlight for me, albeit possibly not for my 10th-grade daughter, whose tenure at CESJDS is a year longer than mine, is that she and I drive to/from school together every day.

I end this column on a sad note. Dr. **Chris Ahmad SEAS'90** writes that on September 18, 2022, the Columbia men's soccer family lost one of its brothers, **Christopher P. Ziadie**, to lung cancer. Chris was a captain of the soccer team, a three-time All-Ivy team performer and a first team All-Region midfielder. Chris was born on July 8, 1967, in Kingston, Jamaica, and played high school soccer with top players, including Ziggy Marley, a musician and a son of Bob Marley. They won back-to-back Manning Cup titles together in 1983 and 1984, as well



Enjoying a whitewater rafting adventure on the Kennebec River at the Harris Station Dam in Northeast Somerset, Maine, on September 10 were, left to right: Michael Gitman '91, Bruce Mayhew '91, Earl McAlear '91, John Evans '91 and Sam Trotzky '91.



JOCELYN K. WILK

Commemorating the donation of the Existential Despair Archives to the Columbiana collection at Butler's Rare Book & Manuscript Library on June 10 were, left to right: Kevin O'Connor '92, Robert Guay '92 and Ben Appen '92.

tion of President Washington and was an elected trustee of King's College until 1815. Ours is a story that shows that love is possible the second time around and later in life!"

Congratulations to Jennifer!

**Mark Bures** and his family moved back from Rio de Janeiro to the United States and are now in Hermosa Beach, Calif., where they enjoy exploring the state and reconnecting with old friends.

**John Evans** submitted a photo from a "mini-reunion" that was held in early September. "Five of us got together at **Sam Trotzky's** cabin in Otis, Maine, for a long weekend. The weather was fantastic and we really enjoyed ourselves. We did a ton of outdoor activities, including the one nearby: about to launch into whitewater rafting on the Kennebec River with Sam as our intrepid raft guide. YOLO!"

Please take a moment to send me your latest news and happenings, and I'll share them in a future issue. It has been so wonderful to hear from everyone! Please write to me at the email at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

Photos of minimum 750 kb that feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum for "Just Married!" as long as a member of the couple — should be sent directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

## 1992

**Olivier Knox**  
olivier.knox@gmail.com

Despairfest! Remember Despairfest? Well, the Existential Despair Archives are now part of the Columbiana collection at Butler's Rare Book & Manuscript Library, courtesy of Despaironauts **Bob Guay**, **Ben Appen** and **Kevin O'Connor**. Kevin wrote in with the "well-takes-me-back" news. See the nearby photo of the three at Butler!

My dear friend **Tamara Cochran** PS'97 reported, "I have now launched two kids into college and am trying out the empty-nester thing." She also dipped more than a toe in the water recently during a boating trip on Martha's Vineyard. "I had to SWIM, yes SWIM, on October 22 to save the anchor!" She shared photo evidence that the CCT rules don't permit me to share. (Did you know they require two CC alums, except for wedding photos? See college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.) Tamara says any classmates coming through Boston should give her a shout.

Steven Greenberg '93 dropped me a line to say he "had the wonderful opportunity to bump into **Michael Sant'Ambrogio** at the airport in Detroit in the midst of summer 2022 travel nightmares." Michael is a professor of law and

senior associate dean for faculty and academic affairs at Michigan State University. "Fortunately for Michael, he made it to New York City after some delay. For me and my travels to Maine, not so much. Had to catch a ride back to Florida in the middle of the night, which seemed more appealing than an evening on the suspect floors of DTW."

Steven also met up with Joe Del Toro '93 in Warsaw in fall 2021, "where we enjoyed a leisurely day off from work catching up and gorging on pierogis."

Steven is "still" a director at Cherry AG, "dreaming up ideas in gaming keyboards and mice in Nuremberg while running a law practice in Florida and Belgium directed to the management of global patent portfolios. I have a 2-and-a-half-year-old, a 14-year-old and a 17-year-old with Dartmouth aspirations. Help!"

I wish I could have attended this:

**Tom Linton SEAS'92** (and fellow Carman 7er) gave a nice account of an early-October multi-class reunion of Phi Epsilon Pi members at a ranch in Texas Hill Country.

"Participating in the foosball playing, wine tasting, pig roasting, political discourse, baseball watching and ax throwing were Tom, **Jennifer Aninger**, **Mark Collier**, **Steve Kramer**, **Daniel Miron** and **Brian Trisler**, along with seven other Phi Eppers from the Classes of '89 to '95. Brian and Mark were the (nearly) undefeated foosball champions."

Other attendees were **Jennifer Carmona '91**, **J.J. Cromer '90**, **Marc Hanes '89**, **Marc LeVarn '90**, **Jonathan Mooser '94**, **Alex Mummery '95**, **Anna Weiss '91** and **Andre Chan SEAS'04**.

**Peter Hatch** caught up, on a trip to Los Angeles, with several classmates who couldn't make it to reunion.

"**Jeff Noles**, my freshman-year roommate, hosted me. The second company he founded, LabStar, was acquired recently, so he is enjoying a bit more time to ride with former Columbia Cycling teammates and had time to build armor for his son's *Mandalorian* Halloween costume."

**Tim Griffin** and Peter went "to see a performance by an art collective he supported when he was director of The Kitchen."

Peter and L.A. mayor/nominee-to-be ambassador to India (not yet confirmed as I write this in November) **Eric Garcetti** SIPA'93 "hiked

the hills in Griffith Park and looked out over the many projects he got built during his two terms."

**Dae Levine** BC'92, who was completing her second tour of duty as Eric's chief communications officer, "joined us and we commiserated about life after City Hall."

That's it for now, but please email me with any professional or personal updates!

## 1993

### REUNION 2023

JUNE 1-3

Reunion Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Neil Turitz**  
lovematza@aol.com

God bless you, you motley crew of miscreants. When I demand updates, you come through in spades. I didn't even have to threaten that much this time, either! I view that as major progress.

**Pavani Ram**, who offered her first-ever update, leads Child Health and Immunization at the US Agency for International Development, where she works to end preventable child deaths and support essential immunization programs in low- and middle-income countries around the world. She lives in a leafy suburb of Buffalo, N.Y. with her husband, Raghu, son, Suneel (25), and daughters, Janani (16) and Nandini (13).

Another first-timer is **Bill Moorman**, who pastors at Lynwood Friends Church in Portland, Ore., where he has been for 24 years. "I hope," he says, "that one day I will know what I'm doing." He's been married for 27 years, with three kids 14-21, and is nostalgic for his CC days; he recently decided it was time to re-read *The Iliad*.

Old pal (and sophomore-year roommate!) **Marc Braveman** wrote, "I welcome anyone who is in New Mexico this winter to stop by for après ski in the hot tub or join me on the mountain!"

An attractive offer, indeed!

Another old friend and regular contributor to this space, **Rebecca Boston** SIPA'94, wanted to remind



everyone that she lives in Baltimore, where she moved in 2020, right before the world shut down. “I’m working for a local government human resources office doing project management, most recently being the central person for all things Covid-19. After two and a half years as an empty-nester, I recently moved my 21-year-old son back in with me, and we are adjusting well.”

Like me, she’s excited to see a bunch of you at OUR 30TH REUNION, THURSDAY, JUNE 1–SATURDAY, JUNE 3 (and yes, plenty more about that to come, too).

One of the more unique updates came from **Joshua Spodek** GSAS’99, BUS’06, who has become a leader in sustainability. He reported that *The New Yorker* published a letter of his, and that, as part of his sustainability leadership work, he experimented with disconnecting his apartment in Manhattan from the electrical grid. At press time, he was well into his sixth month, and had dropped his pollution more than 90 percent. He now trains executives at oil companies and top-tier consulting companies; politicians, including conservatives; evangelicals; military and hardcore Trump supporters to act sustainably and become role models instead of resistors.

Way to go, Josh.

**Jackie Quan** writes, having just returned from running the TCS London Marathon for Breast Cancer Now, (she also ran the New York City marathon in 2021 for MSK/Fred’s Team and the 2022 Paris Marathon), “Just for fun! I *never* was a runner but decided to run a little in the last few years and will run for charity ... as well as for a nice view of some cool city.” She doesn’t train much but preps for races by eating lots of pasta, rice, French fries and baguettes, which sounds a lot like *my* prep for races. Which I don’t actually run. Or walk. Moving on.

**Andrea Boykowycz** lives in Pittsburgh, working at her local community development organization, advocating for more affordable housing and trying to empower folks with place-based organizing and public planning. To battle burnout, she restores old stained-glass windows in her basement on weekends, which sounds like both a lot of work and a lot of fun. “My sons (15 and 12) are of an artistic bent with really remarkable social consciousness — how come we

were never that cool or aware when we were adolescents? The kids are alright.”

Andrea is hopeful about making it to OUR 30TH REUNION, THURSDAY, JUNE 1–SATURDAY, JUNE 3 and is looking forward to seeing people.

**Dave Shimkin** and I have been friends since we worked on *Spec* together, and he shared that he was promoted in 2021 to shareholder at the law firm of Cozen O’Connor. He practices out of the firm’s Los Angeles office, and is a litigator representing transportation and manufacturing clients in catastrophic personal injury cases.

Mazel tov, Dave, on the promotion.

It was fun to hear from **Jennifer Anglade Dahlberg**, whose third novel, *Summer on Nornö/Sommaren på Nornö*, was translated directly into Swedish and published in summer 2021 in Sweden, where she has lived for 25 years. The English version will be released this year, and she is working on a sequel. Jennifer is the alumni lead for the Columbia Alumni Association – Sweden, is the proud parent of Yasmine ’23 and has enjoyed reliving the Columbia experience through her daughter, a sentiment I’ve been hearing from a lot of people lately.

Running out of space, so some rapid-fire updates: **Nina Hong** LAW’96 was installed last October as president-elect of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association.

Congrats, Nina!

**Lara Simone Kass** didn’t really have anything newsworthy to report, but wanted to say hi and say that she loves hearing about everyone else.

And **Rita Pietropinto-Kitt** and **Nina Abraham Lieberman** both wrote that Nina’s daughter Vera and Rita’s daughter Julia are besties, went to drama camp together, and, as Rita says, “It’s the cutest thing I’ve ever seen.”

Both Rita and Nina, it should be noted, are planning to attend OUR 30TH REUNION, THURSDAY, JUNE 1–SATURDAY, JUNE 3.

Are you?

I need to note the sad news about the passing of a classmate. Two people wrote me about **Srilakshmi “Sangeeth” Kottai Gnanasekaran** PS’00, PH’01. In the words of **Pavani Ram**, Sangeeth, who was married to Chris William ’94, GSAS’02, PS’03, “was loved by all who knew her and demonstrated

tremendous tenacity and grace during the last months of her illness, which was a complex clinical situation that included cancer but much more, as well. We look forward to remembering her with fellow Columbians at the 30th reunion.”

My Music Hum classmate **Michele Ricci Bell** was the second person to write in about Sangeeth, with whom she lived in Washington, D.C., the year after we graduated. She also reported about herself, and said that she and her husband, Jim, live in Schenectady, N.Y., “with our beautiful 13-year-old-daughter, Iris. She is the center of our lives. She has Prader-Willi Syndrome, which plays a dominant role in our daily lives and long-term planning. We share so much joy and happiness, and have traveled near and far.”

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*Joshua Spodek ’93 has become a leader in sustainability and is experimenting with disconnecting his apartment in Manhattan from the electrical grid.*

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Michele is on the Board of Directors for the New York organization for PWS, Prader-Willi Alliance of New York, and is also involved with fundraising and grant-vetting for the Foundation for Prader-Willi Research, an international organization focused on developing medicines and other support for the PWS population.

In closing, I should mention that on the CC’93 Facebook group, I told people that if they didn’t give me stuff to write about, then I’d just go ahead and make things up about them. I got a lot of laughter about that, but I’m not sure why. I wasn’t kidding. I’ll totally do it. So keep sending in updates! (Or else!)

## 1994

**Kathryn Hudacek Harlow**  
kathryn@columbiacollege1994.com

**Leyla Kokmen** deserves our infinite respect for having assembled the Class of 1994 Class Notes as class correspondent for nearly three decades. Cheers to Leyla for her commitment to our corps! You have provided an example to live up to.

I raised my hand for this position because the years have blessed me with friends, and connections to Columbia that don’t necessarily involve those who were on campus at the same time as I. As an Alumni Representative Committee volunteer, I interviewed CC and SEAS applicants on two continents for two decades. Many talented students have passed through my notice. “Admits” ask for advice on how to best start their College experience. My answer? Cherish the friendships from the very beginning on campus; something special happens among those whom you first encounter in the big city. At Class Day, I recall pals I had met on the floor of their residence hall, usually the Carman floors, congregating for photos and seats together.

As for one of the *other* dorms, Shapiro Hall; my first-year home, we enjoyed a small number of CC’94s per floor and were certainly a much hipper crew. Our lives experienced reels of danger when crossing Broadway plus we got helpful pointers from upperclassmen who shared the halls with us. Would the John Jay and McBain denizens agree? The following alt-Carman residents wrote in:

After a 20-year career at the NYSE, **Patrick Armstrong** is director of sales for Carta (formally eShares) and enjoys life in Pacifica, Calif., with his partner, Fiona Monaghan. Oli, his oldest, attends The New School on a writing scholarship. Joseph, his youngest, attends UC Santa Barbara and pursues his passion for guitar.

**Josh Levy** SIPA’99, a managing partner at the law firm Levy Firestone Muse in Washington, D.C., touches base from Kigali, Rwanda: “I co-founded Levy Firestone Muse, specializing in litigation and government investigations. We also have an office in Kigali, where our firm has been conducting investigations into the genocide against the Tutsi. At home in D.C., we represent clients

caught up in Beltway dramas and other legal scrapes. Once a week, Georgetown Law allows me to teach the seminars 'Congressional Investigations' and 'Health Care Fraud and Abuse.' I half start to laugh any time a student calls me 'Professor.'

**Abigail Davis** is a real estate expert in Dallas.

**Adam Michaels** lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Nicole; stepson, Fynn; and cats. He has been practicing law for more than 20 years and heads the litigation practice at Hand Baldachin, a firm serving fashion and lifestyle companies. Adam has been virtually reliving key moments of his College experience in the faithful recreation of "Columbia University" in the Spider-Man PS4 game. Alas, no Mama Joy's deli to be found in the virtual landscape.

**Tim Rankin** wrote: "I live in NYC with my wife, Sharon, and children, Will (12) and Katie (10). I work for Franklin Mutual Advisers, where I am a global portfolio manager and head up our stewardship and environmental, social and governance efforts. I have no spare time, but manage to squeeze in some skiing between swim meets and scout trips."

**Gina Son** took her first international trip since Covid-19 and her daughter's start in middle school. She and her family attend science events at Columbia on Saturdays.

Fortuitously, **Mason Kirby** works at a company called Mason Kirby, Inc., an architecture firm in San Francisco (he must know somebody there) and sees **Paul Bollyky** frequently for family get-togethers, sport outings and chicken-rearing advice. (See a nearby photo!) Paul recently sent his eldest child of three to college and wonders where the time and his hair have gone. I saw Mason and Paul mere moments before lockdown in Palo Alto, where we had a late breakfast that was remindful of chowing down in FBH after crew practice.

Speaking of crew (and switching gears to our Carman brothers and sisters) **Tom Lloyd** BUS'00 shares: "Our family has had a big year. We took a trip to the Holy Land with our three children and my wife, Alicia, and I renewed our wedding vows at Cana. It was a deeply inspiring pilgrimage that I would love to discuss and that I highly recommend. In addition, I am working both with Solea Power, a solar devel-

opment startup, developing utility scale solar farms, and with Paradisus Dei, a faith formation program, supporting couples, men and families in their spiritual development. I send my best regards to all!"

After a career in pharmaceuticals, **Ornella Vincenzino** is celebrating the 15th anniversary of her company, Innovaacom. The global business' mission is to have a positive impact on health with better communication and its one-of-a-kind tool, "Sticky Scientific Storytelling." Pre-Covid-19, Ornella traveled around the world and among her business' five hubs: United States, United Kingdom, Italy, United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong. Now, she says she is happily able to spend more time with her husband and wonderful children (14 and 11) at home in Rome.

**Elliot Regenstein's** book, *Education Restated: Getting Policy Right on Accountability, Teacher Pay, and School Choice*, was recently published. He did events in New York City and in Washington, D.C., where attendees included **Elizabeth Vickery** (née Berke), Adam Epstein '95, Mike Stanton '95, Flavio Kamenetz '96 and Allyson Baker '95 (the only one in D.C.; the others were in NYC). "It was great to see all of them!" Elliot said.

Elliot and his wife, Emily Paster, recently celebrated their 20th anniversary with a trip to France. The Regenstein family lives in River Forest, Ill., where "daughter, Zoe, is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin, and son, Jamie, is a sophomore at Oak Park and River Forest H.S. Our parenting activity is driving Jamie to and from various rehearsals and attending his many music performances; the latter won't change even when he gets his driver's license, but I hope the former will.

"Professionally, I've now spent five years as a partner at Foresight Law + Policy, which has been great."

And a huge "Congratulations!" to **Lavinel Savu** on being named head of content and editorial at Amazon Fashion. He's had an illustrious, three-decade career in media, including as executive managing editor of *InStyle* and *Real Simple* and being the founding managing editor of *O, The Oprah Magazine*.

Looking forward to knitting our updates and stories in this column



Craftsbury Outdoor Center in Craftsbury Common, Vt., was the setting for a June 1 meetup of, left to right: Tom Bollyky '96, Paul Bollyky '94, Amanda Kahn-Kirby '95 and Mason Kirby '94.

for years to come. Please reach out to the email address at the top of the column (created just for the occasion) or via the Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!" — are welcome, too! Send those right to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

And let me know if you come to the area around Dartmouth in Hanover, N.H.

## 1995

**Janet Lorin**  
[janet.lorin@gmail.com](mailto:janet.lorin@gmail.com)

Super commuter **Mike Stanton** was named by New York governor Kathy Hochul to the Metro-North Railroad Commuter Council and Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA. "Honored and excited to represent riders and support the dedicated public servants at the MTA as they work to adapt the transportation network to the region's post-pandemic needs," Mike wrote on LinkedIn. If you're a New York commuter, Mike would love to hear your observations, concerns and suggestions.

In his day job, Mike is head of strategy and communications at Build America Mutual Assurance. (His wife, Beth, is my longtime Bloomberg colleague.)

**Dr. Demetre Daskalakis** was named by President Biden as the White House National Monkeypox Response Deputy Coordinator. Demetre will lead the administration's strategy and operations to combat the monkeypox outbreak, including equitably increasing the availability of tests, vaccinations and treatments. He was previously director of the CDC Division of HIV Prevention.

From the White House official release: "Widely known as a national expert on health issues affecting the LGBTQIA+ communities, his clinical practice has focused on providing care for the underserved LGBTQIA+ communities."

Demetre previously oversaw management of infectious diseases for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, where he served as incident commander for the city's Covid-19 response, and as deputy commissioner for the Division of Disease Control.

I have fond memories of spending time with Demetre in the United Kingdom the summer after we graduated. He was doing a program — perhaps at Oxford or Cambridge, I can't remember — and I was working at ABC in London. It was always fun to meet up.

Thanks to **Rebecca Amaru**, an ob/gyn on the Upper East Side, for an update. The big news in her professional life is that her practice hired a fourth doctor. The change has a huge impact on her schedule, as she'll be on call every fourth night instead of every third. "My 18-year history of call every third day and



every third weekend is now every fourth day and weekend. It actually turns out to feel pretty different, and just in time because my old body doesn't bounce back from all-nighters like it used to," she writes.

The big news at home is that her oldest child, Lyla (19), after a gap year on the Hevruta Gap-Year Program of the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, is a freshman at Penn. She seems to relish opportunities to text Rebecca when Penn beats Columbia in sports. Isabel (17) is a senior at SAR H.S. in the Riverdale section of the Bronx, and was almost ready to submit her early decision application at the time Rebecca wrote; she can stop editing and reediting and go back to being a busy high school student. Jolie (15) is a freshman at SAR H.S. and adjusting well. Orli (12) is in seventh grade at SAR Academy.

The family celebrated Orli's bat mitzvah this past September. "My friend Jen Cohen '94 came up from Miami with her daughter Caroline, who is a freshman at UNC Chapel Hill. Jen is four for four at my girls' bat mitzvahs," Rebecca writes. "**Adina Shoulson** was also front and center, helping to lead the women's service in a tent in our yard. Orli's invitations were the beautiful work of my buddy Sarah Sheffer '94, who owns a company that makes exquisite old-school paper invitations that are so much more fun than email invites."

Rebecca shared news about alumni in other classes.

"I had the great pleasure of introducing my niece Ariel to Phyllis Fletcher '94, my Carman suitemate, when Ariel moved to Seattle for a job," she writes. "I have also been thrilled to refer some patients to my colleague Uchenna Acholonu '96, who specializes in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. Uchenna and I met taking biology at Barnard. We were both avoiding the notorious Professor [Deborah] Mowshowitz! Finally, Evan Malter '96 sent me some awesome pics of him moving his son into Carman — CC'26!"

Rebecca holds a very special place in our family. That third night of call coincided with nights when my two children were born at Mount Sinai and she delivered them. Rebecca's daughter Orli was born the day after she delivered my daughter, Charlie.

I have my own update: I am back on campus for this academic year as a Spencer Fellow at the Journalism

School. If you are on campus, please visit. My office is on the third floor of Pulitzer Hall. Let me tell you, it's a trip being back with a Columbia ID and using my original email address, jrf10. It's not quite like David Denby '65, JRN'66 sitting in on your Lit Hum class (hello, **James Stoter**!). But it's been exhilarating to step away from daily journalism after almost 30 years and dig into a long-term project. I'm looking at three public historically Black colleges in the South.

I've taken out books from the stacks at Butler Library — yes there are still Rolm phones on each floor! — had coffee in the lower level of Avery at a new cafe and even sat outside professors' doors in Fayerweather for office hours.

Happy 50th birthday to everyone. Please keep the news coming.

## 1996

**Ana Salper**  
ana.salper@nyumc.org

Greetings, classmates! Thanks to the efforts of my fellow #26isthenew25 Columbia Reunion 2022 attendees, I have quite a bit of news to report this time.

**Klancy Miller's** new book, *For the Culture: Phenomenal Black Women and Femmes in Food*, comes out in May. *For the Culture* features 66 interviews with Black women and femmes in food and wine such as Dr. Jessica B. Harris, Sophia Roe, Carla Hall, Ayesha Curry and Yewande Komolafe, and includes 50 recipes by the interviewees and five personal essays about culinary matriarchs Edna Lewis, Leah Chase, B. Smith, Lena Richard and Vertamae Smart-Grosvenor.

**Nihara Karim Choudhri** LAW'99 is working in her dream job as a pro bono attorney at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett. Her practice encompasses criminal justice, conviction relief and voting rights matters, with a focus on racial justice. Nihara and her husband have three children, one of whom is in his second year at the College. She writes: "It's really something to have a child experiencing all of the magic of Columbia! We feel very lucky."

**Evan Malter** also has a son, Jacob '26, who lives in the room on Carman 9 literally above Evan's

freshman-year room. Jacob is a member of the ice hockey club, but unfortunately broke his wrist in his first game of the season.

Here's to a speedy recovery. Go Lions!

**Tom Kitt's** new musical, *Almost Famous*, written with Cameron Crowe and based on his Academy Award-winning film, opened on Broadway in November. Tom writes: "If you are in town, come see us at the Bernard B. Jacobs Theater!"

Kudos also to Tom for winning a NY Emmy in the Entertainment Category for Short Form Content for the "New York State of Mind" commercial that promoted the return of Broadway in August 2021. Tom was co-conceiver/music supervisor/co-arranger and co-orchestrator on the commercial, and it is truly beautiful. You can watch it on YouTube: bit.ly/3UNR8Od.

**Hussein Rashid** has many a Covid-19-delayed project appearing at almost the same time. He has a co-edited volume with Huma Mohibullah, *Bloomsbury Religion in North America: Islam*, and another with Jenna Gray-Hildenbrand and Beverley McGuire, *Teaching Critical Religious Studies: Pedagogy and Critique in the Classroom*. Hussein also published several articles, but highlights two he would like you to read, "Defining Islamic Art" in *Cyber Muslims* and "An Urdu of the Twenty-First Century United States," with Zeyba Rehman in *Are the Arts Essential?* Hussein is also

producing a multi-hour documentary on the history of Muslims in the United States.

**Julie Porter** writes that she probably wins in our class for longest single job held since graduation. The week before classes ended in May 1996, she interviewed at the Columbia University Medical Center with Dr. Nancy Wexler for a job at the Hereditary Disease Foundation, a nonprofit funding research on Huntington's disease (HD), a rare neurological disorder (you might know it from *House*). She got the job and then took the swim test! Julie started after Memorial Day 1996. Her job has taken her to Venezuela, where there is the world's highest prevalence of HD and where she has met incredibly dedicated and interesting scientists and families. Much of the pull Julie felt toward this job came from classes she took at Columbia. Julie lives in Brooklyn with her husband, Jason Jimenez GSAPP'00, and their 10-year-old-son.

**Noah Corman** is executive director of SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young. He writes that in October, **Tom Kitt**, **Dave Lee** and **Mike Choi** came out to support the organization at its fundraiser, Paul Rudd's Annual Bowling Benefit for SAY. Noah said it was a "super fun night, and supporting from afar were **Evan Malter** and **Trisha Merino**!"

**Parag Gandhi** writes that last August, after a three-year hiatus on humanitarian mission trips abroad due to the pandemic, he was



Parag Gandhi '96 (left) took a selfie with Dulcie Lin '96 at Convocation on August 28.

fortunate to join the first surgical mission trip for oculoplastic and facial reconstructive surgery back into Ecuador. Parag led a team partnering with Surgical Eye Expeditions International and a U.S. nonprofit, Partners for Andean Community Health, that has strong local ties to provide care to patients in the Andean region of Riobamba, where Indigenous communities have significant access to care issues. As a team of two surgeons, nurses and support staff, they performed sight-saving operations on kids and many reconstructive cases during the week. They plan to return and to expand the program.

Separately, Parag writes that a small number of CC'96 alumni gathered on campus in late August for Convocation to participate in the Alumni Procession. In addition to Parag, in attendance were **Evan Malter**, **Uchenna Acholonu**, **Dulcie Lin** and a few others. (See the nearby photo!) Parag writes: "We didn't expect the raucous fanfare from the current students when we entered the big tent, so a few of us quipped it must have been our 15 minutes of fame! Nice to see the welcome address by the new dean of Columbia College, Josef Sorett."

**Moha Desai** writes that it was wonderful catching up at Community Impact's 40th Anniversary Celebration last year at Chelsea Piers with **Rose Kob**, **Nina Guralnick BC'96**, **Eurydice Kelley BC'96**, **Deborah Cronen BC'96** and **Noha El-Ghobashy SEAS'96**, SEAS'00.

After a long tenure at Columbia in various senior executive leadership roles in the Alumni Office and then as chief communications and marketing officer for the College, **Bernice Tsai** is now VP of brand, sponsorships and reputation at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital.

They are lucky to have you, Bernice!

Congratulations to **Amanda Cox**, who was promoted to assistant professor of pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology at Mount Sinai.

**Sandhya Nankani SIPA'97's** studio, Literary Safari, continues to produce inclusive children's media and curriculum for clients such as McGraw Hill and Sesame Workshop. Sandhya writes that last fall, what made her happiest was when the podcast Story Seeds, which she independently created and produced

in 2020–21 was featured on BBC's Podcast Radio Hour on an episode that recommended podcasts for young listeners. It was described as "A remarkable idea ... If there was a really interesting idea for storytelling, this is it! This podcast is just so beautiful and so well told ... I'm in love with this."

The Story Seeds Podcast matches a person 8–12 with an acclaimed author to grow a story on air, and features diverse authors including **Aram Kim**, **Jason Reynolds** and **Chris Grabenstein** and their companion activity guide for the podcast, *Imagination Lab: Experiments in Creativity*, which Sandhya's studio self-published, and is a Wirecutter "Best Gifts for 10-Year-Olds" pick.

Sandhya lives in northern New Jersey with her husband and 13-year-old daughter and enjoys post-Covid-19 travel as well as being president of the Board of Trustees of her local public library.

Congratulations to **Jodi Kantor**, whose excellent book *She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement*, about *The New York Times'* investigation of Harvey Weinstein that Jodi wrote with **Megan Twohey** and that helped launch the #MeToo movement, has made it onto the big screen — go see the film!

I am so impressed by everyone's accomplishments — let's go, Class of 1996! Keep the notes coming.

I leave you with this:

"The essential is constantly threatened by the insignificant."

— *René Char*

## 1997

**Kerensa Harrell**  
kvh1@columbia.edu

Dear classmates, I hope that you are enjoying a fabulous winter, and that everyone is in good health. It is my pleasure to present the following updates from our class.

**John Dean Alfone** writes: "Following an extended lockdown, the Covid-19 pandemic provided a boon of sorts to my production career as I began steadily working again on set (typically doubling my day rate for those familiar with industry parlance and common sense). I have been trying for some time now to make



MARA TYNAN

Visiting at the CNO Financial Indianapolis Monumental Marathon on November 5 were (left to right) **Chas Sisk '98**, **Jordan Konig '98** and **Erin McConkey '98** (née Harken).

the transition from below-the-line work to above-the-line work, and the pandemic presented a pathway of sorts. Although I did book work in Louisville, Knoxville and Atlanta with a New Orleans production company during Covid, it is still my preferred mandate to work regionally within the New Mexico, Texas and Louisiana industry, and I've now worked in nine contiguous states from Kentucky to Colorado. Credits include *House Hunters* (HGTV), *Turning Point: 9/11 and the War on Terror* (Netflix), *Invisible Monsters* (A&E), *Modern Marvels* (History), *Food Paradise* (Food Network), *The Machines That Built America* (History), *We Have a Ghost* (Netflix), *Trafficked with Mariana van Zeller* (National Geographic), *Pitbulls and Parolees* (Animal Planet), *Living Smaller* (A&E), *Sweeping America* (HBOMax) and *Life's a Ballroom* (Bravo)."

**Emily Drabinski** writes, "I was recently elected president of the American Library Association." Read more: [bit.ly/3hz8zU4](https://bit.ly/3hz8zU4).

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, I am still a full-time stay-at-home mom but am considering what to do as a new career, as my 5-year-old daughter is now in kindergarten. While I figure it out, I've been volunteering at my daughter's school. She is enrolled in a dual-language program where they learn Spanish daily starting in kindergarten, with the goal of the program being fluency by the end of elementary school. So far she enjoys it, though she does complain that she prefers French. Luckily her

French teacher was set to return from Paris soon after I wrote these notes. I know my daughter will be delighted to see her again.

As I wrap up this column, it is mid-October and here in Florida we recently got hit by Hurricane Ian, though luckily in our part it was very mild compared to other parts. Our local schools closed down for one week, but we never lost electricity so we all just got a nice staycation.

I wish you all a lovely spring! Coincidentally I am delighted that my daughter's school happens to have the same mascot as Columbia (the lion!) so I will now cue our fight song, "Roar, Lion, Roar," as I sign off.

*In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.*

## 1998

### REUNION 2023

JUNE 1–3

Reunion Contact  
[ccreunion@columbia.edu](mailto:ccreunion@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
[ccfund@columbia.edu](mailto:ccfund@columbia.edu)

**Sandie Angulo Chen**  
[sandie.chen@gmail.com](mailto:sandie.chen@gmail.com)

Let's start with good news. Congratulations to **Noah Zucker**, who wrote that in summer 2021 he won the 2022 Veteran 40–49 Men's Epee National Championship after taking silver in a previous attempt. For two years, because of Covid-19, he trained on his own, doing drills and footwork with his two teenagers on their balcony and



at the local park. “Veteran fencing has never been better and would be great to see my teammates from back in the day get back into it,” he writes.

Noah has three children with his fencing team sweetheart, Katherine Zucker ’97 (née Lee); they live in Hoboken, N.J. All three Zucker children fence.

The next update is a sad one. For the second column in a row, we bring news of a classmate’s passing. **Meena Merchant** died on August 15, 2022, five days after her 46th birthday, of metastatic breast cancer. A storyteller, filmmaker and artist based in Renton, Wash., Meena openly shared her nearly two-year journey with cancer through social media. As her husband, Mitch Shepherd, shared in a Facebook post announcing her death, “She loved life, she loved being alive. She loved living in the moment because the moment is all that we truly have.”

Meena is survived by Mitch and their sons, Mizan (13) and Mohan (8), as well as her mother, older sister and brother-in-law, nieces, nephew and an entire community of friends and classmates in Washington State and beyond.

Rest easy, friend.

As our 25th reunion is this summer, I encourage more classmates to write in with updates. Send them to the email at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Photos are welcome, too, but should be sent directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for “Just Married!”).

Save the dates for Columbia Reunion (Thursday, June 1–Saturday, June 3) and watch your inbox for info from the Alumni Office!

## 1999

**Lauren Gershell**  
lauren@gershell.com

I hope everyone had a festive holiday season, and a happy 2023 to all! I am so pleased to have received the following updates from classmates.

**Sara Steindel Dauber** and her husband, Andrew Dauber ’00,

visited Rome last summer. Sara told me that they “had a fabulous time exploring ancient ruins, Bernini sculptures, Rafael’s paintings and Michelangelo’s masterpieces. As a first-time visitor to Rome, I found it a city that lives up to the hype, but one of the stars of the trip was actually the Core Curriculum. Though it’s been more than 25 years since I took Art Hum and Lit Hum as a first-year living in Carman, the paintings, sculptures, myths, plays and history that I learned in those classes (and in CC) were top of mind as I experienced *The School of Athens*, *Ecstasy of St. Teresa*, *Apollo and Daphne*, and *Ratto di Proserpina* (those fingers pushing into the marble flesh!), Michelangelo’s *Pietà* and *Moses*, and Bernini’s undulating columns supporting the canopy at St. Peter’s.

“The instructors who taught me about these works in 1995 left me with lasting emotional and intellectual connections; to this day the art (and literature) we studied are present with me as I read books and learn history and enjoy art. Nowhere is this more poignant than in Rome. Experiencing each work firsthand in Italy was a brief, sweet callback to those overwhelming, sometimes scary, but always edifying experiences in Morningside Heights. The Core Curriculum made me a knower of art, and I only wish I’d visited Rome sooner.”

**Kate Feingold** (née Schechter) graduated from Cardozo Law in 2003 and practices civil litigation at Carlin Law Firm. She lives in Boca Raton, Fla., and has a son, Ethan (15), and daughter, Emma (11). Kate frequently sees **Eric Pflanzner** and connected with **Wendy Katz** on a recent trip to New York, and would love to connect with any CC’99 classmates who live in or visit Florida!

**Eleisa Coster** (née Hricko) shared that her twins left for college last fall, “which brought back fond memories of Carman 8! After a crazy summer of packing and unpacking and then repacking to make sure we had absolutely everything two college students might need, I am officially an empty nester. My husband and I hope to travel more frequently and I am working on a master’s in education. I even picked up a tennis racquet for the first time in about 15 years!

“Home is Manhattan (I never left), and I find the city as vibrant

as ever. **Caitlin Pannese** (née Tso) has visited us with her boys and for four summers in a row, my family traveled with Laura De Girolami ’00 and her family throughout Europe; our art history professors would have been so proud (or appalled, depending on the amount of sugar the kids ate that day).”

Eleisa added that “**Lauren Gershell** (née Rosenberg) and I remain close; her son is my godson and I enjoy watching him play baseball. We feel very fortunate that our kids have grown up in the city together.”

Please reach out via the email address at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for “Just Married!” — are welcome, too! Send those right to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

## 2000

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

Happy winter, Class of 2000! We hope you have had a great start to 2023. For this issue, we heard exciting news from **Maya Bernstein**: “After graduation I spent the summer teaching English in Tianjin, China, and then lived in Frankfurt, Germany, for a year, working for the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation. I earned an M.Ed. in education from Harvard in 2002 and spent a decade in the Bay Area as a founder of UpStart Lab, which supports innovation in the Jewish community.

“I now live in Yonkers with my family. My husband, Noam Silverman, is the principal of Heschel H.S. in Manhattan and we have five children, ranging in age 6–16. I co-direct the Certificate in Facilitation Program at Georgetown and design and teach the leadership curriculum at Yeshivat Maharat, a women’s rabbinical school. My first book, a collection of poetry called *There Is No Place Without You*, was released in September.”

Congrats on the new book, Maya! Please make it a New Year’s resolution to send in a Class Note; your classmates want to hear from you! You can write to us at the email

at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 2001

**Jonathan Gordin**  
jrg53@columbia.edu

Hi CC’01. It’s been a long time since I’ve heard from any of you.

Please take a moment to send me your latest news and happenings, and I’ll share them in a future issue. Please write to me at the email at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

Photos of minimum 750 kb that feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum for “Just Married!” as long as a member of the couple — should be sent directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

We’d all love to hear from you! I hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays and that your year is off to a great start.

## 2002

**Sonia Hirdaramani**  
soniahird@gmail.com

**Franklin Amoo** was appointed to the U.S. President’s Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa, the apex private sector body advising U.S. commercial and trade policy toward the African continent. Baylis Emerging Markets, the investment firm he founded and of which he is managing partner, specializes in investing across the African continent with an emphasis on digital infrastructure, telecommunications, manufacturing and industrial opportunities.

Franklin writes, “So far neither my wife (who is a senior exotics trader for Goldman) nor my two little boys seem very impressed. I shuttle among our offices in NYC, Lagos, Nairobi and Dakar looking after our investments but currently call London home and would be happy to reconnect with any Lions here or passing through!”

**Elizabeth “Liz” Clay Roy** was selected by *Ebony Magazine* as a Community Crusader within its 2022 Power 100. As CEO of

Generation Citizen, she works with a team to build a more inclusive, multi-racial democratic future, starting with our nation's young people. "I'm deeply honored that our work is being recognized in this way," she says. Read more: [ebony.com/power100-list/community-crusaders](https://ebony.com/power100-list/community-crusaders).

**Margaret "Abby" Wilson** relocated with her son, Ronan, and husband, Patrick, during the pandemic to the United Kingdom, where she's studying psychology in Cambridge. She tied a bow on a 20-year career in public policy and design to become a psychotherapist and wishes she could have attended our 20-year reunion.

**Marie Holmes** recently joined HuffPost as the parenting reporter: [@holmes\\_marie](mailto:@holmes_marie).

**Agnia Baranaukaite Grigas** and her husband welcomed their third child, daughter Andrea, last July. Agnia is the founder of Monster Education, an online enrichment school for advanced elementary and middle school students. Based in Los Angeles, she continues to cover the Russia-Ukraine war in the media.

Please share your news and updates via the email address at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!" — are welcome, too! Send those right to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 2003

### REUNION 2023

JUNE 1-3

Reunion Contact  
[ccreunion@columbia.edu](mailto:ccreunion@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
[ccfund@columbia.edu](mailto:ccfund@columbia.edu)

**Michael J. Novielli**  
[mjn29@columbia.edu](mailto:mjn29@columbia.edu)

I'm super excited for our big 20th reunion, Thursday, June 1–Saturday, June 3! It will be so awesome to get together for such a milestone after two-plus difficult years of social isolation through Covid-19, so please plan to join us. Senior Class Presi-

dent **Kimberly Grant**, **Tamar Simon** and I co-chair the Reunion Committee, so do drop us a line if you have ideas for how to make our reunion experience even more epic than our 15th. We're also happy to excited to announce that **Sam Arora**, **Sabine Bejori**, **Katie Benvenuto**, **Marva Brown**, **Nadege Fleurimond**, **Michael Foss**, **Amy Greenstein**, **Marjorie Hernandez**, **Claudia Huerta**, **Scott Hunter**, **Kimberly Kalmanson**, **Cristina Monterrey**, **Rachel Neuhut**, **Carter Reum**, **Nicole Washington** and **Anna-Maria White** (née Mannino) have all agreed to serve on the committee.

I want to update you on what some of the committee members have been up to recently, and of course we'd love to hear more about what's new in your life so please email me your update for the next column, or use the Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

**Sabine Bejori** is global director, customer experience and omnichannel strategy at Merck.

**Katie Benvenuto** BUS'12 is associate dean, College development and alumni relations, for Columbia College.

**Amy Greenstein** is director, legal, for BioNTech SE.

**Claudia Huerta** GSAPP'12 is VP of business engagement and partnerships for the San Diego Workforce Partnership, a role she assumed last year; she is also a founding member of the San Diego Tech Hub.

**Nicole Washington** is a partner-investment funds at Kirkland & Ellis.

**AnnaMaria White** (née Mannino) is a strategic internal communications leader at Amazon.

## 2004

**Jaydip Mahida**  
[jmahida@gmail.com](mailto:jmahida@gmail.com)

Congratulations to **Adam Spunberg** and his team at AB InBev! They won the Manufacturing Leadership Council Awards' overall award for Large Manufacturer of the Year for their digital transformation projects. This is probably the most prestigious award in supply chain innovation.

**Christine Luu** SEAS'05 is a director of business affairs at NBCUniversal, representing Peacock and NBC in TV deals, and

would love to connect with other alums in the entertainment industry.

**Milka Milliance** shared: "I recently launched a company. I am co-founder and partner at Different, a diversity, equity and inclusion consulting company based in San Diego and Miami that delivers a range of services to small- and medium-sized companies. We deliver organizational assessments, audits, strategic planning, learning and development, governance and implementation services to expand the impact of DEI in the workplace. We serve domestic and international clients."

*Milka Milliance '04 recently launched Different, a diversity, equity and inclusion consulting company based in San Diego and Miami.*

That's all for this issue. Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always great, but please reach out to share about trips you might take, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across — we love fun updates!

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## 2005

**Sallie Touma**  
[sallie@salliemathtutor.com](mailto:sallie@salliemathtutor.com)

Hi, Class of 2005!

**Ifeolu Sered** (née Babatunde) and her husband, Barak, welcomed their second child, Naomi Temitope Sered, last March. Ifeolu works at LinkedIn and lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with her family.

**Jeanette Folkes** TC'10, SPS'19 is still at Columbia! After having worked for the Office of the

Registrar for 11 years, she was hired last June by the Journalism School, where she is the assistant director of enrollment operations and analysis for its Office of Admissions. This year marked her 16th year as a Columbia employee. She can definitely say a lot has changed since we were students.

**Suzanne Schneider** GSAS'14 earned a Ph.D. from the Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African studies department at Columbia. She largely works on historian and political theory in the modern Middle East. She has written two books: *Mandatory Separation: Reli-*

*gion, Education, and Mass Politics in Palestine* (2018) and *The Apocalypse and the End of History: Modern Jihad and the Crisis of Liberalism* (2021). Since 2015, Suzanne has been working alongside a number of fellow GSAS alums to build the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research into a thriving education and research center. Loosely modeled on the Core Curriculum, BISR creates opportunities for working adults to engage the liberal arts and sciences in the public sphere through courses, events and media productions. Suzanne is both deputy director and a core faculty member teaching courses in history, political theory and religious studies. If you're missing your CC texts, check them out!

Suzanne is on sabbatical at Oxford this year as a Visiting Fellow at Magdalen College and starting a book about the use of risk as a political and social tool. She is happy to bring along her husband of 15 years, Jonathan Reich '04, LAW'07, and their daughters, Charlotte and Sophia (11) and Madeline (4). They are trying to travel as much as possible without getting their children in trouble for skipping school. :)

Sometimes, it can be difficult to decide what to include in our column. Here are some questions to prompt you: 1. Career: Did you get a promotion? Change your job? Earn a degree? 2. Personal: How are you ringing in your 40th birthday?



Did you welcome a child? 3. Travel/culture: Have you enjoyed a trip? A show? An exhibition?

As for me, I was happy that Pink Martini, a blues and jazz concert, was on tour. It is described as a “little orchestra that crosses several styles such as classical, Latin, traditional pop and jazz.” Work-wise, I’ve expanded to English and international baccalaureate. I’m trying to decide how to celebrate 4-0!

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It would be great if you’d please email me back just to say hi. If we didn’t meet while at Columbia, please introduce yourself!

## 2006

**Andrew Stinger**  
andrew.stinger@gmail.com

Greetings from Brooklyn, N.Y.!

Trousers (my senior rescue mutt) and I recently made the move from San Francisco back to New York after 15 lovely years on the West Coast. I’m excited to be closer to family and closer to our Morning-side Heights campus, where I hope you’ll let me know if I might find you there at an alumni event.

Since our last issue, I’ve accepted a role as head of marketing at the startup Univer.se. I can also still be found on a SoulCycle bike; if you’re up for a ride, I’d love to see you in class.

As you can imagine, with the big move, things have been a bit untethered for me, so I barely got the call out for submissions for column. My deep gratitude to **Eva Colen** for responding to the call.

She shares: “I have been living in Richmond, Va., since 2010. I married Derek Salerno in November 2016. Later that year, I launched Virginia Excels, an advocacy organization committed to amplifying the voices of kids, families and communities in the K–12 education policy-making

process. In March 2018, Derek and I welcomed our first child, Abram. In May 2018, Richmond mayor Levar Stoney appointed me to his cabinet as a senior policy advisor for youth initiatives. I continue to serve in this role while also managing Richmond’s Office of Children and Families, which Mayor Stoney established in Spring 2020. In June 2020, Derek and I welcomed our second child, Leah.”

During her tenure, Eva and team have successfully guaranteed access to after-school programming for all elementary and middle-school children in Richmond, and she is now hard at work to universalize access to high-quality, full day preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds in the city.

Congratulations on all of your incredible accomplishments, Eva!

Please share your news and updates via the email address at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for “Just Married!” — are welcome, too! Send those right to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

## 2007

**David Donner Chait**  
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

I hope everyone is doing well, and thanks so much to everyone who shared updates.

**Tom Lightcap** married Amanda Watts last summer, in a ceremony outside Knoxville, Tenn. In attendance were Eddie Beaulac ’08; **Tarik Bolat**; Jack Cantrell ’09 and his wife, CJ Cantrell ’09; **David Chait** and his wife, Amanda Mullens Chait GSAAP’13; **Arvind Kadaba**; Shreya Kadaba ’12; **Gabe Rose**; **Brandon Schoettler SEAS’07**; **Peter Shalek**; **Jonah Van Bourg**; Ben Weingarten ’10; and **Jarod Were SEAS’07** and his wife, **Zip Inayat SEAS’07**.

**Riddhi Sohan Dasgupta** writes, “I had the blessing of delivering formal addresses about national security and international trade to the Parliaments of Romania, Hungary and Guatemala last year. I recently

joined Frost Brown Todd as a partner in its Washington, D.C., office.”

**Eric Bondarsky** shares, “Super pumped that **Josh Levine** moved back to the area. I hope by the time this is published we will have recreated some of the good times in Suite 1010 with **Matt Kondub** and **Jeffrey Feder SEAS’07** and maybe even **Ben Hofkin**, if he’s reading this.”

**Kat Vorotova** BUS’11’s company attitude, of which she is co-founder and president, became a B Corp in 2022, Climate Neutral certified in 2021 and a member of 1% for the Planet. She writes, “As a result of its innovative textiles manufacturing processes, ettitude has already saved 43 million bathtubs worth of water and 4,100 cars on the road-worth of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and is on a mission to drastically reduce the use of harmful chemicals, water, energy and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the textile industry. Ettitude was listed as one of Inc. 5000’s fastest-growing private U.S. companies twice in a row, and one of 200 Real Leaders Impact Companies of 2022 (along with Patagonia and Tesla).”

**Alison Désir** GSAS’11 shares, “My book *Running While Black: Finding Freedom in a Sport That Wasn’t Built for Us*, came out October 18!

Please share your news and updates via the email address at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for “Just Married!” — are welcome, too! Send those right to CCT via the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

## 2008

**REUNION 2023**  
JUNE 1–3

Reunion Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu  
Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Bradley Blackburn**  
blb2104@columbia.edu

We’re just a few months away from our 15th reunion, CC’08. Hope

to see you there — and thanks to everyone for sending in their news.

**Rachel Belt** is entering her second year as a doctoral student at the University of Oxford, focusing on immunization and digital health. In the last year, she has joined the Council on Foreign Relations as a term member. She says she is enjoying life in the United Kingdom and looks forward to seeing classmates in NYC for the CFR events!

**Chas Carey** was appointed town administrator of Brookline, Mass., the largest town in the state. He now serves as the town’s highest appointed officer, running day-to-day operations and long-term strategic projects. Brookline is a municipality at the cutting edge of sustainable and equitable development initiatives, including a pioneering ban of fossil fuel use in new construction. Chas says those seeking to be part of a forward-thinking local government team should check the town’s open positions and get in touch!

**Jamie Culpion** writes from Fort Worth: “It’s been a while, CC folk. Fifteen years, with most of the last decade outside of greater NYC, has made a lot of the city feel quite different, but one thing remains the same: Queer folk take care of business, even when we don’t reap all the rewards. Still dreaming of reaching the stars (sustainably!) and making augmented reality/virtual realitywork even for the deafest amongst us (yes, I am sus).”

**Alex Gartenfeld** is artistic director at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami. In the last year, he opened exhibitions for Jade Fadojutimi, Hugh Hayden SOA’18 and the museum’s first major collection exhibition. In December, Alex published catalogs on artists Chakaia Booker and Dalton Gata. He has spearheaded mitigating the museum’s carbon footprint, and stewarded the first museum non-fungible token acquisition.

**David Henry Gerson** writes with news about his documentary: “Thrilled to say my film *The Story Won’t Die*, a portrait of Syrian artists in exile who use their art to process the largest and longest displacement of people since WWII, is now eligible for the 2023 Academy Awards. It has been a pleasure collaborating on the film with Colleen Ritzau Leth BC’08.”

**Jia Guo SEAS’08** writes from NYC: “My husband, Wei; big brother, Theo; and I are beyond happy to wel-

come Ethan Ke, born on July 24 and measuring 49 cm and weighing 3.13 kg, to our expanding family!"

**Christine Han** was married on October 22 at the Ritz-Carlton in Pentagon City, Va. Her matron of honor was **Michelle Chyu SEAS'08** (née Sung).

**Miguel Lopez** was recently named secretary of the New York City Bar Association's Trade Secrets Committee. He is an attorney in the New York office of Littler Mendelson.

Who is **Sarah McGrath**? Answer: Our classmate who was a contestant on *Jeopardy!* last April. Sarah says it was the culmination of a lifelong dream and three rounds of vigorous testing. She didn't win, but says she had a great time.

**Caley Rose** writes with an update on her career as a pop singer and songwriter. Her music has been

out his campaign for California State Assembly: "I'd love to share my experience with anyone who's thinking about running for office. More people should, and — as someone who took a left turn from academic astrophysics to social policy-focused politics — I'd encourage a broad cross-section of our class to jump in. If you're interested in hearing about my race and what it's taught me, please get in touch (leabramson@gmail.com)!"

**Rachel Lindsay** recently spent time in Belfast, Northern Ireland, to see *I Know I've Been A Stranger Lately*, a comics group show including pages from her graphic novel memoir, *RX* (2018). Since its publication, *RX* has gained international recognition for its take on psychopharmaceutical advertising, manic depressive illness and involuntary

September 4, 2022, here in Houston. He's a fighter and growing in the NICU right now."

Wishing Jack and his family the best!

As always, send me news by email or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. CCT also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

## 2010

**Billy Organek**  
william.a.organek@gmail.com

Hi, Class of 2010! No text updates this time. I hope that means you were all so busy crushing it that you had no time to respond! That said, your classmates and I would love to hear from you, so please send me an update to share with everyone. Write to me by email or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

While we didn't receive any text updates, **Daniel Kanak** sent a photo from his wedding showing his Columbia pride along with several other alums. See "Just Married!"

Thanks for sharing!

You can send in a photo, too, as long as it is at least 750 kb and features at least two CC alums (or one, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!"). Send those right to CCT using the photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

## 2011

**Nuriel Moghavem** and **Sean Udell**  
nurielm@gmail.com  
sean.udell@gmail.com

Howdy, Class of 2011! Wild to think that 15 years have passed since most of us showed up on campus and moved into our rooms in John Jay, Carman, Fernald and Wallach. Life was simpler then, in a sense, without mortgages, back pain or a fragile democracy. But through your updates, it's clear that the spirit of excitement to find one's way, to

build things, to improve the state of the world — that is still there.

First is perhaps one of the best updates we've ever received, as one of our own has achieved Italian dessert immortality. **Matt Pruznick JRN'14** won the San Gennaro cannoli-eating contest for the second consecutive year! He ate 18 large cannolis from Ferrara Bakery in six minutes to win the 24th annual competition, and his victory was even featured on *Jimmy Kimmel Live*. He is not aiming to be a pro or anything, but will definitely be back to defend his title next September! Matt is an editor at the PR agency Weber Shandwick, loving life with his wife and dog at their condo in Little Italy (right by the festival, which is why he entered).

**Erin Meyer LAW'11** is celebrating having landed her dream job as a pro bono counsel at Cooley, a leading global law firm with a strong commitment to social justice and public service. She says she is grateful to join an all-star team of 10 pro bono professionals, led by partner Maureen Alger LAW'98, and is looking forward to serving the firm's pro bono clients in immigration, gender justice and LGBTQ+ rights matters.

**Nicola Rose** is a film director whose debut feature, *Goodbye, Petrushka*, is available on Amazon Prime in the United States and the United Kingdom, plus on Tubi in several countries, and on Google Play and YouTube. The film is a coming-of-age comedy about a girl who goes from America to France. It has some roots in Nicola's experiences studying in France while a College student.

After earning a Ph.D. at the University of Southern California in 2020 and spending most of the pandemic in the Bay Area, **Peter Labuza SOA'14** has switched gears and joined the labor movement. He is a researcher at the International Cinematographers Guild, IATSE Local 600, supporting 10,000 members to find safety, security and solidarity. He moved back to Los Angeles with his fiancée, LeeAnna Bowman-Carpio; if you are in the area, get in touch and he'll talk about how you can unionize your workplace!

We got lots of baby updates! **Molly Spector BC'11** and **Dhruve Vasishtha** are excited to announce the birth of their son Simon Spector Vasishtha. They look forward to

*Rachel Lindsay '09 recently spent time in Belfast, Northern Ireland, to see a comics group show that included pages from her 2018 graphic novel memoir, RX.*

featured on Top 40 radio, in film and in commercials. Her next release, "Honest Woman," won a John Lennon songwriting award and was released in late October. Caley is on a cross-country tour in her self-renovated airstream trailer, "The Shiny Twinkie." She empowers women and youth by partnering with organizations that uplift them and by speaking about confidence in schools across the country.

**Chennai Xu** and **Chad Cohen** welcomed Charlotte Xu Cohen in October, born at NewYork-Presbyterian Alexandra Cohen Hospital for Women and Newborns in Manhattan. Chennai writes, "The family of three is doing well, and Charlotte is looking forward to wearing her first CC onesie!"

## 2009

**Shira Burton**  
shira.burton@gmail.com

Hello, Class of 2009! Check out what your classmates are doing.

**Louis Abramson** writes from Los Angeles, where he's rounding

hospitalization. Rachel and her work have been featured in *World Literature Today*, *New York Magazine* and *The New Yorker*, and on the podcast Mental Health Happy Hour. *RX* is taught at universities around the world, including Columbia. Rachel also had an award-winning comic strip, *Rachel Lives Here Now*, that ran in Vermont's statewide alt-weekly 2016–21. She is working on a second book inspired by her experiences in Dublin following her trip. She welcomes collaborations with classmates if anyone has a story to tell (or any ideas about how to get an Irish visa).

**Munif Hussain** is treating weekend warriors, runners et al. at his orthopedic sports medicine practice on the Upper West Side. He is working in a multi-specialty hub through Summit Health-CityMD Urgent Care that offers cardiology, plastic surgery and other specialties. He'd love to see classmates and other Columbia alumni as patients if anyone needs sports medicine care.

And an update from **Jack Miller**: "My wife, Jia, and I had our second son, James, 12 weeks early on



# 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](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). Congratulations!



1  
DAVID BASTIANONI



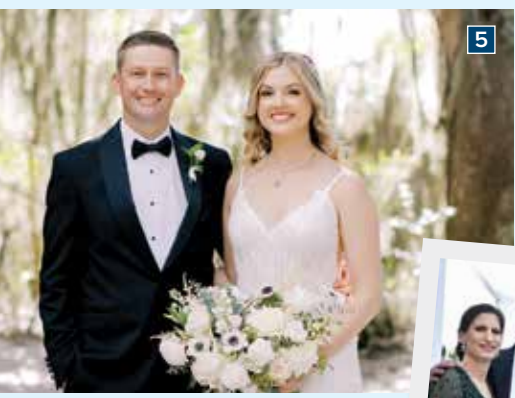
2  
KEYLA ALANES



3  
BRIAN HATTON PHOTOGRAPHY



4  
ELIZABETH STROKA



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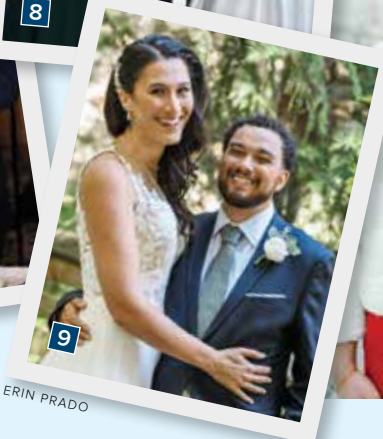
6  
ASIA PIMENTEL



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FX VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY



8



9  
ERIN PRADO



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CINDY TRINH



11  
DAVID ESTERSON



1. Daniel Kanak '10 and Elina Kanak (center) were married on June 4 in Florence, Italy. Joining them were, left to right: Zak Ringelstein '08, Austin Hamilton '10, Robert Hung '10, Matthew Harold '10, Tess Finkel '10, Sue Yang '10 and Alex Yagoda '10.

2. Harper Leahy '13 and Helena Leahy '13 (née Hao Wu) (front row, third and fourth from left) were married in Washington, D.C., on May 15, 2021. Celebrating with them were, left to right: Michael Yoon SEAS'13, Stephanie Nass '13, Ivan Duschatzky SEAS'14, Phillip Fletcher '13, Donald Lovejoy SEAS'15, Mary Fowler BC'16, Frederick Havemeyer IV '13, Thomas Galluccio '15, Ashley Shaw '13, James Yoon '13, Audry Padgett SEAS'13, Sergio Villar '13, Skanda Amarnath '13, Rebecca Fine '12 and Erik Kogut '12.

3. Brian Chung '16 and Katherine Chung '16 (née Nevitt) (front, holding banner) married at the New York Athletic Club on June 11. At the celebration were, back row, left to right: Luis Bochner '16, Nik Nayar '16, Alexander Tavares-Finson '16, Julian Richardson '14, Taylor Curry '16, Leila Mgaloblishvili '16 and Tom Higgins '16; and front row, left to right: Nicolas Sambor '16, Alexander Bernstein '16, Samina Gagne '16, Maddie Schwab '16, Urvashi Pathania '16, Nikita Sivakumaran '16 and Lia Higgins BC'16.

4. David Wanner and Bakhita Thordarson Wanner '16 (back row, second and third from left) were joined at their June 25 wedding in Medfield, Mass., by, back row, left to right: Sarah Green '16, Katie Thordarson Williams GS'16 and Olger C. Twynen III BUS'90; and front row: Alison Scorese BC'16 and Angela Scorese BC'16.

5. Brett Carns and Courtney Morrison '10 were married on September 24 on Amelia Island, Fla.

6. Michael Barrientos SEAS'12 and Elizabeth Angeles '13 (center) married in Cancún on August 27, surrounded by many friends. Left to right: Delby Barrientos '11, Christopher Guerrero SEAS'09, Patricia Rojas '12, Cristina De La Rosa '14, Cindy Reyes BC'10, Mariano Payano SEAS'14, Danielle Christ Mae Scully '15, Annell A. Ovalles BC'15, Caitlin Anderson '12, Dominique Nieves '12, Emmanuel Arnaud '13, Gilbert Nuñez '13, Stephanie Guzman Arnaud LAW'22, Gabriel Kerr '12, Carolina Escalera SIPA'13, Ernesto Jacobs SEAS'13, Jason Tejada '13, Humberto Estevez SEAS'12, Michael Elias SEAS'15, Sebastian Garcia SEAS'13, Brian Velez SEAS'14, Jasmine Ruiz BC'14, Juan Garcia SEAS'12, Jason Han '12, Joshua Walteros SEAS'13, Juan Pablo Londoño SEAS'12, Jake Lefker '13, Richard Parraga SEAS'14, Maria Liliana Carrillo SEAS'13, Bryan Amador SEAS'15, Amanda Lopez '13, Jessenia Martinez '13, Lucelys Popoter '14, Sami Ahmad SEAS'12, Leslie Sanchez SEAS'14, Carmen Romero BC'13, Nicole Velazquez BC'09, Jacquellena Carrero '13, Corina Velazquez BC'15, Nicholas Velazquez SEAS'11 and Jonathan Orea '13.

7. Ellen Rosenbloom and Adam Rosenbloom '83 were married at The Harmonie Club in NYC on June 19.

8. Bryan Markowitz '19 and Tehila Aferiat were married on September 15 in Jerusalem. With them were the groom's parents, Meryl Markowitz and Dr. Charles Markowitz '82.

9. Nadia Safaeinili Tierney PH'15 and Aaron Tierney '15 were married at the Brazilian Room in Berkeley, Calif., on August 12.

10. Annie Tan '11 and Corey Chu were married in NYC's Chinatown on March 12.

11. Morgan Villar '11 (née Ferguson) and Dr. Brandon Villar, joined by pups Betty Swaggie White and Tycho, were married in Los Angeles on January 7, 2022.

Simon's college essay on navigating dual identities for his eventual Columbia application.

**Meredith Lester** (née Mead) and Kevin Reed Lester '12 welcomed their third boy, Titus Wells Lester, on April 19. Titus joined his brothers, twins Tank and Thorn (2). Meredith and Kevin were lucky to have an extended parental leave; they took full advantage and drove an RV to Alaska and back! See the nearby photo.

After spending the last decade living in London and Austin, **Rachel Heng** and **Carl Jeanbart SEAS'11**, SEAS'12 moved back to the incomparable Upper West Side last summer and were thrilled to welcome little August Jeanbart-Heng (CC or SEAS TBD, and a topic of great contention) into their lives. Rachel's second novel, *The Great Reclamation*, will be published in March. The cover was recently featured in Oprah Daily: [bit.ly/3gpRawQ](https://bit.ly/3gpRawQ). Launch events are in the works but she hopes to have one at Book Culture and that maybe she'll see you there!

**Kate Taylor** (née Durnan) LAW'14 welcomed her first baby, George, in April and was promoted to partner in the M&A group at Debevoise & Plimpton, where she has been working for eight years.

We also have some weddings to share with you: **Alexandra Fisher** and Christopher Moon were married on April 9 at Stemple Creek Ranch in Tamales, Calif. After a two-year delay, family and friends gathered over a weekend to celebrate and dance late into the night. The couple met in San Francisco, where Allie is head of creative at Godfrey Dadich Partners and Chris is a technical project manager at Google.

Last March, **Annie Tan** married Corey Chu at her childhood home in Chinatown, NYC. (See "Just Married!") On June 19, Annie spoke on behalf of her family at her cousin Vincent Chin's 40th Remembrance and Rededication in Detroit; Chin's 1982 murder spurred an Asian-American movement and has frequently been cited during this recent rise of anti-Asian hate. And, after being in the classroom for 11 years, Annie took a break from teaching special education, as teaching during the pandemic has been difficult beyond words, and is working on her first book, a memoir

about her family activism, languages and legacy. Any and all writing buddies and publishing tips, especially based in NYC, are welcome!

And, lastly: Your trusted correspondent **Sean Udell** welcomed a new nephew, and is very excited for his sister and brother-in-law's expanding little family. He has also had the pleasure of hosting his freshman-year Carman suitemate and sophomore-year Shapiro room-mate **Felix Vo** in Philadelphia twice in 2022. Felix's taste for cheesesteaks is seemingly insatiable, and the pair had quite the time sampling the Philadelphia delicacy while also trying to stay cute for Philly Pride. Fellow Carman 9-er and exceptional friend **Ali Krimmer** returned the favor and paid Felix a visit in dazzling Paris, France (not to be confused with Paris, Texas) during Labor Day weekend, where they had an amazing time. The pair took in many of the sights in the City of Lights and celebrated Felix's 33rd birthday.

## 2012

**Sarah Chai Schildknecht**  
[sarahbchai@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbchai@gmail.com)

[Editor's note: CCT thanks **Sarah Chai Schildknecht** for her 10 great years of service as class correspondent. Effective with the Summer 2023 issue, we welcome **Pat Blute** to the role. Send your news to him at [pblute@gmail.com](mailto:pblute@gmail.com) or use the Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). See a few words from Pat at the end of the column!]

Hi, Class of 2012. Congrats are in order for **Ryan Haslett** and his wife, Allison Haslett (née McLaren) TC'15, who welcomed their first child, Aiden Gregory Haslett, on July 21!

A sweet note as well from **Vasilis Hristidis** GS'16: "In honor of my best friend Sarah's last year as our class rep, I'd love to share some updates. I'm in my second year of residency in psychiatry at Washington University and living in St. Louis with my partner and my beautiful cat, Nova. I'm still a huge Swiftie, as any of my friends from Columbia likely know, and I still speak to three of my best friends pretty much daily. Love you, **Sarah Chai Schildknecht**, **Ariel Moger**





JODY LESTER

The Lester family road-tripped to Alaska in an RV after the birth of their third son. On July 15 (left to right), Kevin Reed Lester '12, Thorn Lester, pooch Spud Lester, Tank Lester, Meredith Lester '11 (née Mead) and Titus Lester posed near the Alaska/Canada Border in Tok, Alaska.

and **Morgan Fletcher**. Any CC'12 people should feel free to reach out and catch me up on your life!"

As Vasilis mentions, this is my last issue as the CC'12 class correspondent. Having now reached a decade in this role, it seems like the right time to pass the baton to a classmate. The past years have been filled with many changes, and for me most recently this has involved a cross-country move from New York to California with my wonderful husband, Will Schildknecht. Slowly but surely we are getting settled into life on the West Coast. I am glad to be closer to my family and to have joined the Los Angeles Organizing Committee for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I am grateful to all of you for sharing your lives with me for so many years. Though it is bittersweet to step away from this experience, I look forward to reconnecting with everyone in other ways. Until then, Roar, Lion, Roar!

And to close, a few words from **Pat Blute**: "Thank you, Sarah, for your invaluable contributions to keeping our class together and up to date. I look forward to carrying the baton and to celebrating, sharing and championing CC'12 from Brooklyn, N.Y.!"

## 2013

### REUNION 2023

JUNE 1-3

Reunion Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Tala Akhavan**  
talaakhavan@gmail.com

Several notes came in through the *CCT* Class Notes webform ([college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note) webform), and you can send your news this way, too! Photos are also welcome, as long as they are a minimum 750 kb and feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum for "Just Married!" as long as a member of the couple — they should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

Now, some news from classmates! **Julia Monk**, who lives in Miami, writes: "I graduated with a Ph.D. in ecology from the Yale School of the Environment last May. I moved to Miami with my partner about a year ago, and I'll continue to work semi-

remotely from Miami in a post-doc position. It's been really hard meeting people while working from home, so if anyone is in South Florida and wants to be friends, hit me up! I am especially interested in finding other folks who want to support each other in getting more involved in progressive advocacy in Florida."

**Victoria Lewis**, in NYC, was recently appointed assistant concertmaster of the Israel Symphony Rishon LeZion, resident orchestra of the Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv.

**Elizabeth Angeles**, living in the Bronx, shares: "I am proud to share that last summer I was selected as a 40 Under 40 Rising Star in New York City Food Policy by the Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center. I have also been selected to serve on the New York State Graduation Measures Blue Ribbon Commission, which will explore what a New York State high school diploma means and what it should signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for all New York State children. This commission will provide recommendations directly to the Board of Regents. I would love to connect and collaborate with anyone engaged in food access or education equity policy efforts. After teaching on Zoom for two years, I am excited to be in a physical classroom this year as an adjunct professor at NYU, where I teach an advocacy capstone section for graduate students pursuing a master's in public administration."

See a great group photo from Elizabeth's wedding in "Just Married!"

Thanks to those who wrote! Classmates would love to hear from more of you, so please reach out. And keep an eye on your inbox for info on our 10-year reunion, coming up in June!

## 2014

**Rebecca Fattell**  
rsf2121@columbia.edu

No news to share this time, but I wish CC'14 a great 2023! Reach out at any time with updates. You can send them either via the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform,

[college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!")

## 2015

**Kareem Carryl**  
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2015! No updates to share this issue. But as always, classmates want to hear from you! Please 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](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). *CCT* also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 2016

**Lily Liu-Krason**  
liluikrason@gmail.com

Hey 2016. I'm writing this from Taipei. I've been working a lot more in Asia and have been in Tokyo and Taipei recently. If you are around the area, please let me know! I saw **Sophia Horowitz** (see the nearby photo!) and **Dan Schlosser SEAS'16** in Tokyo. We've been working on a multimedia performing arts project, [wearetonari.com](http://wearetonari.com), and will release a film screening and some performances in a few cities soon.

**Christian Zhang** "gave up on his journalism dreams and has spent the past five years scouring Southeast Asia and the rest of the world for profitable investments, all in pursuit of the noble goal of helping his hedge fund employer and wealth clients become wealthier. The result: strong opinions on conference room decor, a lot of frequent flyer miles and the occasional company that doesn't burn money. He also enjoys meeting Columbia alumni in the strangest places along his travels. If you're passing through Singapore, Thailand, Laos, Germany or Georgia, let him know: [cz2281@columbia.edu](mailto:cz2281@columbia.edu)!"

**Penina Francus** shares: "I wrote a Letter to the Editor [to *The New*

*York Times*] in response to an article accusing elite college campuses of being closed off to their surrounding towns. My letter concerned my experience at Columbia and the openness of the University community to the rest of the city. Here is the original article: [bit.ly/3H2Ri07](https://bit.ly/3H2Ri07), and the Letters to the Editor (mine is at the end): [bit.ly/3VGNHsz](https://bit.ly/3VGNHsz).”

That’s all I have for you this edition! If you would like to share an update, reach out via the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for “Just Married!”).

## 2017

**Carl Yin**  
[carl.yin@columbia.edu](mailto:carl.yin@columbia.edu)

**Bianca Guerrero** is on sabbatical, serving as the racial justice leader-in-residence at the Colin Powell School at City College. Her position is threefold: She is managing programming, mentorship and career opportunities for a group of 15 undergraduate fellows; completing an independent study focused on quilts and textiles in American social movements; and will teach a course on gender and sexuality in New York politics this spring. She lives in Yonkers, is rediscovering her love for camping and was excited to work on more crafts this past winter.

**Jordana Fremed** married Ben Pleat on September 18, in Cortlandt, N.Y. Jordana and Ben had been dating since college and were thrilled to get to share their celebrations with so many Columbia friends. They live in Boston with their rescue pups, Bowie and Beacon.

**Daniel Schwartz**, SEAS’18 and his wife, Elizabeth Rosen ’18, welcomed their second child, Leora Rachel, in October.

Please submit updates by emailing me or using the *CCT* Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). *CCT* also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the “Just Married!” section: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 2018

### REUNION 2023

JUNE 1–3

Reunion Contact  
[ccreunion@columbia.edu](mailto:ccreunion@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
[ccfund@columbia.edu](mailto:ccfund@columbia.edu)

**Alexander Birkel**  
and **Maleeha Chida**  
[ab4065@columbia.edu](mailto:ab4065@columbia.edu)  
[mnc2122@columbia.edu](mailto:mnc2122@columbia.edu)

It was great reconnecting with many of you during Homecoming weekend as well as to meet many of you whom I surprisingly never got a chance to know during our time at Columbia. For those who weren’t able to make it, a number of our classmates have some great updates to share!



Friends (left to right) Bryan Lee ’18, Joshua Suh ’18, Yujin Kim SEAS’20 and Seung Hee Han SEAS’17, here on September 1 in Seoul, enjoyed a trip abroad together.

**Turner DeMuth** married **Natalie Ambrose** (now DeMuth) last July in Bend, Ore. They were fortunate to have a lot of CC alumni in attendance, including several members of the football and soccer teams (Turner played football and Natalie played soccer at Columbia). Turner’s brother and his wife, who were both in attendance, are CC’15 alumni. We all highly await the wedding pictures!

**Joshua Suh** recently went to Seoul with **Bryan Lee**, Yujin Kim SEAS’20 and Seung Hee Han SEAS’17. They ate good food (of course), caught up on their lives and reminisced about old friends. See the nearby photo!

**Ethan Adams** recently released a song, “Wish I XX Love U” under his alias, Mallive, which was active during his time at Columbia. The song is available on Spotify and has featured album art as well as a headshot. Ethan was a highly ranked contestant in the 2016 edition of Battle of the Bands at school. He is present on various forms of social media, including Instagram and TikTok, under his alias.

As always, it’s great to hear from you all. Please feel free to send a Class Note at any time either through email or the Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos of minimum 750 kb that feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum for “Just Married!” as long as a member of the couple — should be sent directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

And keep an eye on your inbox for info on our five-year reunion, coming up in June!

## 2019

**Tj Aspen Givens** and **Emily Gruber**  
[tag2149@columbia.edu](mailto:tag2149@columbia.edu)  
[emilyannegruber@gmail.com](mailto:emilyannegruber@gmail.com)

Hello, Class of 2019! We missed the bright lights of College Walk at the end of last year and are thinking of all of you. If you would like to share a note or an update with our class for the next issue, please email us at any time — we would love to hear from you. (Or use the Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note)!) Photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni — or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for “Just Married!” — are welcome, too! Send those right to *CCT* via the Class Notes photo webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

**Jackie Brown** started a Ph.D. in sociology at UC Berkeley and would love to meet up with any 2019ers in the Bay Area!

We send our best wishes to you in your studies, Jackie!

Last summer, Lake Lund asked **Tj Aspen Givens** to marry him in the cul-de-sac of their new home on closing day. The surprise neighborhood block party with live music from a local artist was even covered by ABC News!

We all send the warmest congratulations to the happy couple, who celebrated alongside **Krys Molina** and **Alejandra Uria** in Tulsa.

**Brent Morden** has been appointed to direct the Columbia



Sophia Horowitz ’16 (left) and Lily Liu-Krason ’16 had dinner on October 12 at Sōwadō in Tokyo.





Taking a moment to celebrate at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine Class of 2026 White Coat Ceremony on September 9 in Pasadena were, left to right: Tiger Borjigin-Lee, Elizabeth Borjigin-Lee '20, Jeremy Perna SEAS'20, Evan Day '20 and Bunmi Fariyike SEAS'20.

Athletics Spirit Band, a new band composed of Columbia and Barnard students who perform at select Athletics events.

Brent has also joined Hofstra's Music Department as director of the Hofstra Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Last fall, Brent music-directed a showcase for his original musical *Infernal* in preparation for its projected Off-Broadway run in 2023.

He also continues as program manager for the NYC children's choir nonprofit Every Voice Choirs and as program director for FAIR in the Arts, a national professional network advancing a culture of creative freedom, open-mindedness and excellence in the arts.

Best wishes in your new position and other ventures, Brent!

## 2020

**Stephen Cone and  
Kyra Ann Dawkins**  
jsc2247@columbia.edu  
kad2196@columbia.edu

**Bailey Nordin** has been living and working studying climate change at the South Pole for the last year. She is an atmospheric chemistry technician for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and is responsible for monitoring the regrowth of the ozone hole and other long-term atmospheric trends, with another technician. A winter

in Antarctica means spending a year isolated with only 44 other people, six months of continual darkness and temperatures as low as -100 F!

**Remington Free** is moving to Los Angeles to start a job as an operations systems engineer at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

**Sean Taylor's** first feature film, *Cowboy.mov*, is available to stream on Tubi and Amazon Prime! Give 'er a gander if you're interested in comedy, conspiracy theories, political discourse or the pursuit of lactose.

**Robert Willard** is in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, teaching English and expanding the initiatives of the World Aral Region Charity (WARC). Last March, along with **Kyra Ann Dawkins, Paola Ripoll** and **Nathan Santos**, he organized an environmental engineering camp at a school in a zone of ecological devastation. Now, the kids are using WARC's water filter and diligently monitoring its environmental projects! The organization is always looking for volunteers to come to Uzbekistan!

**Canwen Xu** started a job at Chapter, a healthcare tech startup based in New York City.

Thank you to all who submitted notes. We look forward to hearing from more of you soon enough. Please email either of us or submit through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. CCT also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes,

or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

## 2021

**Mario A. Garcia Jr.**  
mag2329@columbia.edu

Hey, Class of 2021! I hope all is well and this holiday season had you spending time with those you love and taking much-needed relaxation time for yourself! Additionally, I know 2023 will bring you new adventures and exciting endeavors and can't wait to hear about them. For my own update, at the time of writing, I am in rehearsals for an original show I am producing, *Staten Island! The Musical*, co-written by Sal Volpe '19, GSAS'21. We'll be putting on the show here in New York City at The Tank as well as just across the river in Avenel, N.J., at the Avenel Performing Arts Center. I can't wait to bring this show to life!

**William Choi** has been an artist and producer in Los Angeles under the stage name Bichuu for the last year. Additionally, he's been touring the world with a Korean entertainment company as a freelancer and tour coordinator. Soon, he'll officially release and promote his own music. He says he feels like after graduating and constantly dedicating himself to his art, he's on the verge of something big. Most importantly, he finally feels like the quality of his work is representative of Columbia and what it stands for. William says would love to talk with fellow alumni who are in the music and/or arts industry who are on the same pathway.

**Ivy Allotey** SIPA'22 recently completed her dual degree program with SIPA, where she studied urban policy and management. She's an NYC Urban Fellow and is completing her placement at the Department of Veterans' Services, where she is building out its affordable housing unit and juggling research and marketing tasks. She says it is rewarding to be in a position where she can support NYC veterans, an often-underrepresented demographic, in their housing journeys.

Please reach out to me by email with your news or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. CCT

also welcomes photos of 750 kb or larger that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

## 2022

### REUNION 2023

JUNE 1-3

Reunion Contact  
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

[Editor's note: Effective with the Summer 2023 issue, we welcome **Mark Anthony Torres** to the role of class correspondent. Send your news to him at mat2223@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note!]

And now a few words from Mark himself, who lives in Edinburg, Texas: "I competed in my first powerlifting event in Texas and won second place in my age/weight division! I thank the Columbia University Barbell Club for helping me reach this milestone, especially my friend Josh Park GS'27. Another huge thank you, to my Class of 2022 classmates, for providing emotional support during my training phase. And lastly, thank you to the University and my professors for instilling in me the principles of hard work and dedication. Without the Columbia community, I would not have made it through my difficult training."

Columbia Reunion 2023, for classes ending in 3 and 8 and for your class, is scheduled for Thursday, June 1-Saturday, June 3. Watch for emails from the Alumni Office.

In the meantime, send Mark all your latest news and happenings, and he'll share them in a future issue. Photos should be sent directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo. Just make sure they are 750 kb or larger and feature at least two CC alumni (or one CC alum, as long as a member of the couple, for "Just Married!").

# obituaries

*Columbia College Today* has learned of the deaths of the following alumni. You can read more about their lives and find featured obituaries for **Arthur S. Rosenbaum '60, SOA'61** and **Richard F. Taruskin '65, GSAS'76** at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct). To submit an obituary for a Columbia College graduate, go to [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_obituary](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_obituary).

1944 **Harold E. Brandmaier**, mechanical engineer, Harrington Park, N.J., on April 11, 2022.

1947 **James M. Grant**, nephrologist, Windham, Vt., on August 3, 2022.

1951 **Edward P. Hardy Jr.**, chemist, Pleasantville, N.Y., on August 24, 2022.

**Paul A. Wallace**, attorney, Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., on March 3, 2021.

1952 **N. David Charkes**, physician, Collegeville, Pa., on April 1, 2022.

1954 **Lee R. Abramson**, statistician, Silver Spring, Md., on September 3, 2022.

**Bernd Brecher**, consultant, Bronxville, N.Y., on September 26, 2022.

**Stanley Friedman**, English professor, Hingham, Mass., on November 18, 2022.

1955 **Richard B. Bloomenstein**, plastic surgeon, Englewood, N.J., on August 8, 2022.

**Ezra G. Levin**, attorney, Bronx, N.Y., on October 30, 2022.

1957 **Richard J. Brower**, professor, River Edge, N.J., on September 27, 2022.

**Alan I. Fine**, physician, Warren, N.J., on February 18, 2022.

**Gary L. Greer**, attorney, Littleton, Colo., on December 3, 2021.

1958 **Robert R. Jespersen**, attorney, Melbourne, Fla., on June 4, 2020.

1959 **Jerry W. Monroe**, attorney, San Diego, on July 13, 2022.

1960 **Bruce Ettinger**, physician, San Francisco, on June 15, 2020.

**Arthur S. Rosenbaum**, painter and folk music preservationist, Athens, Ga., on September 4, 2022.

**L. Steven Zwerling**, educator and writer, New York City, on June 18, 2022.

1961 **Stanley L. Nash**, professor, Bloomington, Ind., on July 1, 2022.

**Norman J. Schneider**, dentist, New York City, on September 3, 2022.

1962 **Howard R. Relin**, district attorney, Canandaigua, N.Y., on December 7, 2022.

1963 **Zev Bar-Lev**, professor, San Diego, on July 26, 2022.

1964 **Jay M. Portnow**, physician, Rockville, Md., on July 25, 2022.

1965 **Leslie E. "Les" Patlove**, furniture builder, Charlemont, Mass., on August 27, 2020.

**Richard F. Taruskin**, musicologist, writer and educator, El Cerrito, Calif., on July 1, 2022.

1966 **Paul A. Burt**, film collector and projectionist, San Francisco, on January 5, 2022.

**Michael E. Feingold**, theater critic, dramaturge, translator, lyricist and adapter, New York City, on November 21, 2022.

**Thomas Kalfa**, airline executive, Cerritos, Calif., on March 16, 2022.

**Thomas M.H. Kappner**, professor, New York City, on September 16, 2022.

1969 **R. Bruce Dickson**, attorney, Chevy Chase, Md., on November 11, 2022.

**Jeffrey M. Rainer**, pianist and music educator, White Plains, N.Y., on August 14, 2022.

1970 **Ronald A. Fischman**, physician, Los Angeles, on May 16, 2022.

1971 **David H. McEwan**, marketing executive, Bluffton, S.C., on October 17, 2022.

1975 **Howard Blatt**, sports writer and author, Rockville, Md., on October 3, 2022.

1979 **Andrew M. Elliott**, accountant, Charlotte, N.C., on December 2, 2021.

1982 **Victor F. Lopez**, systems analyst, New York City, on October 30, 2022.

1984 **Adam M. Sutner**, ski resort executive, Crystal Mountain, Wash., on April 4, 2022.

1987 **Melanie R. Roche**, energy healer, The Hague, Netherlands, on September 29, 2022.

1988 **Sherry F. Colb**, law professor, Ithaca, N.Y., on August 25, 2022.

1990 **Christopher P. Ziadie**, athlete and teacher, Hollywood, Fla., on September 18, 2022.

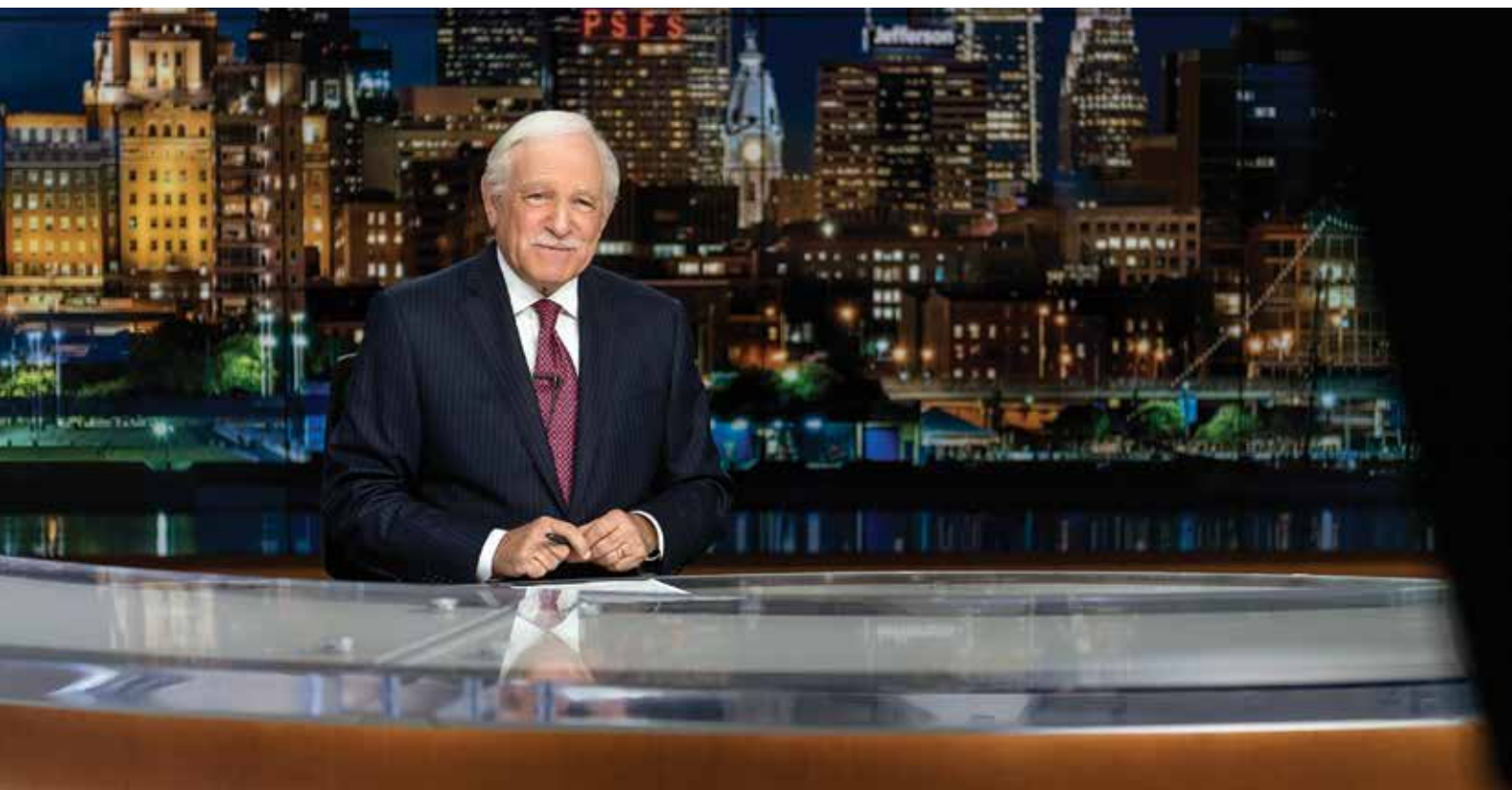
1992 **Katina Pearl-Blando**, manager and consultant, Robbinsville, N.J., on October 1, 2022.

**Greg A. Pollowitz**, web content creator, Miami, on September 17, 2022.

1993 **Srilakshmi "Sangeeth" Kottai Gnanasekaran**, physician, Cairo, Egypt, on September 11, 2022.

1998 **Meena Merchant**, filmmaker and artist, Renton, Wash., on August 15, 2022.





COURTESY WPVI-TV

## JIM GARDNER '70: THE TOAST OF PHILADELPHIA

By Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80

Walking into Philly's Famous 4th Street Delicatessen for lunch on a recent weekday, Jim Gardner '70 was greeted warmly by a customer in a flowing white Islamic robe and kufi cap. "We're going to miss you, man," the well-wisher said. A short time later, as Gardner tucked into a mountainous half-portion of hot pastrami on rye, an elderly Jewish man stopped by the table to insist, "You're too young to retire! Stick around."

Life has been like that for Gardner ever since he announced he would step down at the end of 2022 after more than 45 consecutive years anchoring the evening news at Philadelphia's Channel 6 Action News on the local ABC station, WPVI. Needless to say, 45 years is an eye-popping tenure in the competitive world of TV news, exceeded only by

Chuck Scarborough of New York's WNBC. "It's been a great run," Gardner says.

And then some. Broadcasting in the nation's fourth-largest media market, WPVI's news programming has swamped its competition in audience ratings for decades. Gardner has earned enduring admiration and loyalty across the social and political spectrum by consistently delivering a straightforward, responsible news report with authentic charm and humanity. (Not to mention humor, as in his memorable account of the fiery demise of a Channel 6 Action News vehicle.) Job number one, Gardner says, has always been to stick to the facts and report fairly, without artifice. "We give our audience tremendous respect, and they repay us with trust. People can tell right away if you're faking it, if you're acting."

Get the story at [college.columbia.edu/cct](https://college.columbia.edu/cct)





# Stay Connected to the College

Join the Alumni Representative Committee and interview Columbia College applicants, or connect with current students through the Odyssey Mentoring Program — volunteer, support students and stay connected.

Learn more at [college.columbia.edu/alumni-volunteer](https://college.columbia.edu/alumni-volunteer).

Scan the QR code to learn more about getting involved.







# COLUMBIA REUNION 2023

THURSDAY, JUNE 1–SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Mark your calendars for Columbia Reunion 2023, scheduled for Thursday, June 1–Saturday, June 3, and open to all alumni with special celebrations for the milestone classes: those ending in 3 and 8, and the Class of 2022. Your Columbia connections are more meaningful than ever, so plan to join us for inspiring programs, social get-togethers and much more!

Visit [college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion](https://college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion) for details.

