


CCT

Columbia
College
Today 

Summer 2020

PREVAILING OVER PANDEMIC

ALUMNI SHARE STORIES
OF LIFE DURING COVID-19

VIRTUAL CLASS DAY

THE SHOW DID GO ON!
CONGRATS TO THE
CLASS OF 2020

RACHEL FEINSTEIN '93

SCENES FROM HER
FIRST MAJOR MUSEUM
RETROSPECTIVE



TAKING CLIMATE CHANGE TO COURT

Alex Loznak '19
is suing the
U.S. government
for the right to
a safer planet

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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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#CC20STILLROARS

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DR. BENJAMIN SCHWARTZ '03, PS '08

“In 1923, with the introduction of the home refrigerator in the U.S., a new art form emerged among some of the younger artists there.”

The winner of our third Core Centennial cartoon caption contest is Patrick Rapp '66! Thank you for all your submissions. This issue's cartoon is on [page 79](#).

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Within the Family

Notes on a Surreal Season

It's hard to know where to begin when writing this column, against the backdrop of these recent strange and devastating months. I look across my makeshift desk, out the window, where — after a chilly spring — green leaves finally fill the gridded pane. My husband, our 3-and-a-half-year-old daughter and I joined my parents at their home in Massachusetts in early April; they help with childcare while my husband and I work remotely. We take turns cooking dinner, then watch TV together or drift into different corners to decompress. At least once a day, we speculate how much longer.

I am enormously grateful for our situation, but as the weeks have passed, my homesickness has grown acute. I miss our apartment in Brooklyn; I miss my office in Morningside Heights. I miss the hour-long commute that took me from one to the other, a trip I often cursed (fie, MTA!) but that I now understand offered precious personal time to read or listen to podcasts or even nap until, on my luckier days, I woke just as the conductor announced my stop.

These are small and easy losses to catalog. There have been losses far, far greater in recent months — overwhelming in their scope and complexity, impossible to fully comprehend. I struggle to make sense of all that's happening: COVID-19, with its wrenching human and economic toll; the brutal murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd and the subsequent protests — a communal keening that reflects too many years of injustice, heart-break and anger, and which has demanded a national reckoning.

We each must decide how we will respond to these crises: How do we contend with their many facets; with whom will we share our thoughts and feelings; what calls to action will we issue or answer? These are conversations that begin quietly, in moments of self-reflection, and open outward to engage family, friends, community and others.

Of course, the community we have in common is that of Columbia College. As Dean James J. Valentini eloquently addresses in his message on [page 4](#), we are part of an institution where “much of what our undergraduates really explore is knowledge of the self and of their own humanity, in the context of others.” The foundation that the College instills in its students and alumni, and the awareness it fosters — for anyone who swims in its proverbial waters — have prepared all of us to consider the questions of equity, ethics, responsibility and democracy that are suddenly, urgently vital.

In this issue's cover story, we take up questions of responsibility relating to another of today's most pressing issues: climate change. There, the spotlight is on activist Alex Loznak '19, who, with 20 other young people, is suing the U.S. government for the right to a clean environment. The groundbreaking case, *Juliana v. United States*, charges that our leaders have caused undue harm to its plaintiffs by enabling and even encouraging policies that promote fossil fuels and carbon dioxide pollution. We look both at the remarkable case and Loznak's personal story — his crusade is inspired by his family's 152-year-old Oregon farm, which has become increasingly threatened by drought and wildfire.



Elsewhere in the issue, we invited 14 alumni to contribute reflections on the changes to their daily lives during the early months of the pandemic. Our original aim had been to create a time capsule of sorts, but as the project developed, we found ourselves moved and heartened in ways that we hadn't anticipated. We hope it does the same for you.

And speaking of heart, don't miss our graduation coverage, starting on [page 24](#). Class Day and Commencement went virtual in lieu of traditional ceremonies, and we highlight 10 seniors from the remarkable Class of 2020. The lessons they've taken from the extraordinary circumstances of their last semester — and the intentions they now carry into the world — are truly inspiring.

In case you missed our June 14 email announcement, I'd encourage you to read our recent Online Exclusive, a [Q&A with Dr. Ashish K. Jha '92](#), director of Harvard's Global Health Institute. In it, Jha — whom you might recognize from appearances on MSNBC and other networks — offers an optimistic prediction of our future, but doesn't mince words about what's gone wrong with the federal response to COVID-19. We also announced that we're posting this issue online only, having paused publication of the print magazine due to the financial implications of the pandemic.

We'll be back with a print magazine in the fall. In the meantime, I welcome your feedback at cct@columbia.edu. Be well.

Alexis Boncy

Alexis Boncy SOA'11
Editor-in-Chief

The CCT team, clockwise from top left: Deputy Editor Jill C. Shomer, Editor-in-Chief Alexis Boncy SOA'11, Executive Editor Lisa Palladino, Associate Editor Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09 and Art Director Eson Chan.



Message from the Dean

Looking with Clear and Unblinking Eyes

When Columbia College began the academic year last September, it would have been impossible for me to imagine how differently it would draw to an end. While every year has its distinctions, as humans, we rely on predictable rhythms to guide us. At Columbia, we start on a grand scale with Convocation for the incoming class, then gather together in a sea of Columbia Blue for Homecoming, observe the quietude of fall and spring exam periods, and finish the year with several more grand events: Class Day, Commencement and reunion.

The past several months have reminded us that whatever we might expect, life presents the unpredictable. And this year, the unpredictable arrived on a scale and with a force many of us had never before experienced. The outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States began with ambiguity in February, but its rapid development into a massive public health crisis in New York City and elsewhere led us to a series of “first-ers” at the College. We moved to an entirely remote learning and working model in mid-March, and then, just a few days later, expedited the departure of thousands of students from our residence halls to activate what we all now know as social distancing and de-densification.

This past spring our typically blooming and energized campus was unrecognizable, absent of students, who concluded their year with examinations and final papers from locations around the world. Poignantly, our senior class experienced graduation ceremonies entirely through online experiences: videos, livestreams, Zoom receptions with faculty and more. As the final senior celebration was concluding on May 22, faculty and staff were already planning for summer and fall, anticipating the next phases of the pandemic and thinking of ways to prepare our 266-year-old school to adjust.

But in that moment of turning toward the future, the brutal killing of George Floyd on May 25, Memorial Day, jolted the nation into a new crisis that had a distinctly different feeling than the global health and economic crisis we were already in. The tragedy of yet another Black American’s unjust death demanded that each of us look to the present with clear and unblinking eyes, to acknowledge that the racism of today is the result of a dark part of America’s past. Some of our country’s history is not easy to reckon with, but the insistent protests, outpouring of heartache and outrage, and overwhelming pain of so many has drawn together millions of Americans in a desire to collectively listen, share and take action to address this fundamental flaw in our nation’s fabric.

Today, we face a future with two enormous challenges. By no coincidence, both are deeply rooted in the humanities and its enduring questions about equality, ethics, responsibility and democracy. COVID-19 asks us each to consider how to physically take care of one another and ourselves as part of our social contract. The issue of racial injustice demands that we reflect on why we have taken insufficient care of a certain population among us, resulting in Black Americans feeling especially vulnerable in our communities.

I am glad to be at Columbia College right now. Our students are part of an institution that is rigorous about learning, inquiry and the pursuit of knowledge. While we often hear about Columbia’s research and discoveries at the frontiers of science and medicine, much of what our undergraduates really explore is knowledge of the self and of their own humanity, in the context of others. The questions our students are asked to consider have been deliberated for centuries, but in a world as disrupted as today’s, those questions — and the importance of their answers — are even more significant.

Our circumstances challenge students, and former students such as yourself, to reflect on how to better care for one another, how to listen to others who are different from ourselves, how to expand our understanding of ethical obligations and how to actualize our values and beliefs every day of our lives. This is the essence of the “Civic and Individual Responsibility” competency within My Columbia College Journey, which all students engage in as part of their holistic development, and which we emphasize as much as or even more than academic achievement.

This is a particularly important moment to redouble the College’s commitment to The Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights, which, since 2016, has engaged undergraduates and faculty in education toward advancing rights, justice and citizenship. We will explore programs and opportunities that further commit to Eric’s appeal that we never retreat into “the quiet prejudice of inaction.”

To learn in the classroom is the reason students come to Columbia College, and with our guidance they do. But we bring them to Columbia College to prepare them for a life beyond graduation, in which working to improve the human condition is an aim of their effort, whatever their profession.



JILL SHOWER

James J. Valentini
Dean

Sophia Ahmed '21 “Sees” New Use for Used Goggles

By Alexis Boncy SOA'11

Sophia Ahmed '21 had been thinking about ways to help during the COVID-19 pandemic, but she never expected her a-ha moment to come while unpacking dorm-room boxes in her parents' Michigan basement. There, in mid-March, she uncovered a pair of average, everyday lab goggles. For the Rabi Scholar, they had been a routine piece of gear. Could they now be put to a less routine use?



COURTESY SOPHIA AHMED '21

“We started hearing reports about hospital shortages and how they didn’t have enough PPE to protect the healthcare workers,” Ahmed says. “That seemed fundamentally wrong to me. If you can’t protect the people who are supposed to be protecting *us*, how do you expect to get through this crisis?”

She and her sister Aishah, a similarly science-minded student home from Harvard, immediately began contacting hospitals in the Detroit area to ask if goggles could be of use. The answer was a resounding yes — and [EyeAid Detroit](#) was born. Its aim: to collect gently used (or new!) protective eyewear from college students, sanitize them and send them to Detroit hospitals and healthcare facilities. Interested donors sign up via the EyeAid website, then receive instructions about shipping and safety protocols.

Ahmed knew immediately it would be a numbers game. “Not many people have 100 goggles,” she says, “but a lot of STEM students have a pair or two. And even other students — many people take Intro to Chem or a course like that. We knew we were going to depend on small, individual donations.”

The pair took to social media and contacted friends from high school and college. “My Rabi community has been super supportive in helping to get the word out,” notes Ahmed, who is a sustainable development major. As the weeks passed, they began receiving donations from further afield. “It’s been amazing to see our second- and third-degree networks grow. Every day we get emails from students at universities where, personally, I don’t know anyone — this morning it was Alabama — but they hear about us and email.”

Ahmed makes a point of circling back to donors to let them know where their eyewear lands. To date, EyeAid Detroit has redistributed roughly 300 pairs of goggles, with hundreds more in the cleaning and prep phase.

“It’s wonderful to see all corners of the U.S. come together and college students really feeling like they can make a difference in this,” Ahmed says. She recalls a recent donation from the Michigan State University physiology department: “We opened our front door to this huge box. We weren’t expecting it! And then we opened it — there were more than 60 goggles. It brought a lot of light and warmth to my day.”

It’s been especially meaningful to Ahmed to contribute in Detroit, one of the hardest-hit metro areas in the country and only about an hour from her home in Port Huron.

“This crisis has really allowed us to reflect on the communities that we’re part of and the impact that they’ve had on us, and then the impact that we want to be able to have on those communities in return.”

Faculty Laurels

A pair of longstanding honors were awarded in May, when a committee of College students announced its annual awards for faculty members who have contributed outstanding work to publishing and academia. Saidiya Hartman, a professor of English and comparative literature and gender studies, received the 45th annual Lionel Trilling Book Award for *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval*. Anthropology professor Audra Simpson received the 59th annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching for her “love and dedication to the act of teaching.” For more, see the [complete story](#) on the Columbia College website.



Reunion Recap

Columbia Reunion 2020 went virtual on June 6 with a day of programming that included a live update with Dean James J. Valentini, a Contemporary Civilization lecture by Ruairidh Macleod Ph.D. GSAS'15 and a series of TED-style talks led by alumni and faculty. Among the featured speakers were (clockwise from top left) Albert Bergeret '70, founder, artistic director and general manager, New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players; Gina Fattore '90, president, Drowning Girl Productions; former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke '95; and Columbia associate professor of history Frank A. Guridy.

FacultyLounge

Madeleine Dobie

By Jill C. Shomer

Madeleine Dobie gets why everyone wants to read *The Plague* right now. Camus's novel is “an incredible account” of an epidemic in the French-Algerian city of Oran; but Dobie, the chair and director of graduate studies of the Department of French, whose teaching and research areas include colonialism and postcolonial literature, offers some alternative insights. “It’s much harder now to overlook the ways Camus portrays Muslim Algerians, and not to notice that the disease only seems to concern the white inhabitants,” she says. “We can extend that to thinking about questions about inequality and invisibility in public health in our own moment here.”

Dobie is a professor of Francophone literature — French texts from countries other than France, including colonies

or former colonies in North Africa, the Middle East and the Caribbean. She is also co-director of the Columbia Global Centers's eight-week summer program for undergraduate and graduate students, “Amman and Tunis: Middle Eastern and North African Studies,” which pairs intensive Arabic language study with a cultural and historical seminar.

“My interests have always tended toward the colonial,” says Dobie, who teaches and writes about the cultural dimensions of migration and diaspora, and about 18th-century French culture, particularly with regard to the history of slavery. “I’m drawn to the question of French outside of France, and its intersection with other languages and other cultural traditions.”

Dobie admits that her academic and intellectual path has been “rather meandering.” As a teenager in the United



Kingdom she was fascinated with the Arabic-speaking world, and began a B.A. at Oxford in Arabic and Islamic history. She changed course and graduated with a degree in philosophy and modern languages in 1989, then earned a Ph.D. in French from Yale in 1994. “Though it sounds disparate, all of these different strands have come together in my research and my teaching,” she says. “It’s interesting how some things you do can turn out to be important later on, even if at the time you don’t think you’re continuing down that path. I think we see that a lot in students, and it’s especially true of foreign language study.”

Dobie joined the Columbia faculty in 2002, after an assistant professorship

at Tulane. “At that time Francophone literature was a marginal field of French studies,” she says. “What’s been extraordinary over the last 17 years is to see a real transformation of our field and of my department. Columbia has really become a leading center of Francophone studies; canonical French literature is now being taught among new classics by writers from Africa, the Caribbean and other regions.”

When asked what she enjoys most about teaching, Dobie says she just really likes students. “I’m interested in them — they’re young people, they’re at the start of something, and that’s very powerful. I enjoy being part of the discovery of ideas, showing them works of literature that are going to move and inspire them. It’s interesting to see what lands. It’s fascinating to watch them develop and emerge as more self-assured thinkers and writers — that’s something that’s heartening as a teacher.”

Dobie was on sabbatical last year, working on a book about contemporary Algeria, *After Violence, Politics Memory and the Algerian New Wave*, in which she tries to move beyond the tendency to represent Algeria as a country defined by the memory of violence. “I try to direct attention toward recent achievements and initiatives in the arts and literature that have unfolded over the last 20 years,” she says. “I’m interested in the context in which works are being produced and received. A whole cultural milieu is being refashioned.”

She is also involved in an international collective project creating a three-volume comparative history of slavery. Dobie’s part is “Slavery, Literature and the Emotions,” which considers different literary and film representations. She has especially enjoyed collaborating with a cohort in Denmark; the group had several international in-person workshops, but has had to connect virtually

since the start of COVID-19 quarantines. “We’re all learning a lot about what we can and can’t achieve right now,” she says.

Dobie has been sheltering at her house in Connecticut with her partner, her daughter and her dog, Finn, whom she says has become quite the Zoom influencer. “He’s often on the meetings, doing emotional support outreach,” she laughs. “But I am worried about our students — our world has changed in a way we couldn’t anticipate. Wondering what I can do to help them has been a big part of my sheltering experience, to be honest.”

In the immediate future, Dobie says she and a historian colleague have decided to teach a new class on pandemics in French and Francophone literature and history this fall. “We’ve been sending a syllabus that we plucked out of the air back and forth between us,” she says. “I think you have to seize the moment of reflection.”

DidYouKnow?

Columbia’s 1811 Graduation Ceremony Is Known as “The Riotous Commencement”

Mayhem erupted during Columbia’s 1811 Commencement when students’ devotion to free speech and self-determination clashed with a University rule that all graduation orations must be edited by the Board of the President and Professors, and given exactly as approved.

During the final orations at Trinity Church (Columbia’s original location), John B. Stevenson CC 1811 delivered his speech without making the requested edits. He was subsequently denied his diploma, although he attempted to collect it three times in protest during the ceremony. The crowd quickly turned against the faculty.

The 1900–01 issue of *Columbia University Quarterly* looked back at the event: “The clapping and applause that greeted [Stevenson’s] third appearance on the stage now grew in volume, and it was plain that the sympathies of a large part of the audience were with the student.”

Stevenson eventually left the ceremony, but the crowd’s anger remained. Students continued to hiss and jeer, and soon the police arrived. *CUQ* continued: “... there were cries of ‘hustle the officers,’ ‘break down the stage,’ ‘persecution,’ ‘tyrants,’ and the like, the whole church being in a tumult. On the platform, the space of the faculty was invaded, and after a vain attempt had been made to go on with the proceedings, the president was forced to desist, and neither the degree of Master of Arts was conferred nor the valedictory delivered. It was impossible to conclude the exercise with usual solemnities, and President [William] Harris, along with the other members of the faculty, was forced to leave the stage, fearing that he would be forced off should he remain.”

In Memoriam: Henry F. Graff GSAS’49, Professor Emeritus of History, Presidential Scholar

Henry F. Graff GSAS’49, a professor emeritus of history and scholar of the U.S. presidency and American foreign relations, died from complications of COVID-19 on April 7, 2020. He was 98 and lived in Scarsdale, N.Y.

A Columbia faculty member from 1946 to 1991 and an oft-requested speaker at reunion dinners, Graff was born on August 11, 1921, in Manhattan to descendants of Jewish immigrants from Germany. Raised in Inwood, he graduated from George Washington H.S. at 16 and earned a B.S., magna cum laude, from City College in 1941. A Phi Beta Kappa, Graff was working toward his master’s at GSAS, and was the first Jewish student in the history department, when he enlisted in the Army in 1942.

As a result of studying Japanese at Columbia, Graff served as a Japanese language officer and cryptanalyst in the Signal Intelligence Service, the predecessor to the National Security Agency. He read foreign communications and ciphers, particularly the now-famous “Purple” code: In November

1943, Graff translated part of a message sent by Lt. Gen. Hiroshi Oshima, the Japanese ambassador to Germany, to the Japanese foreign minister in Tokyo, which recounted in detail what the ambassador had seen of German preparations in north France. Graff also translated a message from Japan to the Soviet Union, detailing Japan's plan to get out of the war. In doing so, he was the first American to know of Imperial Japan's imminent surrender. Graff received a War Department Citation and the Army Commendation Medal for his service.

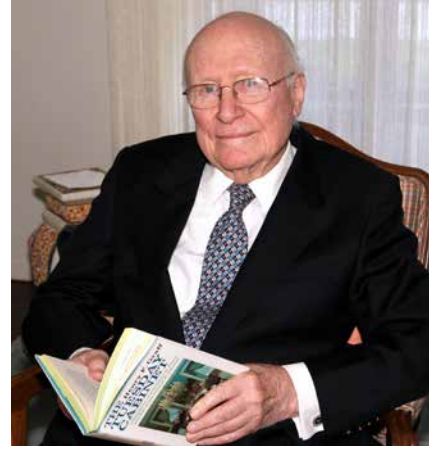
After his discharge, Graff taught history at City College for one semester before joining the Columbia faculty. He was honored with the College's Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching in 1981 and the Society of Columbia Graduates's Great Teacher Award in 1982. In 2005, he was presented an honorary Litt.D. from the University. Graff also received City College's Townsend Harris Medal in 1966, in recognition of distinguished post-graduate achievement in his chosen field.

Graff knew several U.S. Presidents personally, including Harry S. Truman and

Gerald R. Ford, who sat in on his popular "Seminar on the Presidency" at Columbia in 1959 and 1989, respectively. He also knew Lyndon B. Johnson and Bill Clinton, both of whom appointed him to presidential panels. Beginning in 1971, Graff served for a number of years on the Historical Advisory Committee of the United States Air Force. He twice chaired the juries for the Pulitzer Prize in American history, and also chaired the jury for the Bancroft Prize in history, given by the Columbia University Libraries. Graff was for years a member of the Board of Directors of the Rand McNally Co., and had sat on the Board of Trustees of the Columbia University Press.

He was the author of 12 books, several textbooks and countless articles for historical and popular journals and magazines; he described his best-known book, *The Tuesday Cabinet: Deliberation and Decision on Peace and War Under Lyndon B. Johnson* (1970), as "an effort at explaining the administration's Vietnam policy as the president and his chief aides said they understood it."

Graff had been a visiting professor at Vassar College and lectured on many other



Henry F. Graff GSAS '49

campuses; he had been the distinguished speaker at the U.S. Air Force Academy, as well as the Sol Feinstone Memorial Lecturer at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Graff married Edith Krantz in 1946; she died in 2019. He is survived by their daughters, Iris Morse and her husband, Martin Fox, and Ellen Graff BC'77, LAW'78 and her husband, Andrew; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Graff's twin sister, Myra Balber, predeceased him.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. To make a memorial contribution, contact [Regina Ketting](#), director of gift planning in the Office of Alumni and Development.

In Memoriam: Rabbi A. Bruce Goldman, Former University Jewish Chaplain

Rabbi A. Bruce Goldman, the University's Jewish chaplain from 1967 to 1969 and a controversial figure who "consistently defied convention," died from complications of COVID-19 on April 2, 2020. He was 84 and lived in New York City.

Goldman, who also went by "Rabbi Bruce," was a Reform rabbi, on the most progressive edge of the movement. He first came to national attention with his defense of the right of male and female undergraduates to cohabitate in dormitory rooms, which was then in violation of some colleges' rules. His most well-known action, though, came during Columbia's student protests in 1968: When police prepared to attack the student sit-ins, Goldman placed himself as a nonviolent intervenor between the police and students; the police beat him semi-conscious. He was not rehired at the end of his two-year term, but stayed on at

Columbia as an advisor to Jewish students until the mid-'70s.

Goldman continued his activism, and was arrested in 1970 along with another member of the Columbia Radical Jewish Union after disrupting services at Temple Emanuel to protest the Vietnam War (the charges were later dismissed). He also hosted a radio program in the '70s, *Up Against the Wailing Wall*, on the progressive New York radio station WBAI. In 1972, Goldman set up the Center for Creative Jewish Living in Morningside Heights. In 1988, he appeared on Geraldo Rivera's TV talk show with Roy Innis, the national chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality; the now-notorious episode ended with a brawl with white supremacists and a broken nose for Rivera. In 1994, Goldman placed second in the "Funniest Rabbi" contest at the comedy club Stand Up New York.



Rabbi A. Bruce Goldman

In later years, Goldman made his living performing marriages, often of interfaith couples, and providing counseling for children of Holocaust survivors and others. When asked by *The New York Times* in 1998 why he was willing to perform weddings for people of all faiths, he said, "People have a right to consecrate their love and friendship without being asked to surrender their values, heritage, tradition or children."

The Swashbuckling Lawyer Who Was the Ultimate Spy

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

He was the ace of agents — architect of covert operations, recruiter of undercover assets, manipulator of disinformation, gatherer of priceless intelligence, perpetrator of psychological warfare, the all-seeing man in the shadows.

This was William J. “Wild Bill” Donovan CC 1905, LAW 1907, the head of WWII’s Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the predecessor to the Central Intelligence Agency. More than anyone else, Donovan laid the groundwork for this country’s vast present intelligence network. He was, by Dwight D. Eisenhower’s sights, “The Last Hero.”

A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Donovan cut an all-around Columbia figure — Phi Kappa Psi, the George William Curtis Medal for Public Speaking, track, crew and, finally, Lions quarterback. Although he graduated from the Law School (FDR was a classmate and admirer), he harbored a passion for bravado and derring-do. So in 1912 he joined some genteel Buffalo types (the “Silk Stocking Boys”) who, with official War Department permission, were organizing a local division of the New York National Guard. Ultimately they chased Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa from late 1916 to early 1917. Soon after his return, with the Great War raging, Donovan won command of New York’s famed “Fighting Irish” 69th Infantry Regiment.

In France, where he was wounded three times, Donovan — by then a major — earned his “Wild Bill” rep. After a disastrous encounter at the Ourcq River in July 1918, in which he lost 600 of his 1,000 men (among them Sgt. Alfred Joyce Kilmer CC 1908, of “Trees” fame), he showed considerable élan at that September’s furious St.-Mihiel offensive. “Get moving; what do you think this is, a wake?” he bellowed.

At the Second Battle of the Marne, he went into combat wearing his decorations and insignia, as if daring the Germans to target him. “They can’t hit me and they

won’t hit you!” he shouted. Though shot in the knee, attacked by gas and showered with the shreds of three of his men, he threatened to court-martial anyone who tried to get him off the field. For his actions, Donovan received the Medal of Honor. As Erasmus wrote — and as Donovan once jotted down — “Fortune favors the audacious.”

Come the Armistice, Donovan oscillated between his Wall Street law firm and public service. He was the U.S. attorney for the Western District of New York, assistant to AG Harlan Fiske Stone and a 1932 New York gubernatorial candidate. But his attention was increasingly focused on the new war in Europe. As it was, FDR was determined to help the British, but he wanted inside information about their ability to fight. Happily, the British foreign intelligence service, MI6, was eager to supply it. And so, in a series of discreet fact-finding missions, FDR dispatched Donovan to various war theaters to evaluate Axis and British capabilities and convey his impressions.

A certain Royal Navy officer, future James Bond creator Ian Fleming, helped plant a particular idea in Donovan’s head: Why not create some kind of integrated U.S. intelligence apparatus? Donovan agreed: “Modern war operates on more fronts than battle fronts.” He prevailed upon FDR, who on June 18, 1941, authorized an Office of Coordinator of Information, with Donovan as director.

Donovan turned the COI (it became the OSS in 1942) into a formidable enterprise. By 1943, its budget stood at \$35 million; by the end of 1944, it employed 16,000 people. Many were bona fide commando types, penetrating enemy lines to stage raids, destroy installations and commit miscellaneous mayhem. Others were analysts, decoders, snoops, thieves, paymasters, safecrackers and cartographers. Donovan’s ranks eventually embraced such luminaries as John Ford, Sterling Hayden, Stephen Vincent Benét, Marlene Dietrich, Archibald MacLeish,

Julia Child and Carl Gustav Jung, leading some to joke that “OSS” stood for “Oh, So Social!” So seriously did it take its clandestine purpose that others thought it an acronym for “Oh, Shush, Shush.”

“Strategy, without information on which it can rely, is helpless,” was one of Donovan’s mantras. He won his greatest acclaim through bold tactical operations. In May 1942 his agents burglarized the Lisbon office of the Japanese military attaché and stole his most secret cipher. In conjunction with the Army Air Forces, the OSS attacked 525 of 868 rail targets in France shortly after D-Day, causing massive logistical foul-ups.

Come war’s end, Donovan assumed that the OSS would continue, with he as its leader. But he had stepped on too many bureaucratic toes and made too many enemies. More important, many feared that a peacetime OSS would constitute an “American Gestapo.” The upshot was that the OSS was dissolved on September 20, 1945, with Donovan retiring as a major general.

Being honored with the College’s Alexander Hamilton Medal in 1950 and being appointed Ambassador to Thailand in 1953 did little to lift Donovan’s spirits. Hospitalized for dementia two years before his death in 1959, he “imagined he saw the Red Army coming over the 59th Street bridge, into Manhattan, and in one memorable last mission, fled the hospital, wandering down the street in his pajamas.” But his legacy is secure. Today, he is immortalized with a life-size bronze statue at the CIA’s Langley, Va., headquarters.

Another memorial, more abstract yet more personal, can be found on Columbia’s Amsterdam Avenue sky bridge. *Tight-rope Walker* features two spindly figures, one perched precariously atop the other’s shoulders. Dedicated to Donovan by his friends and associates, its daring poise captures what he once told Corey Ford CC 1923: “It isn’t how brave you were yesterday, it’s how brave you are today.”



TAKING CLIMATE CHANGE TO COURT



Alex Loznak '19 is one of a team of young people suing the U.S. government for the right to a safer planet

On August 12, 2015, Alex Loznak '19 walked into the federal courthouse in Eugene, Ore., with 20 other young people to sue the U.S. government. Their groundbreaking claim? That the government's lack of response to the growing climate disaster violated their Fifth Amendment rights, including, notably, their right to life. A life not threatened by extreme weather events; by wild-fires, earthquakes and floods; by ocean warming and acidification, and so much more — in short, a life not threatened by the terrible, tangled ramifications of unchecked climate change.

The case, *Juliana v. United States*, accused the federal government of knowingly ignoring the catastrophic effects that carbon dioxide pollution and the country's reliance on fossil fuels was having on the

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

**Photographs by
Robin Loznak**

**Loznak at
his family's
152-year-old
farm outside
Eugene, Ore.**

climate; further, that by supporting and promoting the country's current energy systems, its actions were actively harming the plaintiffs.

The young litigants hailed from across America — Hawaii, Florida, New York, Oregon, Colorado and more — united by a common cause and a willingness to push the envelope. Rather than seek policy change through legislation, and argue in the court of

Midtown and wondered whether I'd be putting myself and others at risk by boarding a cross-country flight.

Loznak and I had weekend plans to tour his family's farm an hour outside Eugene, and to talk about how the case that has been part of his life for the last five years has changed him. He was going to walk me through the hazelnut grove that he helped plant nine years ago and show me the swaths of old-growth Douglas firs that dot the landscape. I was eager to see the place that he had affectionately described as both "beautiful" and "in the middle of nowhere," and to learn how his experience growing up on a rural farm had influenced his environmental passion.

Halfway through my bus ride, word came via email that all Columbia employee travel was suspended immediately. My decision had been made for me — I would not be getting on a plane. In a flurry of emails with Loznak, we decided on a new approach to tell his story. Over the next few months we caught up several times by phone, as remotely connecting became the new normal.

The 570-acre Martha A. Maupin Farm has sat on the banks of Oregon's Umpqua River since 1868, passing from family member to family member through the generations. It has long been an important source of food and revenue for Loznak and his family: Plum trees grow in verdant orchards (the farm has historically produced prunes from their fruit); chickens and grass-fed

cows are raised (the family earns money from leasing pasture land to cattle ranchers); and a large garden supplies fruits and vegetables for personal consumption. Nestled in the Coast Range Mountains, the farm is also home to wild animals like elk and deer, and Loznak enjoys fishing for small-mouthed bass and salmon in the Umpqua River.

But in recent years, the 152-year-old farm has faced challenges its founding matriarch, Martha A. Maupin (Loznak's great-great-great-great-grandmother), couldn't have anticipated when she became one

of the first women in Oregon to independently own ranch land. The state's growing drought conditions — as well as heat waves and the increasing frequency of encroaching wildfires — threaten the farm's future.

Loznak, a sustainable development and political science double major, is the seventh generation to live and work on the farm. Before joining the *Juliana* case, he had already been a passionate defender of the environment. He founded the Climate Change Club at



The plaintiffs in *Juliana v. United States* make their voices heard outside the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco in December 2017.

public opinion with climate change deniers and those who put profits and short-term gains ahead of long-term sustainability, the plaintiffs took their belief in a constitutional right to a clean environment straight to federal court. At stake is nothing less than their — and our — futures.

The *Juliana* case is many things: a test of the scope and limits of the judicial branch; a bold statement on the power of youth organizing; an assertion that the science behind climate change and the damage it wreaks are no longer up for debate. On that mid-August day, however, Loznak had more than just the filing of

a life-changing case on his mind — he needed to pack, because he was days away from moving across the country to start his first year at the College.

On the morning of March 12, I hopped on a shuttle bus to Newark Liberty International Airport, one of only three passengers on the usually crowded ride. The coronavirus outbreak was still in its early days in the United States, but potential travelers had already grown wary. My editor and I had spent the week before going back and forth on whether my trip to Oregon was still safe — a debate I promptly reopened via text as I took in the empty streets of

The plaintiffs took their belief in a constitutional right to a clean environment straight to federal court.



Roseburg H.S., with the goal of installing solar panels on the school's roof, and the League of Umpqua Climate Youth, which is dedicated to the conservation of the Umpqua River's watersheds. Loznak also crusaded against the construction of the Jordan Cove LNG (liquefied natural gas) facility and its proposed 234-mile pipeline; the latter

would cross the Coast Range Mountains as well as five major rivers, including the Umpqua. (The original *Juliana* court filing spoke specifically to Loznak's pipeline opposition: "Alex has walked along the pipeline route and has seen the old growth trees that will be logged and the special rivers that will be impacted in order to deliver natural gas to what would be the largest, most-polluting facility and power plant in Oregon.")

Through his work, Loznak became acquainted with local activists and Oregon's environmental law community, and

learned there was a movement brewing to challenge the federal government directly for environmental protections. This new case would focus on young people — and the dire future they face if immediate action isn't taken to fight climate change.

"I'll never forget when Alex was first emailing me and calling me," says Julia Olson, executive director and chief legal counsel of

Our Children's Trust, the Oregon-based law nonprofit that is spearheading the *Juliana* case. "He was very persistent and very excited about the possibility to bring his story and his family's story to this case."

For Loznak, *Juliana* boils down to a simple demand: "Basically, what we ask is for a court order directing the government to get serious and put together a plan to abate greenhouse gas emissions of the United States and prevent climate change from reaching a level that would be unsafe for youth, both now and in the future."

J*uliana v. United States* takes its name from lead plaintiff Kelsey Cascadia Rose Juliana, an Oregonian whose activism began in the fifth grade; at 15 she co-filed a lawsuit against Oregon's governor asking for an emissions reduction plan, and at 18 she walked 1,600 miles from Nebraska to Washington, D.C., as part of a march for climate action. She'd turned 19 by the time the current case was filed, the oldest of the 21 plaintiffs. The youngest was 8, hailing from a Florida barrier island dealing with sea level rise and waters threatened by red algae blooms.

Among the other plaintiffs are an Arizona resident driven from her home on the Navajo Nation Reservation because of water scarcity; a Louisianan who has experienced eight 500-year floods — and one 1,000-year flood — in her state in just two years; and an Alaskan who has endured the effects of climate change on either end of the spectrum, from plummeting air quality due to wildfires, to an ice storm that robbed his family of power for a week in 18-degree

Media interviews have been a key part of Loznak's role since the case was filed in 2015.

"He was very excited about the possibility to bring his story and his family's story to this case."



The hazelnut orchard is still several years away from producing at a commercial level.

LOZNAK'S LEGACY

See more photos of the Martha A. Maupin Farm: college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/feature-extras/loznak.

The plaintiffs' charge into what many have likened to a David-and-Goliath battle was a remarkable assertion that young people have a voice and power.

temperatures. Their and the other plaintiffs' stories together paint a vivid picture of the physical and psychological harm being caused; their sworn testimony details negative health impacts, emotional trauma and damage to their cultural heritages.

For a group who mostly couldn't even vote, their charge into what many have likened to a David-and-Goliath battle was a remarkable assertion that young people have a voice *and* power. They were also flipping the script by calling the adults to task for abdicating their responsibility as leaders and not embracing or instituting policies that would slow or reverse the environmental devastation. As one climate reporter for *The Atlantic* put it, "The kids were asking a federal court — and, inevitably, the Supreme Court — to take one of its most extraordinary interventions into American life since *Brown v. Board of Education*." *Juliana* has slowly crawled through the legal system since that first filing in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon in 2015, being repeatedly met with attempts by the defendants to squash the case without its reaching trial. As Loznak succinctly puts it: "Most of my time in college — and since college — the U.S. government has been trying to get the case dismissed."

A major blow was dealt in January of this year, when a three-judge panel in the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2–1 to dismiss the case. The majority said that despite the strong evidence that the plaintiffs had suffered from climate change, judicial action

was not the solution. "Reluctantly, we conclude that such relief is beyond our constitutional power," Hon. Andrew Hurwitz wrote in the majority opinion. "Rather, the plaintiffs' impressive case for redress must be presented to the political branches of government."

However, says Olson, "That's not the end of the road."

In March, the plaintiffs filed a petition for rehearing *en banc* with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; such a hearing would convene a new panel of 11 Circuit Court judges to review the January decision. But by mid-March, the COVID-19 outbreak had spread across the U.S., closing courthouses and further delaying the response of the courts. Even with the proceedings in limbo, Loznak remains hopeful: "We're in it for the long haul," he says. And regardless of how the rest of the case unfolds, it's already had a big impact.

"The *Juliana* case was one of the first times that federal judges have taken seriously the idea that there could be a constitutional right to a clean environment," says Michael Gerrard '72, an environmental attorney and the founder and director of Columbia's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. "The *Juliana* litigation was an important organizing tool, and [has] increased the consciousness of many young people about the importance of fighting climate change."

"Both the majority and the minority opinions from the Ninth Circuit contained powerful language about the dangers of climate change and the ability of people to sue about it that I expect will be quoted in many legal briefs in the years to come. The case is an instant classic and will be in the casebooks for a long time."

At the College, Loznak balanced classes with the case, including *Juliana*-related trips to Washington, D.C., research trips, and media interviews and appearances. As part of his efforts to build the fact record of the case, Loznak traveled to presidential libraries around the country to try to find the earliest government acknowledgment of climate change. He struck pay dirt in Boston, where he discovered, in a collection of letters, that President Kennedy was made aware of the dangers of burning fossil fuels and the resulting greenhouse gases as early as 1961.

Loznak recalls what it was like to hold “that very thin letter, the very same piece of paper that President Kennedy had held in his hands about 60 years earlier.” He adds, “The Kennedy Presidential Library is on the waterfront in Boston; it’s a very low-lying structure on the oceanfront. It was eerie to hold that piece of history and then to look out the window across the ocean and see how close we are to actually going through the catastrophe that was predicted all those years ago.”

That document was later used in *Juliana*, as proof the government had longstanding knowledge of climate change.

Loznak made it his mission to network wherever he went. “One of the things I saw in Alex over the years was just his fearlessness to approach people — renowned experts in their fields,” Our Children’s Trust attorney Olson says. “Whoever it was, he helped make connections for us in the case, and he also advanced relationships that we already had with experts by showing up and not being afraid to ask people to support our work.”

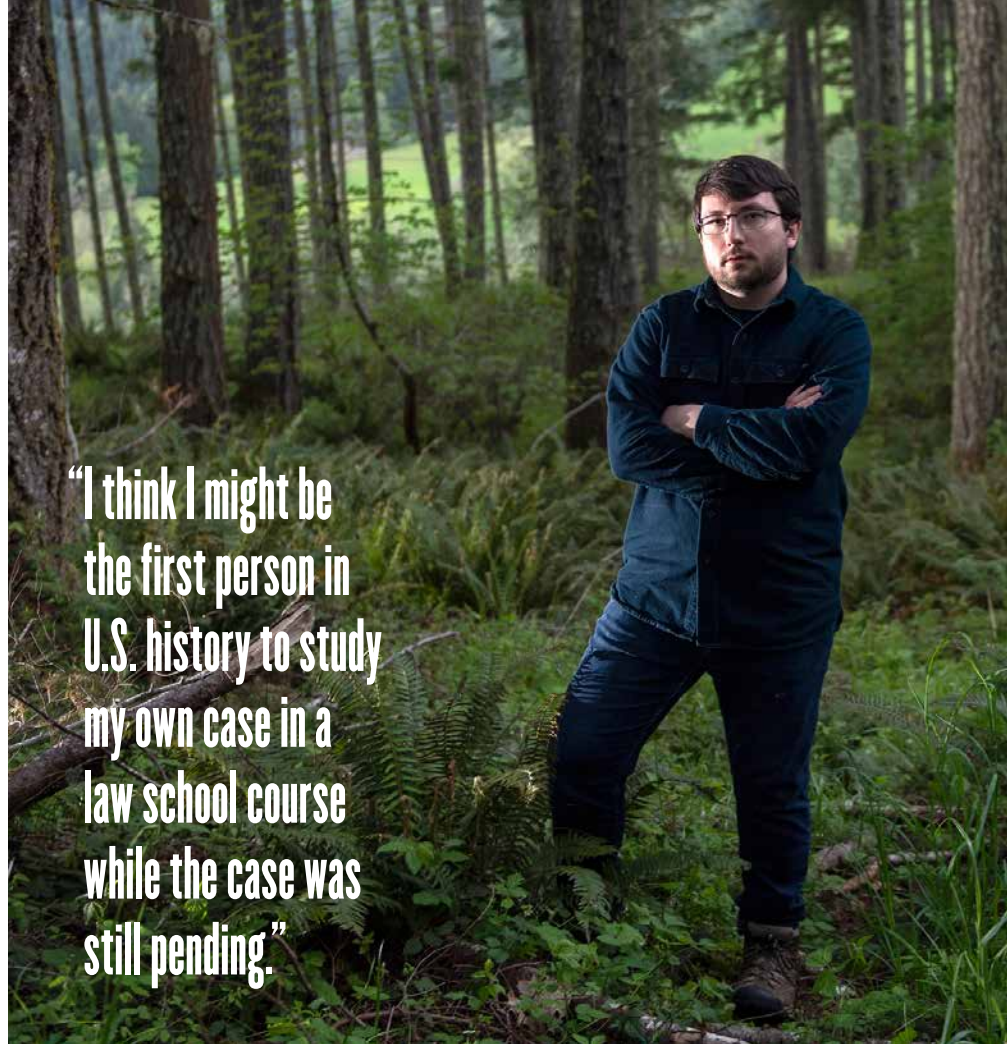
He recalls meeting Democratic Whip Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) during a trip to D.C. “It was very interesting to also have the real-world experience of actually meeting some of the biggest players in terms of making policy, making laws. It added a whole other dimension to my education on these topics.”

During his senior year, Loznak did a research internship with the Sabin Center. Together with his research partner, Madeleine Siegel SPS’20, Loznak reviewed federal environmental impact statements and environmental assessments issued by U.S. federal agencies in 2017–18. A look at 26 of these documents, for projects related to fossil fuel production, processing and transport, led them to conclude that federal agencies do not adequately consider how their actions will affect climate change — findings that, for Loznak, reinforced the value of the *Juliana* case.

“Basically, we have a system of environmental laws — passed about 50 years ago — that is just not living up to the task of dealing with climate change, so there needs to be some kind of new approach to

get us where we need to go. The *Juliana* case is at least an attempt to do that and to approach the problem in a creative, new way — that is, using constitutional law to try to force action at the national level.”

Loznak also took classes with Gerrard, who became a mentor to him as he navigated the courtrooms. (“Alex was extraordinarily engaged with the material,” Gerrard says, “and participated in class discussions very energetically.”) Loznak was even in Gerrard’s “Climate Change Law and Policy” class when the *Juliana* case was



“I think I might be the first person in U.S. history to study my own case in a law school course while the case was still pending.”

discussed. “I think I might be the first person in U.S. history to study my own case in a law school course while the case was still pending,” Loznak says. “That’s a surreal experience.”

After graduation, Loznak headed back west, taking a job at a Eugene law firm; he plans to start law school at the University of Oregon this fall. When he and I caught up in May, he had left his apartment in Eugene to spend the coronavirus lockdown at the farm.

As we talked about how much the country had changed since our planned tour, he ruminated on how the pandemic had reinforced the importance of small farms like his family’s. “We’re starting to see, in some ways, the fragility of the large-scale, industrial agricultural system that we have here in the U.S., which is focused on mass producing as much of these basic commodities — beef, eggs, dairy, corn and so on — as possible at the lowest possible cost,” he says. “But when you have a shock, like the coronavirus, you start to see not only the environmental limitations of that system but also the basic health and safety issues.

“The kind of agriculture we do is smaller scale, it’s lighter on the land and it’s ultimately healthier and more sustainable; it’s a model that we can look to as we, I hope, move to a sustainable form of agriculture.”

Loznak further reflects on the farm’s hazelnut orchard that he helped plant, and which is still a few years away from producing on a commercial level: “As a farmer, you really have to think on decadal or multi-decadal time scales, so that’s one reason I think coming from a farming background gives me a certain insight into the climate problem,” he says. “It’s a long-term thing. It’s not day to day, it’s not month to month — it’s year to year and decade to decade.”

CONTINUING CLIMATE COVERAGE

Read more about Michael Gerrard '72 and the battle for climate change in our recent “Like Minds” feature, “[The Denial of Science: We’re Already in Hot Water.](#)”



“WHAT HAS YOUR PANDEMIC EXPERIENCE BEEN LIKE?”

FOURTEEN ALUMNI TELL US HOW COVID-19
HAS SHAPED THEIR LIVES

GETTY IMAGES

In March, when we were considering CCT’s Summer 2020 issue, we knew that we wanted to address the shockwave that had upended and overtaken all of our lives. The COVID-19 pandemic was — is — that rare event that affects everyone with ties to the College. Even as this introduction is written, its vast, global story continues to evolve, expanding and deepening in ways that resist easy comprehension.

Against this backdrop, we knew we could tell a more personal story, create a record of how the coronavirus and its many ripple effects had been experienced by *our* community. And so, in April and early May, we asked 14 alumni to offer a keyhole into their daily lives: What did their new routines look like? How had work changed? What had been challenging, and where were they finding their joys?

The responses were varied, shaped by age, profession, location and all the personal variables that distinguish one life from the next. And what began as a kind of time capsule became, slowly, so much more. The reflections enlarged our view beyond the walls that had all too literally been hemming us in. They invited us to exercise our empathies, take comfort in shared experiences and — with so many of us social-distanced into solitude or small groups — feel the warmth of connection.

It will be a long time before we can fully reckon with all that’s happened and is happening during this pandemic. But we are going through it together, and we hope that our contribution can help.

— *The Editors*



Lea Goldman '98

Editor-at-large, iHeartMEDIA; chief content officer at Nineteen Twenty Media

“**T**hough I was an English lit major at Columbia, these days I find myself immersed in the sciences, living out Einstein’s definition of insanity on the regular: watching the news, then instantly regretting it; begging/bribing/browbeating my kids to sit for home-schooling, only to surrender an hour later; channeling Alice Waters for breakfast, Chester Cheetah by lunch. Our days here at Casa Goldman (me, two grade-schoolers, one eye-rolling husband) are — wait, what day is it, again? We ditched the skim for half-and-half. We subscribed to Hulu. We pray to the broadband gods to keep our signal strong. We are, as the kids say, hashtag blessed.

“As a writer, I wrestle with a strange new tension: I have never felt more creative and yet so hard-pressed to eke out the time and focus to write. But I’ve still managed to bank a win or two. I launched a podcast called [Hazmat Hotel](#), in which I interview interesting people about how coronavirus has upended their professions. (Hit me up if you’d like to be a guest.) I finished my one-woman show about Jim Comey. I am knee-deep in a new screenplay. In the past eight weeks, one of my boys has discovered *Seinfeld*, the other ‘Shark Week,’ so that Hulu subscription is basically paying for itself now. The news from Casa G is that we are all OK, hanging in and enormously grateful, thank you for asking.”

Bianca Guerrero '17

Policy analyst, NYC Mayor’s Office of Policy and Planning; volunteer coordinator, Bowman for Congress



“**I** work for the Office of the Mayor in New York City full-time and coordinate volunteers on Jamaal Bowman’s congressional campaign in NY-16 part-time. With local government on the front lines of the coronavirus crisis and, as I write, the June 23 primary less than two months away, I am busier than I have ever been.

“I spend 9 a.m.–5 p.m. during the week researching how U.S. and international jurisdictions are responding to the crisis, the impact it has had on localities’ budgets and whatever the hot topic of the day is. After 5 p.m. and all day on weekends, I recruit volunteers, organize phone banks and other events, and update Bowman’s list of COVID-19 resources for volunteers to share with voters. Campaign work is unwieldy, so my to-do list is never finished.

“I try my best to work out a few times a week and use Friday evenings to catch up on TV shows and work on crafts. I rediscovered my pottery tools when quarantine began and ordered polymer clay and embroidery floss to make earrings. A friend recommended that I



OMAR ETMAN

order a weaving loom to make tapestries and rugs — it just arrived, so I am going to try that this week. My roommate’s mom might drop off an old sewing machine so I can try my hand at that, too.

“Work can be a bit overwhelming, so using my hands to make things for myself, family and friends is a welcome reprieve from corona madness.”



COURTESY AMARI HAMMONDS '09

Amari Hammonds '09

Associate deputy solicitor general, Office of the Solicitor General in the California Department of Justice

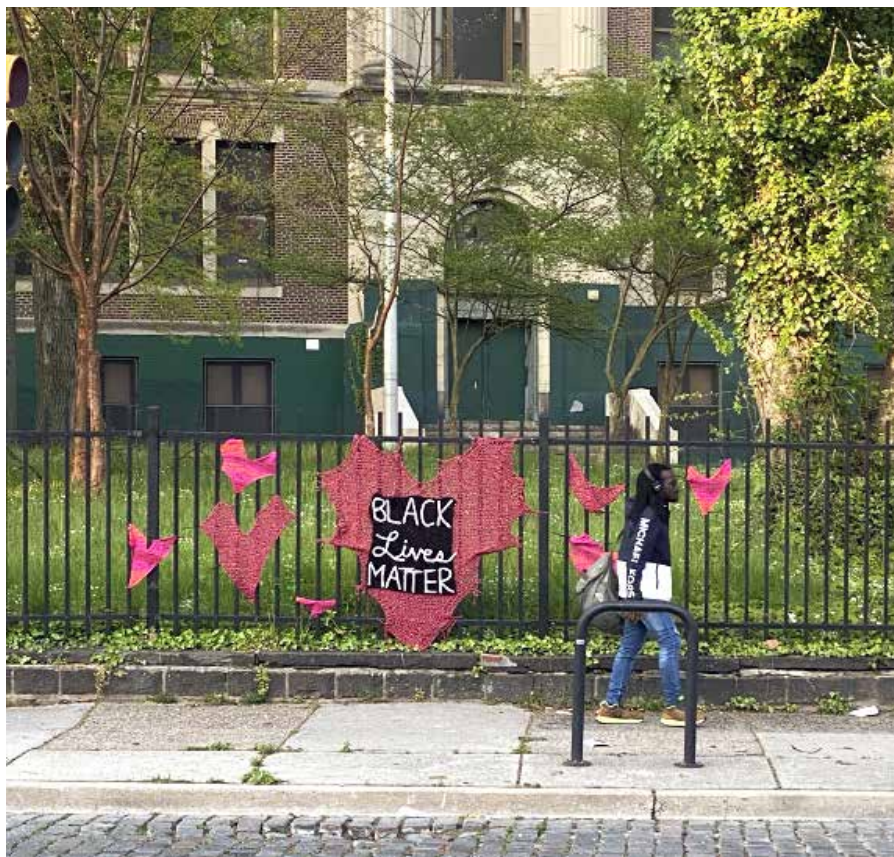
“**W**hat if I had to go about my life not knowing the next time it'd be OK to touch another person? I'm single and I live alone, so this has become an abiding question in the weeks, now months, since March 16, when the Bay Area announced its first-in-the-nation shelter-in-place order.

“I've learned that isolation makes the memory of my last human contact more indelible — a Kid 'n Play-inspired kickstep as my friend Colin left what would be our last Sunday pancakes together. We now connect through FaceTime meals; from afar, he's taught me how to make a poached egg. But I've also learned that regardless of health orders, video calls won't cut it. I'm grateful to have cultivated relationships with a select few who, like me, crave connection in the absence of the pandemic-friendly community offered by roommates or romantic partners 'adjacent' to their households. A conversation while biking 6 ft. apart is critical nourishment. I once petted a gentle old dog named Loki after one such ride to the Sausalito waterfront,

and it was like oxygen for me — though for her, probably more about the hot pastrami sandwich in my hand.

“Most importantly, I've learned to be gentle with myself for the swirl of feelings this all brings. It is possible to feel at once abandoned by friends who have hunkered down with the privilege of companionship, while also compassionate toward their choice — one I'd likely make, if given the option. It's OK to spend one night crying myself to sleep, wishing I could join my mom across the country, then the next cutting up playing Codenames over Google Hangouts as if I'd lived my life this way all along.

“Until 'normal' returns at some indeterminate point, in some indeterminate form, I'm learning what that looks like for now and receiving sweetness in every form. My friend and her husband recently invited me for a socially distant picnic, and to meet their puppy. I'll be there with a fashionably colorful mask and hand sanitizer at the ready.”



Brendon Jobs '05

Director of diversity and inclusion, The Haverford School; social studies methods instructor at the Penn Graduate School of Education

“School closed suddenly in March as the threat of pandemic became a real crisis. Like many, I’ve been going through a grieving process for the life, vigor and human connection that the schoolhouse offered me in all my years of teaching.

“At the start, I was overwhelmed with the multitude of tasks needed to make the transition [to remote learning] work for my students, faculty and other communities that I serve. Fear and duty defined my feelings in that moment. But it wasn’t long before anger and resentment grabbed hold of me. Hopeful proclamations that ‘we’re all in this together’ came from official channels; they offered encouragement that if we adhered to social distancing we could flatten the curve and ‘get back to normal.’ It wasn’t long afterward that nasty disparities in race and class, in keeping with pre-COVID-19 patterns, magnified. As an educator, I wondered: How can I explain this to kids? How does what they’re witnessing shape their understanding of how the world works?”

“As a black queer man growing up in the 1990s, I remember living with the fear of the AIDS virus. Implicitly, I was fed the message that I lived with greater risk of contracting the disease in a way that stigmatized me. Those old feelings have reemerged as I have witnessed COVID-19 transform from a foreign threat into

a health crisis disproportionately infecting and killing Black and Brown people; meanwhile, violent, armed calls to reopen businesses rage from white protestors in Michigan and Pennsylvania despite these deaths. My mother and sister still report to their jobs as ‘essential workers,’ and my father lost his job abruptly as an early casualty of the predicted economic crash. These disparities will only grow as long as we continue to allow politics and business interests to make us willfully ignorant to wild differences in the human experience of this moment. I often struggle to imagine a different, more hopeful outcome.

“I find peace in the time I now have to make a home with my partner. I love getting lost in a good recipe or a good book (currently reading *Here for It: Or How to Save Your Soul in America* by R. Eric Thomas ’03) and taking long walks through Germantown with our dog. Each day, I’m near the students, practitioners and leaders I connect with, now from my dining room table, as we build a new digital landscape for teaching and learning in communities of love and care. In my own practice, social-emotional learning now outranks any curricular concerns I have had for students and colleagues. We are living history, and my function has been to make space for folks to be present and reflective in the face of this global crisis.”



COURTESY DR. JOSH JOHNSON '13

Dr. Josh Johnson '13

Surgical resident, NewYork Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center

“**R**inging loudly in the background of my day is a cacophony of alarms and notifications that are meant to signify an imminent medical emergency — yet they have become so ubiquitous that I can no longer distinguish among them. The hours I spend on the wards have not changed much; I am here for anywhere between 12 and 24 hours a shift, depending on the day. However, the intricacies of my work have shifted dramatically. Willing or not, I am greeted each day by an endless list of patients with tarnished lungs who require the utmost interventions possible to keep oxygen flowing throughout their bodies. It has been truly taxing.

“The difficulty lies in having to carry on and continue my duties without the time to grieve our losses, to celebrate our wins and to reflect upon our struggles. Yet what has been remarkable is that my connection to my patients and their families has never been deeper. Though my patients cannot speak to me, I hear their pain. Though I cannot see their loved ones in person I have had immensely intimate conversations with them, and I have forged relationships based solely on trust and hope. During this pandemic I have healed others more through compassion and understanding than I have through modern science. That is the lesson I hope to never forget.”

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Rabbi Alvin Kass '57

Chief chaplain, NYPD; adjunct professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

“**L**ife in the Age of COVID-19 has not been simple or easy for any of us. I’ve had to respond to new challenges: teach classes remotely, conduct Zoom funeral services, attend virtual meetings and counsel the troubled by telephone. Perhaps the most awesome responsibility of all was to fulfill a request to do a [video](#) with a message of ‘uplift’ and ‘encouragement’ for our police officers. Quite frankly, reading the newspaper reports every day about the ever-mounting casualty figures, and discovering that many of the victims are people I know and love, leaves *me* in need of uplift and encouragement. However, I felt this was really important because police officers are among the first responders to have suffered the heaviest casualties. After all, they are required to answer the call of duty regardless of the risks, including the coronavirus.

“Somehow, notwithstanding my own concerns and anxieties, I managed to put something together. It was based on Mark Twain’s observation that courage isn’t the ‘absence of fear but the mastery of it.’ There are two ways to transcend anxiety: faith in God and faith in each other. To believe in God is not simply to believe that there is a deity who will intervene and alter reality to accord with our wishes. Even more basically, it is the confidence that there is a Benevolent Intelligence undergirding the universe that fills us with the hope, optimism and trust that human beings possess the wisdom and skills required to solve the toughest problems.

“Then there is the most effective therapy of all — each other. Men and women, helping and supporting one another by doing



COURTESY NYPD

things they don’t have to do, is the essence of love and closest we shall ever come to experiencing genuine spirituality. It is true that COVID-19 requires us to stay apart physically, but getting in touch with each other — as well as family, friends and neighbors assisting each other — can be so important and pivotal in transcending this crisis. I certainly cherish the calls and emails I have received as I cope with the physical distancing of this experience. What they proclaim in the most eloquent and dramatic way possible is that we don’t have to struggle with this alone.”

Ian Lendler '96

Children's book author

“Like so many others, the virus, alas, has afflicted me.

“For I, you see, am a writer, and I write things of terrible importance. I am a Creator of Truths, a conjuror of metaphors. Every morning I sit at my desk and I call to my Muse; she answers, and we begin a delicate dance of words and images and — oh yes! — similes as well! And just as my prose begins to touch the great mysteries of Life —

“DAD! DAD!” My children burst into the room. ‘Can we have some Goldfish crackers?’

“Be still!” I shriek. ‘What matters your aquatic-shaped snacks when I seek Beauty?’

“But it is too late. My Muse begins to back out of the room. She says, ‘You never told me you had kids.’

“You don’t understand,’ I splutter. ‘Normally they’re at school now.’ But she is already gone.

“Then, my wife shouts from a different room that she’s on a Zoom call and the kids need lunch.

“So I make my kids lunch.

“In the afternoon, once again, I tap at my keyboard, calling my Muse back, and with a curtsy and an impish wink, she and I begin to weave our —

‘Dad! DAD! We’re playing Fortnite with our cousins. We need your computer!’ and my kids snatch my laptop away.

“And so I wander the house, alone, bereft of my computer (and thus, all meaning), until my wife shouts from a different room that she’s on a Zoom call and can I get dinner started?

“And tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow creeps in this sheltered-in-place ... until ... what’s this?!

“I have been asked to do an ‘Instagram live reading,’ whatever that is ... But I seize



COURTESY IAN LENDLER '96

my chance to perform for my adoring audience. To conjure worlds for them; to shaman their imaginations to an ethereal realm.

“So for your undoubted delight (and the consideration of Nobel Prize committees), I give you what I believe to be my [most harrowing and important work to date.](#)”

Steve Martinez '11

Television producer, ESPN's *The Jump*

“The show must go on, but my daily routine has been altered significantly. *The Jump* is now entirely produced from home: on-air talent, producers, directors and so on; we’re doing our best to help deliver to folks a 30-minute slice of escapism every day. Most of our work in production is now done the night before a show (previously, most of the production occurred the morning of). We complete our daily tapings by 11:30 a.m. PT, but by 1:00 p.m. PT, we are on a conference call discussing the plan for the next day’s show. The current production strategy involves a balance between

staying ahead in terms of preparation and being ready for news to break at a moment’s notice.

“Communication has been a challenge at times. It might not look like it at home when you see three people on your screen, but it takes dozens of talented folks to put on a TV show. My previous routine heavily relied upon face-to-face communication for most of my catching up with staff members.



PHOTOS COURTESY STEVE MARTINEZ '11

With that out the window, there’s a lot of phone conversations and/or texting, which I fear is simply not as effective all of the time.

“I find joy in spending time with my wife, Stephanie, and my dog, Callie, here in my Los Angeles home. I also take great pride in the ability to get a show on the air with the entire staff working from home, something we never knew was possible until we were confronted with that problem. Mainly, I just want the NBA back.”

Mike Mellia '02

Director, photographer, creator of advertising for fashion and lifestyle brands

“Many of the world’s greatest successes took place in a garage — Apple, Google, Disney. By the same token, I always loved seeing pictures of Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning, two great abstract expressionist painters, painting in outdoor barns on Long Island during the 1950s and 1960s. They said they liked the light. What I really think they needed was the isolation and the silence.

“To paint, to write computer code, to play music, to write, to play sports, to meditate or to do anything creative all revolves around being in a ‘flow state’ — that tunnel-vision feeling of being

in the zone where 14 hours passes faster than 5 minutes. Neuroscientists describe this as your brain operating on alpha waves, the ideal state of consciousness that not only produces extreme creativity but also is necessary for your well-being. And so, like most days,

pandemic or not, I’m in the ‘garage.’

“To me, painting is a performance with an audience of zero, and the record of that performance is the physical object created, a mysterious enigma. Over tens of thousands of hours of practice, you train yourself to not even be conscious of yourself; it feels like I’m watching someone else paint a picture. There is also some element to painting that feels like robbing a bank: the intensity, the speed and the risk that you can only experience after learning to transcend all your experience and training. These large oil paintings are inspired by the wild chaos, the light and the color of nature I’m experiencing with my wife and two babies at our home in Southampton, N.Y. I hope they will bring you some joy.”

PHOTOS BY MIKE MELLIA '02



Ron Padgett '64

Poet

Geezer Fitness

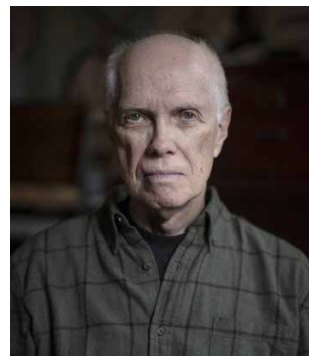
I just did twenty-five push-ups,
then vacuumed the floor
and then dropped down
and did twenty more,
for what reason I cannot say
or even want to think about,
especially at this moment
when I am still breathing hard.

Locked

I almost didn’t know what
day it is and then
I did, locked into time,
suddenly more secure
that it’s Thursday!
Which means nothing
or next to nothing.
I am next to nothing—
it’s in this room with me,
an old pal.

What to Do

Snow falling from gray sky,
it’s time to bake,
scones, I mean,
and right out of the oven
take one and butter it,
with jam, teapot hot at hand,
and exult in the fact
of everything horrible.



PASCAL PERICH



COURTESY DAVID PENG '83

David Peng '83

Head of Asia Pacific Ex Japan at Legal & General Investment Management; president, Columbia University Alumni Association Hong Kong

“**T**hough I am a New Yorker, I have spent my professional life in North Asia and this is my fourth posting in Hong Kong, with in-between postings in Taipei, Shanghai and Beijing. I was in Hong Kong during the SARS epidemic in 2003. Most people in Hong Kong remember that period well. When news broke in January about what was happening in Wuhan, people in Hong Kong quickly realized the potential of another epidemic.

“The Hong Kong government was quick to put in place restrictive measures. To date, Hong Kong has never had an official lockdown, but people take the lead from the government, which asked all civil servants to work from home under two orders. People in Hong Kong are very careful to protect themselves and others, and mask wearing is universally practiced. With one of the highest population densities in the world, Hong Kong has managed to ward off a high level of viral transmission and achieved minimal death.

“When I traveled to London for meetings at the end of January through the middle of February, friends and colleagues were not concerned. They also thought it was odd that there would be runs on basic supplies like toilet paper. We know now how quickly the virus traveled and the devastation it has inflicted on our world, with the highest rates of infection and death in Europe and the United States.

“At my office in Hong Kong, we continue to practice a work-from-home policy. Our U.K. head office went into lockdown. This forced many businesses to operate remotely and digitally. For many of us, it was a continuation of the restrictions we have become accustomed to.

“My proudest moment thus far during this pandemic is how the Columbia community in Greater China and Singapore banded together to raise funding to procure and donate PPE to our frontline medical professionals and essential workers. We raised more than \$2.1 million in a matter of weeks, which allowed us to donate masks, respirators, gowns, gloves, eye protectors, hazmat suits and more to Columbia University Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and other affiliated hospitals and emergency service providers.

“During my time at Columbia, I was an official University tour guide. The highlight for me was always Low Memorial Library, where I would stop my tour group in front of the Columbia motto. In Latin, it reads: *In Lumine Tuo Videbimus Lumen* (‘In thy light we shall see light’).

“During these dark times, it is my great hope that the pandemic has shown us how we can be better ourselves and that, united, we shall continue to see the light.”

Jill Santopolo '03

Editor and author

“**O**n March 12, when Penguin Random House (PRH)’s work-from-home policy began, I grabbed my laptop and headed out of New York City, down to Washington, D.C., where my husband works and where we have a second small apartment. I figured we’d be there for a week at the most, until he began to work from home, and then we’d head back to Manhattan. I’m writing this on May 8. We haven’t yet been back. We are grateful to have jobs we can do from home — his in data and analytics, mine as an editor and novelist. But both of us working from home has meant getting creative with our 700-sq.-ft. space. The bedroom is his office, the rest of the apartment, mine, with a desk — actually, a table that formerly held our record player — next to the refrigerator.

“In the last eight weeks, we’ve luckily stayed healthy, and tried to keep things business as

usual. I handed in the final revision of a novel. I edited books, acquired new ones, met with my PRH team. We’ve checked in on friends who are sick and others who are grieving, and tracked the new COVID-19 cases in D.C. and NYC. We’ve gone on late-night, masked walks, taking in the beauty of the cherry blossoms and the grandeur of the neoclassical buildings on Capitol Hill.

“But at the same time, I can’t stop thinking about New York City. I lived there during 9-11, the 2003 blackout, Hurricane Sandy. I feel like I’ve abandoned my city in its time of need. Neoclassical buildings are beautiful, but so are skyscrapers.

“This pandemic might have made me a Washingtonian, but it also made me realize that in my heart I will always be a New Yorker.”



PHOTOS COURTESY JILL SANTOPOLO '03



ARIEL KAO

Simon Schwartz '17

Entrepreneur; founder, Locasaur

“I left New York in mid-March thinking I’d be back in a matter of weeks, and my packing reflected this. As the situation became more clear, I realized I’d be staying here for a while, on my family’s farm in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. Those who know me know I’m not exactly upset by this. I grew up here, alongside a rotating menagerie of horses, chickens, sheep and the occasional goat. There are 10 shades of green in every direction, and I’ve never been more



COURTESY SIMON SCHWARTZ '17

thankful for the wide open, secluded space. “So much of what’s great about New York happens after dark, and waking up early is done at your own peril. When I’m home, however, I’m on ‘farm time.’ Coffee is on and the house is buzzing by 6:00 a.m. My company Locasaur’s daily standup isn’t until 10:00 a.m., so early mornings are usually given to farm tasks and chores. There is a rhythm that you get into living on a farm; days keep churning, things keep needing to get done. A farmer’s mindset is that no matter the day’s challenge, you find a fix. “These early-morning hours are honestly my calm, in a world that isn’t calm at all. I get to work with my hands and be outside more than I ever did in NYC. What others might see as mundane tasks and responsibilities, I see as therapy.

“The majority of my day is devoted to remote work of the most urgent kind. Locasaur is a relationship app for local businesses and their regulars, and right now local businesses need their regulars more than ever. Every creative solution demanded by the reality of COVID-19 — the bakery now doing roadside pickup, the florist who started delivering, the bartender selling pre-mixed cocktails — starts with a business having a group of core customers who truly care about it. Our goal is to power some of those creative solutions and help these businesses go digital without giving up the ‘personal touch’ that means so much to their survival. The next 12–18 months won’t be easy, but local business owners are uniformly some of the toughest people I know. In many ways they, too, have a farmer’s mindset.”

Margaret Traub '88

Head of global initiatives, International Medical Corps

“My work is emergency medical relief, so the pandemic has taken over my daily life in every way. My organization normally works in conflict and disaster zones overseas, but with COVID-19, in addition to responding to the pandemic in 30 countries, we have deployed healthcare workers and supplies on the frontlines here in the United States — at hospitals in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and Puerto Rico, so far.

“My days start around 5:30 a.m. — bleary-eyed in bed, scrolling through emails and the latest news. I learned early that if I don’t get into the shower by 6:30 a.m., I wind up chained to Skype and video calls in my PJs (and sometimes a nice blouse) until 5:00 p.m. Yes, that’s happened more times than I’m comfortable admitting.

“In between calls with our teams — mostly about procuring PPE, or moving supplies and clinicians, or raising money — I’m checking in with my family in New York, Utah

and Arizona. I have a severely immuno-compromised sister and healthy but 90-ish-year-old parents, so I worry constantly about



COURTESY MARGARET TRAUB '88

them and have to resist the urge to go be with them. I frequently text and call friends, including my Columbia pals. And at some point during my days I try to squeeze in a workout — usually to old episodes of *30 Rock*. Another important COVID-19 distraction: cooking and baking, which I love.

“My heart breaks every day, thinking of the suffering going on around us. And not a day goes by that I don’t feel grateful to be healthy and to have a mostly healthy family and a job that puts a roof over our head and food on our table.

“Thanks to all those heroes out there, putting their lives on the line to serve their fellow humans. Everyone stay safe and healthy!”

TALKING POINTS

Visit our website on Tuesday, August 18, to read more about alumni’s lives during COVID-19: college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/talking_pandemic.



GRADUATION2020



Top row, left to right: Hon. Rolando T. Acosta '79, LAW'82; Maryam Khaled Hassan '20; and Stacy Tao '20 with her family; bottom row, left to right: Claire Fry '20; Laurans A. Mendelson '60, BUS'61, Victor H. Mendelson '89, Alexander Mendelson '23, Nicole Mendelson '20 and Lindsey Mendelson '18; Dean James J. Valentini; and James Ritchie '20.

PHOTOS COURTESY VICTOR MENDELSON '89, MARYAM KHALED HASSAN '20, NING CHENG, CLAIRE FRY '20 AND SIHAN TAN SOA'20



UNIQUELY UNITED

THE COLLEGE PRODUCED ITS FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL CLASS DAY TO HONOR THE CLASS OF 2020

MORE THAN 8,000 VIEWERS tuned in on their computers and televisions on May 19 for the College's [first virtual Class Day](#) — a colorful ceremony featuring messages and photos from graduates and their families, with remarks from Dean James J. Valentini and keynote speaker Hon. Rolando T. Acosta '79, LAW'82. The broadcast united the graduating class across oceans and time zones, from Santa Clara to Brownsville, Dhaka to Buenos Aires. This was — as Valentini noted in his welcome remarks — an unprecedented celebration for unprecedented times.

Senior Class President James Ritchie '20 highlighted the uncommonly common experience of a most unique Class of 2020. "We arrived in Morningside Heights in the 'Yes We Can' era of hope and positivity," said Ritchie. "And try as the universe did to break our spirits, we improvised, adapted and overcame. We were and are a special class. We are resilient even as we have been made to handle far more than we thought we could."

Raised in the South Bronx and Washington Heights, Acosta, presiding justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department, emigrated from the Dominican Republic to the United States with his family at 14. A former star on the Lions varsity baseball team, he was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008.

In his [remarks](#), Acosta paid tribute to his father, who died recently, at 97, of complications from COVID-19: "He showed me that my contentment is directly related to the path I follow to success and the lives that I impact." Acosta praised the Core Curriculum as something that provided him guidance in becoming "someone who values giving back to my community, cherishes the rule of law and has chosen to work within the system to ensure that justice prevails."

Acosta challenged the Class of 2020 to "continue to find ways in which to help others through your work," for "this challenge will not only benefit society, but it will also be the beginning of a more satisfying part of your life's journey, where you will discover that there is no substitute for a balanced life, which includes service to others."

The next day, the members of CC'20 joined graduates from across the University for [virtual Commencement](#). The deans of all of Columbia's schools gave speeches before President Lee C. Bollinger formally conferred their degrees. To further mark the day, a surprise gift was delivered: an original song, "Oh, Columbia," written by composer Tom Kitt '96 and performed in a special video by actor Ben Platt GS'14.

See [Class Day photos from around the world in the Columbia College Facebook album](#).

#CC20STILLROARS

WE ASKED THE CLASS OF 2020 what it means to graduate at this moment in time, and though every answer was unique, several themes emerged. Though they missed being on campus, the graduates have a deeper appreciation for all the experiences that came before. They learned as much from people outside the classroom as they did in their courses. They're proud of themselves and each other. And they're ready to make a difference in the world. **ROAR, LION, ROAR!**

Find more student reflections, as well as this year's list of Academic Awards and Prizes recipients, [here](#).



BRIANNA SHU YANG

"I will always credit Columbia with honing my sense of civic purpose. I have discussed and debated citizenship and social responsibility in my Core classes, especially Contemporary Civilization. I have met so many people who passionately advocate for issues they care about. I've been inspired to do the same, and to make it my mission in life to break down barriers to civic engagement. Go vote.

"I feel like it's common now among seniors, at least among my friends, to mark the occasion when we finally broke down crying about this unexpected end to our senior year. There is a sort of catharsis in this act. In many ways, being physically apart has brought us closer together, and it has underscored that what is, and has been, most important this year is celebrating how far we've all come.

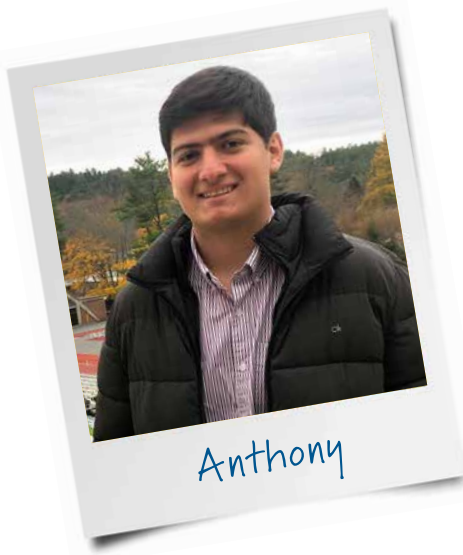
"The most important lesson I will take away is this: Nothing is worth doing if it is not in the service of others. The greatest thing we can do with our education is to work toward change, no matter how big or small, that promotes a fairer world."

DIMITRI GODUR

"Thinking about the future, I know I'll appreciate the connections and networks I established with fellow students, faculty, mentors and professionals. My Columbia education has made me a better-informed citizen, both politically and socially, with a deeper understanding of the history and philosophies that continue to govern our society. ...

"I am beyond proud of every single member of my class and all they have accomplished. My message is to be bold, push yourselves beyond your comfort zone and never be afraid to continue taking risks, as you have already done. And of course, massive congratulations to all on your hard work and ending the year with a BANG!"





Anthony

ANTHONY ARGENZIANO

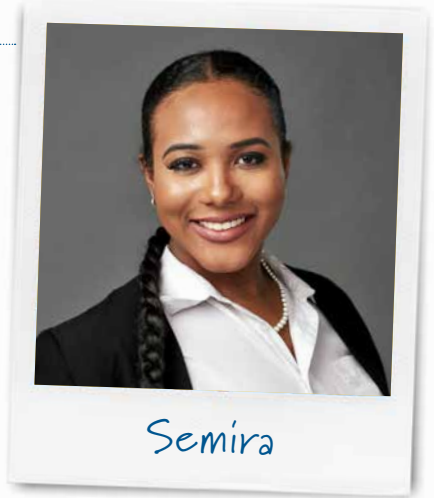
“Being at the College has always meant that everything happens between Broadway and Amsterdam, from 114th to 120th. From my freshman year to my senior days, I have always considered myself very lucky to live with and near those closest to me. This past semester, I’ve missed my friends and the campus that was the straw that stirred the proverbial drink. ... I’ve realized with our spring being cut short that life doesn’t work in clean-cut phases like some people tend to believe; college is not a separate four-year life or oasis.

“With this, though, I’ve developed a new hope. If there are no clear boundaries separating events over time, and if it is never too early for something to end, it must follow that it is never too late for something to start. Here’s to friendships yet to be made, passions yet to be cultivated and fulfillment yet to be had.”

SEMIRA AFIA KAZURI BROWN

“Columbia has served as a crucible of my character, my intellect, my artistic inclinations, my physical and mental health, and my work ethic, and I am so much better for it. I know myself far more comprehensively than I did four years ago, and through extending my comfort zone, working hard and challenging myself, I have a newfound, incandescent confidence that is intrinsically rather than extrinsically derived. I know myself, love myself and genuinely believe that I can do anything.

“The extraordinary circumstances of this year have shown me how temporary everything truly is, how ephemeral worldly attachments are and how timeless human connections will always be.”



Semira



Andrea

ANDREA LIN

“Columbia was the perfect combination of idealistic introspection and #NewYorkTough. It has taught me to be gentle and sensitive in my heart, and bold and fearless in my actions.”

TASFIA TABASSUM

“These past few months I’ve really missed the gatherings, especially how everyone would sit on the grass and on Low Steps. Whatever we were doing, it was the fact that we were together that gave it a feeling of belonging.

“Out of my entire college experience, I most appreciate the friends that I’ve made and the people whom I’ve met. I believe that we’re meant to meet the people we meet, so every single interaction that I’ve had has only added to my experience and my self-love journey.

“I hope one day we’ll all look back and see that, all along, we were growing. The momer where our limits were being tested, we were actually being strengthened. Here’s to a new journey, a new beginning!”



Tasfia



Cara

CARA MAINES

“I miss walking around campus and running into friends. It was amazing how amidst thousands of people, I would always see a few friendly faces on College Walk or the endless Hamilton stairs. I also miss Morningside Heights. The best feeling in the world was coming off the subway from a bustling neighborhood downtown and feeling at peace and at home. ...

“The Core Curriculum was a large part of what drew me to Columbia, and now that I have completed it, I can say that it was — without a doubt — the defining feature of my academic experience. I believe I am a more critical and compassionate person because of it. I truly believe that taking some version of the Core Curriculum is one of the best things you can do in your life, especially at this age, the start of adulthood.

“All of this being said, my greatest education was probably outside the classroom. The relationships I made changed me and formed me, and I am better for them.”

JOHN ARCINIEGAS

“Through my experience at Columbia and with New York as a whole, I learned from people from all walks of life. I was able to learn from different cultures, viewpoints and experiences that helped to challenge me and develop myself fully.

“I would like to send a big ‘Congratulations!’ to my classmates, and to remind them to invest in what they would like to see changed in the world around them. They are very passionate, dedicated people, and I know they have the skills to accomplish significant milestones: Congrats, Class of 2020!”



John



Abena

ABENA ADOM-ODURO

“I’ve learned that community is what really matters. At the end of the day, it’s the experiences that you shared with others, the lives you touched and the lives that touched you that linger. We’re graduating at such a tough and uncertain time, and it may seem out of place to celebrate, but we’ve all come so far, and I’m so proud of us!”

LACEY ANN STRAHM

“The unforeseeable and swift end to my senior year made me realize how precious the time I had at campus really was. As you go through the day-to-day life of being a student you accumulate these little joys of campus life — like seeing your friends on College Walk, getting your favorite sandwich at Brownies, finding the perfect seat in Butler. I understood these joys to be built-in perks of being a College student, but took for granted the ephemeral nature of their presence in my life; my abrupt departure from campus meant leaving them all behind. Ghosted, with no substitutes to take their place. As I scroll through my camera roll and watch memories emerge from my Snapchat, I am reminded of how lucky I was to have found such joys throughout my four years at Columbia.”



Lacey

The Artist's Way

Feminist sculptor Rachel Feinstein '93 gets a major museum retrospective

Last fall, the first-floor galleries at New York City's Jewish Museum were filled with tall, curving sculptures made from plywood and foam, enamel and resin. The ambitious structures were the work of artist Rachel Feinstein '93; the vast retrospective, subtitled "[Maiden, Mother, Crone](#)," was the first survey show of Feinstein's work held in a U.S. museum.

The exhibition, and its accompanying volume, *Rachel Feinstein* (Rizzoli, \$75), is a record of the decades the sculptor has spent exploring female archetypes. "Over the course of her 25-year career, Feinstein has confronted how women are described, seen and embodied," writes

Kelly Taxter, the museum's Barnett and Annalee Newman Curator of Contemporary Art, who helped guide the exhibition to completion.

Feinstein isn't wedded to a single type of material, or even to the medium of sculpture itself. "Maiden, Mother, Crone" includes video, painted mirrors, panoramic wall-paper, even a white 40-ft.-long wall relief. Feinstein has made stunning collages for *New York* magazine (*The Seven Ages of Woman*) and a castle-in-ruins runway set for Marc Jacobs's Fall 2012 show. Underlying all these variations, though, is a single theme: women and the way they're seen.

As a sculptor, Feinstein was forced to think about gender from the beginning of her career. "When I was just starting and said to someone that I was a female sculptor, they told me, 'That's really weird; that's like a dog that can walk on its hind legs,'" she said in a recent interview with *Sculpture* magazine. She herself admits to nagging doubts: "I've always thought about how being a female sculptor is not natural, in terms of the aggressiveness and the material." Feinstein is married to painter John Currin; a frequent theme in their media interviews is the gender-flipped aspect of the art they create. His is soft and gentle — stroking the canvas with a fine brush, in a boudoir-like studio — while her man-cave studio is noisy and filled with power tools.

To a large extent, Feinstein's career began at the College. A Miami doctor's daughter who had modeled as a teenager, she knew she wanted to be an artist, but had little experience with or knowledge of art history. She started out pre-med (thanks to her parents' urging), but she soon changed direction to pursue studio art, and studied with influential instructors like installation artist Judy Pfaff. She found a group of fast friends — intimates whom she still calls her "art clan" — and started exploring the funkiest reaches of Downtown. Feinstein credits



CHRIS SANDERS

her time at the College with giving her something essential to her art: a sense of possibility. “I don’t know if I would be where I am today if it wasn’t for Columbia and Judy Pfaff,” she told *CCT*.

The art that Feinstein created at that time could be hard-charging and forceful, drawing energy from early-’90s, third-wave feminism. Her sculpture *Ultimate Woman*



(1993) shows a woman on all fours, with red-rimmed apertures reminiscent of gaping wounds on her back. *Someday My Prince Won’t Come*, her first performance art piece, featured Feinstein swinging inside a huge welded hoop-skirt, as red wine gradually spilled over her clothes. At a 1994 Exit Art group exhibition, *Let the Artist Live*, she

posed as a drowsing Sleeping Beauty, but her golden-haired princess was humped by a grotesque castle as she lay in bed. She met Currin around that same time.

Her “bad-ass” single life — and the artistic style that went with it — came to an end. Twenty-six years later, the two artists share a townhouse, family life and to some

degree, an artistic mindset. Importantly, Currin taught Feinstein that older European art could be an invaluable source of ideas. Feinstein’s creative process now often begins with research in her bookshelves, or at the Strand Bookstore. (“Maiden, Mother, Crone” was inspired by the book *Maids, Madonnas & Witches: Women in sculpture from prehistoric times to Picasso*, with photographs by Andreas Feininger.) The later work shown at The Jewish Museum explores female archetypes derived from examples of old European fine and decorative art, like madonnas, German woodcarvings, even Meissen porcelain figurines.

Feinstein herself, having passed the maiden stage, has embraced the role of mother to the couple’s three children. But far from dreading the approach of her “crone” years, she seems to be looking forward to a late-stage artistic flowering. In an interview on Bloomberg TV last fall, flanked by men in business attire, she is luminous and charismatic in bright lipstick and a vividly colored dress. Historically, she says, female artists like Louise Bourgeois, Georgia O’Keeffe and Agnes Martin honed their skills later in life, once the biological imperative to reproduce was gone. Women artists get “more marketable after menopause,” she says with a smile. “It seems that you just come into this strength and power as you get older.”

— Rose Kernochan BC’82

RIGHT: *Unicorn or “H,”* 2002. Fabric, resin, plaster, foam, wood, enamel, 40 x 73 x 31 in. In exhibition *Tropical Rodeo*, Le Consortium, Dijon, 2006.

Private collection.

FAR RIGHT: *Old Times*, 2005. Stained wood, 97 x 43 x 23 in.

In exhibition *Tropical Rodeo*, Le Consortium, Dijon, 2006.

Collection of Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn and Nicolas Rohatyn.





Adam and Eve, 2007.
Wood, stain, hardware, 84 x 45 x 41 in.

Collection of Mima and César Reyes, San Juan.



Fat Friend, 2000.
Wood, epoxy, Sculpey, plaster, enamel, gold leaf, 60 x 49 x 32 in.

Collection of Mark Fletcher and Tobias Meyer.



FAR LEFT: *Kasteel de Haar*, 2010. Enamel on mirror, 22 x 17 in.

Private collection, New York.



LEFT: *Bagatelle*, 2010. Enamel on mirror, 18 x 18 in.

Private collection.

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ESB LIGHTS UP FOR LIONS

The Empire State Building was lit in blue and white on May 20 to mark Columbia's 266th Commencement, held earlier that day in a worldwide virtual celebration. For more on virtual Commencement, and on virtual Class Day, see [page 24](#).

PHOTO BY EILEEN BARROSO / COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING IMAGE® IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF ESRT EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, L.L.C. AND IS USED WITH PERMISSION

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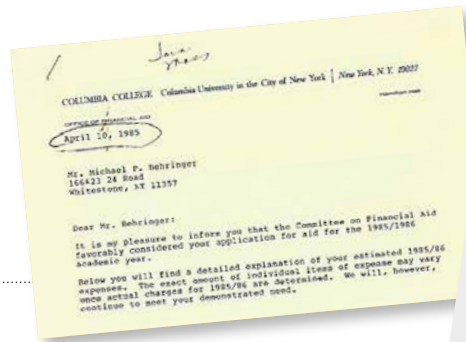
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Core cartoon caption contest!

Finding Comfort in Community

By Michael Behringer '89



PHOTOS COURTESY MICHAEL BEHRINGER '89

I never imagined that I'd be writing my last message in *CCT* in the midst of global and national crises. These recent, unsettling months have affected each of us differently, and the impact will surely be felt for months and even years to come. As we wrestle with our many current challenges — an account of which could itself take up the entirety of this message — I see a parallel story emerging about how we are navigating our way through this moment in time. Family and community have perhaps never felt more vital. And so during this time I am especially grateful for our Columbia College family, which continues to grow closer and find new ways to offer uplift and support.

As it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic in particular, I'm awed and inspired by the Columbia alumni and faculty healthcare professionals on the front lines, as well as the many scientists and researchers working on treatments and cures. On behalf of the College community, thank you for all that you're doing. I'd also like to acknowledge those among us who are struggling with adversity of all kinds right now. Please know that your alumni family is always there for you.

Social distancing has required the College to rethink — and in many cases, reinvent — how it engages with alumni. In the long run, I think that the Columbia College Alumni Association's activities and programming will be better for it. Here, some of the great work the CCAA has been doing recently:

- **CURRENT STUDENTS:** Undergraduates are the future of the CCAA and have been a focus in recent years. In April, we offered more than 20 student/alumni events, with more to come this summer. The goal was to support students, provide information on career paths and industries, and foster a sense of community. Originally planned as live events, we pivoted to hold these virtually, which enabled us to expand the number of both alumni and student participants.
- **THE CLASS OF 2020:** We are holding workshops and speaker events, offering a 1:1 mentoring match program and developing communications aimed at helping our newest community members.
- **YOUNG ALUMNI:** At a time of great uncertainty about careers and the economy, we also will hold virtual mentoring and career-focused events for young alumni; these began in May with a presentation from an executive coach and will continue throughout the summer.
- **ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT:** In a similar vein, we launched a virtual speaker series that leverages the expertise and wisdom within our community for the benefit of all alumni. We will cover

Thanks for the memories! Behringer (in denim jacket) and the financial aid letter that made it all possible.

a range of topics, including the search for a COVID-19 vaccine, the economy and job market, and mindfulness and meditation.

- **COLUMBIA REUNION:** In-person reunion was postponed (we are still looking for an alternate time); however, we offered parts of the weekend online on June 6; these included the Dean's Update and the presentation of the CCAA President's Cup, which each year honors one volunteer for contributions to their class's reunion.

As I indicated at the outset, this is my last column for *CCT*, as my term as CCAA president ended in June. How not to sound trite when explaining how meaningful the College has been for me? Words seem inadequate.

I'm always grateful for the opportunity I was given to attend Columbia. My family were immigrants and I was a first-generation student. I don't remember the day I received my acceptance letter; what I remember was when the letter about my financial aid package arrived — for that was when I knew I could attend the College.

I'm here today only because of forward-thinking financial aid policies supported by the generosity of alumni like you. And I'm delighted that those policies have only expanded and strengthened over time. I suppose that's one reason I'm driven to give back to the school and pay that debt forward. And on behalf of similarly situated students and alumni, I thank all of you who have supported this initiative. You've changed lives in many ways you may never fully appreciate.

My four years on campus were transformative and magical. That experience, and the friendships I made, continue to be an integral part of my life. And I'm lucky that through the CCAA, I've been able to extend that experience and those relationships throughout my adult life. There are many ways [to stay involved and in touch](#) with our community; I hope each of you finds the right one for you.

I look forward to seeing you soon, once we are on the other side.

As always, ROAR!

Michael Behringer



CHRISTOPHE VON HOHENBERG

The Boss of Beautiful Books

By Jill C. Shomer

People are always asking **Charles Miers '80** what his favorite book is.

As the longtime publisher at Rizzoli New York, books are his business. Miers is responsible for the acquisition and editorial direction of all volumes published under the Rizzoli and Universe imprints, now some 175 books a year. During his 29-year tenure, Miers has dramatically expanded Rizzoli's program of books in art, design, fashion, photography and contemporary culture, while maintaining the company's roots in contemporary and historic architecture. In May, The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art honored Miers and Rizzoli with a 2020 Arthur Ross Award for Excellence in the Classical Tradition.

With such a luxe and extensive collection — even the Spring 2020 catalog features a glamorous Mert and Marcus photo of model Kendall Jenner on its cover — it's not surprising to hear that Miers can't choose a favorite. "These books are like my children," he says. "I could tell you a story about every one we've published."

Miers was a double major at the College; his studies of history and art history make him an expert storyteller. He grew up in England and spent his youth at boarding schools; he wanted something different for his college years, and New York City in the late 1970s was definitely that. "It was an adventure," he says. "The sense of physical danger was ever-present. But as a student you could block a lot of that out."

Miers was thrilled to study with a generation of notable art historians like David Rosand '59, GSAS'65, Kirk Varnedoe and Richard Brilliant. He also ran cross country and track, pacing the first Columbia cross-country team to win an Ivy League championship in 1979, and later qualifying for the Olympic Trials Marathon (in 2 hours, 16 minutes). But the best thing about Columbia for him was Avery Hall. "The most beautiful building, the most beautiful library," he says. "The opportunity to be with those books and those original materials was fantastic!" He met his wife, Christine Miers GSAS'86, at Avery while she was getting an art history Ph.D. (And when Rizzoli moved its bookstore from its longtime townhouse location on West 57th Street to NoMad in 2014, Avery was an inspiration for the design; Miers employed architect Tom Kligerman '79 to create a similar "church to books" feeling.)

The day he graduated, Miers went to work for a "tiny and idiosyncratic" publisher, George Braziller, which specialized in contemporary fiction and nonfiction. "It was too small a place to stay forever but I learned *everything* there," Miers says. "Most of all, George really taught me to love books as physical objects and understand how they were made. That has very much stayed with me." Miers next worked for five years at Abrams, then joined Rizzoli in 1990.

In those days Rizzoli was thought of as the greatest architecture publisher in the world. "If I can say where I've really made a difference, it's that we've become a major force in fashion and interior design," Miers says. "Our first fashion milestone was Tom Ford's book in 2004; it was his Gucci story. And around the same time, fashion designers embraced 'The Book' in the same way that architects did — if you went into any architecture office in those days there was a large library. Fashion designers embraced books as something permanent in a very ephemeral world, which fashion very much is."

He continues, "After the financial crash of 2008, interior design became especially strong for us, somewhat counterintuitively. I think to some extent people were turning inward and thinking about their homes, and that will happen again now. People will also embrace 'artisanal' even harder," he says.

On deck for Rizzoli this fall is a book by model Lily Cole, *Who Cares Wins*, about issues of sustainability and climate change, how young people should think about those things and what values they should consider. Like Miers, Cole is an art historian by training, from Cambridge. "She has a lot of credibility for activism, and that's a book we think will have resonance," Miers says. "It's subtitled *Reasons for Optimism in a Changing World* — I mean, come on."

Book publishing may have diminished over the years as digital media has become more prevalent, but Miers isn't worried. "I believe that the more digital we've become, the more people value a certain level of craftsmanship," he says. "People won't look to books for news or resources or information in the same way, but they'll look to them for a certain type of gravitas, for a curated quality, for permanence. I think the future of the book is strong. Books like ours will become

more bespoke, more expensive, more limited in their availability, and I think that will suit our corner of the industry."

As for his favorite part of his job? "I'm lucky to spend a lot of time with some of the world's most creative people," he says. "A book is really meaningful for them, it's a *moment*. Working with these authors is like having a special window into a period of time with someone who's a hero of yours. It's unbeatable."

Activist Annie Tan '11 Is Speaking Up for Asian Americans

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

Activist, storyteller and special education teacher **Annie Tan '11** knows how to make her voice heard, and how to inspire others to speak up. Most recently, this past May, Tan appeared on PBS's five-part documentary [Asian Americans](#), speaking both about her work as a teacher and her family's role at the center of the modern push for Asian-American visibility and civil rights in the United States.

Tan's journey to the national stage has been years in the making. When she was 13, she learned about a tragedy that had shaken her family to the core. In 1982, Tan's cousin Vincent Chin was beaten to death by two Detroit autoworkers; the killers, who blamed the Japanese auto industry for declining U.S. auto sales, mistook Chin for being Japanese. The killers received only three years' probation and a \$3,000 fine. Chin's mother, Tan's great-aunt Lily Chin, spent the years after his death campaigning for hate crime legislation; she returned to China in 1987 after facing discrimination.

Tan has since taken up the family's mantle, speaking about the case in various mediums. "[When] you hear about Vincent Chin in Asian-American studies textbooks," she says, "you have a different reaction than when I'm in front of you telling you that my family had to fight that case for years and years, and lost over and over, to the point where my great auntie moved to China. It's just very different to see it from my vantage point."

In addition to [Asian Americans](#), Tan has been featured on [The Moth Radio Hour](#) and has embraced storytelling as a way to communicate issues relating to Asian-American activism and experiences. She gave the keynote at the Teaching Social Activism conference at the Museum of the City of New York in May 2019 and has performed at live storytelling events around New York City. She also volunteers with CAAAV (Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence), an NYC-based organization that empowers and advocates for low-income Asian immigrants and refugees, and is involved in the United Federation of Teachers, the union that represents teachers who work in New York City public schools.

Tan, who grew up in Manhattan's Chinatown, majored in urban studies at the College, while simultaneously earning her teaching license through Barnard. After graduation she moved to Chicago and began teaching in the majority Latinx Little Village neighborhood. She campaigned for teachers' rights for two years as co-chair of the Special Education Committee of the Chicago Teachers



CINDY TRINH

Union. "We fought against hundreds of positions being cut illegally in Chicago public schools, and formed a special education task force, which is still active," she says.

In 2016, Tan moved back to New York and sought out Brooklyn's diverse Sunset Park neighborhood in order to teach its large number of Chinese and Latinx students. "I wanted to continue teaching bicultural students who had questions like, 'What do I do when my mom and dad need me to translate and put this burden on me?' — because I went through that," she says. "It's my job as a teacher to know where they came from and to give them some space to be kids. It's a blessing; every day I see their confidence and motivation grow."

Tan says her activism and teaching are inexorably linked: "Had I not been a teacher first, I don't think I would have learned these lessons very well. I realized I have to model what I want my students to be. In order for my students to be in a better world and to be humans that will make this world better, I also have to be better. And that means I have to fight for them."

bookshelf

A Dance Pioneer Finally Gets His Due

By Jill C. Shomer

Ted Shawn, often called the “Father of American Dance,” was so sure about his place in cultural history that before his death in 1972, he drafted a letter to future biographers listing what topics should be written about him and the order in which they should be written. But none of those books ever came. Until now.

In *Ted Shawn: His Life, Writings, and Dances* (Oxford University Press, \$39.95), **Paul A. Scolieri '95**, chair and professor of dance at Barnard, offers the first scholarly account of Shawn's pioneering role in American modern dance and reveals the untold story of Shawn's homosexuality, his choreographic vision and his impact on society.

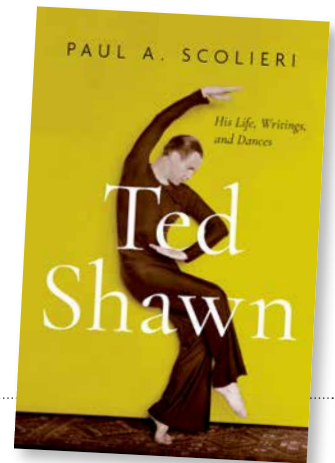
Between 1915 and 1940, Shawn transformed dance from popular entertainment into a theatrical art, and in the process, made dancing an acceptable profession for men. With his wife and dance partner, Ruth St. Denis, he founded Denishawn, the first modern dance company and school in the United States. (Martha Graham was a protégée, and went on to become a legendary dancer and choreographer in her own right.) Shawn directed the first all-male dance company, Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers, and was also the founder of Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the internationally known performance venue and school in Becket, Mass.

Scolieri spent 10 years researching Shawn for this biography. “His is one of the best-documented lives of the 20th century,” Scolieri says. “He maintained records from childhood — he had a strong sense that his life would be extraordinary.”

The importance and influence of Ted Shawn was imprinted on Scolieri's life early. The Long Island native discovered a passion for dance in childhood, and studied

performing arts at his Catholic high school while also training as a student at the Martha Graham School in Manhattan. “I would go to school and then take the train into the city,” Scolieri says.

When it was time for college, he wanted to carry on his training but not at a conservatory; at Columbia, he was among the first stu-



dents (and the first man) to major in dance. His training at Martha Graham continued alongside his studies in the Core Curriculum: “I was dancing Graham pieces inspired by Greek myth at the same time I was also in Lit Hum, and learning Graham's choreography for *The Rite of Spring* while studying Stravinsky's score in Music Hum,” he recalls. “It all felt fully integrated.”

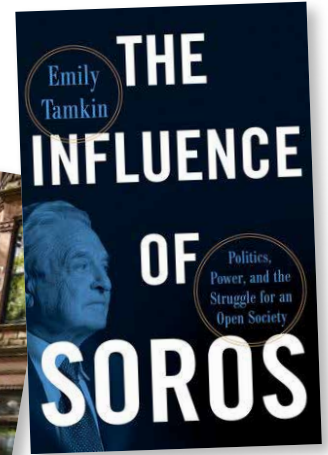
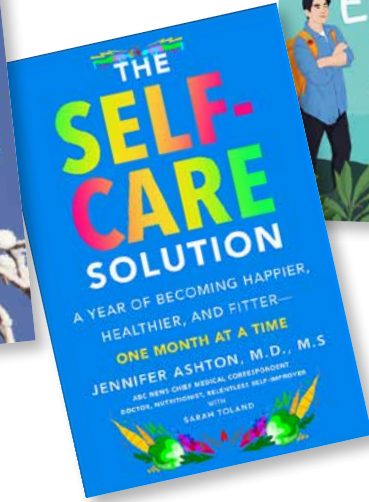
A Global Core course in pre-Colombian art set Scolieri on the path to writing his first book, *Dancing the New World: Aztecs, Spaniards, and the Choreography of Conquest* (2013). “I got so excited by the art, the story of conquest and the imagery that it became my doctoral dissertation,” he says. It also brought him back to the Columbia community: In 2000, Scolieri was hired to teach a class in Latin American and Caribbean dance at Barnard. He taught for a few years as an adjunct before becoming a full-time professor in 2003.

Scolieri says that though everyone in the dance world knows of Shawn, a lot of the details weren't clear. “People wondered, ‘He was married to a woman, but was he gay?’ He was one of those guys who kept the lock on the closet. And in order for him to have prestige and stature and visibility, he engaged in a lot of internalized and externalized homophobia.” After the Stonewall uprising in 1969, Shawn was ready to tell a more authentic story of his life, and was in the interview process with one of his former students when he had a heart attack. Scolieri was able to use the seven days of recorded conversations in his writing.

“I tried to tell his story in a way that he would have told it had he been able to be honest, and with the vantage of 50 years to understand where he fit into the larger puzzle of American cultural life,” Scolieri says. “Shawn was born into a world with no concept of homosexuality, modernism or dance for men. His life was about braiding these emerging ideas together. Through my research I was able to better understand the social vision he had and the sacrifices he made.”

Scolieri gets reflective when he considers the realities of Shawn's life versus the life he shares with his husband, Lavinel Savu '94, and their three daughters. “There's not a moment that I don't think that my life and my career are everything that Shawn desired,” he says. “The part of the world I get to enjoy is in large measure owed to what Ted Shawn bodied forth.”





Troubleshooter: J.K. Choy, From Pirate's Son to Diplomat and Banker by Dr. Daniel Choy '44. Choy's biography of his father, Jun Ke Choy CC 1915, who left Hawaii in 1911 and rose to a top government post in China before finding success in the United States as a banker and community advocate (Independently published, \$14.99).

Smack in the Middle: My Turbulent Time Treating Heroin Addicts at Odyssey House by Gibbs Williams '59. Psychotherapist Williams describes his work treating addicts in a Manhattan therapeutic community over 17 months in the late 1960s (History Publishing Co., \$19.95).

Birds in Winter: Surviving the Most Challenging Season by Roger Pasquier '69. The first book devoted to the ecology and behavior of birds during cold weather; Pasquier explores how winter affects birds' lives throughout the year (Princeton University Press, \$29.95).

Volunteer: Adventures in Humanism by Dr. Daniel Albert '70. In addition to practicing medicine in academic institutions, Albert made it his life's work to volunteer in disenfranchised areas around the world (Austin Macauley Publishers, \$35.95).

Returning from Afar: A Memoir by Benson Bobrick '71. This dramatic farewell work from the author *The New York Times* described as "perhaps the most interesting American historian writing today" is part memoir, part religious autobiography (Stillwater Books, \$16.95).

Phebe's War: A Revolutionary War Tale by Michael Coudreaux '85. Despite constant threat from the British armies, a young girl living in the Hudson Highlands plays a critical role in assisting the Revolutionary War effort (Hellgate Press, \$12.95).

The Self-Care Solution: A Year of Becoming Happier, Healthier and Fitter — One Month at a Time by Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91. Ashton, chief medical correspondent for *ABC News* and an ob-gyn in private practice, shares a yearlong plan to improve your physical and emotional health (William Morrow, \$26.99).

PACE by K.M. Halpern '91. Halpern's third work of fiction, about a mysterious and deadly "front" origi-

nating from Scotland, is described as "a pitch-black global thriller that is nevertheless supremely intimate" (Epsilon Books, \$29.99).

The Financial Ecosystem: The Role of Finance in Achieving Sustainability by Satyajit Bose '94, Guo Dong and Anne Simpson. Bose, an associate professor at the School of Professional Studies, and his co-authors describe how corporate functioning could be made compatible with human welfare (Palgrave Macmillan, \$119.99).

The Perfect Escape by Suzanne Park '97. In Park's debut YA rom-com, a lovable hero and his colleague at a zombie-themed escape room compete in a survivalist competition for a huge cash prize (Sourcebooks Fire, \$10.99).

The Pearls by Will Heinrich '99. Heinrich, an art critic for *The New York Times*, considers painting, love, Jewish identity and more in this novel about a raucous 1920s love triangle that crosses the country from New York City to Sheridan, Wyo. (Elective Affinity, \$25).

Putting Joy into Practice: Seven Ways to Lift Your Spirit from the Early Church by Phoebe Farag Mikha'il '00. The author explains how to experience joy through seven spiritual practices, including giving thanks, hospitality and praise (Paraclete Press, \$16.99).

Bricks & Brownstone: The New York Row House by Patrick Ciccone '03, Charles Lockwood and Jonathan D. Taylor. This beautifully illustrated reissued volume, first published in 1972, examines the varied architectural styles of the New York City brownstone (Rizzoli, \$176).

The Power of Human: How Our Shared Humanity Can Help Us Create a Better World by Adam Waytz '03. Social psychologist Waytz describes how to "rehumanize" our technology-filled lives by reconnecting with our natural, instinctive powers (W.W. Norton & Co., \$26.95).

Financializing Poverty: Labor and Risk in Indian Microfinance by Sobini Kar '04. Kar examines how the business of giving small loans to poor borrowers has allowed financial institutions in Kolkata, India, to capitalize on the poverty of its residents (Stanford University Press, \$90).

The Influence of Soros: Politics, Power and the Struggle for Open Society by Emily Tamkin '12. Tamkin, an editor at the *New Statesman*, considers the influence of hedge fund tycoon George Soros and uncovers the truth about the conspiracies that surround him (Harper, \$28.99).

— Jill C. Shomer

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

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo and caption information on our photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Congratulations!



ADAM SUE



PEPPER MEDIA CAMBODIA



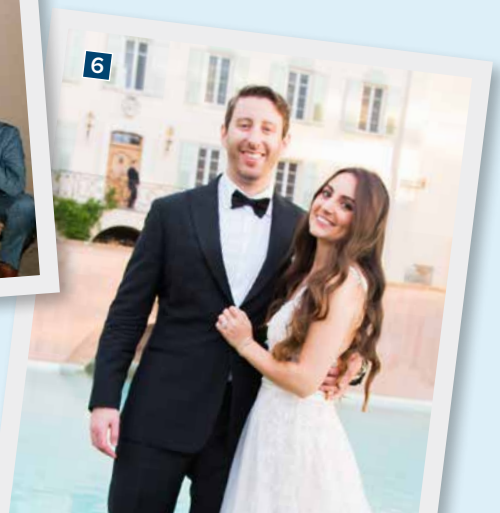
ASIA PIMENTEL PHOTOGRAPHY



ZEV FISHER PHOTOGRAPHY



STEVE STEINHARDT



1. Aaron Zhu SEAS'14 and Samantha Hing '14 were married on March 31, 2019, in Jersey City.
2. On January 5, Nettra Pan '12 and Luc Jodet (seated, center) celebrated their marriage with a Khmer wedding ceremony and dinner reception attended by 170 friends and family members in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Guests, which included Columbia and Barnard alumni, can be seen throwing flowers to mark the end of a Khmer wedding rite.
3. Johanna Lee (née Miele) '12 married Edward Lee '12 on July 7, 2019, at The Liberty Warehouse in Brooklyn, N.Y. Left to right: Chris Guerrero SEAS'09, Patricia Rojas '12, Elizabeth Angeles '13, Herbert "Chip" Thornhill '12, Michael Barrientos SEAS'12, Kendra Mendez '12, Christina Ortiz '12, the bride, the groom, Nirmal Ilyas '13, Ryan Mulvey SEAS'12, Jenieve Guevarra-Fernandez '12, Amin Guevarra-Fernandez '11 and Eric Ellis SEAS'12.
4. Ezra Wyschogrod '17 and Talia Wyschogrod (née Rubin) '18 were married on November 17 in Boston. More than 75 Columbia alumni were in attendance, with the oldest graduate representing the Class of 1961 and the youngest representing the Class of 2022!
5. Rob Trump '09 and Adrienne Ho BC'09 were married at The Langham Huntington in Pasadena, Calif., on September 15, 2018. Many College alumni were in attendance. Back row, left to right: Henry Klementowicz SEAS'09, Leslie Galindo BC'07, Natasha Dhillon BC'11, Whitaker Cohen BC'09, Sam Roberts '08, Rachel Lowdermilk BC'08, Alex Evans BC'09, James Williams '08, Maggie Marron BC'09, Patrick Yan, Max Friedman '09, Brendan Ballou-Kelley '09 and Blair Bigelow; middle row, left to right: Allie Rosenblum, Chris Jo '09, Graham Moore '03, Crystal Ho BC'03, the groom, the bride, Claire Noonan BC'09, Emma Rotenberg BC'09, Sarah Besnoff BC'09 and Jean Laschever; and front row, left to right: Leora Kelman '09, Shira Burton '09, Eric Rosenblum '09, Alex Statman '09 and Tom Keenan '07.
6. Aurélie and Jonah Van Bourg '07 were married in May 2019 in Antibes, France.

classnotes



SCOTT RUDD

The campus patiently awaits the return of students and faculty.

1950

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

No news this quarter. Classmates would enjoy hearing from you! Please send a note to *CCT* by writing to the address above.

1951

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Ernest H. von Nardroff GSAS'66 shares a thought that some of you might also have: "A late-in-the-game, unrealistic but ardent wish:

to sit in on the Core. In my present condition, I probably couldn't do it justice, but it would be worth a try!"

Leonard A. Stoehr sent updates in late March for himself as well as several other early-'50s alumni: "Greetings from the beautiful rural Blue Ridge area of Virginia, where there are still no reported cases of coronavirus in Greene County.

W. Fred Kinsey III GSAS'53: Fred, a professor emeritus of archaeology at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., and his wife, Carol, recently moved to an assisted living facility in Lancaster. Fred was my junior year roommate at the Phi Kappa Psi house on West 113th Street.

"The following aged gentlemen are all members of the NROTC unit who received their Navy officer commis-

sions at the Columbia graduation ceremonies on June 7, 1951:

Richard C. Boyle: Dick is a retired M.D. living in Lake City, Pa., with his wife, Dorothy.

Edwin G. Crosswell '50, SIPA'56: Ed and his wife, Erna (a graduate of St. Luke's School of Nursing), live in an assisted living facility in Murrysville, Pa. After his required service in the Navy, Ed served many years in the State Department's Foreign Service and other federal government organizations.

Alfred B. Harbage Jr. SEAS'55: Al retired from a career with the Navy's David Taylor Model Basin facility in Annapolis, Md. He and his wife now live in Severna Park, Md.

Merritt N. Rhoad Jr.: Merritt, after Navy service in destroyers,

enjoyed a long career with IBM. He has recently given up his great love of sailing due to balance problems resulting from idiopathic peripheral neuropathy, an affliction that also bothers me. He lives in Glenside, Pa.

“On a sadder note, two of our NROTC shipmates passed away in 2019. Philip M. Bergovoy ’50, an active member of the NROTC Class of 1951, died in Sarasota, Fla., on February 22, 2019. [Editor’s note: See [Spring 2020, Class of 1950 Class Notes](#).] **John A. Handley**, one of the few fighter pilots (perhaps the only) in our NROTC class, died in Santa Barbara, Calif., on October 21, 2019.

“With the passing of Phil and John, we are now left with only five 1951 NROTCs. As many of my contemporaries like to say, ‘Getting old is not for sissies.’ All of us survivors have an assortment of physical (I should emphasize, not mental) problems. My wife, Jan, and I still play at least one afternoon of bridge each month. Our opponents are inspirational — the woman is 93 and her husband will be 100 on Veterans Day. He is a survivor of many missions as a B-17 pilot over Germany in WWII.

“My best wishes to all of the other 1951 survivors. I hope to update you in future issues of *CCT*.”

Share your news with classmates by sending a note to *CCT* at the email address at the top of the column.

1952

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Ted Robinson writes: “My wife and I now spend our time either in New York City or Naples, Fla., depending on the weather. We also travel a good bit and get to Europe for a few

weeks (now usually Paris) each year. Still great fun, and I realize that we are quite lucky.

“I had practiced medicine as a radiologist until 2007, when I finally retired. Retirement certainly has been fun, although I recently have had the urge to do more.

“I have fortunately remained in good health and only recently stopped playing doubles tennis, when I felt that my reflexes were a bit too slow. So now I sleep later and read more.

“When I was last in New York I took the subway uptown to the Columbia campus. In many ways it looked as if it were not the campus I once knew. Of course, the stores, bars and restaurants I knew are no longer there, and the Lions Den is gone. The students also seemed different from what I remember we were. Indeed, as Thomas Wolfe pointed out, you can never go home again. But we can all enjoy what we have now. Best wishes to all.”

From **John Benfield**: “I am writing during pervasive anxiety about COVID-19. My grandson, Cody Benfield ’21, has returned home from his junior year in Paris. *Columbia College Today*’s Spring 2020 issue, with a cover that celebrates ‘100 Years of the Core,’ just arrived. Inside is the [obituary of Columbia’s admired president emeritus Michael I. Sovern ’53, LAW’55](#), and Class Notes from **John Laszlo** and **Arthur Lyons**. Sovern, Laszlo, Lyons and I have much background in common. All this prompts the following thoughts about New York and Columbia.

“New York began for me as a 7-year-old Austrian refugee in Washington Heights in July 1938. My parents had the courage to leave immediately after the Anschluss for a purported vacation, never to return. Nine months later my father, an ophthalmologist, was licensed to practice medicine in New York, having passed the licensing examination in a language new to him, 14 years after his medical school graduation. I started P.S. 173, and made it to Bronx Science, but only after overcoming a hurdle. What was it?

“I fell three weeks short of completing the ninth grade. My father had volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army. My mother and I accompanied him to Camp White in Oregon. Soon he was deployed to India, and my mother and I

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

returned to New York. My father died in India. The enrollment people at Science refused to honor my success with the entrance examination. Apologetic about her English (which was excellent), my mother confronted Dr. Morris Meister, Science’s still celebrated, founding principal. She convinced him that I deserved to be admitted to Science.

“Columbia began for me in 1948, when Dwight D. Eisenhower’s Columbia presidency started. Subway fares increased from 5 to 10 cents, and I commuted from 86th Street to 116th Street. Columbia College dress code was a shirt and tie. I wore my freshman beanie and corduroy jacket on the subway, and fashionable students who lived in the dormitories wore blue blazers and white buck shoes. Core classes were taught by the likes of Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920, one of my all-time heroes. He almost always had a twinkle in his eye, and he enjoyed engaging about 15 of us in intellectual banter. It seemed as if teaching freshmen in Contemporary Civilization was an exciting experience for him. When I referred to *Don Quixote* with my best Spanish accent, Professor Van Doren playfully asked, ‘Are you talking English or Spanish? If you are talking English, pronounce his name in English.’ His point was small and argu-

able, but he would have welcomed any challenge I might have offered, and I felt free to say anything. He became my role model for teaching, and when the UCLA Class of 1971 chose me as the medical school’s outstanding teacher, Professor Van Doren shared that honor in my mind.

“So, why do I still love New York 69 years after leaving it? It is a haven that provides opportunity for refugees and internationals seeking a better life. It welcomed my family, and provided me with memories that I treasure.

“Why do I feel connected to Sovern, Laszlo and Lyons? If memory serves me correctly, Laszlo is also a refugee, and that is a bond between us. Sovern, Laszlo and I are Science and Columbia graduates. Laszlo, Lyons and I chose academic medicine as careers that fulfilled each of us professionally. In addition, I met Lyons before we started at Columbia when he and I were each awarded a scholarship for war orphans from the Maud E. Warwick Fund.

“I did not know Sovern personally, but his educational roots at Science were like mine, and both of us exercised the professional option at Columbia. That meant that we started in our professional schools after three years in the College, and we received College degrees after

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Arthur E. Lyons '52 (far right) and John R. Benfield '52 (center) receiving a scholarship for war orphans from the Maud E. Warwick Fund in 1948.

completion of the first year of professional school. Each of us wished we had not hurried past our senior year.

“What do I hear from Cody about Columbia College today? He loves it and he is getting a first-class education. But, his classes in the Core were taught by talented and well-selected graduate students. Some of them will become great professors. However, can they offer students what Professor Van Doren gave to me, and Gilbert Highet and Irwin Edman CC 1916, GSAS 1920 offered to Laszlo? I think rarely, if ever. They lack the maturity and experience of the professors who taught us. Therefore, still an idealist at 88, I am hopeful that Columbia’s academic leadership will overcome fiscal pressures of modern academia and that future College students will be taught by professors!”

Classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too! Please send a note to *CCT* by writing to the email address at the top of the column.

1953

Lew Robins
lewrobins@aol.com

Larry Harte responded to a Class Note in the Summer 2019 issue. He writes: “Allan Jackman PS’57’s story of growing up in Brooklyn brings back memories of my childhood as a

Dodgers fan in Brooklyn. I lived two blocks from the Dodgers’s stadium, Ebbets Field. From my four-story walkup, I could see center field and Duke Snider playing there.

“The first year that my dad took me to a game was 1937. Would you believe it, the Dodgers were wearing green instead of Dodger blue for the first and only year in their history? I am not sure what the reason was for that one year. If it was to change their luck, it did not work.

“Since I lived so close to Ebbets Field, I had the opportunity to see more than 100 games. I also had the opportunity to get autographs from the 1941 pennant-winning Dodgers through the 1955 world-champion Dodgers that defeated the Yankees. I think the 1941 Dodgers were one of the best teams that never won a world championship.

“I used to work at the ballpark during the summers, where I met many of the players from opposite teams. I had autographs from Stan Musial, Ralph Kiner, Warren Spahn, Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and others. I had accumulated a large scrap book of autographs. Unfortunately, my mother, bless her soul, decided to throw out all my memorabilia when I went to Columbia. I guess she felt that I had to go out into the world and make a real living!

“I am working on a photo book dating from the 1941 Brooklyn Dodgers to the present Los Angeles Dodgers. It

would be my third book about Brooklyn. The other two were *Brooklyn-ese Proverbs & Cartoons* and *Journey with Grandchildren: A Life Story*.

“I see Joe Aaron and his lovely wife, Jane, at our Saint Barnabas Medical Center meetings in Livingston, N.J.

“At one event, when I was chair of the Public Health Council, I spent some time with then-President George H.W. Bush, who was a Texas fan. He jokingly said, ‘How can you still be a Dodgers fan when they left Brooklyn?’ I came back with respect and said ‘Mr. President, as you love our country, I love my country and the Dodgers of my youth.’ Bush put his arm around me and gave me the biggest hug. We both had a tear in our eye.

“Kathy and I have visited more than 110 countries as National Geographic Travelers. However, these days — aside from hobbies in bridge, watercolor and glass blowing, and spending a little time in my orthodontic practice — we usually limit our travel to visiting our grandchildren.”

1954

Bernd Brecher
brecherservices@aol.com

As I prepare to submit these Class Notes in April — a quarter of a year before publication in *CCT*’s Summer 2020 issue — the coronavirus pandemic is devastating the global landscape politically, medically, socially, humanly, and rationally. It is my hope that the virus is peaking and will soon begin to plateau.

Classmates, I pray that when you read these notes we will all be looking back to April of this year as a time of still-winter of our discontent, an historical event when America truly “did not know what we did not know” — and that we survived. However, I share with you now the sad news that **Saul Turteltaub LAW’57** (class president in our senior year) and **Howard Falberg BUS’56** (class president in our freshman year) left us earlier this year. Both had been in failing health, and neither’s death had any connection to the pandemic.

Howard was born on December 13, 1932, and grew up in the Bronx, where we would be classmates at Bronx Science. After earning an

M.B.A., while in the Army stationed in San Francisco, Howard met his soon-to-be wife, Carol May (who predeceased him 15 years ago), who had volunteered to help serve a Sunday bagel brunch for soldiers at a local synagogue. They lived primarily in California and Connecticut, and raised five children — Lisa, Debby, Vicki, Jeff, and Stephen — while Howard moved up the corporate ladder in the retail world, concluding his career at May Co. as EVP for human resources worldwide. Howard died near La Jolla, Calif., on February 24, 2020.

Before and during retirement, he and Carol devoted much time to breeding, showing and judging Golden Retrievers, which began with the purchase of a purebred puppy named Cleo, who won a medal at a puppy match a week later. Through the years they showed and bred more than 30 champions. Howard became a dog show judge, founded the Greater St. Louis Golden Retriever Club, and became president of the National Golden Retriever Club and the Canine Health Foundation.

In response to my request for happy memories, Howard’s widow, Debby Davis, wrote, “It’s difficult to write this, but I hope my sharing these memories will help me and Howard’s friends in keeping his memories alive. We met through a mutual friend in 2009, after our spouses had passed away. She was a neighbor of Howard’s and had one of his Golden Retrievers. I have a wedding business and knew her through that, as she is a wedding planner. She kept ‘nudging’ me with stories of what a wonderful guy he was. I kept saying, ‘I’m not ready!’ Finally, after about a year, we had our first date. And we never looked back. It had been four years for Howard and three years for me since our spouses passed away.

“We had so many things in common, like a love of music and the arts in general. And as a singer I was thrilled to find out Howard played the piano. We had many sing-alongs in the 10 years we were married. And Howard enjoyed going to my concerts and singing with me in Yiddish. I had never had a dog, so marrying into four Golden Retrievers was wonderful for me! I knew Howard was serious about me when, on one of our dates, he presented



On March 4, Adela Raz, ambassador and permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations, was the speaker at the Columbia University Club Foundation's Ambassador Series. Left to right: James Gerkis '80, David Filosa '82, Toni Coffee BC'56, Bernd Brecher '54, Arthur Delmhorst '60, Raz and Ann Nicol of the United Nations Association of New York.

me with the American Kennel Club standards book about goldens! 'This guy's not fooling around,' I thought.

"We enjoyed going to dog shows together where he was judging. What an education it's been. Shortly after our marriage, Howard was asked to judge in China. So, we made that trip our honeymoon. We always got a laugh from people when we told them that we were 'old newlyweds.' It's almost 11 years since our first date and I cherish every moment. Columbia meant so much to him.

"And meeting so many of you at a reunion was a highlight for me because it allowed me to feel that I'd known him for more years than I really did."

Richard Bernstein SEAS'55 shares the following anecdote: "Howie was the first '54 classmate I encountered. Before classes began in August 1950, I couldn't reach the top button in an apartment elevator. In walked Howie, who was going to the same floor. He bent over and pushed the button. We then visited the same beer party."

Saul Turteltaub LAW'57, whose life and loves (exclusively Shirley, whom he married in 1960) in Hollywood, and dedication to '54 classmates and Columbia never flagged, died in Beverly Hills on April 9, 2020. His last — and

lasting — service to our Class of Destiny was as a member of our 65th Reunion Committee last year and as speaker/entertainer/stand-up comedian at our anniversary banquet in Butler Library in June last year. Saul was a regular contributor to this column, and when he limited funny by choice he was always on the mark with human comedy and commentary about segregation or injustice or issues that might help heal the world. Did I mention he was a speaker at every reunion? He was our "yes man," he never said "no" to any request from our class.

Saul was born on May 13, 1932, raised in Englewood, N.J., and never looked back as he conquered America as entertainer, director, producer, writer, and social commentator. When several years and deans ago he made a substantial gift to the Columbia College Fund and the acknowledgement letter from the dean misspelled his name, he felt slighted and insulted and asked me what he should do to correct this mistake; I suggested capital punishment or similar legal action (after all, Saul was a Law School grad). He came up with a better response, and sent the dean a letter pointing out that his gift represented \$1,000 for every letter in his surname and that he expected better attention by

the College to that end. *Mea culpa* with style!

Variety, *The Hollywood Reporter* and other entertainment media reported on the passing of our Saul; the *Reporter* reminding us in its obituary that "during his 50-year career, Turteltaub left his fingerprints on 23 sitcoms. He wrote for and produced such iconic 1960s and '70s shows as *The Carol Burnett Show*, *Sanford and Son*, and *That Girl*. He earned back-to-back Emmy nominations in 1964 and 1965 as part of the writing team for the TV series *That Was the Week That Was* and was again nominated in 1968 for *The Carol Burnett Show*."

Shirley survives him, as do their sons, Adam (Rhea) and Jon (Amy); grandsons, Ross, Max, Jack, and Daniel; granddaughter, Arabella; and sister, Helena. Saul's family says, "He was beloved and respected by his entire community for his generosity, endless philanthropy, the giving of his time, his work with civil rights, his role as a teacher to underprivileged or emerging writers, helping war veterans learning to write, and his devotion to endless Jewish charities." [Editor's note: See "[Obituaries](#)."] Howard and Saul, thank you!

Bruce King sent regards to all from Paris before the global virus lockdown and said his classmate constant contacts have been primarily with **David Bardin LAW'56** and **Joel Gerstl GSAS'55**, and that "my life seems unchanging. My wife, Adele, died in November 2018 of lung cancer, and I remain mostly housebound in Paris, where I am likely to stay."

He continues, "I have medical coverage, housing, friends, and so on here, and nothing to return to the United States for — no close family, no property. I still get books to review and I can be found in most issues of *The Journal of Postcolonial Writing*. I still get requests to use my name as editorial board member and/or consultant, but at 87 I feel like that part of my life is mostly over; surviving from day to day, reading *The New York Times* International Edition, *The New Yorker*, and the *Times's* Literary Supplement, doing my income tax return myself, and other basic activities is enough. I go to concerts, and try to follow the jazz scene and contemporary dance groups, but can no longer tell you which are the best restaurants in Paris."

Larry Gartner wrote during the plague wishing us all "well during this difficult time. We are doing OK here in rural San Diego County. Except for trips to our daughter's house a mile away, we stay on the ranch and do pretty much everything we always do: gardening, woodworking, and email, interspersed with walks on the trail. Our daughter, a surgeon, feels that we should not be out and about, so she does all of our shopping; very convenient and we avoid the long lines that are outside every store. I finished planting our large vegetable garden last week ... and the citrus crop is just coming ripe, as well. What Carol and I miss are the concerts, theater and restaurants, and visits with friends. One successful compensation is that we now do a weekly group meditation session and tea over Zoom."

Larry suspects that life after COVID-19 is going to be quite different, but doesn't yet know quite how. (Spoiler alert: meditation, Zoom booms, and vegan meals?)

Classmates, let's hope we'll actually be able to see each other after you receive this issue of *CCT*. Please send me your comments, updates, and corrections, as always. We have a lot on our agendas as we plan for the post-pandemic era, which may be a long one, but let's hope the world, all of us, have learned something to guide us through the next global dilemma. As before, write, call, email ... keep in touch, stay well, remember to use all we've learned before, at, and after Columbia so we can help cure the world. With thanks and luv, Bernd. Excelsior!

1955

Gerald Sherwin
gs481@juno.com

I have the sad duty to report that Commencement and Class Day were held virtually, with a pledge from the College to hold an in-person Class Day ceremony down the road when circumstances allow. The Class of 1955's reunion has been postponed, as well, though a complementary "virtual" reunion with a smaller program was held in early June. You might have already heard about these changes. All are due to the coronavirus sweeping the country.



Several members of the Class of 1956 met up in January for a luncheon at Faculty House. Seated, left to right: Peter Klein, Bob Touloukian and Ralph Kaslick; and standing, left to right: Ken Swimm, Bob Sirot, Harry Schwartz and Alan Broadwin.



Several Class of 1956 members attended the Dean's Scholarship Reception in February, meeting with the student recipients of the class's three scholarships. Left to right: Ralph Kaslick, Ron Kapon and Socrates Nicholas.

A key event involving the class is that our scholarship went to Anne Wood '23, who is from Oregon.

A class dinner was hosted by **Bill Epstein**. Among the attendees were **Elliot Gross, Don Laufer, Allen Hyman, Herb Cohen and Alfred Gollomp**. We also heard from **Ralph Wagner, Bob Bernot and Dick Kuhn**.

We are sad to report the passing of **Bob Kushner** in 2019 and send our condolences to his family.

Love to all! Everywhere!

1956

Robert Sirot
rrs76@columbia.edu

Our class had a busy few months. In February, **Ron Kapon, Ralph Kaslick and Socrates Nicholas** represented us at the annual Dean's Scholarship Reception, meeting with the student recipients of the three scholarships tendered by the Class of 1956.

In January, we met at Faculty House on campus for lunch with Eric Shea, senior director of alumni relations, and Jennifer Alpert, our Columbia College Fund class representative, to begin planning for our 65th reunion — happening in less than a year from when you are reading this. Plan on it. We reviewed what we did four years ago. Anyone who has a project or interest that he would like to present, please let us know. Reunion went over very well in 2016. Present at the lunch were **Peter Klein, Bob Touloukian, Ralph Kaslick, Ken Swimm, Harry Schwartz, Alan Broadwin** and me.

Also in February, 15 of us met for lunch in Florida: **David Goler, Don Roth, Stan Manne SEAS'56, Dan Link, Barry Truffelman, Lee Seidler, Mike Spett, Burt Sultan, Murray Eskenazi, Steve Easton, Werner Barth, Martin Mayer, Nicholas Coch, Larry Cohn** and me. We had a wonderful afternoon, and are beginning to think about next year. Larry offered to take on a project of arranging luncheons in Northern California (yes, he was in Florida), and we urge others in different areas to do the same.

Bob Green writes from Greensboro, N.C., that he looks forward to next year.

Len Wolfe and his wife, Ruth, have moved from New Haven, Conn., to the Harrisburg, Pa., area. He is looking forward to our 65th reunion.

Bob Touloukian is emeritus at Yale after retiring from the clinical academic practice of pediatric

surgery, maintaining an office and participating in conferences.

I read about **Matthew Stander's** death in *The New York Times*. Matt went to UVA Law School. He was a prize-winning breeder of Bloodhounds, Skye Terriers and Airedale Terriers, and the co-founder of the weekly magazine *Dog News*. Matt passed away while on vacation in Nairobi, Kenya.

Keep the notes coming. And, as a suggestion, if you want to start up regional luncheon meetings, let me know and I will connect you with the Alumni Office for resources on how to do so — that is, after this pandemic has passed.

1957

Herman Levy
hdlleditor@aol.com

From **Mac Gimse**: "On February 7, the St. Olaf Choir sang a concert in Carnegie Hall that featured one of my poetry pieces, *On Horizon's Brim*, set to music by composer Ralph M. Johnson. He and I were there for the premiere.

"The poetry was written for a sculpture, *Striving for Peace on Horizon's Brim*, completed last fall at a steel manufacturing plant, TMCO, in Lincoln, Neb.: 'My art is a window on my soul. My poetry is a door through which I invite others to join me as witnesses to triumph and tragedy in our search for goodness in humankind. When a composer sets my poetry to music, my heart sings



The Florida contingent of the Class of 1956 enjoyed lunch together in February. Seated, left to right: David Goler, Don Roth, Stan Manne SEAS'56, Bob Sirot and Dan Link; and standing, left to right: Barry Truffelman, Lee Seidler, Mike Spett, Burt Sultan, Murray Eskenazi, Steve Easton, Werner Barth, Larry Cohn, Martin Mayer and Nicholas Coch.

because it reaches a realm I cannot achieve on my own.”

From **Sam Rosenberg**: “My verse translation of the 13th-century narrative *Robert the Devil* appeared in 2018, followed in the same year by Armand Lunel’s history of the Jews of Provence. Then came my translation of the poetry of Paul Verlaine in 2019.

“I am now awaiting word on the acceptability of my translation of the anonymous *Tales of a Minstrel of Reims* and, from a much later century, the sonnets of Charles Baudelaire. Meanwhile, I am looking at the proofs of the lyric texts set by medieval composer Robert de Reims; the book should appear in September. Like everything else I’ve done, these publications all come from university presses. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be able to fill my remaining years with such constructive activity.”

I’m sad to report that **David Kinne** died on March 14, 2020, at 83. **Joe Diamond** says, “David was an enthusiastic member of a Columbia ‘rump reunion’ NYC lunch group — and a loyal alumnus. A modest man of large accomplishments, he will be missed.”

From **Jim McGroarty ’64**: “David was a good friend. He knew my brother, **John McGroarty ’58**, at Columbia and for many years David and his wife, **Kathleen**, shared their interest in theater and arts with me and my wife, **Jane BC’65**.

“At the College he captained the wrestling team during his senior year and was awarded the **Gus Peterson Trophy**. He was also active

in Naval ROTC and was a member of **Beta Theta Pi**.

“After graduation, David served in the Navy for three years and then attended SUNY Downstate College of Medicine, graduating summa cum laude. After years of surgical training, including residency and fellowship, he served on the surgical staffs of three of the most prestigious hospitals in New York City. He became chief of the breast service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and later Columbia University Medical Center/New-York-Presbyterian Hospital and was also a professor of surgery at Weill Cornell Medical Center.

“Among the numerous awards in his career, several were for being an outstanding teacher and mentor of surgeons. When he retired from medicine, David became a docent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and continued to teach museum visitors about musical instruments, ancient and Mideast art, and great sculptures. In 2007 he gave tours at the Met to the incoming Class of 2011 as part of the 50th reunion of the Class of ’57.

“He is survived by **Kathleen**, his wife of 35 years; children, **James**, **Lisa** and **Jonathan**; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions to his beloved wrestling team may be made by check, mailed to Columbia Athletics Development, c/o Emily Maury, Development Coordinator, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th Street, MC 4524, New York, NY 10025, or given [online](#).”

Ed Weinstein: “I picked up *The New York Times* this morning [March 17] and was saddened to read the obituary of **David Kinne**. [Although] we did not know each other in our undergraduate years, we connected at regular class luncheons, which we attended for several decades. Then, together with **Carlos Muñoz** and **Mark Stanton**, we played golf from time to time at the courses to which each of us belonged. Our golf was not memorable, but the time spent together was always interesting. I suspect that was because of our Columbia heritage and memories, our enjoyment of the game and of each other’s company. David was a distinguished oncologist and surgeon, **Carlos** and **Mark** were a banker and an attorney, respectively, and I a CPA. Thus, we never discussed professional matters.

Nevertheless, conversation was never lacking, ranging from politics and history to music, art and theater. Our Columbia education was the foundation of our relationship and the substance from which we built it.

“David was a compassionate, kind and thoughtful man. The world is a better place as a result of his presence.”

Yours truly joins **Joe**, **Jim** and **Ed** in expressing fond memories of David. Over some years he, **Kathleen** and I would meet for lunch when I was in NYC. Although I remember him in his wrestling uniform working out in University Hall when I was jogging, I did not know him until our 50th reunion, when I got to talk to him and **Kathleen**. At our lunches we had many pleasant talks on various subjects.

1958

Peter Cohn
petercohn1939@gmail.com

As I write this column in the closing days of March, New York City has been declared the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States. I hope that by the time you read these Class Notes that the situation has improved significantly.

Our mailbag this month is short on class news (coronavirus effect?), but I received an email from **George Jochowitz** alerting me to the death of **Larry Nachman GSAS’64**, who had been living in Australia. I sent condolences to his family but I have not received any additional information.

I received further reminiscences about **Harlan Lane** from **Stan Schachne**. In addition to what was in the Spring 2020 issue, Stan noted that he had worked on the *Stuyvesant H.S. newspaper* with **Harlan** before they came to Columbia, plus “we had a floating poker game with penny stakes” that also included **Dave Londoner** (who passed away several years ago). Stan lives in the Washington, D.C., area and has only occasional contact with classmates.

Update on Columbia athletics: The men’s basketball team wound up in the Ivy League cellar — a very disappointing development, to say the least. But hooray for the **Lady Lions** (or **Lionesses**!) In the fall they won the Ivy League cross-country title and in the winter the

Ivy League fencing title. In addition, the women’s basketball team earned a spot in the Ivy League playoffs for the first time. Unfortunately, the playoffs were called off because of the coronavirus pandemic, as were all NCAA playoffs. This also meant that the men and women on the combined Columbia fencing team could not defend their 2019 national championship. Promising seasons for tennis, baseball and softball were canceled, as well.

Keep the news coming, and remember that the class lunch is usually held on the second Tuesday of every month in the Grill of the Princeton Club, 15 W. 43rd St (\$31 per person). I hope it will return this summer. Contact **Tom Ettinger** if you plan to attend, even up to the day before (tpc3@columbia.edu).

1959

Norman Gelfand
nmgc59@gmail.com

As I write this, due to the novel coronavirus, I am (and I suspect many of you are, as well) under a stay-at-home order. I hope that when you receive this the pandemic is over, our lives have resumed some semblance of life before the pandemic and the pandemic does not resume.

I must begin with some bad news. **Dave Clark** died on August 19, 2019, from complications attending his heart condition and pulmonary involvement. Dave came to Columbia from Wyoming, where he was an outstanding wrestler. He was a leading member of our wrestling team. I, among many others, knew Dave as a friend and a person of great integrity. He will be missed.

On to more pleasant news. **Bob Ferguson** reports that he is still breathing.

Josh Fierer reports from California: “Over the winter break, the Columbia lightweight crew flew to train at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, which is between San Diego (where we live) and Mexico. When I saw that announcement, I asked if I could visit with my son, who rowed when he was an undergraduate at UC Davis. We spent a beautiful afternoon in the launch out on the water with the coach. For my fellow oarsmen,



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[college.columbia.edu/
alumni/connect](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect).

you cannot imagine how much has changed in rowing. It was unimaginable when we were at Columbia that the College would pay for such an opportunity. That is probably why most of the athletes had rowed in high school but still chose Columbia rather than another Ivy.

“Lest you think my life is cushy, I still am chief of infectious diseases at the San Diego VA hospital in this time of coronavirus. This is my second pandemic; I remember the early days of the AIDS epidemic, when

caliber entertainment, lectures and the port tours that are provided. Our current cruise, Buenos Aires to Lima, was supposed to end today.

“As I write this, we are stranded in the Pacific as we have sailed north and south and been denied port entries into Lima (where we were supposed to disembark) and turned back from Chile after being refused entry after heading there for the past two days.

“Change in plans: Now we are heading north again, will go through the Panama Canal and

coronavirus. Even cardiac rehab is closed here. So, I try to exercise each day by walking a mile uptown (and it is hilly in Mount Healthy, Ohio). I saw Glenn Schaaf ’61, SEAS’62 at a funeral about two weeks ago, and he seems to be doing well. This Thursday, I renewed my season football tickets in Ann Arbor. I hope there will be a season this fall.”

Murray Epstein PS’63 writes, “In my quasi-retirement, I continue to co-chair two major worldwide clinical trials — the FIDELIO-DKD and FIGARO-DKD clinical studies, which are designed to test the hypothesis that a new pharmacological strategy will reduce the rate of progression of kidney disease and cardiovascular disease. I co-chair the global data safety monitoring committee. In terms of background, worldwide, more than 2.5 million people receive renal replacement therapy (dialysis or transplantation), and this number is projected to grow and be more than double that in 2030.

“While the primary focus is on renal outcomes, potential benefits on cardiovascular events will be assessed as well. The hypothesis being tested is whether finerenone — a novel, newly developed mineralocorticoid-receptor antagonist (MRA) — will succeed in attenuating/abrogating the progression of kidney failure in type-2 diabetes (T2D) patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) at high risk of progression of their renal disease and CV.

“FIDELIO-DKD is currently running in 47 countries with an expected duration of approximately five and a half years. The study has been ongoing since September 2015 and the results are expected in the latter part of 2020.

“FIGARO-DKD, a companion study, is an extremely large international, multicenter, randomized, event-driven study formally designed to assess whether Finerenone reduces cardiorenal morbidity and mortality in T2D patients with CKD when used in addition to standard care. This clinical trial is currently running in 47 countries with an expected duration of approximately six years.

“My involvement in these companion global studies entails chairing the DMC (data safety monitoring committee), which is responsible for continual surveillance of the enrolled patients to

ensure that adverse events are detected early and preemptively, and it is our charge to jointly decide when the studies should be stopped for either good outcomes (efficacy or benefit) or for bad outcomes (futility or adverse events). My participation entails my spending well over 25 percent of my time in overseeing the conduct of these studies and extensive transatlantic travel. Lots of work, but quite fulfilling, and I hope the studies will succeed in achieving a good outcome with clinical benefit for diabetic patients with heart and/or kidney disease.

“My other professional endeavor is attempting to ‘spread the gospel’ regarding patients with heart failure and concomitant CKD. At present the guidelines of the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology and the European guidelines inform that we should not treat patients with heart failure whose kidney function is advanced (stage four chronic kidney disease, or worse). With the recent availability and approval by the FDA of novel potassium binders (patiromer and, more recently, sodium zirconium cyclosilicate (SZC)), we now have the capability to provide sustained therapy to patients with heart failure as well as to patients with advanced kidney failure, with life-saving drugs such as MRAs (called aldosterone blockers in the old terminology).

“I have written several articles and lectured at major cardiology and renal meetings providing a rationale for not ‘abandoning’ these patients but demonstrating that they too can benefit with consequent increased life span and an improved quality of life. In short, my mission is to disrupt the current treatment paradigm. As we are wont to say, the ‘proof of the pudding is in the eating’ — to succeed in launching a large clinical trial that will validate this thesis. I continue to ‘preach,’ but I believe, and I am hopeful, that such a clinical trial will be launched soon.

“Finally, I was extremely gratified to learn that two of my former students/mentees have become deans of major medical schools. Robert Sackstein, who started a research project in my laboratory at the precocious age of 13 and ultimately progressed to become professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and the world leader in the

Core Haiku



Nasty, brutish, short,
Hobbes, in a nutshell captures
Bildad the shuhite

— Paul B. Kantor ’59

there was widespread fear before we even knew the cause or how it spread. We will get through this, but I fear the worst. Stay well and away from crowds.”

J. Peter Rosenfeld GSAS’61 reports: “I sold out and accepted a position on a corporate board (at 80).”

The company is Brainwave Science.

From **Steve Trachtenberg**: “I recently joined the board of Columbia University Press and traveled to Manhattan for my first meeting on my own, which was a post-cardio adventure. I am back at work. Today’s work was a book review for *The Times* (London). I’m washing my hands like Lady Macbeth and gargling with Clorox.”

Over the New Year my wife, Yona, and I spent a very pleasant 10 days in Hawaii with my son, Joseph Gelfand ’01, his wife and his 4-year-old daughter. We did the usual things: hiking in Volcanoes National Park, whale watching and so forth on the Big Island, and visiting Sea Life Park and the blow hole on Hilo. We were also fortunate to be able to visit the *USS Arizona* Memorial at Pearl Harbor. The National Park at Pearl Harbor has an excellent museum telling the story of the attack.

Herb Dean writes: “March 15, COVID-19. Travails: My wife and I have enjoyed the advantages of cruises for the past decade, including avoiding packing and unpacking, the gourmet dining facilities, Broadway-

will, I hope, reach Miami to return home to Worcester.

“Meanwhile, there is plenty of food, we continue to feel well despite some passengers with ‘colds,’ there is good entertainment, we are enjoying the company of nice people and, most importantly, there is plenty of toilet paper. Fortunately, they had loaded up and refueled at our last port in Chile before heading out to Peru, as they were planning to return from Lima to Buenos Aires.

“So far, other than getting a little bored about being on the sea without a landing/tour, we have been provided activities including lectures, movies, trivia contests and entertainment, and there has been no decline in our gourmet-style food, with four luxury restaurants with menus ostensibly under Jacques Pépin’s supervision.

“We cross the equator at midnight and should reach the Panama Canal in two days; then we wait in line for a berth through. They have not secured a port of entry thus far into the United States. I do plan to attend our next reunion with the usual provisos.”

A classmate, but a man without a country.

Kenneth Scheffel reports: “In February I spent eight days in Texas (Austin, San Antonio and the Texas hill country) with grad school friends from Duke. Now, I’m pretty much homebound thanks to the

nascent field of translational glyco-biology, was recently appointed dean of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at Florida International University. The current dean of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine of Tel Aviv University (Israel's largest medical research and training complex) is a former research fellow whom I helped mentor over the years."

1960

Robert A. Machleder
rmachleder@aol.com

The Spring 2020 CCT arrived on March 20. I immediately turned to our Class Notes, as I always do, to review my previous submission, which had been written in January. I read the opening sentences: "A healthy and happy 2020 to all. This is an auspicious new year." I shook my head as it filled with adjectives — flighty, capricious, improvident, thoughtless, presumptuous — and berated myself in self-deprecating good humor with every disparaging descriptive that I could think of that began with "You bloody ...". Alas, I had no crystal ball, nor do I have one now, and I have little idea what the world will be like when we all read this issue. In the passage of two and a half months, from January to March, the world had undergone an aberrant transformation and had become absolutely dystopian.

The Spring issue's Class Notes continued with comments regarding our 60th reunion, which was originally scheduled for June. Action by our Reunion Committee was ongoing at the time. As I write these notes, that traditional reunion has, of course, been canceled, as has every other gathering on Morningside Heights and on every other campus throughout the country. Members of our Reunion Committee received in March an email from Eric Shea, senior director of alumni relations, confirming the cancellation and expressing his deep regrets.

Athletics activities, concerts, the opera season, all canceled. We are constrained to practice social distancing. What has received remarkably little attention or commentary is how the facts of isolation, anxiety, panic and the disintegration of social norms will have pervasive and enduring adverse mental health

consequences. We are social animals. Renowned sociologist Émile Durkheim explored the concepts and importance of collective consciousness and "collective effervescence." Will the norms of social society be restored? And if so, how soon, and at what price?

And then, as I began to write this column, word arrived that the coronavirus had claimed the life of one of our most creative and acclaimed classmates. **Terrence McNally** died on March 24, 2020. A chronicle of his prodigious and brilliant work and the legacy that he left, having been reported by every major news outlet, are undoubtedly known to you all. My reflections are on the wonderful performances that I saw and enjoyed: *Kiss of the Spider Woman*; *Master Class*; *The Lisbon Traviata*; *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*; and others. And I have fond recollections of Terrence's frequent participation as a panelist on the Opera Quiz that was a regular feature during intermission of WQXR's live broadcasts of the Saturday matinee performances of the Metropolitan Opera. Our deepest condolences to Terrence's husband, Tom Kirdahy. [Editor's note: See "[Obituaries](#)."]

In another class loss, actor **Brian Dennehy** passed away on April 15, 2020. During his long career, Brian won two Tony Awards, an Olivier Award and a Golden Globe, and received six Emmy Award nominations. Our condolences to Brian's family. [Editor's note: See "[Obituaries](#)."]

But there were bright spots in the pathos. Our First Thursday of the Month Class Luncheons have been suspended until eating establishments reopen. Fortunately, we were delighted to welcome **Steve Lerner** at the lunch table at a gathering before the crisis was upon us.

Larry Rubinstein writes, "Robin and I have been happily living in Maine since I retired in 2003. What prompted me to write was reading about the passing of **Jerry Schmelzer**, with whom I was quite friendly on campus and then for a number of years following, although in the last couple of decades our contact waned. As I remember, Jerry was heavily interested in WKCR when on campus and went by the radio name of Jerry Summers. He wanted a less 'ethnic' name on the radio. We used to discuss this at great length

because we were both involved in Jewish affairs in our home communities. Mine was the Bronx and the Grand Concourse. His was Shaker Heights, Ohio. His family was very involved in Jewish affairs and he was quite proud of it.

"My connections to Columbia are not what they used to be. On occasion I would go to New York for the opera, and would always meet **Bob Berne** for breakfast. I also have become friends with Derek Wittner '65, who moved to Maine about five years ago when he retired with his wife, Kathryn. She had been an associate dean at the College dealing with student affairs. He had been the dean of alumni affairs and development for many years, and Bob and I worked with him on the Columbia College Fund.

"I have been involved in an online program available to College alumni — a re-creation of the Core Curriculum — called [Core Conversations](#), which is a virtual book club. So far, we have read *Democracy in America* by de Toqueville, a number of plays by Shakespeare, *The Iliad*, *The Republic*, some readings by James Baldwin, and the latest, *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf. Some I read while taking the Core the first time around. Some I read after College, and some I am reading for the first time. It is exciting to be part of the Columbia learning experience again, and I enjoy reading the teachers' (most of whom are younger than my children) comments and suggestions, as well as the other participants in the class. I can tell by most of the comments that I am clearly one of the older participants."

As I contemplated the cancellation of all my son's athletics competitions, I found it hard to grasp how devastating that would have been to me when I rowed lightweight crew. Crew was an activity that encompassed the entire academic year. Back in our day all the races were in the spring. Imagine having put heart and soul into half a year of intense workouts only to have the entire competitive season erased. One of the treasured trophies in lightweight crew regattas is the Dodge Cup, established by Columbia in 1964.

Art Delmhorst BUS'64 was involved in lightweight crew at the time. Here is Art's recollection how the trophy came to be, and an update: "During my two years at

the Business School, I coached the varsity lightweight crew. In my first year we beat Princeton, Yale, Penn, Rutgers and Georgetown. At the time, the lightweights had only one cup regatta, the Geiger Cup (Cornell, MIT and Columbia). The crew I was coaching my second year wanted to establish another cup and decided to raise money for a trophy for the Yale/Penn/Columbia regatta. We had won the race my first year of coaching and, in fact, had won it my senior year as an oarsman. The 1964 crew raised \$1,400 which, at that time, was the equivalent of a full year's tuition! Working with the athletics departments of the three colleges, it was decided to name the trophy after longtime Columbia trustee Marcellus Hartley Dodge CC 1903 (Dodge died in 1963). He was a coxswain while attending the College. Fortunately, we won its first race.

"The base eventually became separated from the cup, and was lost. Yale is believed to be the culprit. In spring 2019 it was decided to raise money for a new base and those who helped raise funds for the initial cup were invited to donate. The amount necessary was raised immediately.

"I was invited to attend the rededication ceremony. Also attending were Eric Danneman '67, BUS'72, who led the fundraising effort, and Dr. Jesse Hellman '64, who was the stroke of the crew to first win the cup."

1961

Michael Hausig
mhausig@yahoo.com

Hon. **José A. Cabranes** received the annual Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA). Named for the late public servant, publisher, entrepreneur and philanthropist Phillip Merrill, this honor is bestowed on an individual who has "made an extraordinary contribution to the advancement of liberal arts education, core curricula, and the teaching of Western civilization and American history."

With decades of experience as a federal judge and time spent as a trustee of Yale, Columbia and Colgate, José comprehends that the



Dr. Oscar Garfein '61 with his daughter, Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91, and her children, Alex '20 and Chloe ('23 Harvard).

decay of academic freedom and freedom of expression are not limited to the American college campus, but have affected our entire society. In a *Washington Post* article on January 10, 2017, he asserted, "Our universities today must pay more than lip service to free expression. They must develop and maintain procedures that protect professors' ability to teach and learn without fear of retaliation. While political alignments may have flipped, the choice remains the same: academic freedom or civilizational decline."

As the first Puerto Rican appointed to the federal bench in the continental United States, José has made it his life's mission to protect and uphold the most important liberties to a free society. Michael B. Poliakoff, president of ACTA, said, "Judge Cabranes has been a stalwart defender of campus freedom of speech and an eloquent advocate for rigorous study of the liberal arts. He exemplifies the values of heart and mind that the Merrill Award honors and celebrates."

Allen Kaplan received a lectureship in his name, established by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. In addition, *Allergy*, the journal of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, will publish an article summarizing Allen's 50-year research career as part of a series, "Legends in Allergy and Immunology." The major

contributions leading to the recognition he has received include discovery of a treatment for a skin disorder — chronic spontaneous urticaria — and working out a plasma enzyme cascade that is the cause of swelling disorders that are potentially fatal, which led to the development of therapies now available that interrupt steps in the pathway that he has discovered.

Positions Allen held include head of the Allergic Diseases Section at the NIH, chair of the Department of Medicine and director of the Department of Allergy, Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology at Stony Brook University, and professor at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Eugene Milone wrote that he is slowly recovering from cataract surgery in one eye, and anticipates a corneal transplant in the other this summer, circumstances permitting. He considers this not to be a great situation for an astronomer, but considering everything else that could go wrong with any of us at this stage in life, not too bad.

Barry McCallion and his wife, Joanne, recently returned from a week of fishing and horseback riding in Costa Rica. Barry caught a 30-kilo roosterfish, which was successfully released moments later. Provided the planet holds together, Barry and Joanne will visit friends in Mexico in July and plan to be in Croatia in the fall. Priscilla Juvelis, Barry's book

dealer, included three of his unique books in her March catalog.

Bob Salman LAW'64 taught a two-hour course, "Trump Impeachment – What Happened And Why," in April. This is part of the Lifelong Learning program at Brookdale Community College. As part of his 80th birthday celebration, Bob went to spring training for the New York Yankees and spoke to GM Brian Cashman. From there, he and his wife, Reva, went to their daughter Elyse's new vacation home in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Bob met **Tony Adler** for lunch while in Florida.

In May, Bob's granddaughter Taylor Spiewak graduated from the University of Maryland.

Bob remains active politically. As a member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, he supported Gov. Phil Murphy's successful effort to re-elect John Currie as chair.

Dr. **Oscar Garfein** PS'65, BUS'97 practices cardiology in Manhattan. He says he enjoys caring for people. Because he is not associated with, or paid by, any healthcare system, he can spend as much time as he chooses talking to and listening to people. From his perspective, that is a huge part of medicine.

After many years of academic affiliation with Columbia, Oscar's academic title of associate clinical professor of medicine at P&S has passed him by and he is currently an associate clinical professor of medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. His health is still good, he says, in large measure as the result of the marvelous advances in orthopedic surgery.

Oscar was the speaker at his Business School graduation. It was the best teaching he ever experienced in his life, he says.

Oscar has many Columbians in his extended family. His daughter, **Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91, PS'00, HN'16**, is an ob/gyn practicing in Englewood, N.J., and the chief medical correspondent for *ABC News*. She is also the author of six books. Her oldest child, Alex '20, majored in math and computer science. He will be a software development engineer with Amazon this summer. Her daughter, Chloe, finished her freshman year at Harvard, majoring in history and playing for its women's ice hockey team. Unfortunately, Columbia doesn't have a women's hockey team.

Oscar's son, Evan PS'99, did his undergraduate work at Princeton, where he played on the national champion lacrosse team. After training for eight years in the Harvard system and one year as a fellow in microvascular surgery at NYU, he is chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery at Montefiore Medical Center in New York. Evan and his wife, Tanya Simon '92, have two children. Tanya is executive editor of *60 Minutes*.

Oscar's former wife is Dorothy TC'67.

Oscar is in touch with **Arnie Intrater**, Harvey Rosen '62, **Avrum Bluming** and **Jim Matthews**, as well as members of the CC'61 luncheon group that meets monthly. Every time he sees or walks through the Morningside campus, he says he feels an enormous thrill and sense of gratitude, and that his time there was extraordinary. He wishes us all the best of health, and happiness.

Dr. **Carl Saviano** writes that his biggest concern is the real possibility of nuclear war and its connection with climate change. He is working with Physicians for Social Responsibility, trying to inform people about the danger and get them involved with [Back from the Brink](#).

Tony Adler and 12 other permanent South Florida residents or snowbirds met for lunch in February at TooJay's Deli, Bakery and Restaurant in Lake Worth Beach, Fla. In attendance, in addition to Tony, were **Mich Araten**, **Hal Berliner**, **Allen Breslow**, **Phil Cottone**, **George Gehrman**, **Pete Giovine**, **Arnie Goldberg**, **Arnie Intrater**, **Dan Johnson** (who drove from Naples), **Steve Leone**, **John Lipani** and **Fred Teger** (who drove from Miami). They planned to do it again in March but COVID-19 got in the way.

Several years ago, **Jim Ammeen's** second career began with his involvement and turnaround of whiskey manufacturer Clyde May's, now a brand within the corporate parent Conecuh Brands, A Premium Spirits Company. In February, Clyde May's whiskey was named the Official Whiskey of Talladega Superspeedway. Jim has added tequila and Irish whiskey to the company's product offerings. In September 2018, The Clyde May's brand was the fastest growing brand in the U.S. Nielsen top 100 American Whiskey brands.

Kudos to Jim.

Dick Hall and his wife, Heleny, spent nine months in Williamstown, Mass. (site of Williams College), where Heleny grew up, and had access to a family house. Columbia College is very different than Williams, although Dick and Heleny audited very good classes, they said. He thinks the difference is referred to as “New York City.”

Sadly, two classmates and the spouse of a classmate passed away recently.

Charles Wuorinen GSAS’63, a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and formidable advocate for modernist music, high culture and the composer’s worth, died on March 11, 2020, in Manhattan. He was 81. The cause was complications of a fall sustained in September.

Charles received a surge of attention in 2004, when the New York City Opera premiered his opera *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, based on a novel by Salman Rushdie. That was followed by a commission to compose an opera based on Annie Proulx’s short story *Brokeback Mountain*, which was also the basis of the 2005 movie of the same name.

Charles, who won the Pulitzer in music in 1970 at 31, composed works for major orchestras including the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony. He is survived by his husband, Howard Stokar, with whom he lived for decades in a brownstone on the Upper West Side. [Editor’s note: See “[Obituaries](#).”]

The Rev. Canon **Gregory Michael Howe** passed away on January 12, 2019, in Provincetown,

Mass. Greg moved to Provincetown with his wife, Bernice (“Bunny”), upon his retirement after serving as rector of historic Christ Church in Dover, Del., for 34 years.

During his tenure in the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware, Greg served on the Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Council, and as chair of the Standing Committee. At the national level, he served on the Episcopal Church’s Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, where he helped develop, co-author and edit liturgical resources for use in worship. Recognized for his contributions, the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church appointed Greg as Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer, a position he held until 2000.

Phillip Smith GSAPP’69’s spouse, Douglas Thompson GSAPP’70, died on November 8, 2019, at 76, after a yearlong illness. He and Phillip began working together in 1975. Their firm, Smith and Thompson Architects, had completed more than 100 projects. A memorial for Doug was held on December 5, 2019, at the General Theological Seminary Chapel of the Good Shepherd in New York, followed by a reception at the architects’ studio in Chelsea.

1962

John Freidin
jf@bicyclevt.com

Every classmate who emailed in March sent best wishes to the class. **Jim Spingarn** said it especially nicely: “I wish all a quick and favorable outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic — one of the few things Columbia didn’t prepare us for. Oh, for Jim Shenton ’49’s wit and insights!”

Jim and his wife, Jane, live at Admirals Cove in Jupiter, Fla., in the winter and at Long Island’s Glen Head in the summer. Jim retired from securities brokerage five years ago. He enjoys golf, bridge, swimming and lectures, often with Steve Solomon ’64, Ron Gittess PS’59, DM’63 and Mike Etra ’48. Jim writes, “With the world turned upside down it looks like travel will be a bit remote now. But there are more important things.”

For years **David Birnbaum** lived in Hong Kong. Now he and his

wife live in Chiang Mai, Thailand. He writes, “We have three grown children: son Joshua, a computer security specialist, lives in New York; son Sam, a game theory specialist, lives in Amsterdam; and daughter Emma, who is a doctoral student at University College London. I am still in the garment trade.”

John Garman BUS’67 makes a gentle plea: “Unfortunately, of our 600 classmates, only a few send news. I treasure my Columbia years as opportunities for new learning, new experiences and new people! Playing ’62 politics; standing at the Met for operas; riding the Staten Island Ferry (which once almost ran over my father and me when our outboard motor conked out in front of the ferry pier); being exposed to Indian, Chinese and Japanese studies; enjoying snails at the Cafe Brittany; making and then getting paddled with my Beta Theta Pi paddle; skipping meals at John Jay to eat lunch at ‘the Japs,’ where call-in orders were so colorful (tuna on toast was ‘One Radio Down’); smoking a pipe in Dwight Miner CC 1926’s seminar; giving blood for the first time in the Blue Key drive; and listening to Art Garfunkel ’65 hit high notes as, wrapped in towel, he walked down the hall to the Hartley showers!

“But that was then. What interests me now is what our classmates are doing. Or what were some of the accomplishments that gave them the most satisfaction — not to brag, but to share.”

Toby Robison discloses: “My wife, Elaine Golden Robison BC’63, is bored in isolation and is reading digital books. But my time is full trying to write a too-complicated work of fantasy fiction and stocking up on food for Passover. That, finding new friends on the kinder social network Mastodon and playing board games online, fill my days.

“I fear COVID-19 is merely the first of a series of shocks lying ahead. How will the death of most insects affect us? When will the next floods and tornadoes arrive? What will next year’s flu be like? Will the small businesses we rely on survive? And what will the throngs of coastal dwellers who abandon their underwater homes and turn up on our doorsteps find? Interesting times.”

Retired Reform rabbi **Don Splansky** writes from Framingham,

Mass.: “The 100th anniversary of the Core Curriculum reminds me of my early years at Columbia, when I was drunk on great books. I found a wonderful volume by a current Lit Hum professor, Edward Mendelson. His book, *The Things that Matter, What Seven Classic Novels Have to Say about the Stages of Life*, analyzes seven British novels by five women: Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, Emily Brontë’s *Wuthering Heights*, Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre*, George Eliot’s *Middlemarch*, and Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse* and *Between the Acts*. I was delighted. Mendelson’s book is scholarly, yet readable. It offers new insights into human nature, moral living and connections between literature and life. (I have tried during my career to do that with Biblical and rabbinic literature.) Because we can’t take Lit Hum now, Mendelson may be the next best thing!”

Chris Haakon reports: “Our family and neighbors are well. We celebrated Friday night happy hour on our street with everyone six feet apart. Fortunately, my three children and seven grandkids live in the neighborhood, a Virginia boating community 20 miles from Washington, D.C. Twenty-four children of parents from the neighborhood have bought homes here. I’ve been doing some angel investing and sitting on four boards of directors and three advisory boards. I retired from Boeing, which bought my company in 2000.”

Paul Gitman (retired physician/administrator) lives on Long Island. His three children and all his grandchildren are within 30 minutes. “So,” he says, “life is good. I travel as much as possible and enjoy photography (gitman.shutterfly.com). For my 80th birthday we’ll go by ship from the tip of South America to New Zealand. I hope COVID-19 will be gone by then.”

Anthony Valerio sends hopes that all are “healthy and even enjoying this confinement and solitude. It’s a double isolation for me, first as a lifelong artist, now this one. With my wife. Interesting, difficult and added nervousness.”

Peter Yatrakis and his wife, Kathryn, “are staying home (in Brooklyn) except for long walks. We’re lucky to be near beautiful Brooklyn Bridge Park, and several times on our walks have elbow-bumped friends and neighbors.



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.

Most difficult is not seeing our children and grandchildren. On two sunny days, we sat on our stoop with neighbors gathered no closer than six feet except when I brought out the wine. Doesn't wine kill this bug?"

Crawford Kilian reports: "COVID-19 has upended our lives here as everywhere. At least we have front and back yards to work in, and a big wooded park to walk our dog. I'm [blogging](#) about the pandemic."

Dennis Wilder GSAS'63 is producing his second feature film — a screenplay he wrote titled *Hell Hath No Fury*. His first feature, *Beauty in the Broken*, is on YouTube. Making it, he says, "was one of the best experiences of my life. I wish I'd become a writer and executive producer of independent films years ago."

For 40 years Dennis has enjoyed a successful career as CEO of California Care Center, which he still operates. It provides residential care and treatment for persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities and homelessness. Dennis says, "I am soon to celebrate 54 years of marriage to my wonderful wife, Joan, sister of **Mel Werbach**. Our marriage has grown better every year."

When there's time, Dennis plays tennis and the clarinet (especially klezmer music), and enjoys boating on his yacht, *Jewel of Denial*.

From **Phil Lebovitz**: "Sometimes an opportunity creates a warm memory to help us through bleak times. **David Tucker** PS'66 learned that I would be in New York for a meeting on February 10 of the American Board of Psychoanalysis, where I am treasurer. David immediately contacted several classmates to suggest we dine together. On February 9, David, **Paul Alter**, **Ed Pressman**, **Harvey Chertoff**, **Stuart Rosenbluth** and I met at BLT Prime. **Stan Waldbaum** had planned to be there but had to cancel.

"Renewing ties with them was warm and inspiring. Harvey and I realized we'd both rowed lightweight crew as freshmen and subsequently become psychoanalysts. David and I have had sporadic contact over the years and enjoy medical and intellectual conversations. Ed and I were roomies sophomore and junior year. Paul is warm and energetic as ever. Stuart, regrettably, was at the far end of the table so we'll catch up next time. BLT Prime starts every meal with its signature popovers, a

favorite of mine whenever my wife, Donna BC'64, makes them. I hope we'll gather again at fall reunion."

Roman Kernitsky continues practicing ophthalmology, although lately he's spent most of his time at home due to the coronavirus pandemic. He has corresponded regularly with **Joel Goldman**, **Irving Weissman** and **Frank Grady** (now deceased), and writes: "It is wonderful to have good friends (to paraphrase St. Augustine, friendship is a gift from God in a tough world). I am grateful to the Core Curriculum for introducing me to the classics in literature and music. They sustain me during my leisure. My son Andrew '03, a State Department diplomat, is stationed in Sarajevo, Bosnia. Surprisingly, the biggest shortage there now is flour, which was a scarcity during the Serbian-Bosnian conflict."

Tony Fisher GSAS'68 retired several years ago and is now emeritus professor of agricultural and resource economics at UC Berkeley. He no longer teaches, but is still engaged in research and writing. His latest book, *Lecture Notes on Environmental and Resource Economics*, will be published this year.

Joan and **Richard Toder** planned to visit Spain and Morocco in March, but canceled and thus were not marooned in the Sahara! They winter in Naples, Fla., and, in Richard's words, "Our May plans to return to the epicenter in New York are, needless to say, fluid."

Meanwhile their daughter, Elizabeth, and her two children are in Madagascar, where she works for the U.S. Treasury. So far, Richard says, "Few people on that isolated island have contracted the coronavirus. Nevertheless, Elizabeth, a graduate of Middlebury College, recently purchased a home in Cornwall, Vt., where she hopes eventually to reside."

Pete Stevenson shares, "I'm approaching 80, which is astonishing as I review the replacement parts, surgeries and injuries I've inflicted upon myself: hernia surgery, carpal tunnel of both hands, broken ribs, broken leg, damaged shoulder, ankle replacement, knee replacement, hip replacement, stents and a triple bypass. Despite these obstacles, I served in the Marine Corps for 20 years (active and reserve) and retired as a major.

"In parallel, I worked in the textile industry for 45 years in big and

small firms, two of which I owned. In another parallel, I was an officer of the International Geosynthetics Society for 27 years, until 2010. Now things are less demanding. I work part-time as a marine surveyor and happily get 40–50 boat rides annually, exercise at the YMCA, am a fourth-degree Knight of Columbus in an active council and am an officer in a local chapter of the United States Power Squadrons. COVID-19 permitting, my wife of 34 years and I plan to travel to Alaska aboard an 88-passenger boat in May and then explore the Canal du Midi in France captaining a 45-ft. vessel with two other couples in September."

Not bad for a Marine!

Gerald Sorin GSAS'69 is in his 32nd year as the director of the Louis and Mildred Resnick Institute for the Study of Modern Jewish Life at SUNY New Paltz. In May 2019 he delivered two illustrated lectures as the third annual speaker for the Rabbi Hillel Cohn Endowed Lecture Series at California State University, San Bernardino, one at the CSU:SB Palm Desert Campus, and another to an overflow crowd at Riverside Art Museum. A 1970s student of Gerry's, now president of CSU:SB, invited him to give these lectures.

"By the time you read this," Gerry writes, "I hope the COVID-19 crisis is over, and things are bouncing back. Whatever happens, we will never be the same. In the meantime, I think about the world's most vulnerable, who always suffer most in a crisis. I have relearned the importance of reaching out to relatives, friends and strangers. Is it possible that out of this horror, a silver lining will be that we are in this together and must take care of each other? Let's work at restoring the social contract."

From New York City, **Lester Hoffman** reports: "I am part of a nationwide team of consultants addressing the impacts of inclusion and unconscious bias on a large American city. It's the first major initiative of its kind within this city."

Dr. **Russ Warren** writes from Greenwich, Conn.: "Difficult times in NYC. Being elderly (80), the Hospital for Special Surgery sent me home (I am a staff member). Now [that HSS is] open only for fractures, tendon ruptures and the like, New York–Presbyterian transferred

its patients to HSS to release beds for those with the virus. Greenwich is empty, but today the flowers and early buds make it beautiful. Our anesthesia department is using its ventilators to help patients with respiratory problems. I note the Navy sent the *USNS Comfort* to NYC to help with beds. I spent a year in Vietnam on a similar ship, the *Repose*, long since laid to rest. It had more than 1,000 beds."

And finally, an appropriate summary from **Daniel Stone**: "Winnipeg, Canada (our home for the past 50 years), has not (yet) passed into the community phase of the pandemic but we're trying to keep it that way by following guidelines for the elderly people we've become. Reading, streaming, a little web research and ordering groceries from stores that deliver has become our life."

1963

Paul Neshamkin
pauln@helpauthors.com

The outbreak of COVID-19, and the fact that as of this writing my wife and I have self-isolated ourselves at our Jersey Shore house for the last three weeks, prompted me to reach out to the class to see how everyone is doing. I held a virtual Class of '63 lunch via Zoom in April, and 16 of us shared news — some reassuring, but others very sad. We learned that we have lost our good friend and lunch regular **Tom O'Connor** to this horrible disease.

Tom was our class's football captain and a member of the 1961 Ivy League championship team. He was one of the nicest guys in our class — I will always remember him for his warm smile and true friendship. Our best wishes to his widow, Terrie, and family.

Rest in Peace, dear friend.

This has been a tough time for many of us, and I hope by the time you read this, the world is a lot better for all of us. After I sent an email asking for news, I was flooded with a record number of replies, some of which are included here. The rest — from **Steve Barcan**, **Ken Master**, **Abba Rubin**, **John Gleason**, **Martin Greenfield**, **Elliott Greher**, **Richard Tuerk**, **David Orme-Johnson** and **Mike Benner** — will be in the Fall issue.



Several members of the Class of 1963 had a Zoom video meeting to connect, while maintaining social distance, during the coronavirus outbreak.

Lee Lowenfish writes, “I’m holed up near Columbia — have a traditional spring cold with sniffles and sore throat, but nothing virus-connected, I hope. Here’s my latest [blog post](#), with a few cultural tips for the non-baseball lover.”

Peter Broido writes, “I broke my ankle on February 4. I was climbing on a ladder and reached too far. The ladder became unstable and fell with me on it, which resulted in a compression fracture of my fibula with subsequent surgery: plate and screws, plus a piece of cadaver bone to restore the length of my fibula. As I have been totally non-weight bearing, I have been confined to my home, a fortuitous event; however, today the doctor is finally allowing me to start to walk, which is progress. Of course, there is no place to go. Such is life.”

Doug Anderson reports, “We, luckily, are living in Palm Beach, Fla., and more than half of our neighbors have moved back north to live in their private homes rather than in an apartment. We keep up to date on what’s happening by watching too much MSNBC and having wonderful phone calls from our grandchildren and children, who insist that we must be more orthodox in our behavior — no matter how orthodox we are.

“Almost nobody is wearing a face mask or gloves; there are none to be had. Our local Publix supermarket has moved the opening hour from

6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. so staff can stock the shelves with whatever comes in overnight; they have been doing a great job staying stocked. What’s crazy is that for 30 minutes before opening there is a scrum of 150–200 people at the front door, with everyone needing to be first. A small number of us stay in our cars until the group is all inside. Our building manager has done a terrific job despite the fact that nobody can get a coronavirus test. We’re down to 100 residents and 15 staff members, and have no idea if anyone has the virus.

“Yesterday I learned that Jerry Speyer ’62, BUS’64 is chair of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. I sent him an email saying how lucky they are to have him but that he surely didn’t expect to be in charge during such a time and to stay safe. Here’s what he wrote back: ‘Thanks, pal! It’s really brutal. We need all kinds of equipment but especially ventilators. If you know anybody that is in that business or has access to the ventilators, please let me know. Stay healthy!’”

I read in early March that **Robert Kraft** sent one of his New England Patriots planes to China to pick up 1.2 million N95 facemasks, which he had promised the governor of Massachusetts (he was able to have 300,000 of them sent to NYC to relieve its desperate need). Newspaper accounts such as in [The Wall Street Journal](#) will give you details.

Thank you, Bob!

Frank Sypher writes, “I am working remotely and joining regular office staff meetings by conference call. Nothing special going on in my neighborhood that is not going on elsewhere in Manhattan. When I go out for a walk there tend to be few people around except dog walkers, or people with children on scooters or with bags of groceries. I have a book coming out but the publisher cannot take delivery on the copies because operations are closed, so the printer is keeping the books in storage until delivery becomes feasible. At that time I will send you details.”

David Alpern writes, “Like so many, my wife, Sylvia, and I are already at least minor victims of the virus even if don’t actually have it (and that remains to be seen). Hunkering down in Sag Harbor on Long Island with only a few brief shopping trips and trips to the post office for items ordered online. After 12 wonderful days in Morocco (my third trip since 1971, her first), we returned to JFK on March 9, with not-unusual post-flight colds, spent the night at our apartment and then took the Jitney to Sag. I was waiting a few more days before seeking the test to make sure the ‘bug,’ if there, had time to establish itself sufficiently to show up. But now I feel it’s best not to overload the system as long as we are not in severe distress. BTW, I also discov-

ered upon return that a website for journalists, [Muck Rack](#), discovered some of my recent work and set up a [small archive](#), albeit with the bio and photo of a different David Alpern on West Coast. It’s now corrected and expanded.”

Alan Wilensky writes, “Sheltering in place in Seattle. Getting ready for Passover. We expected the whole family for the holiday and we bought accordingly before everything was canceled. Now there will only be the two of us. Will be sharing part of the holiday with the kids on Zoom.”

Larry Neuman writes, “We are locked down in Tel Aviv and restricted to staying within 100 meters of home. Single-file lines into the only stores open, groceries and pharmacies, but lots of fresh fruit and vegetables available.”

Paul Kimmel writes, “Living in East Brunswick, N.J. Working at Rutgers teaching general chemistry, a large class with about 1,000 students. All lectures are recitations, exams are online. Riding the tandem bicycle with my wife to get some exercise. Talking to our four sons and their families via FaceTime.”

Art Eisenson writes, “New Mexico, while a poor state, is intelligently governed. Most people observe social distancing, but some are oblivious. Food shopping is regimented foraging. My wife has a chronic autoimmune disease, and we worry that necessary meds are being hoarded by those who don’t need them, and it seems I’m in the highest risk category. We’re handling the shifts to scarcities and shutdowns, having lived through multiple earthquakes and the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles.”

Bob Donahue writes, “Celebrated the 79th last Friday. My son and his wife visited wearing masks and gloves. It was a great happy birthday because of his card to me: ‘Happy Birthday, Dad! We all know that you aren’t actually 79 years old, you’re just 18 with 61 years of experience! I hope you realize that you are the best gift I’ve ever had ...’ — we adopted each other 15 years ago when he was 15. Greatest experience of my life!”

Barry Austern writes, “I know how bad it is in the NYC area, and I really grieve for you. Here in Cincinnati (and all Ohio) things are in lockdown, pretty much, other than for really necessary stuff. We belong

to two congregations, because my wife is more Reform and I more Conservative, and both have canceled all services, with them just online. The only church around here that I know is still open is the Solid Rock Church of 'Big Butter Jesus' fame. When lightning destroyed that idol they should have realized that God didn't like graven images, but they rebuilt it with a slightly different idol.

"I don't always get the exercise I want. I can walk or bike in nice weather, but the gym is closed. I don't know if the nearby mall is still open, but I'd be afraid to go there. Take care, and stay safe and healthy."

Jeff Parson writes, "My reaction to what you New Yorkers and the rest of the world are experiencing borders on disbelief, although I'm aware that scientists and others have predicted pandemics for years, often in the context of human-caused global warming. Two years ago I wrote a play, *Antelope Girl: On the Edge of Extinction*, that deals with the threat of a pandemic caused by a sickness that, in fact, killed more than 11,000 of the world's most populous antelope herd in Kazakhstan in three days.

"I live in Ashland, Ore., where my play was given a well-attended dramatic reading. Two years ago I received a writer-in-residency grant to Can Serrat in Barcelona. Last year I applied for a Rockefeller Foundation grant to the Bellagio Center in Italy, which, of course, has been put on hold due to the crisis. Right now, I'm hunkered down in Oregon, trying to remain hopeful

and musing that now's a time for compassion, bravery and resolve."

Ephraim Fischbach writes, "As a (still-active!) physics professor at Purdue, I am facing all the same problems my colleagues elsewhere are dealing with, in trying to complete the semester online. At Purdue we are also facing the problems arising from a large population of international students, many of whom have no place to go when they leave the dorms. But there might be a tiny silver lining: After talking to some of my colleagues here and elsewhere, I am guessing the spring semester GPA across the country may be somewhere between A and A+!"

Joel Krosnick writes, "Since retiring in 2016 as cellist of the Juilliard String Quartet, I have taught the cello full-time at the Juilliard School. Similar to Columbia and Barnard, Juilliard canceled its classes, and it closed its Lincoln Center building. I have been teaching my 16 cello students via Zoom since March 16. Many of the students have gone 'home' to Shanghai, Beijing, Tokyo, Taipei and Sydney; others are in San Francisco, Los Angeles and all around the United States. Last evening, our 25 or so students; my colleague Darrett Adkins; and I gathered for our weekly performance class, on Zoom, on which we will, for the next two months, hear solo recitals, jury exams and solo performances. It is wonderful to see each other, dear friends by now."

Chet Osborn writes, "I feel so bad for NYC. I'm so proud of New Yorkers, the mayor, the governor and the administration, along with the American public at large. A zoonotic pandemic was always a global risk but the nation is tackling it head-on. I'm in the western North Carolina mountains, and fortunately our area is COVID-19-free. For now. Everyone here is following the reverse isolation guidelines but I hope the country can incrementally return to work before too long.

"I've had a wonderful life, both professionally as a cardiovascular/thoracic surgeon and now in an active, happily healthy retirement. I have two daughters and three grandchildren. All are healthy but awaiting the time life can get back to normal. Godspeed, everyone. Stay safe."

Bob Heller writes, "My wife, Amy, and I are no longer meeting

friends face to face, but we are seeing them for 'quarantinis' — cocktails and conversation on Zoom. We also are taking advantage of the great weather to take long walks (4–5 miles) in Central Park and around the city. We rediscovered Riverside Park south of 100th Street, as well. The streets are relatively empty and social distancing is easy. The most populated area is Central Park, but keeping your distance is not that difficult. We no longer enter stores, preferring to order from supermarkets online. Also, we have discovered how many dishwasher cycles you go through in a week when you are preparing and eating all meals at home."

Ken Ostberg writes, "While the virus is advancing here in Winston-Salem, N.C., we are nowhere near a hotspot, so that's a positive for us. My wife, Andi, and I just checked off two more items on our bucket list. We spent three and a half weeks in New Zealand, with a stop in Tahiti on the way. While it's winter here, it's summer there. Tahiti was hot and humid and a lovely spot to relax and unwind for a few days. We can now say that we've dipped our toes in the South Pacific and walked on black sand beaches. New Zealand is a lovely country of but 5 million people. They seem pretty happy and prosperous, with seemingly few social tensions. Our main stops were in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Greymouth, with side trips into the mountains and along the coasts. The country is mountainous, being formed by the movement of tectonic plates and several hundred volcanoes, some of which are still active.

"We flew home just ahead of COVID-19 across the Pacific and the United States, so we seem to have avoided infection. We did avoid all the tumult and disruption from testing in the various airports. Now we are sequestered at home and emailing and Skyping with family and friends."

Peter Gollon, by dint of fortuitous timing, spent four days hiking in Joshua Tree National Park at the end of February on his annual "get outdoors in the Southwest to celebrate the end of winter" trip. His wife, Abby Pariser BC'67, joined him to then visit friends and museums in Tucson and Phoenix, where they spent an afternoon in the little-known but fascinating Musical

Instrument Museum. It has guitars used by Joan Baez and Elvis Presley, Pablo Casals's cello and so much more. Peter and Abby returned home just ahead of the shutdown of almost everything, and are now staying as far from other people as they can. Peter is a trustee of the Long Island Power Authority, which supplies electricity to two counties outside New York City, and director emeritus of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

Lee Scher writes, "I always look forward to reading about our class even though I had not been a contributor to date. Every time I sit down to write something I am overwhelmed by all that has transpired since 1963. Good jobs, early retirement, children and grandchildren on the plus side. Loss of two wives to cancer on the minus side. Now that I seem to have more quiet time thanks to the virus maybe I can figure it out."

John Karlberg writes, "Last year was difficult for me — I had a laryngectomy (removal of my larynx) and now I breathe and speak through a stoma (hole in my throat). But, I am thankful for a successful operation and now my life is back to normal. We are in Palm Coast, Fla., in the winter and in Pocono Pines, Pa., in the summer. Both homes are on golf courses and I play a lot of golf (still a high handicapper) and tennis. The tennis courts are now closed but the golf course is open. Everything else here in Palm Coast is basically closed. I pray everyone can weather this storm."

Richard Gochman writes, "My wife, Alice, and I are hunkered down on 'Lazy Bear Farm' in Chatham (Columbia County), N.Y. The county has a population of 58,000, with probably more cows than people. While no place is entirely free from COVID-19, people look after each other, especially us 'elderly' folks. Friends call and say, 'I am going to the market. Can I get you anything?' One of our best friends is a dairy farmer and he says not to worry about meat: If necessary, he will have a cow butchered. Another nearby friend has a chicken coop, so we always have eggs. A lot of our fresh produce is locally grown, some in hotheouses, so we get it fresh year-round.

"I speak to my friend **Paul Reale** a couple of times a week, and he continues to be on a roll. The July/August issue of *Fanfare* (the lead-



Stay in
Touch

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)

ing periodical on recorded serious music) will include a front-page article by him.”

Paul Gorrin (and the rest of the class) was unable to make the last Class of '63 lunch, as it was canceled for obvious reasons. He has completed his new play, *Crossing Brooklyn Bridge*, and would like to share it with classmates for comments: gorrin.paul@gmail.com.

Once this is over and you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with your classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club (we will still gather at the Princeton Club, once it reopens). I'm hoping we'll be able to meet again by September 10; the next two will be on October 8 and November 12.

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

As I write this note I am practicing social distancing. It is the middle of April and I have been in my Manhattan apartment for five weeks. I do some legal work, read, nap and watch movies. When the sun is out, I stand by the window and soak it in. The news is grim. I hope by the time this is published that society's lot will have improved.

John Cirigliano writes from Lexington, Ky., that with the outbreak of coronavirus he and his wife, Nancy, have canceled trips to Italy and France. He says, "I wonder, will we ever make it back to those countries? Lexington's food-at-the-door restaurants and coffee shops continue, but that might not last. Lexington's biggest gash is an expected 90 percent reduction in leisure industry employment and the occupational taxes that go with that. Nancy and I observe the protocols as much as possible. Our farm gives us lots of room to move around to avoid stir-craziness. My best to all."

Allen Tobias writes from Brooklyn that he is unloading his literary and cinema collections. He has sold to the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale (which has a major collection of African-American literary art) correspondence with

the estate of Richard Wright and has sold to the RBML at Columbia his poetry notebook annotated by Allen Ginsberg '48 together with other correspondence and materials. He is also donating to the RBML at Columbia a large collection of materials relating to Ginsberg, and he is donating to the RBML at Penn rare books and other materials. Allen is also organizing his films, videos and photography for acquisition by a major university.

Arnie Zeiderman writes from Sutter Creek, Calif. (pop. 3,000), that his journey in life is "quite different" from many classmates who have distinguished careers in or near large metropolitan centers.

"I was born and raised in the Bronx and Yonkers. Suburban public schools did not prepare me well for the intense competition at Columbia. But I thrived and had a wonderful experience, especially the two years living on campus. Fraternity life (AEPi) was fulfilling. I entered and graduated as a pre-med.

"My career path came early: As a teen I was motivated by the struggle, failures and ultimate success in the building of the Panama Canal. I was considering a future as a civil engineer. The problem with the project was that of terrible disease, not of 'moving dirt'; Dr. William Gorgas conquered the malaria and yellow fever that had killed workers by the thousands and interrupted progress for decades. He knew that understanding the key vector role of mosquitoes, and eradicating them, was fundamental. He became the U.S. surgeon general. Gorgas was a key player in the history of public health medicine, which is again in the limelight with the coronavirus. He was my hero. Becoming a medical doctor won out over being a civil engineer.

"I graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 1968 at 26 along with five other College grads. After two years of internship/residency in Atlanta, I moved to Palo Alto, Calif., for further training and became enamored with the California lifestyle and the Stanford environment.

"There was a draft, or deferred service obligation, at that time. So, it was off to Germany for two years to serve in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Heidelberg and practice ob/gyn. Then, a fellowship at the

UC Berkeley School of Public Health for a master's in public health. Declining an academic or administrative track, I embarked on a sequence of rural medical practice, academic public health, training family practitioners, being an HMO department chair, being an urban indigent hospital director and training Navy doctors, then an academic appointment and clinical practice.

"I married late and had two sons just before age 50. In 1995, at the midpoint of my career, we moved back to California from the East Coast, settling in the 'gold country' Sierra Nevada foothills between Lake Tahoe and Yosemite. Great hiking and skiing.

"I returned to again practice rural general ob/gyn. My practice was expansive and comprehensive, personal and rewarding. My R.N. wife, Peggy, worked in my office for 10 years while we raised our sons in the local schools. She is retiring this year after a decade of case management at an urban medical center.

"Our ranch home is surrounded by 18 acres of flower beds, vegetable gardens, pastures, two black Angus cattle, egg-laying chickens and many birds, and beautiful heritage oaks, redwoods and Ponderosa pines. This is a beautiful region with a moderate climate and great natural resources. In a rural county with children schooling locally, and a medical practice in town, personal networks are extensive and experienced daily in practice and in the community. This is rewarding and comforting during difficult times such as now.

"I closed my solo practice in 2013 and during the past decade have served on 10 volunteer medical missions, mostly surgical and international, which have taken me to the Philippines, Ethiopia, Nepal, India and the Dominican Republic. My older son, a UC Berkeley grad, is completing his residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery at UC Davis, living in Sacramento with his younger brother, a business major and now a senior tax auditor for the State of California. I chair my county behavioral health advisory board, where we have disproportionate rates of suicide and substance abuse, as well as a dearth of psychiatric services/access. Challenges abound here.

"My education at Columbia was superb. It is one of my most valued credentials. As a philosophy major

with a world-class faculty, this exposure provided me with a foundation of knowledge and thoughtful analysis. I appreciate that gift. In various other ways the Columbia University academic policies and public/political postures disappoint me. Sometimes it is intense. Some of us see things differently and hold other values and priorities. Do one's values determine their future environment? Or does one's environment shape their values?

"It has been my good fortune to have this fulfilling life so different from my fellow grads.

"I enjoy their stories in Class Notes. I hope they enjoy mine."

I am saddened to report the death of **Jerry Oster**. I knew Jerry from Forest Hills H.S., where he played on the tennis team (which won the Queens County championship), and in weekend schoolyard basketball games.

His wife, Trisha Lester, writes from Chapel Hill, N.C., where she and Jerry lived: "Jerry had several successful careers. He was a reporter for United Press International, Reuters and the *New York Daily News*. He wrote 21 novels, including *Sweet Justice* and *Saint Mike*, named Notable Books by *The New York Times*, and *Nightfall*, chosen as the best foreign language crime novel published in Germany in 1999. His books were also published in Brazil, France, Great Britain, Japan and Russia.

"His play, *90 in 90*, premiered in 2004. He wrote three other full-length plays and several 10-minute plays. He was a Tennessee Williams Scholar at the 2005 Sewanee Writers' Conference.

"He worked at the University of North Carolina's Kenan-Flagler Business School as director of development communications, and at Duke as director of development communications for Arts & Sciences and director of communications for the undergraduate college.

"His daughter by a previous marriage, Lily Stein Oster, is a doctoral student in the graduate division at Emory University."

Last year Jerry sent in a Class Note. His advice to future grads: "Be a generalist, not a specialist; study what interests you, not what's recommended. When and if you begin a career, be entirely ready to begin another."

Requiescat in pace.

1965

Leonard B. Pack
leonard@packlaw.us

Back in those innocent days of yesteryear — on January 21, to be precise — when people could still meet each other in restaurants and other public places, I met **Dan Carlinsky, Mike Cook, Louis Goodman** and **Barry Levine** for lunch at Sidecar, an adjunct to P.J. Clarke's on Third Avenue at East 55th Street in Manhattan. No particular agenda, but an enjoyable bull session with plenty of jokes and laughter. Dan regaled us with a detailed history of the Columbia University Marching Band through its recent difficulties with the administration, subsequently patched over. We didn't think of taking a picture, which we surely would have done if we'd known all restaurants would be ordered to close a few weeks later (although the lack of a picture means that readers will be spared yet another image of your correspondent, after two of them ran in the Spring 2020 issue). I did ask Barry, the only medical person present, what he thought of the then-new stories about the coronavirus in China. Barry replied, "It won't be pretty."

As I write this in late March, New York City has become the place with the most confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country. Los Angeles resident **Howard Matz** was moved by this to write a note to a few New Yorker classmates, and he has given me permission to share it with everyone here: "Hello, friends and fellow classmates. Jane and I hope you and your families are faring as well as circumstances could possibly permit. You live in a perilous place at a perilous time. May you continue to take good and effective care and may you come through this calamity safe and sound."

"I live in the geographic center of the City of Los Angeles. You would not know it these days. It is as safe for youngsters to ride their bikes in the middle of the street as it was for my friends and me 70-plus years ago in the small town I grew up in."

"We, too, are experiencing the direct impact of seclusion. Two of our sons and their wives and their collective three children (one of whom is only 5 months old) are

off-limits. For our benefit, initially, they have declined to visit or be visited. Our third son is a single dad with a daughter who is only 3 months old. They need and receive daily, direct help from us, so that is the limit of our social lives. We are very fortunate to be there for them, however, and we are feeling fine. Let's stay in touch."

As the contagion spread, I thought about calling **Michael Tapper** GSAS'66, PS'70, our class's stellar infectious disease expert. But I soon found out from **Allen Brill, Don Bachman** and others that Michael died on March 6, 2020, after an extended struggle with illness. Here is an excerpt of *The New York Times's* March 10 obituary: "... Dr. Tapper graduated from Columbia College and Columbia medical school and trained in internal medicine at Harlem Hospital, and in infectious disease at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He served for many years as Chief of Infectious Disease at Lenox Hill Hospital where he also established and directed an early New York State-sponsored center for AIDS research and care. Dr. Tapper sat on several CDC committees, was past president of the Society of Hospital Epidemiologists and a member of a number of New York State and New York City Departments of Health task forces, and was a frequent speaker at national and international HIV and epidemiology meetings. He was uncompromising in his advocacy for patients under his care and served as a role model for successive generations of house-staff. Apart from his medical activities, Dr. Tapper was extremely committed to Columbia College, a dedicated participant in its fencing team as an undergraduate, and was a lifelong lover of music and supporter of the Metropolitan Opera. He is survived by his sister, Helaine Gold. Dr. Tapper will be extremely missed by friends and colleagues. Memorial to be held at Columbia University at a later date. Donations in his name can be made to Columbia College, undergraduate school."

In my occasional interactions with Mike over the years, I was struck by his seriousness. I got to see an exception to this several years ago, when he arrived with a bunch of former fencing team members at a restaurant in my apartment build-

ing, which is not far from Columbia. He was smiling and radiantly happy to be hanging out with his fellow fencers, and it was a pleasure to see him that way.

Through *CCT*, just before the deadline for this column, I got news from his daughter, Chaya Cooper, that **Michael Cooper** died on February 27, 2019, in Jerusalem. Chaya wrote: "Michael made a name for himself at the College as an exceptional intellect, and graduated in just three years while earning a Regents merit-based scholarship reserved for the brightest medical students in New York. After completing his residency at NewYork-Presbyterian, Michael served as a captain in the U.S. Army, and practiced radiology for 34 years at NYU Health + Hospitals/Coler and Brookdale Hospital Medical Center in NYC.

"Michael was a lover of corny jokes, and was generally a man of simple tastes and pleasures — with the exception of foreign travel. He had a passion for traveling to exotic and off-the-beaten-path locales, and traveled all over the world on his own with just a small suitcase filled with the bare essentials and his supply of kosher food.

"A native New Yorker, he moved to Israel shortly before his death to be closer to his children and grandchildren. Michael is survived

"Memorial contributions may be made to the ALS Therapy Development Institute (als.net/donate) or American Friends of Zichron Ruth Kolllel, 109 Bayit Vegan St., Jerusalem, 9642621, Israel."

'Id welcome any reminiscences from friends of our class's two departed medical Michaels to include in a future column, together with news of how you are coping with the pandemic. In the three months between my writing this column and its appearance in *CCT*, our world will have changed enormously.

1966

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

From **Mark L. Levine** JRN'79: "A 50th anniversary edition of Mark L. Levine's *The Tales of Hoffman: From the Trial of the Chicago 8/7*, an edited version of the Chicago 7 conspiracy trial transcript that was published 10 days after the trial ended, is being republished in September. The original book, which Mark conceived and coedited, sold more than 170,000 copies. The new edition is scheduled to appear at the same time as Aaron Sorkin's movie *The Trial of the Chicago 7*. Although the movie is not

Core Haiku



Iliad assigned,
Our learning launched in week one.
Still sailing. New shores.

— Rick Silverblatt '66

by his five children, Chaya Cooper, Shifra (Dov Ber) Apfelbaum, Eliezer (Batsheva) Cooper-Gluck, Hindy (Mark) Ginsberg and Boruch (Sari) Cooper; three stepchildren, Devorah (Ben) Schochet, Avi (Teri) Pollack and Serena (Efraim) Pollack-Kacelenenbogen; his sister, Phyllis Wertheimer; brother, David (Judy) Cooper; brother-in-law, Steve Rich; 36 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Miriam (née Stein), in 2007, and younger sister Joan Rich in 2005.

based on Mark's book, Sorkin has written an introduction to the new edition, which has been retitled to match the movie's name.

"In recent years, Mark has been an adjunct professor at Baruch College's Zicklin School of Business and Cardozo School of Law. An experienced voter protection attorney, he plans to be doing a lot of that this fall in an effort to help make Trump a one-term President."

On March 25, **Neal Hurwitz** reported: "In self-quarantine since March 15. Very quiet here, across the street (115th Street between Broad-

way and Riverside Drive) from the empty Morris A. Schapiro Hall.

"Indeed, it is the strangest time here in New York, N.Y. — even more so than the '69 blackout and 9-11. My fiancée, Soraya Zuluaga, from Medellin, and I are next door to the Kraft Family Center for Jewish Student Life (Bob Kraft '63 was my mentor when I was class officer our freshman year); I helped with raising money for the center and the great Jerusalem stone exterior! Peter Samton was the architect and former Clinton White House counsel Bernie Nussbaum '58 was a major donor. We are down the road from Grace Gold Way, which is the west side of Broadway, between 115th and 116th Streets. It is named for Grace Gold BC'82, who was killed in her freshman year by a falling stone from 601 W. 115th.

"I have been here since September 1963 (with **Alan Geller**, **Tom DeWitt** and **Johnny Akula**, and then **Billy Hurwitz '67** and **Wally Furman '67**), after freshman year in 1001A New Hall with

course. We are all hanging in as best we can these days."

If you would like to stay connected to classmates during this time, please consider sending a Class Note to cct@columbia.edu.

1967

Albert Zonana
az164@caa.columbia.edu

No news this time, but best wishes for the health and safety of the Class of 1967 and your families. Be well, and let's stay connected.

1968

Arthur Spector
arthurspector@gmail.com

Greetings, classmates. I hope you are all doing well and staying safe.

I got a wonderful note from **Tony Kao** in February: "I thought you



George Ting '68 (left) and Tony Kao '68 in the entry foyer of Tokyo's Gloria House, named for Ting's mother, at the opening ceremony in December.

"It was a wonderful experience to work with Grace and George, a friend, one-time roommate and classmate, as my client, and I'm very pleased to have been able to put my resources together to bring this endeavor to a successful and happy completion."

CCT received the following from Christopher Phillips about the passing of his brother **David Phillips LS'74**: "David F. Phillips died on March 26, 2020, in San Francisco of a confluence of health issues. He was 75. He graduated from Penn Law School (1971) before returning to Columbia's former School of Library Service for an M.S.

"Attention, Columbia historians! In his autobiography, which appears on his website, [Radbash](#), David has written extensively and in great detail about his years at Columbia College (1963–68) and Library School (1973–74). At the College, he was active in the 1968 student

real career, which was as a scholar of heraldry. His interest in flags and coats of arms dated from earliest childhood, and he became one of the world's foremost experts. At his home in San Francisco, he assembled one of America's leading collections of heraldry books, atlases and first-day covers as part of a vast library that ranged from typography and design to specialized dictionaries. He was a trustee of the Flag Heritage Foundation in America and was one of only two writers to be 'craft' members of The Society of Heraldic Arts in Britain.

"David's books included (as author), *Emblems of the Indian States* (2011) and *The Double Eagle* (2014); and as editor and lead contributor *Japanese Heraldry and Heraldic Flags* (2018). All three instantly became the definitive works on these subjects. At the time of his death he had completed the manuscript and design for a book about the heraldic work of

Core Haiku



No trigger warnings,
Coddling, safe spaces, jargon,
Dogma. Knowledge reigned.

— Steve Schwartzman '67

Phil Cohen, Arne Jensen '67 and **Jimmy Smolev**, across from **Marc Kusnetz**, **Ray Rizzuti**, **Jim Gertz** and **Ronald Vincent Bryant**.

"My daughter has been teaching English in Hanoi; I do not like having my family so spread out all over the place, especially now! Family are in New York, Florida, New Mexico, Illinois, Vermont, North Carolina, California, Colombia, Israel, the United Kingdom, Ibiza and more."

Neal wrote back on April 9 with sad news: "**Steve Steiner** GSAS'67 has just died in NYC from COVID-19. Steve and I shared a love of history; I had many chats with him since 1962 — 58 years. Steve was out of Kew Gardens and Forest Hill H.S. His children, Andrea and David, are Facebook friends with me; Andrea's memory of her dad was featured in *The New York Post*. Steve was a writer/editor and director of PR for the Orthodox Union. Very, very sad, of

might be interested to know that **George Ting**; his sister, Grace; and I had been working for a few years on a project in Tokyo, named Gloria House in honor of his mother. It was completed in May 2019.

"The project is situated off the much-coveted avenue in Shibuya Omotesando, and the five-story building is mixed use, with commercial on the ground floor, the Gloria Ting Center on the second floor, residential on the third floor and George's pied-a-terre on the fourth/fifth floor duplex penthouse, with a roof deck.

"The dedication and opening of the Gloria Ting Center was held on December 7, and was lucky for me, as I was traveling through Tokyo that week from Shanghai. I was heading back to our new home in Sudbury, Mass., in metro-west Boston, where I moved to from Seattle in June.

Core Haiku



John D. Rosenberg
Shaped my Core in '63
'09, shaped my son's

— George J. Leonard '67

strike, and he started and ran the Vietnam-War-era student draft counseling center. This is a valuable, detailed first-person account.

"For David, the practice of law (which he did on his own part-time schedule with a white-shoe San Francisco firm) was a sidelight to his

Polish-born artist Arthur Szyk. Most recently, he was the editor and compiler of *Psychedelic Refugee: The League for Spiritual Discovery, the 1960s Cultural Revolution, and 23 Years on the Run*, the memoirs of Rosemary Woodruff Leary (Timothy's wife), to be published next winter.

“His writing went beyond scholarship to poetry, children’s stories, travelogues, essays, biography and autobiography. Other byways in his life included being a radio and television broadcaster on Cape Cod and an English teacher in Taiwan. His spiritual explorations were informed by early psychedelic experiences with LSD, and these led him eventually to Buddhism and veneration of the Hindu god Ganesha.

“Learning of David’s death, one of his friends remarked, ‘David won, hands down, the *Reader’s Digest* “World’s Most Interesting Person” award.’

“To learn more about David’s life (in his autobiography) and the scope of his wide-ranging and astonishingly original thought, explore his [website](#). The drop-down menus alone are astonishing. You could spend a year on that site and not cover everything, and it would be time well spent.”

1969

Nathaniel Wander
nw105@columbia.edu

Freelance translators of French, German and Dutch for the past three decades, **Henry Jackson** and his wife now live in Suffern, N.Y. Henry went on to a graduate degree in German, spent three years in Germany and returned to teach German in Tarrytown, N.Y.

Germany, you might recollect, predicted its way to victory in the 2010 FIFA World Cup through the “motivational” coaching of an eight-legged cephalopod, Paul the Octopus — an act of such deuced wickedness as England shall never forget!

After weathering Vietnam as a conscientious objector teaching in Bedford-Stuyvesant, **John Van D. Lewis** acquired an anthropology Ph.D. from Yale. Fieldwork on constraints to the Green Revolution in Mali and teaching at Howard University carried John into a career in rural and agricultural development with USAID. Since retirement, John has continued to work on “climate smart” or “regenerative” agriculture in Africa.

Poet, historian and demythologizer **Hilton Obenzinger** retired from Stanford as associate director of the Chinese Railroad Workers

in North America Project, which produced a wealth of English and Chinese books and websites, photos and oral histories, archaeological digs, curricula and even an oratorio. The high point of this work was the huge attendance at last year’s 150th anniversary of the Golden Spike ceremony in Utah.

For those who haven’t seen John Ford’s *The Iron Horse* (1924) lately, the spike joined California’s Central Pacific and Union Pacific into the First Transcontinental Railroad. Hilton says Ford had to employ Native Americans to play Chinese workers on account of 1882’s Chinese Exclusion Act, which remained in force until 1943. Irony is too American to ever die.

Hilton was especially tickled at the praise lavished on the Chinese workers by the kinds of politicians who previously would have despised them.

Andy Bronin continues to enjoy practicing dermatology, his chosen path since he completed medical training in the late ’70s. He shares that he’s particularly proud of his son Luke, overwhelmingly reelected to a second term as mayor of Hartford, Conn. Andy attributes the careers of national politicians from **Judd Gregg** on one side to **Jerry Nadler** on the other — as well as **Jon Schiller**’s service as a Columbia trustee — to “the strength of the Core Curriculum.”

Seems a lot to lay on Plato’s shoulders, no matter how broad they may have been.

Andy adds, “I miss **Mark Drucker!**” I concur.

Renee Chinquapin has been thinking of three friends — Bob Raterman, Wiley Webb and Jeff Sokolov — who “wore the blue beanie but not the mortarboard,” wondering where they are now and whether anyone else remembers them.

I was working with **Neal Flomenbaum**, director of the Department of Emergency Medicine at NYC’s Weill Cornell Medicine, to produce a note for this issue. Understandably, it was sidetracked by a bit of a virus outbreak. Neal’s contribution will be included in the Fall issue.

John Schuster, a historian and philosopher of science at the University of Sydney, and a resident of Australia since 1980, remembers **Michael Oberman** well. Both were from Hewlett, N.Y. (Long Island); John says, “We had been in the same

classes since around fourth grade.” John was shocked to hear of Michael’s sudden death last fall, and especially as a prior commitment kept him away from the 50th reunion, he is grateful he had been able to speak to Michael and his wife at length in New York a few years back at their 50th high school reunion.

It’s only from Class Notes that I knew Michael. When I read in the [Winter 2019–20 issue](#) that he had passed away, I wrote to *CCT* offering to take on the class correspondent role, frankly, without one-quarter knowing what I might

about the toll it will take so I hope that all of you will be reading this column in good health. Please stay connected to the College.

I received a very nice note from **Jim Kunen**, which had a lovely tribute to **David Lehman** and David’s recently published memoir. Jim writes, “Longtime reader, first-time writer: Perusing our Class Notes, I learned that David Lehman had written a book called [One Hundred Autobiographies](#), a memoir of cancer — sort of. I bought it, read it, underlined it like crazy, photocopied bits for friends (fair use) and returned to

Core Haiku



Civilization

The journey is never done

Join us for the trip

— Don Brophy ’69

be getting into. As the man who jumped off the Empire State Building said passing the 63rd floor, “So far, so good.” I expect I’ll know by the end of the year whether I’ll be thanking Michael for keeping the chair warm all these years, or be going around grumbling *sotto voce*: “Curse you, Red Baron!”

Since Tim O’Brien’s 1990 story cycle *The Things They Carried*, “things they carried” has become a metonym for the meaningful experiences people bear with them when they set out from “home” into a future guaranteed to astound them. Several of us have thought to pose questions in this column about how what we brought away from Columbia has shaped our lives over the long course. This season’s question is almost too timely; maybe it will have shaken out when the call is made for Fall issue submissions: How has what you carried away from Columbia affected your weathering of the COVID-19 pandemic?

1970

Leo G. Kailas
lkailas@reitlerlaw.com

The COVID-19 virus is wreaking havoc on the world, and I hope that we all survive it stronger. I worry

it frequently for 1) the articulation of things I felt but couldn’t say and 2) tips on high art, classical music and serious literature that sound really worth checking out, before I check out.

“Thank you, **Leo Kailas**, for faithfully relaying our classmates’ news year after year, and thank you, **David Lehman**, for your wise and thoroughly enjoyable book. Be well, all.”

Thank you, Jim, who is himself the author of *The Strawberry Statement*, written about the uprising at Columbia in 1968.

I would second Jim’s statement about David’s tips on high art, classical music (and not-so-classical music, like Bob Dylan), and literature and poetry. I also recommend that you subscribe to David’s publication *The Best American Poetry*, which is filled with interesting articles. Writing about the current COVID-19 epidemic, David refers back to the 10 plagues God visited on Egypt, the plague Oedipus brought on Thebes when he committed the twin sins of parricide and incest, and the bubonic plague and notes that we were as unprepared for this plague as we were for the attack on Pearl Harbor. In a hopeful note, David reminds us that we recovered from Pearl Harbor and will likely survive COVID-19. He also cites the line from W.H. Auden’s poem

September 1, 1939, “We must love one another or die.”

I received another nice note from Bill Stark '69, asking me to pass on regards to **Michael Stern**, mentioned in the Spring 2020 column. Bill writes, “[Michael] was my roommate my junior (his sophomore) year. He worked in my hometown after his junior year. He was an usher in my wedding in 1969.”

Michael, please reach out to Bill at william.stark@slu.edu.

Dov Zakheim became a senior Defense Department official during the George W. Bush years in the White House. Dov has agreed to place me on his mailing list for his publication on national security issues, saying, “I have a rather large mailing list and would gladly add you to it if you like. I write about [national security matters](#).”

I highly recommend following Dov's commentary if you have the time.

Professor **Michael Aeschliman** GSAS'91, who keeps me informed about the publication of his books and articles in numerous magazines and literary journals, sent me a note about the publication of his book *The Restoration of Man: C.S. Lewis and the Continuing Case Against Scientism*, which received a nice writeup in *Le Figaro*.

1971

Lewis Preschel
l.a.preschel@gmail.com

Mark Davies LAW'75 shares that four years ago, after 22 years serving the public, he retired from his post as executive director of the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board, the city's ethics board. The new phase of his life involves studying toward a master of divinity degree at the Union Theological Seminary, right near Columbia. Last semester, instead of schoolwork, Mark visited the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, along with his clinical pastoral education instructor, to work with the LGBTQ community. Mark will pursue his field education with a prison reform group in Westchester next year. He took two years of New Testament Greek in seminary school, which he says tested his soul at his age, but proved to be the most rewarding

and difficult academic experience of his life.

May I add, knowing what we all lived through during our undergraduate days, that is saying something.

Charles Ferguson writes, “In 2017, I returned to my boarding school in Massachusetts for my 50th class reunion. I took my wife, Yoko, with me. We stopped in New York City on the way and visited the Columbia campus. The deli that I worked at, Mama Joy's, was gone. The taxicab company I drove for, whose garage was on 125th street, had vanished.

“The headmaster of my prep school was a close friend and college buddy of Henry Coleman '46, dean of admissions at Columbia. That fact sealed my fate in 1967, so I came to New York City and the College.”

Charles explains further how life leads us on intriguing paths: “I studied music, and in particular, I remember my senior year I lived in a nice apartment just one block east of College Walk. My music professor was Nicholas England. He lived in the same building. To me, Professor England appeared larger than life. He taught ethnomusicology at Columbia and Harvard simultaneously. He was always perfectly attired, old-school tie and all. For my graduate school choices, Professor England urged me to apply to a school in the west. He was leaving Columbia for a position as dean of music at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, Calif. I followed his lead to California, where I reside now. When I first saw Professor England in Valencia, he was in a Hawaiian shirt, shorts and sandals, asking all of us to call him ‘Nick.’

“After CalArts, I moved to San Francisco. My sister was at UC Berkeley and had a part-time job at Stanford working for a linguistics professor named Charles Ferguson. While on campus at Stanford, I saw the job posting for a classical guitar instructor. Eagerly, I applied for the position, and I am happy to say that I am celebrating my 46th year on the music faculty at Stanford. I look forward to celebrating another 50th reunion very soon, this time at Columbia with my College classmates.”

This set of notes is not optimally voluminous. Please send regards to the class and let us know how you are doing, where life led you and what you are doing. I am writ-

ing this column from New Jersey and it is the month of March. I do not know what the future holds for our demographic/age group. I hope everyone has remained healthy and calm during this time of crisis. Please be safe, keep your social distance, wash your hands often and be careful about public surfaces, especially metallic ones. Remember that human vectors and fomites (inanimate objects that we touch, like clothing, utensils, furniture, boxes and even the mail) can carry the virus and that it is easily transmissible and long-lived on surfaces. Cover your cough and stand back from friends. When you come back to your home from outside — from exercise, a walk or a necessary trip for food — wash your hands immediately. Don't bring the virus into your home with packages, and so forth.

Everyone be well, and stay well, so that whenever our next reunion takes place, as many of us as possible can take part. We are the Columbia College Class of 1971. The '71ers have been through worse and so the best is on the horizon for us.

1972

Paul S. Appelbaum
pappel1@aol.com

As I write this column, the University is closed, Morningside Heights is largely deserted and New York City is the epicenter in the United States for the COVID-19 epidemic. All classes and meetings with students have moved online; grades will be pass/fail; Class Day and Commencement have been changed to virtual ceremonies. A small number of food stores and take-out restaurants are open, but traffic is light and the city buses that go past are nearly empty.

Even in situations that call for maximum solidarity and mutual support, it seems as though there are always people who just want to make other people's lives more difficult. With classes using Zoom to draw professors and students together, the phenomenon of the moment is “Zoombombing”: hackers interrupting classes with offensive content. As *Spectator* described one such episode in an economics class, hackers “disrupted

the class for about six minutes, playing audio containing racial slurs and inappropriate content, hurled insults at the professor, and later called a participant a racial slur.” Helping to combat these threats is **Steven Bellovin**, the Percy K. and Vida L. W. Hudson Professor of Computer Science at Columbia and one of the country's leading experts on computer security. He spoke with *Spectator* to advise his colleagues on simple approaches to protect the security of their online classes.

Before this all began, **Alex Abella** reached out to connect with me on LinkedIn (hint: you can do that, too). After graduation, Alex moved to San Francisco, where he became a TV news producer, writer and reporter; was part of a group that won a newswriting Emmy; and was nominated for an individual Emmy for best breaking news story. Alex moved to Los Angeles in the 1980s. His legal thriller, *The Killing of the Saints*, was a *New York Times* notable book and was optioned by Paramount Pictures, which commissioned Alex to write the screenplay. The sequels, *Dead of Night* and *Final Acts*, were published soon thereafter, winning critical praise. Alex's nonfiction work includes *Soldiers of Reason: The RAND Corporation and the American Empire*, a study of the world's most influential think tank. Alex is married and lives with his wife and children in the suburbs of Los Angeles.

Michael Mobley BUS'76 is also now a LinkedIn buddy. Since he earned an M.B.A., he has worked in strategic planning, finance, marketing and operations that facilitate growth, market share and profitability for businesses in numerous industries. He is managing director of VJM and Legacy C Suite, and before that was managing partner of Impetus Solutions, a consulting firm founded in 2014 that focused on value creation for small businesses. Michael was also an adjunct professor of entrepreneurship at Howard Community College and an adjunct assistant professor in management and international business at Loyola University of Maryland. Michael now lives in the Greater Phoenix area.

I hope that by the time you read this, the worst of the pandemic will have passed and that you all will have come through it unscathed. We all look forward to happier times.

1973

Barry Etra
betra1@bellsouth.net

These are “Notes in the Time of Corona.” May we have no more “interesting times” like these for several millennia.

Fred Abramowitz was the flag bearer at the 2019 NYC Marathon Opening Ceremony, as one of the few who ran the first one in '76 (“Probably disappointed old radical friends who hoped I'd carry it upside down,” he says). His new book, *Travels in Africa: A Year by Land Rover Through the Great Continent*, was published in the spring; all proceeds go to charity, so pick it up!

Ravi Venkateswaran lives in Mill Creek, Wash.; his interest in geology has taken him to “lots of places,” he says. He has partly retired after many years in India and a final assignment in Nigeria, is on the board of his former boarding school in Colorado and advises a group in Nigeria for new projects. He conveys his best wishes to old colleagues from Carman and Hamilton!

Erik Bergman retired from a high-tech PR firm in 2017 after a 35-year career in journalism, PR and advertising. He has been pursuing

Steve is in touch with **Rick Blank** and **Frank Dermody**; he and Rick meet in Nyack, N.Y., for dinner several times a year. Frank is the minority leader in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and they meet in the city every so often.

Hope y'all are well and stay well. Hasta.

1974

Fred Bremer
f.bremer@ml.com

The “stay in place” order imposed on many of us this spring did more than fight the coronavirus. It also gave us a glimpse of what we might face in retirement. At first many might have enjoyed the extra time outside the office as a welcome opportunity to spend more time with the grandkids, do some gardening or go on a leisurely bike ride. But soon we realized that we missed the camaraderie of our work colleagues and the ability to get together with friends. We had a lot of time but lacked a plan for how to enjoy it.

As our “golden years” progress, we will also probably see many of our close friends move to warmer locales in the sunbelt or bucolic places like Martha's Vineyard or

been dusting off some collected cookbooks that I hope to (finally) use and am investigating where I will be able to take yoga classes or oil painting instruction once retirement arrives. Preparing for the future seems like a good way to take advantage of this abrupt interruption of my work routine.

The coronavirus hasn't stopped classmates from “getting together.” I heard word of a Zoom video cocktail party in April hosted by some classmates who were part of the *Spectator* staff: **Peter Budeiri** (an architect who lives in Irvington, N.Y.), **Richard Briffault** (a professor at the Law School who lives in Manhattan), **Charles Tiefer** (a professor at University of Baltimore School of Law who lives in Chevy Chase, Md.) and Gail Robinson BC'74 (who was the editor our senior year). Without the virus causing the growing popularity of video conferencing, it seems unlikely this group would have managed to have their cocktail party!

Two Facebook notes told us of two new grandchildren of classmates. **Barry Gruber** wrote, “In these dark and scary days, it is great to be reminded in a very real way about the circle of life. I am excited and happy to let my friends know that my son, Mitch (and his wife, Amy), had a baby boy at the end of April. I am looking forward to a long-distance bris!”

Dr. **Steve Blumenthal** (who is a semi-retired pediatrician in Portland, Maine) says his daughter Kelsey gave him his first grandchild in March.

A long email came in from **David Katz** (now back in the United States after a 45-year hiatus). David received a Eurette J. Kellett Fellowship in 1974 and went to Oxford. After earning two degrees, he joined the faculty at Tel Aviv University. He writes, “Apart from sabbatical years in Oxford (five), Istanbul (two) and Princeton (one), I was a professor of history in Tel Aviv for 41 years. Three children and one grandchild later, I found myself facing the compulsory retirement age of 68.”

David is now a professor of history at Brandeis (outside of Boston) and director of the History of Ideas Program. His wife, Amy Singer, was also teaching at Tel Aviv and now chairs Islamic studies at Brandeis.

He writes, “Returning to the U.S. after all these years has been interesting. Back to speaking English on a daily basis, I find that ‘grass’ is now called ‘weed’ and is legal. All ‘requests’ have been turned into ‘asks.’ People don't call, they ‘reach out.’ It's all very confusing”

A stone's throw away from Brandeis is Belmont, Mass., where **Stuart Offner** lives. He is a commercial real estate and real estate private equity attorney at Mintz (formerly Mintz, Levin et al.). Stuart has managed to get his kids to move back to be near him (dreaming of grandkids?). Son Ted (35) moved back from San Francisco with wife Tracy when he left Microsoft for a position at Sonos (the high def speaker company). Olivia (32) moved back to Boston after a 10-year career in communications in NYC and is now a VP of media and communication at State Street Bank. Sophia (26) has graduated from BU Law and is now a corporate associate at Ropes & Gray in its Boston office. Wife Susan is at home full-time after retiring from a career being assistant treasurer at MIT (where she managed special investments and funds).

Seventeen years ago, **Michael Fixel** (who lives in Jacksonville, Fla.) joined with daughter Juliet to form BeaTPAC, a summer camp for kids in the first through ninth grades. It celebrates the performing arts (singing, dancing and acting). Daughters Ava and Leia also are there, as camp directors. This year they are continuing the camp, but added BeaTPAC To Go, which has virtual classes for kids who are forced to stay at home due to the virus. (Michael says, “I suggested ‘BeaTPAC Goes Viral,’ but it got shot down!”) Michael is also president of Parallel Universe Theater Resources. His play, *Freefall Frostbite*, will be returning to NYC this year for what he hopes will be a 10-year run.

With great sadness, I must tell you that **Carl Yirka** passed away on April 4, 2020, at his home in Stratford, Vt., almost two years after being diagnosed with a neuroendocrine tumor (a rare aggressive cancer). This was the same month he retired from a 30-year career at the Vermont Law School Library (most recently as its director). Carl came to Columbia from Ohio and dreamed of becoming a Slavic language professor. He some-

Core Haiku



Reading these books has
been at the core of my life.
Columbia, thanks!

— Phillip M. Weiss '73

his passion for birding from Alaska to Ecuador; he volunteers at Portland Audubon and leads trips to birding hotspots there. Since travel is “currently unwise,” Erik does daily walks locally and notes that it's “sobering to know that our peer group is high-risk; when and how did *that* sneak up on us?” He signs off, wishing “Peace and health to all.”

Steve Pellino writes in (finally!) from Ridgefield, N.J., where he's been an attorney for 40 years, also serving as borough attorney. He's single now (after a few tries) and has a wonderful daughter and son.

Maine. Instead of seeing them once a week, it may become once or twice a year. The alternative is to plan and to develop relationships with new and old friends who are likely to be wherever we plan to be and are interested in the activities we look forward to pursuing. It is also a good idea to accumulate some extra frequent flyer miles so we can see friends who have roamed far!

The above is not meant to be a “downer” on retirement. Rather, it is what I have been thinking about as the weeks at home roll on and my eventual retirement date (no plans yet!) grows nearer. I have even

how ended up going to the School of Library Science at Case Western Reserve and later got a law degree. Carl leaves behind his wife, Micki; four children; and three grandchildren.

There you have it. As most of us are trapped at home by the coronavirus, some are celebrating new grandchildren or holding virtual cocktail parties. Others are winding down their careers while others don't seem to want to stop. Send in word of how you are adapting to our strange new world and what your plans are!

1975

Randy Nichols
rcn2day@gmail.com

Class Notes will be back in the Fall issue; until then, stay healthy and be well.

1976

Ken Howitt
kenhowitt76@gmail.com

Music is back! Need it desperately. To set the mood, I have Billie Holiday performing "Solitude," which seems appropriate.

Isolation is not a pleasant task, but I have been making the best of it. I dusted off my late wife's sewing machine (Singer Stylist Model 833), learned how to thread it and wind the bobbin, and then went to town making masks for the family and friends. I am down to 30 minutes for production time for each mask. Thank goodness someone posted directions on YouTube for the Singer Stylist Model 834, or I would have had only a dust-free sewing machine for display.

I also decided to go full-in on Zoom. I have been joined on a few calls by classmates: **Rich Rohr**, **Denis Goodrich**, **Jon Kushner**, **Tiberio Nascimento**, **Rich Feldman** and **George Munoz** are among the attendees. Aside from the Class of '76 calls, I have hosted some WKCR sports department and family Zoom get-togethers as well. I also have a standing call with a BC'76 classmate who lives in Egypt. We have been regularly talking for over an hour each week, and it certainly makes me feel less isolated. It is very interest-

ing to share perspectives on isolation from halfway around the world.

Rich, Jon and George are all in the medical field, and their perspectives on the crisis are very interesting. I received an email from another doctor, **Brian Smith**, who is the head of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Cooper University Health Care Trauma Center in Camden, N.J. Brian summed it up this way: "Obviously crazy times. Life continues to be an adventure. Tell everyone stay safe."

Michael Musto is also using Zoom. Michael was the longtime nightlife columnist for *The Village Voice*. He reports, "I've found a whole new world of connection on Zoom. I have my [private] Movie Club there, and I'm even doing interviews there. *Inside Edition* contacted me to be a commentator for a story, then put that on hold, but they're now going to interview me on Zoom."

Augustinus Ong PH'91 is in New Hampshire at the Division of Public Health Services, where he says, "We are dealing with the COVID-19 health crisis. Please note that all of our public health service folks are doing the utmost to provide a unified command and guidance to our citizens, to maintain all of our emergency response capabilities and deliver medical services to our patients. I am glad to be part of our statewide teams and with our federal partner agencies working together to 'flatten the COVID-19 curve.' It remains [to be] very hard work in the coming months for everyone. I wish you and your family, and our beloved Columbia College, a safe journey through this crisis."

I heard in early April from **Joe Graif BUS'78**; he is in the middle of selling his house in Virginia. Did not get any details, but I hear from Joe often and will fill in the blanks next time.

I do get those kinds of emails a lot — with few details, but good info. Our reunion head honcho, **Steve Davis LAW'79**, emailed the following: "Crazy times. I'm working 8:00 a.m.–11:30 p.m. seven days a week on client emergencies."

Another lawyer, the esteemed **John Connell**, emailed to ask me for my cell number. I replied immediately, and he replied, as well: "Fine. Just catching up. Talk soon."

Well, John, I am still waiting for that call. Kind of reminds me of my dating successes in college.

Columbia shut down and our class had one event casualty — the third annual Dr. Saul and Dorothy Kit Film Noir Festival, which was scheduled for the last weekend of March. As previously recounted, **Gordon Kit** is responsible for this great weekend of viewing. So, I have saved the last update for him, which I received in early April (just to give you a time frame for his narrative):

"Safe and sound here in Washington, D.C. — not much has changed. I'm still in my retirement routine of reading, watching movies, gardening, playing with and walking the dog, and cycling, though I now go to the grocery store at 7:00 a.m., when almost no one is there. The only change is I'm not going on any trips/adventures, having returned from India in early February before the world started sheltering in place — i.e., COVID-19 was only hitting China at the time.

"This year's Kit Noir Film Festival was canceled due to COVID-19. We will probably run the same program/speakers/films that we planned to run in 2020 in March 2021, since that is basically all planned out and requires only minor tweaking.

"My bike trip in mid-May in Israel was also canceled, owing in part that the trip is eight days, and Israel currently has a 14-day self-quarantine policy for non-Israelis entering the country. I was also planning to spend two days in Petra after the bike trip."

As for me, I am watching the world go by the windows of my condo in Hoboken (building is circa 1900, so don't be too impressed). I still have furniture (mainly bookshelves) that I acquired or built for my first post-Columbia apartment on West 111th Street. I am cooking up a storm. Since I eat gluten-free, takeout is a challenge. I am also baking quite a bit. Still trying to learn to play the piano — you would figure that since I started at 9 years old, that I should be able to do it pretty well after 55 years. Not so, but it is great to have a piano for **Tiberio Nascimento's** visits.

My three children and one granddaughter are all close by, and if I want to drive by and wave, traffic is pretty light. Even the Cross Bronx Expressway to get to my daughter's Bronx apartment is moving pretty well.

I use an elliptical in my home for exercise (that's my story and I am

sticking to it!), and also still get on the bicycle occasionally to go around Hoboken and Hudson County in New Jersey.

However, I do miss Manhattan, theater and Morningside Heights. These updates, though, are inspirational. The world is still out there, and when it opens up again, the revised version will have to be learned, conquered and enjoyed. I cannot think of a better group to do that with than all of you. So, please, keep yourself and your family safe, be careful and stay in touch.

Most of all, to our classmates in the essential services during this crisis, I am sending you a big lion hug for what you are doing in your communities to protect all of us.

1977

David Gorman
dgorman@niu.edu

In March, I found that I had some extra time to reflect and reminisce. One thing that came back to me about my college years was how fond I was of a phrase popular at the time: "You never expect the Spanish Inquisition!" That theme of stuff you don't expect feels a bit different now, especially given my age. I mean, I didn't expect to be in a risk group for the virus: Weren't at-risk people always my kids, or my parents, or anybody aside from me?

A number of classmates reached out around the time of the onset. I was very pleased to hear from my old friend **Harold Lehmann**. And however things may go from here, I hope that others will reach out as well.

Don Hare sent good wishes (which I second) to classmates in the New York metro area. About his own area he reports, "Houston is struggling with the virus but also with global oil and gas market issues, surrounding price per barrel. We are facing more bankruptcies, consolidations and closures in the oil patch."

Jess Lederman BUS'80 is at work on "a novel that takes place in 1955, the year many in the Class of '77 were born." He adds that his previous novel, *Hearts Set Free*, continues to win critical praise.

Professor **Franco Mormando**, chair of the Department of Romance Languages and Literature

at Boston College, has discovered that one of his past research topics, “the effect of the bubonic plague on Italian society, art and literature,” has suddenly gotten media buzz. He was interviewed for an article in *The Wall Street Journal*, “In Italy, Contagion Has Its Own Canon” (published in the Weekend Review for March 21–22). Not only that, this semester he is also teaching his seminar, “The Plague in Italy: From Boccaccio to Manzoni.”

Wow.

While he was on the topic, Franco mentioned the exhibition that he and **Thomas Worcester** [co-curated in 2005](#) at the Worcester Art Museum, “[Hope and Healing: Painting in Italy in a Time of Plague, 1500–1800](#).”

Hope and healing to all classmates, and their friends and family.

1978

Matthew Nemerson
matthewnemerson@gmail.com

No news this time. Be well, and let’s stay connected. Send me a note for the Fall issue.

1979

Robert Klapper
robertklappermd@aol.com

News from **Mark Fleischmann**: “After 45 years as a professional writer/editor, I have published my first work of fiction, the Kindle-only novella *Schwap and the Tomb of Diamonds*. I’m using a pseudonym, M.R.K. Walker, because if your name were Fleischmann, wouldn’t you change it as soon as you had the chance? For more information, see [quietriverpress.com](#).”

Tom Costigan is senior developer for Promontory Interfinancial Network in Arlington, Va. He lives in Falls Church, Va., with his wife of 39 years, Lucy Buchness. Their son, Nolan, recently earned an M.S. in data analytics from George Mason University and is a contract administrator in Leidos’s Department of Defense practice. Nolan recently became engaged to Miriam Roberts, targeting a wedding date in October (stay tuned). Tom continues in his role of chair of the Northern Virginia

contingent of Columbia’s Alumni Representative Committee; he encourages all alumni to join ARC and interview future Columbians.

Erik Swenson LAW’82 reports that he finally makes good. After nearly 38 years of “Big Law,” practicing in the energy regulatory and commercial space, Erik became the director of the Pro Bono Institute’s Law Firm Pro Bono Project in March. At PBI, his initial focus will be on harnessing available capacity within the legal community to tackle the increased demand for free and low-cost legal services stemming from the impact of COVID-19 around the globe. Speaking of COVID-19, Erik is joined in celebrating his new position by his wife, Kathy (a Freddie Mac compliance officer); his children, Sarah (a William & Mary senior), Andrew (an Indiana University freshman) and Amelia (a high school sophomore); and his rescue dog, Tipper (a Labrador Retriever — similar to a Labrador Retriever, but she keeps the ball when you throw it), all of whom are as of this writing respectively working, studying and lounging at home in a Virginia suburb of Washington, D.C., due to the virus. In his spare time, Erik enjoys astronomy, hiking, photography, sailing and tinkering, all of which, thankfully, are compatible with social distancing.

Michael Daswick says he has been reading and enjoying the column for a long time. He writes from Arizona: “My wife and I left SoCal decades ago and moved to Scottsdale, where I became involved in golf course and real estate development. That was fun but I traded it for even more fun and owned Scottsdale’s busiest dog shop, a great joint called BellyRubz, for 12 years. Sold that a year ago and am now happy to report I’m finally putting my Columbia English degree to work. I’m a full-time novelist.

“For more than 40 years I’ve been writing behind the scenes, stockpiling pages. In the last year, I’ve published four books. My opus novel, *Chip Rock and the Fat Old Fart*, is based on characters from short stories that Professors Wallace Gray and Karl-Ludwig Selig ‘commissioned,’ back in the day. Professor Gray always encouraged me to take the Chip Rock stories and build them into a novel; well, he finally got his wish. My fifth book is about Zin Mignon, a 13-year-old wonder-boy chef; it’s

the third in the Zin series and will be published later this year. All this stuff is on [michaeldaswick.com](#) and all the book sites.

“While the non-academic memories along Broadway surpass anything I ever learned in a classroom, I have a favorite memory of being invited to join Professor Selig’s colloquium my junior year. It was a big honor to take the venerable four-point class once a week, 6–10 p.m., with 10 dudes sitting around a big round table in a conference room next to Selig’s office. The first week’s book was *David Copperfield*. I’ll never forget, the guy on my left lit up a pipe in the first five minutes, and the guy on my right lit up a bigger pipe. The night, to me, was a free-for-all of scholarly over-analysis; the next morning I skulked into Selig’s office and, to his shock, I quit the colloquium. Selig tried to talk me out of it but I stuck to my guns and finally he says I’m in very good company — all by myself — because in all his years teaching the class, nobody has ever resigned but me. And if you knew Selig, I therefore gained his utmost respect.

“I’ve been married 30 years to Kim, who’s a great wife and mom, and a nurse at the Mayo Clinic here. We have three terrific kids, and I’m lucky to be heavily involved in the children-with-special-needs community. If you’re in Arizona, please say hello.”

Daniel Matathias also checked in to say he is reading and enjoying this column. We hope to hear his news soon.

Robert C. Klapper: “This Columbia memory comes courtesy of my 2-year-old grandson’s animal picture book. After the customary pages of big cats, elephants and a hippopotamus, they got to birds. There was the eagle, the hawk, the buzzard and, off in the corner, a pheasant. The sight of this obscure bird in the corner of the page triggered a most enjoyable memory.

“In my freshman year I was a member of crew, where the rigorous training for the eight races that culminated at the end of the year involved both indoor and outdoor workouts. The famous ‘tanks’ housed in the basement of Low Library, where one could simulate rowing on the Harlem River during the dead of winter, were quite convenient and so was the ergometer machines at Levien Gymnasium. But the real exercise occurred near the boathouse

at Baker Field in the part of New York known as Spuyten Duyvil. I remember fondly the cobblestone roads next to Seaman and Dyckman Streets and what seemed like some of the oldest non-gentrified avenues in all of Manhattan. Training on the river was certainly a key part of practice, but before we got on the river there was a mandatory five-mile run before each practice.

“When I think back to the coaches I had during my time on freshman crew, it reminds me of Woody Allen’s line, ‘Those who can’t do, teach. And those who can’t teach, teach gym.’ Anyway, it was on one of these mandatory five-mile runs that brings me back to the idea of a pheasant for this column.

“There was a park, I believe called Inwood Park, where most of the five-mile run took place. This park was so isolated, it remained untouched by even the early settlers and native Americans who lived in Manhattan. It was on this course one morning in running through this enchanted forest that I met a bird — a most beautiful bird. It quickly scampered out of my way. It was the most unusual wild bird I had ever seen. When I returned to the boathouse and asked the coach what kind of bird it was, he told me, ‘Oh, what you saw was a wild pheasant. They still thrive in this park.’ To this day I’m amazed that living in Manhattan, in 1975, was a bird so wild that even Margaret Mead BC 1923, GSAS 1929 and the Columbia anthropology department could forego their visits to Papua New Guinea looking for strange creatures from the past and plant themselves at the end of the IRT subway line — who knows what they might find in Inwood Park?

“It is funny to think that now, 45 years later, I’m pretty sure if I replicated my run and I did see a pheasant, he probably would be holding an iPhone!

“I hope this story sparks a fond memory in your mind as well. Roar, Lion, Roar!”

1980

Michael C. Brown
mcbcu80@yahoo.com

As I write from the epicenter of pandemic, NYC, I am amazed at the

outpouring of kindness and goodwill that we have shown each other in these trying times. The calls, emails, texts and Zooms from classmates, family and friends have been amazing and greatly appreciated. No doubt our world will change, but I am optimistic that we will come out of this better than ever.

While we had a wonderful weekend planned for our 40th reunion, we'll have lots to look forward to at our 45th in 2025 instead! I cannot wait to see you all and share some good stories from our time on Morningside Heights. I thank the Reunion Committee — **Jeffrey Field, Van Gothner, Steve Kane, Pat DeSouza, Jim Gerkis and Neil Sader**, and Columbia College Fund staff member Michael Marino — for all their hard work and attention to our class. We did a straw poll of our favorite places; I hope this brings back some memories:

Best Bar: The West End
 Best Bar below 110th: Cannon's Pub
 Best Sandwich: Mama Joy's
 Best Diner: Tom's Restaurant
 Best Band: Needle Dik
 Best Pizza: V&T
 Best Dorm: Carman
 Best Professor: Karl-Ludwig Selig
 Best Sam Painting: *Elvis on the Moon*

It was great to see Dr. **George Yancopoulos** GSAS'86, PS'87 of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and **Bob Hariri** of Celularity on the front lines in the fight against the coronavirus. Both are developing cures and novel approaches on immunity.

Once again, hope to see you in the fall! Drop me a line.

1981

Kevin Fay
 kfay0516@gmail.com

As this column is written, we are all dealing with the effects of the coronavirus and, as the class correspondent, I wish everyone good health; this, too, shall pass.

I heard from **Richard Baugh**, who in February became a grandfather of two (both girls and equally beautiful!). Richard has a daughter in Richmond, Va., and a son in Fort Lee, N.J. (his son graduated from Columbia and works at the Goldstein Lab at Columbia's

Institute for Genomic Medicine in Washington Heights). Richard is on the Harrisonburg, Va., City Council, finishing up his third term/12th year, and mulling over a fourth term. When not dealing with constituents, he practices law. Harrisonburg is an historic city and college town in the Shenandoah Valley (home to James Madison University, which two of my daughters attended — go Dukes!).

I also heard from Dr. **Rob Canning** PS'85, a professor of surgery at UMass Memorial Health Care. After P&S, Rob spent seven years at Montefiore (five in training, two as an assistant surgeon). He and his wife, Deval, then moved to Massachusetts. They have two sons, Samir '17, who is halfway through a Ph.D. in math from UC San Diego, and Krishna '20, who graduated with a degree in music. With two children attending Columbia, Rob and Deval became frequent visitors to NYC and are considering retiring to the Upper West Side (the changes to the neighborhood have been unbelievable; so much nicer now).

I also heard from **John DeNatale**. He and his wife, Mary Crowley BC'81, have logged more running miles than any couple I know (collectively, they've participated in more than 30 marathons!). For his 60th birthday, John and Mary ran the Paris Marathon, for the second time, along with friends from Brooklyn. They spent the week in France and had a wonderful time in both Paris and Biarritz. John's freshman-year roommate, **Jesse Davis**, is still a close friend and he and John ran the Brooklyn Half marathon together last year. (Imagine that, nearly 40 years later and still close friends with your roommate from Carman Hall!) John and Mary live in Park Slope and keep in touch with quite a few of their Columbia and Barnard classmates.

To close, please keep a safe distance from one another until the virus is over; now that you're working from home, don't forget to drop me a line for CCT (no excuses!).

1982

Andrew Weisman
 columbiacollege82@gmail.com

Greetings, gentlemen. As I pen this latest set of Class Notes, we're now



Jesse Davis '81 (left) and John DeNatale '81 ran the 2019 Brooklyn Half marathon together.

approximately three months into the global pandemic. Such a sad and disconcerting time. On a personal note, I spent four days in the hospital in late March with COVID-19. I'm doing fine now, for which I'm very grateful! The staff of Saint Joseph Hospital here in Denver are extraordinary people. We should all be grateful for the sacrifices our nation's healthcare workers make. They are truly heroic people. Please take this danger seriously; stay safe and responsible.

On a brighter note, **Ken Gruber** checked in from sunny Florida, even though he hails from Toronto; he managed to get "stuck" there riding out the pandemic while keeping company with his 88-year-old (and fun-to-hang-out-with) mom. He wrote about it for the *Miami Herald*. It's a wonderful, heart-warming piece and [well worth a read](#).

After being a suit-and-tie hospitality marketing guy for 25-plus years, Ken (when not stuck in Florida) has been enjoying self-/semi-(un)employment, doing everything from selling vintage collectibles to leading bicycle tours in Toronto.

It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you of the passing of our extraordinary classmate **Michael S. Friedman**. Michael was a lawyer, editor, teacher, publisher and poet, father to Henry and Joseph, and

husband of 20 years to Dianne Perry. He died peacefully at 59 on May 5, 2020, in Denver after a prolonged battle with cancer.

Michael was born and raised in New York City. He graduated from the Collegiate School and earned a B.A. in English from the College. After earning an M.A. in English literature from Yale in 1983, he graduated from Duke Law in 1986.

Michael first practiced in New York City, at Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts, and later at Weil, Gotshal & Manges. In 1995, he moved to Colorado and began his 25-year association with the Denver firm of Haligman and Lottner.

Michael was also a prolific writer and editor. He co-founded the influential literary journal *Shiny* (now archived at NYU), and authored several books of poetry and fiction. In 2015, a trio of his novels, *Martian Dawn & Other Novels*, was published, to great critical praise.

Michael was wickedly smart, had a wonderful sense of humor and was deeply loved by his wife, sons and a wide circle of friends. He is survived by his parents, Lester Friedman, of Great Barrington, Mass., and Sally Long, of New York City, and his sister, Deborah, of Atlanta.

I was fortunate to have spent time with Michael and Dianne, dining out and listening to live jazz.

Such a wonderful person. He'll be greatly missed.

If you have some time on your hands, and I suspect you do, take a few minutes and send along any sort of update you'd care to.

1983

Roy Pomerantz
bkroy@msn.com

I write this column knowing that many of you have been greatly impacted by COVID-19. At times like this, we are so fortunate to be members of the Columbia College community. College students are dealing with tremendous uncertainty. Some were able to return to their homes, while others had no choice but to remain on campus. The ability to support virtual education varies depending on a family's financial resources. It is our responsibility to guarantee that students can navigate the many challenges ahead with health insurance, summer jobs, rigorous academic courses and stress. We need to ensure students are able to take full advantage of the Core Curriculum and their Columbia experience as they begin their journey to become leaders and to change the world.

Columbia has been in the forefront of this pandemic. The Bubble at Columbia's Baker Athletics Complex at West 218th Street was converted into a field hospital for patients with mild COVID-19 symptoms. Dr. David D. Ho and his team of 25 scientists at Columbia's medical schools are aiming to develop therapies that will work not only against the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 but also against a wide variety of coronaviruses that could infect people in the future. On a Zoom conference for the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors in April, Dean James J. Valentini spoke about the challenges Columbia faces with remote learning and the efforts he has made personally to address some of these challenges. Dean Valentini teaches a science class every spring, and his students this past year were from Europe, Asia and throughout the United States, he said. The time differences made it impossible to teach all his students during the normal 4 p.m. time slot. He and many other faculty members there-

fore agreed to teach their class twice a day. The CCAA board meeting included **Ed Joyce**, who stayed with his family in Amagansett during April, and **Steve Coleman**, who is in Boston but used a background of Butler Library for the meeting. Steve noted, "It was the closest I ever came to being in Butler."

My family has stayed in Manhattan throughout the pandemic. In early March, my wife, who is a physician, stopped going into her office in midtown and has been practicing telemedicine from home. My business has stayed open, as we supply essential medical items, including baby thermometers and health kits. While 98 percent of retail has been shuttered, several of my national customers supplying food and emergency products have remained open. Due to the scarcity of thermometers, our hotline has been busy 24/7 with inquiries about whether adults can use our baby thermometers (they can). Our overseas factory has advised us that thermometer orders worldwide are 400 percent higher than in previous years. Our number-1-selling item last week was infant bandana bibs. Our suspicion is people are not only using them for their babies, but also extending them for adult use.

I also participated in a Columbia Fund Development Council Zoom meeting in April. It was clear to me that my family's experience in NYC has not been shared by some people in other parts of the United States. We hear the constant din of sirens. The streets are desolate, and it is eerie to walk around the Upper East Side with so few stores and restaurants open. We are one of the only families still occupying our building. The garage in my building closed. We were still riding our bikes around the loop in Central Park when the tents went up, to serve as temporary morgues. At that point, my wife and I discouraged the kids from going to Central Park any longer and our primary refuge has been the empty ballfields at Randall's Island. My mother lives in an apartment complex in Queens with mostly elderly residents. There have been many COVID-19 deaths there. My brothers and I have not visited her since mid-March, to reduce any risk of infection. One of my warehouses is in Queens. This is the epicenter of the crisis. We have had

our challenges with personnel and concerns for our personal safety. In May, my wife was to return to practicing medicine in her office. I was worried about her taking the subway and having such close contact with her patients. But I am grateful my family is well, my business is solid and I am in regular contact with so many supportive Columbia friends.

Mark Simon '84 is with his family in New Jersey. Mark and Melissa's son, Oliver, will attend Washington University in St. Louis in the fall. Fellow CCT class correspondent Dennis Klainberg '84 is well and sent me a hilarious Pass-over greeting. Former dean James McMenamin is with his family in the Catskills. Mike Schmidtberger '82 and I have been trading emails about former CU basketball player Patrick Tape '20 (who didn't play ball his senior year) committing to

their apartment and Esme is doing her school work remotely.

George Wilson: "I'm fine and sheltering in place with my wife and two kids at home in Merrick, N.Y. My daughter Anna is continuing her sophomore college education at Villanova via online classes. My 85-year-old mother is in an assisted living home in Spring Lake, N.J., and my 82-year-old father-in-law is five houses away. These are the people we worry about the most. I've been working from home since March 24. The world we knew will not be the same going forward."

Kai-Fu Lee: "I started Sinovation Ventures, a technology VC in China, after leaving Google China. I wrote the bestselling book *AI Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order* in 2018. I am married with two daughters, who graduated from Columbia and from NYU."

Core Haiku



Homer and Shakespeare.
Took Lit Hum with Peter Awn.
Forever grateful.

— Mark A. Momjian '83

Duke. I sat next to **Andy Gershon** at one of the CU basketball games in February. He shared with me a great story about how he played as a student in a scrimmage with Columbia great Alton Byrd '79 (who was also at the game). Larry Momo '73, former CC director of admissions, is staying with his wife, Jane BC'73 in Woodstock. **Gary McCready** and his wife, Jane, are home with their son, Charlie, in New Jersey. Their other kids are fine, too — Ben is working in Seattle and Maddie is in Montreal. **Eric Wertzer** is freelancing in NYC and applying his Ken Jackson thinking cap on a NYC history project. Marc Ripp '80 and his wife, Shari, are in New Jersey. Marc's daughters, Brandi '12 and Elena SEAS'14, are staying in Manhattan. **Eric Lee Epstein;** his wife, Michele Shapiro; and his daughter, Esme Epstein, are sheltering in place in their East Side apartment. Esme was taking her second half of her junior year studying in Rome and had to leave early. Eric and Michele are working hard in

Andrew Abere GSAS'91: "After more than 20 years, I returned to Columbia to teach in the Department of Economics in Spring 2020! I was pleased and honored to have been asked to teach a senior seminar, in which each student writes a senior research paper as part of the course requirements. I am teaching a seminar, 'Economics of Antitrust and Regulation,' which is a hot topic given all of the focus on big tech these days. I am consulting on antitrust and other matters as an economist (and sometimes testifying as an expert witness), and have been able to leverage my professional contacts to bring in guest speakers. I have had an attorney who represents a number of tech firms and an economist heading up policy at Google talk with my students and help generate ideas for topics for their papers. I last taught at Columbia in the late 1990s, and I have found much has changed but much has also stayed the same."

Frank Antonelli: "Living in Charleston, S.C., it is hard to get

together with my Columbia friends, but I try to keep in touch with **Kurt Lundgren** and **John McGivney** as often as possible. My company, Empire Sports Management, specializes in the golf industry, and we recently have been expanding our agency division. We currently represent six PGA Tour golfers, five LPGA golfers and 12 Korn Ferry golfers. We manage golf courses and celebrity golf tournaments and recently restarted our golf course design and construction company, Maverick Golf Design.

"Family has had a great year and I am proud of my three sons — Joey graduated from South Carolina with a degree in sports management and works for Empire Sports, Frankie is a junior at Clemson in the Clemson Life program and Patrick is a senior in high school and was named All-State in basketball and Region Player of the Year — undecided on college as of this writing. My wife, Debbie, is a basketball analyst on ESPN and recently was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame. Hope to get a chance to see more Columbia friends in the future and make new CU memories!"

Jon Ross recently moved back to New York City from California, where he lived in Venice for 33 years. Jon runs the nonprofit Micro-Aid International, which rebuilds permanent houses for disaster-survivor families around the world. Since he's been back in the city, Jon has reconnected with **Paul Saputo**, **Eric Gardner**, **Marty Avalone**, **Bob Montay SEAS'83** and **John Albin '84**, and has added **John Bonomi** to his Board of Directors. He adds, "I have always been in close contact with **Gardner Semet**, who lives in New Jersey; **Bob Kahn**, in New York City; and **Bob Gamiel**, in White Plains, N.Y."

Through the years Jon has reached out to other classmates with less effect: "I once was working in Yangon, Myanmar, when **Barry Obama** was there, and I sent a message, through the embassy, that I would love to get together and chat about our days at Columbia. I never heard back."

Jon says the Columbia community has been incredibly generous in its support of his humanitarian organization, which he founded 10 years ago to address a need in disaster response: "staying focused

on people whose homes were destroyed, after the world's attention has moved on." Jon reports that because of their generosity he has been delighted to catch up with **Kevin Chapman**, **Ed Joyce**, **Steve Coleman**, **Mike Melkonian '84** and me. "It's an amazing way to reconnect with our old friends — through helping people," says Jon. Through the years, other Columbia grads have sent words of encouragement. "When I'm out in the field rebuilding houses in third-world disaster zones, it's nice to know Columbia classmates have my back."

To see what Jon is up to, and to support rebuilding houses for disaster-survivor families, check out microaidinternational.org or [@microaidinternational](https://www.instagram.com/microaidinternational) on Instagram.

Kevin Chapman recently finished narrating the first two books in his current crime-thriller fiction series as audiobooks. You can listen to Kevin reading his audiobooks, *Righteous Assassin: A Mike Stoneman Thriller, Book 1* and *Deadly Enterprise: A Mike Stoneman Thriller, Book 2*, by picking one up on Audible or via Chirp, Nook, Google Play or Kobo. Anyone who wants to review the audiobook can contact Kevin via his [website](http://www.kevinchapman.com) to get a free download. Book number 3 in the series, tentatively titled *Lethal Voyage*, is in production and should be available in 2021.

Our Columbia friendships are priceless. They are far more important than any financial losses. We have a shared Columbia experience and history that spans more than 40 years. It is truly a privilege and honor to be your class correspondent. Be safe!

1984

Dennis Klainberg
dennis@berklay.com

Novel coronavirus be damned! Nothing can stop the Class Notes for CC'84. Many thanks to the following contributors for setting down their quarantines to send good news:

Roar, **Adam Van Doren**, Roar! He writes, "I continue to teach art at Yale to undergraduates and enjoy the yin-yang of splitting time between hectic Manhattan and the quiet confines of the leafy campus life in New Haven. I am also working on a book about historic landmark sites

of the American Revolution, which will combine my paintings of these sites, along with personal essays on each one. Otherwise, I am pleased to report that my daughter, **Abbott '19**, is working in a law firm. She and I enjoyed Homecoming last fall and the crushing 44–8 defeat of Penn. My son, **Henry**, is finishing up at Wesleyan with a focus on philosophy, and my wife, **Charlotte**, is busy as a real estate broker with **Corcoran**."

Welcome back, **David Gormley**! He writes, "After graduating from the College, I worked in brokerage and banking on Wall Street and was recruited by Citibank. After a few more years with Citi on Wall Street, I was asked to join our international staff. I was posted in Asia and Europe for the next 20 years. Lots of good travel with regular trips back to the head office. Later, I became CEO of a listed company on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and then joined Franklin Templeton. Happy to be back in the United States with my wife and two sons."

Mazel tov, **Jeffrey Rashba**! He writes, "I guess any entry to these notes should begin with the classic term learned in CC (or was it Lit Hum?): 'Oy gevalt!' I practice corporate law in Israel with a focus on international transactions on behalf of technology and life science clients. A professional highlight of the past year (January 2020) was delivering lectures in Osaka and Tokyo on Japanese-Israeli joint ventures. I also enjoyed some terrific getaways with my wife, **Hedy**, during the past year (during the old days when one could pick up and travel), with perhaps our favorite being a week in February in Lapland, Finland. Cold, but as cool and fun as anything we have ever experienced on a vacation. On the homefront, we were recently blessed with our first grandchild (a boy, **Lavi Gavriel**). We are still trying to adjust to the novelty of having a boy in the family, after raising five daughters."

The life of **Doug Lindgren**: Where "Moonlight in Vermont" meets "Georgia on My Mind." He writes, "Like most people around the country and much of the world, my family and I are hunkered down and practicing social distancing as the COVID-19 crisis continues. My daughter, a graduate of Dartmouth and now working in the executive search business, is down from NYC

until it is safe for her to return to her apartment. My son will be doing his senior spring semester at Dartmouth online from here. While it is great to have both of them around for a while, I am sorry that the COVID-19 crisis has turned their lives upside down.

"I retired from full-time work in 2017 and now limit my professional activities to board and advisory work. My wife is an independent consultant. This has opened up the possibility of living almost anywhere. For now, we have decided to split time between Sea Island, Ga., and Norwich, Vt. If you are going to limit your exposure to the outside world, Sea Island is not a bad place to do it. I hope the virus will be under control when we head back up to Vermont this summer. In the meantime, we are staying close to friends and family via text, FaceTime and Zoom. In fact, we have a pretty good group of CC'84s holding weekly virtual cocktail parties at this stage."

Call the Mounties! APB on **Bob Zecker**! He writes, "I was back in NYC for Christmas and attended a house party concert in The Heights. Terrific concert performed by various Columbia alumni who used to rock the Postcrypt, as well as the Marching Band scene. Performing were, among others, **Mark Ettinger '86**, **Wally Griffith**, **Steve Greenfield '82** (who exclaimed when he saw me, 'All the way from Nova Scotia!'). In the audience were **Steve Holtje '83** and moi. I also ran into **Madeleine Frisch BC'86**, who starred in **Barnard's Gilbert & Sullivan Society's *The Pirates of Penzance*** as **Mabel**. (Sadly, **Dennis 'g(tb)2' Klainberg** was not in attendance.) This was a wonderful musical event, but also a touching example of the Columbia, and human, spirit. May we all stay safe and be there for each other in these stressful times."

Tom Gilman had to cut short a monthlong Southwest road trip with his wife, **Sue Corwin Gilman BC'85**, due to you-know-what, but not before encountering a rattlesnake, an earthquake, a mountain lion and the Bees. Tom's company, **IDEXX**, offers a four-week sabbatical after 10 years' service, which Tom has recently achieved. The trip started in Phoenix and continued to Arizona's Tucson, Ajo and Yuma, then to California's San Diego and Los Angeles; the rest of the trip

was to include Palm Springs, Death Valley and Las Vegas, but that will have to wait for another day. The rattlesnake encounter was at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and Tom reports that it definitely gets your attention. The earthquake was in Yuma (the world's sunniest place — who knew?), was a 5.5 and added a little extra excitement to the cocktail hour. The mountain lion was spotted in Yuma as well, in a park near the Colorado River — a magnificent and rare sight. And in another magnificent and rare sighting (no?), Justin Bieber appeared in a purple Porsche heading up Mulholland Drive in Los Angeles. All in all, a great trip, and here's to finishing it very soon!

At the time of my e-blast requesting updates, I was saddened to learn that playwright Terrence McNally '60 died from complications related to COVID-19. As one of the CC'84 flag bearers at Class Day 2013, I was privileged to hear him speak lovingly of Columbia and his career. You can find his complete speech at college.columbia.edu/node/4816. Given our current state of affairs, here are some of his more prescient remarks: "Besides, good or bad, advice is easy. I don't have a lot for you. Be nicer to people, wash your hands more frequently, count to a 100 at least twice before asking someone to marry you. Be useful, keep your word. Reread that email before you hit the 'send' button. Don't put compromising photos of yourself on Facebook. That's about it." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."] Stay healthy, all.

1985

Jon White
 jw@whitecoffee.com

Not that long ago, I had anticipated writing this column immensely. We would be gearing up for reunion, we would be getting tons of updates from classmates (whether attending or not) and it would be an exciting time to reminisce ... so much for that. How things have changed.

More importantly, my greatest hope is that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. Too many of us will know someone directly impacted by COVID-19. My wife, Allison, had a presumed case, but fortunately it was relatively mild and she recovered without issue. Thank goodness the rest of my family has avoided other health issues to date.

Unfortunately, the economic impact of the virus, short- and long-term, remains potentially bigger than 9-11, the 2008 recession or Hurricane Sandy, and so many of us have been, and will continue to be, impacted by the consequences. As of late April, NYC's shutdown has so dramatically impacted hospitality, retail and tourism that it may take many months, or even several years, to see a full rebound. My own business world has been significantly challenged, and has never been so uncertain.

More than ever, this is a great time to reconnect and touch base. I encourage everyone to use this column to share how you are doing, how you are surviving and how you are adapting during this crazy time.

I was particularly interested in our classmates who are overseas. **Sebastian Sperber** LAW'88 has multiple global hotspots covered — his daughters are in NYC, and he and his wife live in London. He says, "We are all fine. London is really quiet and shut down; very eerie."

Michael Nagybery resides in Saint Paul de Vence, France, just outside of Nice and not far from the Italian border. He writes, "It just so happens that I had been skiing in the Italian Alps with my 8-year-old son, Aslan, in late February, just as the coronavirus became a big thing in Italy, and in Lombardy in particular. Thankfully, we were not affected directly and remain healthy.

"Working as an independent in the tourism and trade show fields,

though, has meant a slight reduction in activity (he says, with mild understatement, as the entire season is likely canceled ...). So I focus on what is important (as I have done heretofore): My family/my son, his well-being, home schooling, tending our garden, planting a vegetable garden and preparing the pool for a new season, as well as focusing on some projects that have been on the back of my mind for quite some time. I am of the optimistic sort and so remain cheerful, and try to spread that cheer (which may soon be more difficult to achieve, since we will likely be required to wear masks in public). I steer clear of doom-and-gloom thinking and do a lot of cooking and baking, often with helping hands. Keeping one's head and hands occupied is quite therapeutic. Knowing your goals is even more so.

"Also, I trusted Aslan to cut my hair a few days ago. It is nice and short and a bit uneven, but I am happy and Aslan is ever-so-proud to have done a good job. The Monty Python tune, 'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life,' is running through my brain, and bringing a chuckle to my lips several times each day. We've gone through tough times before and we shall manage this time as well."

Kudos to **Tom Vinciguerra** for his article in the Spring 2020 issue about Baseball Hall of Famer Eddie Collins CC 1907 ("[Around the Quads](#)"/"[Hall of Fame](#)"). This article spoke to me in multiple ways: first, COVID-19 has delayed the baseball season, and second, my mother has a summer home in Copkae, N.Y., a small town in New York's Columbia County, immediately north of Collins's native Millerton, and whenever I drive home from there, I pass by the local park, which has an arch proudly noting Eddie Collins Memorial Park.

For those who don't live in NYC, you might have seen that the city's economy has been particularly impacted with near-total closings in tourism/hospitality, retail and dining. You might also know that, like at many universities, Columbia's Commencement was canceled, classes were moved online and the schedule and format for the fall semester is uncertain.

And, as you might now know, our reunion was not held this June. Thanks again to **Heather Paxton** for continuing to update our "[Columbia](#)

[College, New York Class of 1985](#)" Facebook page (if you haven't seen it, please check it out — some great stuff there!), and to **John Phelan** and **Leslie Smartt** for their leadership on the Reunion Committee, which will I hope be reconstituted once plans are finalized.

So, with everything going on, your updates through this column are an excellent way to share what you are doing and what you are seeing. Stay safe.

1986

Everett Weinberger
 everett6@gmail.com

I'm writing this in early April, during a rough period for New York City, the United States and the world. My hope is that by the time you read this, things will have gotten better with a clearer path to recovery and rebuilding. I already know that this disease has caused us to split life into "before" and "after" COVID-19. My heart goes out to anyone in our class who has lost a family member or friend to the coronavirus.

Jack Crane and **David Skoog** sadly reported that their Ruggles/EC roommate and lifelong friend **Frans Kramer** passed away from a heart attack on March 6, 2020. They write: "An expat Dutch national fluent in four languages, 'Tio' Frans led a rich, nonlinear life that included founding an airline in Venezuela as well as multinational ventures in consulting and real estate. Never married, Frans divided his time between Florida and France's Loire Valley when not traveling the world. His lifelong passion was cinema, but he was also a gifted pianist, photographer and cook. He was deeply read even by Columbia standards, a first-class intellect, but never at a loss for entertaining conversation in any company. Kids adored him. Even now, we half expect our dear brother Frans to pop up again somehow, bearing some delectable wine, exotic delicacies and an amusing tale, with photos, of his journey to the afterlife! *Nunc dimittis.*"

Jack formed a private Facebook group to share memories and photos of Frans with his family and friends. Email me if you are interested in participating.

Michael Goldfischer wrote about another FIJI-organized event



Submit
Your
Photo



CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

that I hope got in under the wire for safe dates to host a party. “On March 7, 2020, at The Stanhope House in Stanhope, N.J., the second annual musical festival, Winterpalooza2, was held featuring three bands fronted by CC’86 alumni. The good Doctor and The Outside Band were the opening act, **Jeffrey Ammeen** and his band Charlie Don’t Surf kept the joint rocking and **Sherman Ewing** and his band were the evening’s headliners. It was a rousing night of music, friendship, family, FIJI Purple and Columbia Blue. Also in attendance were Arthur Ajzenman ’83 and his wife, Lisa; Dominic DeCicco SEAS’84; Andrew Upton ’85; Dave Madoff ’85 and his wife, Donna; Dan Upperco ’85; **Rick Wolf** and his wife, Debi; **Patrick McGarrigle**; **Jack Merrick**; **William Golden**; **Addison Armstrong**; **Steven Marder**; Mark Foss ’87; Joe Policastro ’87; Stephanie Scherby ’87; Kyra Tirana Barry ’87; and Lynne Lada Azer ’87.

“The annual concert’s proceeds are donated to a local charity, and this year’s recipient was The Seeing Eye, in Morristown, N.J. This nonprofit is America’s oldest seeing eye dog breeder and trainer, providing independence for the visually impaired. We raised \$5,000 to name a puppy Jerry, for musical legend Jerry Garcia, who is our collective musical muse.

1987

Sarah A. Kass
sarahnn29uk@gmail.com

In the midst of the chaos of 2020 thus far, **Rebecca Turner**’s good news shines like a beacon. She writes, “In November, I released my third album, *The New Wrong Way*, an eclectic selection of songs I (mostly) wrote, with beautiful backing vocals by **Sue Raffman**. You can find it for sale, download and even on vinyl (!) along with my other projects at rebeccaturner.net.

“During this crazy time, my husband/bass player, Scott Anthony, and I have kept busy producing a [YouTube variety show, *Omniana*](#), a combination of music, poetry, segments on interesting stuff around the house and local pets up for adoption, and a tip bucket for a different charitable contribution each week. Friends have called it calming, eccentric and

zen! It’s provided some structure and been a good creative outlet.”

Stay safe and healthy! And don’t forget to send me your updates!

1988

Eric Fusfield
eric@fusfield.com

I am writing this column in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which finds me self-isolating at home with my family, like so many of us. The situation here in the Washington, D.C., area is no doubt less stressful than it is for our many classmates who still live in New York, but we’ll all continue to worry for the safety of our communities until the threat has diminished. I’ve been speaking by text and FaceTime with my former Morningside Heights roommate **Lee Haddad**, who is living in Israel under the same circumstances my wife and I are: juggling work with full-time parenting responsibilities, while occasionally and apprehensively venturing outside for groceries and other essentials. The fact that technology and shared experiences (good and bad) can bridge the divides of geography and time so easily is a fitting reminder of how interconnected our alumni community, and our world, are.

Thomas Cornfield works in finance in the Detroit area. “I am a financial planner with MassMutual — my team is doing business as Generational Financial Group. We help individuals, families and businesses to achieve their financial goals,” he writes. “I am based in Michigan but have clients all over the country. My hobbies include playing guitar, bass and other instruments, and doing artwork.”

Bill Seeley SOA’92 is a newly published author. “The book is a monograph on neuroscience and the arts, *Attentional Engines: A Perceptual Theory of the Arts*,” Bill says. “It was published in February.

“In other news, I am alive and well and live in Maine with my wife, Christine Donis-Keller BC’91,” Bill continues. “I teach in the philosophy departments at UNH Manchester and the University of Southern Maine. I returned to Hudson Bay by canoe last summer after a 21-year hiatus. I led a 12-day expedition

down the Attawapiskat River from Lansdowne House in early August. Other than that, I’ve just been skiing, hiking and writing!”

I hope that by the time this column is published we’ll all be living under happier and freer circumstances. In any case, feel free to be in touch and let me know how you’re doing. Stay safe, everyone.

1989

Emily Miles Terry
emilymilesterry@me.com

I’m writing this column in the midst of the worldwide pandemic that has touched all of us in every way. As of this writing, my mother and my business partner have fallen ill with COVID-19. So, like so many of you, I am filled with worry and my days are consumed with trying to see a path to normalcy.

I am dedicating this column to everyone in our class — all of you —

friends. I presume to speak for all of us when I say my greatest hope is that you and your family, friends, health, businesses and other means of livelihood, comfort and concern emerge unscathed and with the opportunity to return to full vitality. This column reports past news and some what-ifs, something the class correspondents are not supposed to do.

Exciting news for cookies lovers! In January, **Nancy Pak** BUS’95 was named CEO of Tate’s Bake Shop. You’re not familiar with Tate’s cookies and other deliciousness? Guess you’d better get yourself to the grocery store (or order for delivery if we’re still living in a COVID-19 nightmare) and try them. While Nancy’s family finished the school year in Maine (she’d been VP and general manager of Tom’s of Maine for the past four years), she commuted between her home in Maine and her new office/home on Long Island, where Tate’s was founded and operates a brick and mortar store.

Core Haiku



You won’t get Sappho
until she is read to you
in the ancient Greek

— John Vincenti ’90

who are engaged in selflessly helping others, supporting your families and fighting against the virus every day in any way we can. I also thank the wonderful people in the Alumni Office, as well as the editors at *CCT*, for their unrelenting support of our community and for always providing new ways to bring us all together. Until our next issue — be safe, everyone!

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
youngrache@hotmail.com

As I write this column, it’s late March and we are all living through a period that is unknown in its length, scope and outcome. In this time of uncertainty, which breeds worry, fear and a reminder of what’s important in life, it’s been extra special to hear from classmates and

Dan Sackowitz is the proud father of a bar mitzvah boy, who celebrated his special day in Israel in February. While there, Dan caught up with **Peter Neisuler**, and texted me a photo as proof.

An update from **Noreen Whysel**: “I now teach two classes at CUNY City Tech in Brooklyn: ‘Web Design I’ and ‘UX/UI Design.’ My husband, Brett GSAS’99, now teaches full-time at Borough of Manhattan Community College. We are in the process of converting courses to fully online for the rest of the semester due to the pandemic. We had been thinking of moving downtown or to Brooklyn and had our apartment on the market for a while, but took it off [in mid-March]. We are hunkering down on the Upper West Side for the duration.

“More work news: I work with Mucktracker, an edtech startup,

which hosts an online classroom for exploring disinformation in media. Online and news literacy is a good combination right now. I'm also converting the Information Architecture Conference, a three-track, 60-talk, 10-workshop event to digital. It's as hard as it sounds. I recently hosted a workshop on open geospatial data at Studio@Butler on campus and plan to post a write-up on Medium as soon as I have a better feel for my online classes.

"Both kids are home from college. My youngest took the train from New Orleans, which is particularly hard hit by the virus. My oldest left everything at her dorm at Sarah Lawrence in Westchester, another hot spot. My sister's son in Michigan recently had a second child, making me a two-time grand-aunt. I'm already missing our 30th reunion."

And so are the rest of us.

In what might become a social norm, a crowd of classmates got together on Zoom one night in late March. Attendees at this "meeting" full of memories and storytelling were **Lisa Dabney, Craig Nobert, Dean Temple, Kirsten Mellor, Karena O'Riordan, Ben Cosgrove, Jeremy Manning, Jenny Thompson Harvey, Scott Gauth SEAS'90, Sean Ryan, Hayley Jares Kondon, Margaret Flynn Robison** and the Columbia College Alumni Association's outgoing president, Michael Behringer '89.

We should see the list of CC'90 alumni whose children will join the Class of 2024 in the Winter 2020–21 issue. As we wait in suspense, I know of at least one super excited incoming Lion. How many others are out there?

In my last column, I reminisced about our 25th reunion dinner in Low Library. Sadly, the 30th reunion isn't happening in June, but I do hope we can all reconnect in person sooner, not later. Stay healthy in body and spirit, friends.

1991

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Greetings for summer, Class of 1991! Please send in updates about your spring and summer to cct@columbia.edu — your classmates want to hear from you! If you are interested in



Several members of the Class of 1990 caught up over a Zoom video chat during the coronavirus pandemic.

taking on the role of class correspondent, feel free to reach out to us at the email address at the top of this column for more information.

1992

Olivier Knox
olivier.knox@gmail.com

No news this time, CC'92. Be well, and let's stay connected. Send me a note for the Fall issue.

1993

Betsy Gomperz
betsy.gomperz@gmail.com

Greetings, classmates! I am writing this issue's Class Notes on April 18. I am noting the date for three reasons: 1) We've just completed our fifth week of remote work and school in Massachusetts and throughout most of the country, 2) it snowed today in Massachusetts and 3) it is my younger son's 12th birthday. It is a memorable day!

By the time you read this column, life will have, I hope, begun returning to "normal" (whatever that might be). This period has been such a strange time in so many ways — difficult for many of you, and filled with silver linings for others. A huge THANK YOU to our classmates working on the front lines

as doctors, nurses and health care professionals working with patients in hospitals; those in government, helping protect our communities; and those working toward medical breakthroughs to get us better testing and vaccines. Among the doctors, I've only had the chance to talk to **Sandi Johnson Murray**, an ER doctor in Connecticut; she mentioned the exhausting work and how very, very sick the COVID-19 patients she sees are. Her husband, Rob, is also an ER doctor facing the same stresses while they juggle looking after their two boys.

Thank you, Sandi, Rob and everyone else for what you are doing to help so many during this stressful time!

I don't think I've heard the word "Zoom" so much since we were kids watching the show on PBS. But in this new world order, I am so thankful for Zoom, where I've been able to partake in lots of regular, mini-Columbia reunions! In addition to hearing from Sandi, I've had a blast Zooming and catching up with **Robyn Tuerk**, who is riding things out in Boca Raton, Fla.; **Ali Towle**, who told me about her recent safari in Tanzania; **Jenny Hoffman**, who is in Washington, D.C., but is looking into where she can move to beat the curve and homeschool her teenage kids from a beach on the Mediterranean; and **Patti Lee**, who is moving back to San Francisco after living in Marin County, Calif.,

for 10 years. During this time of social distancing, Patti has taken up e-foiling, where she can be out on the water and a safe distance away from others.

I also caught up with **Julie Davidson Hassan** and **George Hassan**, who are hunkered down in Mendham, N.J., where they are grateful for five-acre zoning in their town, which leaves lots of outdoor space for their two boys, Aidan and Gavin, to run around without seeing anyone else. In catching up with both George and **Kevin Connolly**, I heard that George, Kevin, **Matt Thompson, Chad Moore, Joel Cramer, Chris Collins SEAS'93** and **Craig Collins** met up in Boston for a mini-reunion! The event that brought them together was a visit to the Great Marsh Brewing Company in Essex, Mass. Chris and Craig's older brother, John Collins SEAS'89, recently opened the brewery.

This past winter, I had the good fortune to run into **Greg Lang** while at a U14 ski race at Suicide Six in Pomfret, Vt. I had last seen Greg at our reunion in 2018 and before that, when we both worked at Credit Suisse First Boston in the late 1990s. It turns out both of our eighth-graders are part of the Okemo Mountain Resort team (my older son, Thomas, and Greg's daughter, Diane) — but girls and boys race separately, so we hadn't run into each other before! Greg is

the CFO at Oceanview Holdings/Bayview Asset Management and has been there for two years. He is married to **Grace Hyun Lang**, who is a pediatric urologist at NYU Langone Health. They live in Manhattan with their two kids.

I also heard from **Paul Sangillo** LAW'96, who recently released his first novel, a legal thriller titled *The Golden Prison*. The book is about a young attorney at a top New York law firm who finds himself in the middle of a murder mystery with a suspicious boss (the write-up on Amazon is much more exciting than my brief summary!). Paul is the deputy general counsel at Benjamin Moore & Co. and lives in Sparta, N.J., with his wife and family.

Finally, before we all had to quarantine in our homes and could still go to sporting events (boy, do I miss sports!), **Thad Sheely** was able to pull off a mini-Columbia reunion in Atlanta. Thad said it was a confluence of events that started with **Susan Schmeidler Blum**, who lives in Atlanta with her husband and two sons, wanting to go to a Hawks vs. 76ers game, since she's from Philadelphia. Thad also knew that **Buck Jenkins** lived in Atlanta and coached Susan's kids in basketball (Buck is a teacher and coach in Atlanta), so he got Buck to attend the same game. Thad has also been in touch with **Omar Sanders** BUS'99 (who works at Vanguard and lives in Philadelphia) and talked him into coming to town for the game. And finally, **Alan Freeman's** son goes to Elon University in North Carolina, so he and his son

road-tripped to Atlanta to join the fun. Thad reports that it was a great evening and fun to catch up with this crew (which included Joe Hill '94). For those who are curious, the Hawks won, 127–117.

That's all for this column. Stay healthy and be safe.

1994

Leyla Kokmen
lak6@columbia.edu

The CC'94 column is taking a hiatus this issue, but we will be back for the Fall issue! Best wishes for the health and safety of all members of the class.

1995

Janet Lorin
janet.lorin@gmail.com

I hope this finds everyone and their families safe and healthy. It's been such a strange time. While we are disappointed about and understanding of our 25th reunion not taking place in June, I'm sure we all are sending empathy to the Class of 2020, who can't experience a traditional Class Day or Commencement, or even say goodbye.

At least I can share a little bit about what had been on tap for Columbia Reunion 2020, which will be rescheduled at some point. **Ross Venokur** had graciously agreed to tell us about his experiences in filmmaking. Despite being in self-isolation in his home in Ojai, Calif., Ross is remotely directing the CG-animated feature film *The Silk Road Rally*, which he also wrote. The film is in production in Montreal, London and Mumbai, and is scheduled to be completed in mid-2021. In the meantime, Ross's company, EDH Animation Co-op, which he founded in 2018 with his wife, Lenore Quinonez-Venokur, continues to try to alter the entertainment industry paradigm by producing content in true partnership with artists, writers and creators from across the animation spectrum.

Dan Petroski of Massican Winery had graciously donated wine for our Saturday dinner.

Demetre Daskalakis has also tentatively agreed to do a talk. Now,



Columbia College and Barnard friends met up in April 2019 to celebrate Sima Saran Ahuja BC'96's birthday. Included in the photo are Sameer Ahuja '96, Neil Kothari '96, Parag Gandhi '96, Raina Gandhi BC'97 (née Bhatt) and Sima Saran Ahuja BC'96.

we are all proud of his important work as deputy commissioner at NYC's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Thanks to all the frontline healthcare workers doing their difficult jobs, and the spouses and families who are supporting them.

I hope to see you all soon. Please consider sharing an update!

1996

Ana S. Salper
ana.salper@nyumc.org

Dear classmates, I write these notes from New York as we are approaching the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in our area. Living in this dystopian existence has been nothing short of surreal ... and scary. I hope you and your families and friends are well and staying safe. Working for a healthcare organization during this pandemic has made me truly appreciate the power and value of human courage and commitment.

I hope by the time of publication of this issue that this pandemic will be behind us. For now, I personally salute and applaud all of the healthcare workers at my workplace, NYU Langone Health, and everywhere around the world who have risked

their lives to save others. You are tremendous. Thank you.

Now onto the notes. **Parag Gandhi** moved to Baltimore with his spouse, Raina Gandhi BC'97 (née Bhatt), and their daughters, ages 13 and 16. Raina works at American University's Kogod School of Business in Washington, D.C., while Parag is developing a subspecialty practice in ophthalmology, Maryland Eye & Face. Parag also does humanitarian mission trips, continuing in the Columbia tradition of global outreach.

In May 2019, he worked in Ulaanbaatar and Khovd, Mongolia, on a surgical and teaching mission trip through Virtue Foundation (NYC) to perform reconstructive ophthalmology on adults and children screened from various regions of the country. During the mission trip, he discovered that Dr. Abraham "Eddie" Barth '77 would be the anesthesiologist on his surgical cases. Parag writes that it was a pleasure working with him and exchanging stories about the Core Curriculum and their Columbia years. He also explored the beauty and remoteness of western Mongolia.

Parag adds that he caught up with other CC'96ers in April 2019 on a beautiful rooftop lounge in NYC to celebrate a milestone



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.

birthday of Sima Saran Ahuja BC'96. Among the attendees were **Sameer Ahuja, Neil Kothari, Parag, Raina** and other friends from the Columbia/Barnard family and their spouses. Parag says that it was a memorable reunion of college friends and a chance to celebrate a dear friend whilst sipping cocktails and enjoying views of the city that made it all happen!

Hussein Rashid writes that his first co-edited book has been published, *Ms. Marvel's America: No Normal*, and it is about Marvel Comics's first Muslim superhero to headline a series. Hussein says that while it is written for academic use, it is really approachable for fans.

Jeremiah Crowell has been working in the film industry since he left Columbia. He started out sweeping floors at a sound studio in San Francisco, then became an assistant cameraman and then a director of photography for a decade, making all kinds of projects. Jeremiah was nominated for two Emmys during that time. He became a director, then a writer, and now is a producer and showrunner. He says that he tries to make projects that help us see our shared humanity so that we can create a world we all want to live in. Two years ago, Jeremiah executive-produced and directed the series *The Last Defense* for ABC, which is about two likely innocent people on death row. Most recently he was showrunner and executive producer on *Pandemic: How to Prevent an Outbreak*, a series for Netflix that he hopes has brought people some good information and a little hope during this time. Jeremiah

has two sons, ages 10 and 11, and lives in Park Slope.

That is all I have for you now. Stay safe and be well. I look forward to seeing you on the other side of this pandemic (early call to join me at our 25th reunion in 2021!). I leave you with these fitting words:

"There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return."

— Nelson Mandela

1997

Kerensa Harrell
kvh1@columbia.edu

Dear classmates, I hope you are all doing well and staying safe amidst the worrisome coronavirus pandemic. It is my pleasure to present the following updates, which I received in January.

David Simmonds and Claire Fenton have been married for more than 20 years and live in Texas, where they are joyfully watching their son and daughter (Patrick, 15, and Hannah, 13) grow into young adults. David shares: "After 10 years of building my commercial real estate company, I've recently implemented a major rebranding as we enter our second decade, with plans for further growth and expansion both in Texas and nationwide. Claire continues to love her work in secondary education. Exciting times in Austin!"

David Scharff shares: "A couple of decades ago, I moved to a Tibetan Buddhist retreat center, where I spent a couple of years learning and practicing that path. Then I moved down to Los Angeles to bring my 'altered' perspective to the entertainment industry. I spent almost a decade as a writer, composer and producer. Since then I've spent the last decade as creative director of the nonprofit grant-making Annenberg Foundation, including its beloved Annenberg Space for Photography.

"Parallel to all of my professional pursuits, I have continued to practice and teach meditation. Although peripheral to my career, it has always remained a central part of my life. In October I started Compassion Unlimited. Now, with my new venture, I'm pulling my two passions together: providing creative consulting to clients in need of my brand-



David Simmonds '97 and Claire Fenton '97 have been married for more than 20 years and live in Texas.

ing mind and eye, and providing mindfulness and meditation training in the workplace for both non-profit and for-profit organizations that see the value in making mental and emotional health a priority.

"Bringing together both sides of my mind — a mind that benefited greatly from the spirit of inquiry and discovery fostered by Columbia College — feels incredible. No more division between my two passions; now both portions are on my plate, ready to be devoured!"

"And on a personal note, two years ago I married my partner of 16 years, Pablo."

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, as I sit here wrapping up this column, it is late March and everyone is worried about the pandemic that has just arrived. I hope you all are in good health in this frightening time.

Sadly, my last remaining grandparent (maternal grandfather) passed away on March 23, 2020, at 88. He was a wonderful grandfather — good-natured, kind-hearted, fun-loving, sweet, friendly, down to earth, simple, jovial, dependable, loved his family and never missed a family get-together. I was lucky to have had him in my life for 46 years. I keep trying to remind myself that he enjoyed a long, full life and died peacefully of old age. But I am still heartbroken to have lost him. He lived about an hour's drive away

from my home in Florida, so I was able to visit him frequently, up until his last three weeks of life, when the skilled nursing center where he was residing went on lockdown, due to an abundance of caution regarding the pandemic — no visitors were allowed in an effort to shield the elderly residents from potential exposure.

My final memory of him was on March 2. At that time I did not know that it would be the last time that I would see him. I was assuming I would simply come back the next week. He was propped up in his bed, on oxygen, and the nurse let me feed him his puréed dinner, since he was too weak to lift his hands to his mouth. After I finished feeding him, I sat down beside him and chatted with him for a while. My daughter, Amara (3), was with me, as usual. She and I were sharing a big chair, and I placed her tiny toddler hand on top of his hand because I thought he might find it comforting. She then sweetly kept her little hand on his for a long while as she sat watching a movie on his television. He seemed to really like her resting her hand on his, and he was smiling down at her with love and adoration in his eyes. I'm glad my daughter got to know her great-grandfather and make some memories with him in the last three years of his life. He was a wonderful man and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Columbia College Alumni on Facebook 

facebook.com/alumnicc

Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings, view photos and more.

I'd like to end with a few lyrics from a favorite song of my grandfather's, from the 1940s when he was a kid growing up in Kalamazoo, Mich. This sweet jazz tune also happens to be a favorite of my daughter's:

*A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H
"I got a gal in Kalamazoo ...
"Years have gone by
"My, my, how she grew ...
"Hoppin' on a flyer, leavin' today ..."*

Blessings to all, and please do send me your updates. *In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.*

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
sandie.chen@gmail.com

Hello, Class of 1998. I hope that by the time this issue is available, we've gotten over the worst of the pandemic and are back to whatever new-normal lies ahead. On behalf of our class, a heartfelt thank you to every classmate who's a healthcare provider, hospital staffer or educator, or works in any other capacity that helped keep us safe and sane during this time.

But now for a slightly less formal Class Notes column.

Dennis Machado chimed in on our Class of 1998 Facebook page: "I've fulfilled my lifelong dream of being able to sit at home for six weeks straight and not have to commute to work or drive to a single kids' event the entire time. Hope everyone is staying safe!"

Sarah Kawasaki added: "I will add to Dennis's well-thought-out vision for the Class of '98 notes, *Reality Bites*-style, by saying that after two weeks of treating patients in clinic for opioid use disorders, I am looking forward to the next month of telecommuting from home, crushing it *sans* pants. My kids are similarly crushing it."

Kei Ishidoya mentioned that she has lived in London for quite a few years (and reminded us all that "pants" in the United Kingdom doesn't mean trousers).

Lea Goldman started a podcast, *Hazmat Hotel*, in which she interviews experts from various fields about the impact of the coronavirus. One of her episodes features **Beth Roxland**, a bioethicist and former

executive director of the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law. You can find *Hazmat Hotel* on Spotify or Anchor.fm.

My husband, Hans Chen '97, and I continue to live in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., where we've been sheltering in place with two teens and one tween thrilled with their at-home curriculum of baking, embroidering, tying knots and watching their parents' favorite childhood movies. Kidding aside, our oldest son, Elias, has graduated from high school and will attend Williams College in the fall.

1999

Adrienne Carter
Jenna Johnson
adieliz@gmail.com
jennajohnson@gmail.com

No news this time, but best wishes for the health and safety of CC'99 and your loved ones. Be well, and let's stay connected.

2000

Prisca Bae
pb134@columbia.edu

I hope that the members of CC'00 are safe and healthy. I'm sorry that we didn't have reunion this spring to catch up in person. Best wishes for your health, and I hope that we can connect soon.

2001

Jonathan Gordin
jrg53@columbia.edu

Hi all, it's such a strange time right now. I write this from my house in Los Angeles, under quarantine, and you, like me, might be looking for as much human interaction as you can get. Sure, there's all those Zoom calls I do for my job, but I miss real social interactions with friends so much. It makes me truly wistful for my Columbia experience. Which brings me to the column... I was in a writing rut, and then I reached out to about a third of you with a blind note, and I got the following back. Don't worry, I'm coming for the rest of you soon. Be in touch!

Sofia Berger SEAS'02 lives in NYC "with my husband, Alex, and our daughters, Francesca (3) and Catalina (8 months). I still hang out regularly with all my favorite CC'01 ladies from Carman 11!"

Katie Campion Land is building a house in Tulsa, which should be done by summer! She took her two daughters to campus last summer.

Vanessa Bouché (née Gerace) writes: "I can't believe it's been almost 20 years since our Columbia days! My husband, Noel, and I have two daughters. I'm a professor of political science at Texas Christian University and, most recently, co-founder of Savhera (@savherawellness), an essential oil wellness and lifestyle brand that provides sustainable livelihoods to survivors of sex trafficking."

Sara Batterton BUS'07 writes: "We are all good here in Washington, D.C. **Michael Kerin** SEAS'01 and I had our second child last September, a boy named Noah. Big sister Sadie (4) is proud and doting. Sadie had her first meaningful trip to NYC in December and briefly set foot on College Walk to see the holiday lights. She hopes to return again soon to see the statue of Alexander Hamilton — she's learned a lot about him in her short life and is very proud to say Mom and Dad went there, too.

"Michael is a director of real estate development for The St. James, a growing network of sports, entertainment and wellness complexes. The company's flagship venue is in Springfield, Va. (outside D.C.), with a second facility already in design for outside of Chicago. I am an independent consultant supporting a variety of strategy and operations projects in the K-12 education sector. We'd love to make sure we get together with fellow '01ers in D.C. (or visiting) this year!"

Samantha Earl has been living in Philadelphia since 2016 with her husband, Frank, and kids (George, 6, and Maud, 4). Sam earned a master's in city planning from MIT in 2012. "I am a consultant for World Monuments Fund (where I worked for five years in NYC) on an historic preservation project at the Forbidden City in Beijing," she writes. "My kids go to Germantown Friends School and we live with our dog, Lulu, and cat, Bob, in the art museum area."

Elissa Curtis JRN'06 is deputy director of photography at *The Wall Street Journal* in New York. She had

her second daughter, Lenox, on January 22; Lenox joins big sister Hunter (2), whose birthday is January 23.

Congratulations, Elissa!

Devin Fitzpatrick reports: "I moved out of NYC after 20 years and now live in Baltimore with my husband, William, and my daughter, Caroline (3). I started my own company, CDF Consulting, which specializes in e-commerce and digital marketing advisement, so I still get back to the big city for visits and to see many of my friends from CU: **Meghan Sweeney Dalton-Orbin**, **Jane Jhun**, **Brynn Saracusa** and **Tori Brennan**. It is great meeting back home in Baltimore, as **Tom Nelson** and **Heather Nelson** are here, too, with their kids."

Janelle Archondo (née Joaquin) resides in Roslyn, N.Y., with "my husband and my kids, Graydon (11) and Dia (9). Spent the first 15 years of my career in private banking and transitioned to commercial banking (middle market) at Bank of America four years ago."

Andrew Danberg-Ficarelli writes: "I live in South Boston, but return to Columbia every December for the annual crew alumni banquet in Low Rotunda with my '01 varsity teammates. I finished my graduate degree and postgrad residency to become a pediatric dentist in 2012 at Tufts Dental, and last year opened a practice in Chestnut Hill, Mass., *Boylston Street Dental Group*."

Dr. Rachel Goodman is the Elliott Associate Professor of Biology at Hampden-Sydney College. She reports: "I love teaching my small biology classes at a liberal arts college with a core curriculum similar to that of Columbia. I'll be department chair next year, and the following year we move into a new \$40 million science building! I've recently been doing research on pathogens in herpetofauna in Virginia and Hawaii, and will start working in Ecuador this summer."

Elaine Shen lives in NYC, "in fact in the same neighborhood as Columbia! It's weird to see all those students and even some of the same professors," she writes. "I work at *The New York Times* on a team that does training on new story forms and reporting/workflow. My kids are 8 and 3, which I know are the golden years of the parent/child relationship. It's just sometimes hard to keep in mind when we're rushing to school

and my 3-year-old insists on wearing two jackets and walking backwards.”

Marisa De Saracho Lewin “lives in a Seattle suburb, and is a stay-at-home mom to two rug rats (6 and 2.5).” She adds, “I last worked outside of the home as labor and delivery R.N. six years ago in Los Angeles.”

Nora Abramson: “I live in Washington, D.C., with my husband, Dave Nathan, and our sons (3.5 and 5.5 — they are big on the halves right now). I am a management and evaluation consultant to schools, nonprofits and after-school programs. I am VP of the board of Operation Understanding DC, a high school leadership program that aims to build a generation of African-American and Jewish community leaders, trained to work toward ending all forms of discrimination. My family is lobbying me for a dog and my kids are obsessed with Legos.”

Tamara D’Anjou-Turner writes, “I’m a psychologist in private practice and faculty at Georgia State University since 2018. I recently was a first-time guest on a podcast and planned to be a guest again in March.”

Kjell Carlsson is married to Huong Trieu BC’01. “We have two kids, Kat and Cato; live in Newton, Mass.; and, much to my surprise, now advise companies on artificial intelligence, which is a bit ironic because I switched from my computer science major to econ ... I got to the course on AI and thought that neural networks and heuristics were useless; I was right for just over a decade; now the joke’s on me!”

Tim Fourteau is an attorney with Latham & Watkins. He is a transactional attorney, working in the energy and infrastructure sector across Asia, based out of Singapore. Tim is happily married with 6-year-old triplets.

Joe Cook lives in Chicago with his wife and four young daughters. He writes, “I am an attorney and a major in the Air Force, currently assigned to the Illinois Air National Guard. Here are some updates on classmates:

“My former roommate **Noah Ochsenhaut** also lives in Chicago and is an AP history teacher at Lane Tech College Prep H.S. **Matt Robertson** recently came through Chicago and we met up. He lives in Virginia with his wife and son.

Eric Allbin was in Chicago this past spring and we were able to hang out, as well. He lives in the San Francisco area with his wife and

son. **Kimball Payne** came through Chicago last summer and we went to a Cubs game. He lives in Virginia with his wife, son and daughter. My sophomore year McBain roommate, **Avery Moseley**, is doing well, living in California with his wife and young daughter. And one of our senior year East Campus roommates, **Chris Schaffer ’02**, is also doing well, living in Connecticut with his wife, son and daughter.”

Thanks, everyone, for these great updates. Stay well and in touch!

2002

Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani
soniahird@gmail.com

Dear friends, I hope you and your loved ones are safe during these unprecedented times. I would love to hear updates on your experiences and life during the time of the coronavirus pandemic, and especially from those of you on the front lines; we thank you for your efforts. Stay safe, everyone!

Rupal Patel’s second venture, *Entrepenora*, a community of and for women founders and C-level leaders who are focused on getting to the top of their careers and industries, was recently featured in *Harper’s Bazaar*.

Leonard “Lenny” Braman was elected to the Fairfield, Conn., zoning commission. His wife, Annie Green, and their children — Gwen (6), Spencer (4) and Quincy (1) — are all doing well.

Jeffrey Anderson announces the birth of his third child, Jeffrey Michael Anderson Jr., born on December 22, 2019. His also has twin daughters, Charlotte and Sophia (2). Jeffrey’s father passed away on January 21, 2020; Jeffrey will continue to run the family construction company, Gryphen Services, in Southern California. He is also head coach for the St. John Bosco H.S. wrestling team; they recently took second place in at the CIF State Wrestling Championships.

Mike Mellia directed Tory Burch’s new fashion campaign using video compositing and special effects to create a surreal world of creative accidents.

Last year **Michelle Ng** married Christopher Reynolds; she is VP of retail merchandising at CELINE in New York City.

2003

Michael Novielli
mjn29@columbia.edu

It’s been a challenging few months for the world, making it difficult to avoid hearing bad news wherever we go. But during times like this it’s even more important to celebrate good news and the successes and contributions of classmates. We’re all thankful to the many healthcare professionals and other essential workers for their commitment and sacrifice during this period.

Along those lines, our Senior Class President, **Kim Grant**, shared that **Anuj Mehta** was “instrumental to drafting the standards that the state of Colorado has adopted to respond to the novel coronavirus and think about the allocation of resources in an ethical, unbiased way. He has been virtually training physicians all over the state.”

Kim also updated us that **Jill Santopolo** turned in the manuscript for her third novel. Her first book, which is set at Columbia, has been translated into more than 35 languages and was a *New York Times* bestseller. She is also an extremely accomplished publisher and has published books by Chelsea Clinton, Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Sen. Kamala Harris.”

Andy Shin SEAS’04 continues to do incredible work in the tech space. He is now the chief technology officer of Quoteapro, “a tech-enabled marketplace that is disrupting the \$900 billion-plus recycling industry.” Prior to joining Quoteapro Andy was the CTO of GOAT, the world’s largest sneaker marketplace with more than 20 million users and 2 million shoes for purchase.

2004

Jaydip Mahida
jmahida@gmail.com

In what has been a trying year for so many, **Hendrik Gerrits** shared this uplifting note: “I recently went through the process of anonymously donating my kidney to a stranger, who ended up being a 21-year-old woman from upstate. It was an experience not without challenges, but also huge rewards. It stands out as one of the

things I am most proud of doing. I mostly want to share about it to raise awareness that this opportunity to profoundly change someone’s life exists and that it’s available to anyone who is lucky enough to be in great health and with a solid support system. In times of stress, I’m really helped by remembering this positive and life-affirming experience.”

After a 15-year career in social impact, disaster relief, international aid, economic development and fundraising for tech-driven nonprofits, **Mischa Byruck** founded *Evolve.Men*, a life and relationship coaching business in San Francisco. He writes, runs workshops and teaches men about sexuality, consent, integrity and accountability.

Cynthia Chen GSAS’14 writes: “After co-founding *Figure Technologies* and scaling it to a unicorn in two years, I co-founded *Kikoff*, which helps people build credit for free so that everyone can have a path to good credit.”

Mustafa Shafi Riffat BUS’11 shares: “After a wonderful experience returning for my second degree, at the Business School, I met the love of my life. We have now moved right by the CU campus on Morningside Heights, with our lovely little daughter. Strolling around campus is still our favorite thing to do.”

Molly Hartman-O’Connell is a family nurse practitioner with the Indian Health Service in Crownpoint, N.M. She met up with **Dr. Susan Guo** PS’08— radiation oncologist at New Mexico Cancer Center — recently at her home in Albuquerque.

Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share about trips you may be taking, events you have attended or are looking forward to or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates to either the email at the top of the column or via the *CCT* Class Notes [webform](#).

2005

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Best wishes for summer during these uncertain times. We hope that you are doing well and that you and your

loved ones are safe and healthy. Thank you to those who shared their news. If you would like to update classmates, please send a note to the email above.

From **LaToya Tavernier**: “I launched a podcast, [Figure Out Your Life with Toya T](#), which aims to find the answers to some of life’s problems. Weekly, I share tips and strategies for dealing with everyday issues, from overcoming a fear of failure to dealing with ghosting. If you are looking for unfiltered advice or a good story, this is the podcast for you. It can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, SoundCloud and Google Podcasts.”

Ling Kong has joined Goulston & Storrs’s New York City office as a director in the firm’s Corporate Group. He brings considerable experience in a broad range of corporate transactions and financings, including venture capital investments, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, restructuring and recapitalizations to the firm. Ling earned a law degree from Boston University School of Law in 2010.

Congrats, LaToya and Ling!

2006

Andrew Stinger
andrew.stinger@gmail.com

As we head into a summer shaping up to be quite unlike any we’ve experienced, I begin this column by saying a special thank you to classmates for taking the time to share your latest news. In a season marked by uncertainty and unease, it truly bolstered my spirits to hear of your successes, growing families and latest adventures. Some news I’m grateful and privileged to share:

Gina Cucchiara Di Veglio DM’10 welcomed her daughter, Vanessa Josephine Di Veglio, on December 13.

Justin Ifill also shares news of a growing family: “My wife, Seneca, and I had our daughter, Marielle Talia Ifill, on March 5 at 12:53 p.m. She is such a blessing and I am already singing ‘Roar, Lion, Roar’ to her on a consistent basis.”

On the professional front, **Sixiang Wang** GSAS’15 recently moved to Los Angeles to take a faculty position in UCLA’s Department of Asian Languages & Cultures.

Jaclyn Vary (née Matayoshi) was elected to the partnership of Calfee,

Halter & Griswold in estate and succession planning and administration.

Sheena Claire-Ann Gibson has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Military Spouse JD Network, serving as the governance director for 2020–22. A practicing attorney and military spouse for nine years, Claire is looking forward to this opportunity to serve the needs of military spouse attorneys affiliated across the military branches. She is also the principal attorney at her boutique intellectual property law practice, Gibson Law, in NYC.

2007

David D. Chait
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

I wish everyone in the Class of 2007 good health and the best navigating this difficult time, given the coronavirus’s impact! During these times, I hope these positive updates from our classmates are uplifting.

Lenora Babb Plimpton writes, “My husband and I recently welcomed our second baby, Nora Anne. Life is good here in Denver. I’m an employer-side employment law attorney at a boutique local law firm. Please reach out if you find yourself in the area.”

Marianna Zaslavsky BUS’13 shares, “I am joining Modern Fertility to head up partnerships. I would love to talk to anyone working at brands where we can partner on women’s health.”

Jonah Van Bourg shares that he “got married last May in Antibes, France, to a wonderful lady named Aurélie. We’re happily living in London.”

Kat Dey (née Vorotova) BUS’14’s company, [ettitude](#), “makes the world’s softest and most sustainable bedsheets, sleepwear and bath towels using its innovative CleanBamboo fabric.” Kat partnered with ettitude’s founder and CEO, Phoebe Yu, and joined as co-founder and president in 2018. “Today ettitude’s silky soft organic bamboo sheets are loved worldwide by more than 30,000 people who helped save 100 million gallons of water in 2019 by not buying cotton.” Ettitude was recently named “Best International Conqueror” in the Online Retail Industry Awards in Sydney and has been featured in *Forbes* and *Vogue* and on Goop.

Kat and her husband, Anton, welcomed their daughter, Anna, to the world in 2018. They are based in Los Angeles.

2008

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT wishes the members of CC’08, and your loved ones, good health during these uncertain times. If you would like to share news in the Fall issue, please send us an email.

2009

Chantee Dempsey
chantee.dempsey@gmail.com

I hope that everyone is doing well and staying safe and healthy.

We heard from **Philipp Rabovsky**: “Capital A, a new podcast I am doing about art, money and theory, is out on iTunes, Spotify and Anchor.”

Congrats, Philipp!

Please take a moment to share your news. It’s good to stay connected!

2010

Julia Feldberg Klein
juliafeldberg@gmail.com

Hi 2010. I hope all of you are safe and healthy. It was great to hear from you for this latest round of Class Notes, and I will miss catching up with our class at reunion! I hope that we get another chance to connect — virtually, or in person — sometime soon.

Katherine Vance shares, “My husband, Robert, and I welcomed our second son, Peter, on March 24. Eric (2) is so proud to be a big brother!”

After nearly a decade with the Department of State, including three tours as a Foreign Service officer, **Heather Hwalek** relocated to Seattle to begin work at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Strategic Planning & Engagement office.

Adam Flomenbaum moved to Seattle with his wife to start at Twitter. He would love to connect with classmates in the Emerald City.

And from **Chris Yim**: “I never really got to say a formal goodbye to

one of the loves of my life — the Bay Area, who I affectionately refer to as ‘the yay’ (no one likes it, but who cares?). I noticed that whenever I go out of the country to someplace far away, and I meet folks who have never been to the United States, they usually know of three places — New York, Walt Disney World and California. After having lived in California, I realized just how much air time the state gets in pop culture, what it’s known for in Silicon Valley and Hollywood, and how beautiful it is. As a kid growing up in Virginia, I had dreams of living in California even though I really knew nothing about it. I applied to Stanford and got rejected; my best friend in high school asked me where I would go if I got into all the colleges that I applied to. I said, ‘Stanford — how could I say no to California?’ Mind you, I had never visited Stanford University.

“When I got to college at Columbia, I met a bunch of kids from California. While the state sends a lot of kids to Columbia, I felt like I really enjoyed their vibe. They had this quiet confidence and relaxed approach to things. While they struggled to survive in the winter and many of them got depressed, I gathered that there was something about the place they were from that formed them into the humans that I admired and liked.

“Fast forward to 2011 — I applied to a job at Google and got flown out to the Bay Area (my first time visiting). It had been a nasty winter in New York. The weekend prior to my visit, I had gotten snowed in and I couldn’t make my flight. I had to reschedule my interview, so I flew out one weekend in February. I bombed the interview and didn’t get the job, but a perk of the interview was that I got to rent a car and stay the weekend. I drove to Stanford — my first time visiting the school. It was beautiful. I stayed with college friends in Berkeley and in San Francisco. I had my first Mission burrito, went out on Polk Street and had my first encounter with Mission Dolores Park. I got to smoke weed in public, and I experienced sunshine and blue skies in February after a harsh East Coast hibernation. After my stint in the Bay Area, I realized that the weekend was probably the nicest weekend of the year. I got hooked.

“When I moved to the Bay Area in 2013, it was a surprise even to myself. I had gotten comfortable with my life

in New York, and I really liked many aspects of it. I had just started dating someone. I had great roommates. I had a routine that felt good. Then a friend asked me if I would come with him to California to start a company. Within two weeks, I packed my belongings into a tiny Toyota Yaris and we drove it across country. The day we arrived in California in March (on the 8th, in 2013), I had seen snow on the border driving in from Arizona, and I felt really hot as we snaked through Southern California on the 5. We entered San Francisco on the old Bay Bridge, which I saw deconstructed and torn down. That was the beginning of what would be and still is a beautiful relationship.

“Now that I’m back in New York, I get the question — California or New York? It’s hard to think that reductively, so I would prefer to share what I love about the Bay Area. I have so many memories of the place. I lived there 2013–20, and I experienced so much of my life in there. It was the place where I started my company and sold it, which was the reason I went there. It was the place where I got to reunite with one of my best friends, and we lived there together for many years. It was the place where I lived with my partner for the first time, got married and also got divorced. The Bay Area is where I really fell in love with nature, where I learned to develop and cultivate community, where I experienced intense shame, guilt, self-hatred, compassion, anger and sadness. During the period of living in the Bay, I had my own racial awakening. This is where it began. I had my spiritual awakening, where I saw that I had the Universe existing in me. This is where I began my healing. One day, I hope to write about all these specific elements in sharp detail. I list them here to say that this is the place where so much shit happened, so I have a complex relationship with it.

“I got to live in San Francisco and in Oakland. I meandered throughout ‘the city,’ living in the Mission, Japantown/Lower Pac Heights and the Inner Richmond, and I stayed for a few months in the Presidio. After my breakup, I had this intense need to be in community, surrounding myself with people who wanted to say ‘hi’ to each other, with people who were seeking to put their roots into the earth and build friendship in a space that they could call home. I found a home on 44th Street,

called it ‘La Shire,’ and I reached out to a few other people who wanted to examine how they were living life and how they had a desire to align intention with action. They liked what I was communicating, and they joined me in North Oakland.

“As someone who grew up on the East Coast, the weather was truly an awesome perk. The East Coast has its hot summers, but I would say that it’s almost always 55 or 60 degrees in the Bay Area. You get a few extra degrees if you live in the Mission (in San Francisco) or anywhere in the East Bay. And it’s a bit hotter if you live on the Peninsula. As a non-Californian, this weather is really delightful. I eventually got spoiled and needed to experience a winter just to remember how good I had it. However, Californians tend to take for granted just how consistently the weather is good enough for you to be outside. What is outside that’s so great? Air. Trees. Animals and wildlife. The wind. Birds chirping. Things in blossom. The ocean. I get sentimental every time I think about how beautiful the yay is. I can name place after place that would place a striking image of beauty in my mind — driving through the Presidio to Inspiration Point; the Headlands, where you get an immaculate view of San Francisco; the Oakland or Berkeley Hills and any one of the parks on Skyline Boulevard where you can see the expansiveness of the Bay; Tennessee Valley and the trail that takes you to the ocean with marsh and wetlands; and Stinson Beach, the beach town that has some of my favorite hiking and the drive in that will take your breath away. It’s really just spot after spot.

“I guess if you live in a place for seven years, you’re bound to have many memories of that place and feel incredibly nostalgic about that place. I guess if you live in a place through your 20s, when you change so much and so much of you shifts, then you’ll link that physical place to something significant within you.”

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
 nurielm@gmail.com
 sean.udell@gmail.com

Hey 2011! A big update from one of your correspondents: **Sean Udell** is getting hitched! On February 13, five

days before his five-year anniversary with Jonathan Jenkins, Sean surprised his now-fiancé on the streets of Philadelphia with a sign, roses and a gaggle of the couple’s Philadelphia friends. The engagement was celebrated with lots of cute-but-awkward photos, as Jonathan was still wearing his biking helmet and no one bothered to tell him to take it off. Sean and Jonathan are now in the throes of wedding planning, which is just as expensive and stressful as everyone else has claimed.

In less current (but still relevant) news, in August 2019, Sean, **Shiri Melumad** and **Roxanne Unger** all realized that they live in the same city of brotherly love. Since then, they’ve been getting together about once a month (usually in person, but currently digitally) to celebrate friendship over very extended happy hours. It’s been a breath of fresh friendship for all three parties, who were feeling a bit isolated in their newish hometown. Sean and Shiri might actually be dating, but they insist that it’s just a friendship (especially since Sean just got engaged to someone else; see earlier in this Class Notes column). Sean and Roxanne try not to talk about the hospital during the entirety of their reunions, but work-life balance is hard. Also, Shiri often encourages the hospital talk, so Sean and Roxanne don’t feel too bad about it.

In other mini-reunions, **Dhruv Vasishtha** recently had to shepherd and keep **Jon Tanners**, **Javed Basu-Kesselman**, **Nuriel Moghavem**, **Sahil Vora**, **Blake Arnold SEAS’11**, **Benjamin Landy**, **Olivier Sherman**, **Ari Golub**, **Minsoo Lyo SEAS’11** and 12 others alive in the Arizona desert for **Rajib Mitra SEAS’11**’s bachelor party. He told Rajib at the end of the weekend they are now even for college.

After six years in brand marketing and communications at global luxury e-commerce leader NET-A-PORTER, **Laura Gabriele** has been commuting between Paris and London since joining LVMH in 2016 to build and launch 24S.com, the luxury conglomerate’s e-commerce platform. Now in her fourth year with the project as director of brand communications and now also global head of private client events and experiences, Laura can’t get enough of hopping around the globe whether for work or play, and is regularly back to alma mater territory in New York. Give her a shout if you’re Euro-bound

(you know, once international travel is restored).

Gairy Hall BUS’16 recently left J.P. Morgan, where he had worked since graduating from the Business School, to join The Carlyle Group. He is focused on raising capital from institutional investors across the United States at the private equity firm, but thankfully is staying in NYC after a couple of short career stints in London and Chicago in recent years. This follows a recent return to the workforce for his father, Dr. Gairy Hall ’77, who is practicing at Piedmont Healthcare and looking forward to fully retiring in the coming years.

Caronae Howell GS’14 had a busy 2019, graduating from medical school, moving to Tucson to start her vascular surgery residency, buying a house, adopting a dog and marrying the love of her life, Paul Castle. She and Paul met in medical school and are now both residents at the University of Arizona. When they’re not at the hospital, they’ve been exploring the desert and the mountains with their crazy dog.

And last, but certainly not least, after two and a half amazing years with Boston Consulting Group — including a promotion to project leader last fall — **Ola Jacunski GSAS’17** is shaking things up to focus on writing. She will attend the prestigious Odyssey Writing Workshop this summer (COVID-19 permitting) and pursue an M.F.A. this fall (school TBD!). Ola recently won the grand prize in the Writer’s Digest Popular Fiction Awards under her pen name, Alexandra Hill.

2012

Sarah Chai
 sarahbchai@gmail.com

Hi friends, I am writing this at the end of March, admittedly grappling with the ways that COVID-19 is affecting people the world over. This has been a challenging time for us all, and I hope that this update reaches you and your loved ones in good health. In the face of this adversity, let’s continue celebrating our classmates’ triumphs.

Kristin Simmons had a solo art show, *The Odds are Good, but the Goods are Odd*, at Phillips (450 Park Ave. in Manhattan) on February 29. She also recently launched a

business (lightweight, affordable statement earrings), Glitter Is the New Black. She invites you to use/share the code GOLIONS20 for a discount: glitteristhenewblack.com.

Thanks, Kristin, and congrats on the art show and new business!

Hope to hear from others soon. Sending all my best.

2013

Tala Akhavan
talaakhavan@gmail.com

Summer greetings, CC'13. I hope that you and your loved ones are all safe and healthy.

Jiyoon Han reports: "I am back home in NYC roasting coffee for essential hospital workers in NYC (via 'SEND A CUP'/'#NYlovescoffee' campaign)."

Harvard Business School (Jiyoon is in its Class of 2021) wrote an [article](#) in April about how after coronavirus closed down campus, Jiyoon returned home to Queens "to both complete her first-year MBA studies online, and launch an e-commerce site to help her parents' small business, Bean & Bean Coffee Roasters, stay afloat."

Be well, and let's stay connected.

2014

Rebecca Fattell
rsf2121@columbia.edu

I hope that all of you are doing well and staying safe during this time. Thank you to those who shared news!

Dara Shapiro (née Marans) launched a GoFundMe crowdfunding [campaign](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, "Feeding the Frontlines." In just two weeks, Dara raised \$20,000 and provided 1,200 meals to frontline workers across 18 hospitals in the New York and New Jersey regions, with a focus on community hospitals overlooked by fundraising initiatives.

On March 1, **Alexandra Svokos** was promoted to senior editor at ABC News Digital, managing daily operations for ABCNews.com. She spent almost two weeks with her staff before they all were sent to work from home, at which point the new position became immensely more complicated, but the outfits much more comfortable.

Emily Dreibelbis has taken advantage of all the at-home time due to COVID-19 and started a website for her latest hobby, soapmaking! She is making high-quality soap with locally sourced ingredients. Check it out and order some if you feel inspired (fremontsoapcompany.com)! They have liquid soap, bar soap and candles.

Iani Alecsiu started an M.B.A. at Harvard last fall and finished the first year online.

This summer she plans to work on her own start-up, building a marketplace platform connecting beauty salons with customers and creating a more equitable work environment for technicians.

Kate Eberstadt continues to write music during social distancing. She and her sister Izzie Eberstadt BC'16 are releasing their debut album, *Pierrot*, this year as alt-pop duo Delune. Kate is also working on some theater projects and solo artist work. Follow [@updatesfromkate](#) on Instagram for more news!

After nearly five years in China, **Chris Zombik** moved home to the United States in November. He is focused on running his education consulting company serving clients across China and working on other business and creative projects.

2015

Kareem Carryl
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2015! It goes without saying that the past few months have been challenging, to

say the least. It is times like these when it is important to remember to stick together, even while we might be physically apart. This goes for family, friends, colleagues and our Columbia community. In light of that, I am excited to share some recent updates from members of the class.

Courtney Garrity completed the Pacific Crest Trail hike on October 12, 2019. She started the hike by herself on May 16, 2019, in Mexico and finished in Canada.

Congratulations, Courtney, on your 1,900-mile accomplishment!

Jared Odessky shares: "After three years at Harvard for law school, I graduated in May alongside several other CC'15ers. I'm moving to San Francisco in October to start a two-year Skadden Fellowship as an employment and civil rights attorney at Legal Aid at Work."

Congratulations, Jared!

Bitania Wondimu completed her studies at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine this spring! Her next step is the pathology residency program at the University of Washington.

Congratulations, Bitania!

Ethan Edwards SOA'18 has been a researcher at the experiments in art and technology program at Bell Labs. He connects artists around the world with cutting-edge researchers to collaborate on performances, installations and more. He has continued to make his own artwork and spends much of his time in New York City with fellow CU alumni.

Rémi Moët-Buonaparte recently changed her name (FKA as Reilly to classmates) and enjoys living and working in Connecticut. She loves running into CU alumni in New Haven!

As always, your classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates to Class Notes by writing me at the address at the top of the column or via the CCT Class Notes [webform](#).

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
llyukrason@gmail.com

No news this time, CC'16. Be well, and let's stay connected. Send me a note for the Fall issue.

2017

Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Vanessa Anyanso was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in counseling psychology at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

Mia Santiago writes, "In college, I was involved with Student-Worker Solidarity and with Lucha. Since then, I've been organizing with the Columbus Freedom Coalition (I'm a co-founder) now that I live in Columbus, Ohio (I'm getting an M.F.A. in nonfiction at Ohio State). We've had some exciting news.

On MLK Day of this year, I was arrested during a peaceful protest for Julius Tate Jr., a Black teenager murdered by the Columbus police. There has been public outcry on our behalf, and recently the Columbus Freedom Coalition was named the Face of Columbus by *Columbus Alive*, part of the daily newspaper *The Columbus Dispatch*. The Columbus Freedom Coalition is a group of Columbus, Ohio-based organizers working to end all forms of state-sanctioned violence and build a world without police or prisons."

"I was interviewed in [Columbus Alive](#). The mayor of Columbus [requested to meet with us](#), which we did. I published an article in [Blavity](#) about my arrest.

"People can help us continue our work at bit.ly/2zyrjDm.

"There's a lot more media coverage on the work we are doing in Columbus. We are engaged in working to free incarcerated people before COVID-19 kills many in prisons and jails."

Elle Wisnicki received a fully funded scholarship to UC Berkeley Haas School of Business for an M.B.A. through the Consortium Fellowship; she also received a Forté Foundation Fellowship designation. She plans to attend this fall. The Consortium selects individuals who have shown leadership in improving representation of African-American, Hispanic and Native-American individuals in global business. The Forté Foundation is specific to representation of women in business.

Riley Jones IV graduated from NYU with a J.D. and from



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CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.



Nathan Rosin '18 and Emily Lavine '18 got engaged in Low Library.



Briley Lewis '18 (left) and Julia Zeh '18 enjoyed some sunshine on the beach in Santa Monica.



Silas Grossberndt '18 (left), Rachel Mikofsky '18 and Thomas Nielsen '18 had a mini reunion.



Thomas Nielsen '18 (left), Daniel Porada '18 (center) and Conner Duke '18 had a fun meet-up.

Penn with an M.S. in education entrepreneurship, both this May. Riley will practice with the law firm of Duane Morris in Washington, D.C., in its education practice starting this fall.

Ezra Wyschogrod married Talia Wyschogrod '18 (née Rubin) on November 17 in Boston. Check out [Just Married!](#) to see a photo!

2018

Alexander Birkel and Maleeha Chida
ab4065@columbia.edu
mnc2122@columbia.edu

Thomas Nielsen has been up to a lot recently! He is a legal fellow at a small Baltimore-based civil litigation firm, assisting in the authoring of a book on bankruptcy law in

Maryland. He's also deciding among starting at Stanford, Columbia and Harvard for law school in the fall. Thomas also has been engaged in a number of creative endeavors: He scored a number of short films, including two collaborations with Kevin Chiu SEAS'17 and two with Kosta Karakashyan '19. In addition, Thomas wrote two works of literary criticism — one on soundtracks to Shakespeare film adaptations, and the other on the role of music in *The Winter's Tale*, both of which have been published.

Chase Levitt still makes the Upper West Side his home, enjoying a similarly quiet oasis just south of Morningside Heights. A data analyst in Midtown, he spends much of his free time walking around the neighborhood parks, as well as catching up with classmates. Chase makes his way back to alma mater

several times a year, and still feels at home on a rare trip to Butler.

Nathan Rosin and Emily Lavine got engaged in Low Library!

Talia Wyschogrod (née Rubin) married Ezra Wyschogrod '17 on November 17 in Boston. Check out [Just Married!](#) to see a photo!

From NSOP to grad school, **Julia Zeh** and **Briley Lewis** still find ways to meet up even while living on opposite coasts. On her way to Hawaii to study humpback whales for her Ph.D. thesis, Julia stopped in Los Angeles to visit Briley, who is also hard at work on her own Ph.D., in astrophysics. The two enjoyed some sunshine on the beach in Santa Monica.

Yemi Olorunwunmi is feeling unleashed. After obtaining a start-up M.B.A. from her first job post-grad, she made the leap to being a full-time entrepreneur and venture

capitalist. Connect with her on LinkedIn or Instagram, and check out her freshly minted community organizations: [@BlackIvyBrigade](#) and [@CorporateChocolate](#).

2019

Emily Gruber and Tj Aspen Givens
tag2149@columbia.edu
eag2169@columbia.edu

Hi everyone. We hope that you and your families are healthy and are doing as well as possible. We would love to stay connected. If you have an update or a message to share with the class, please send them to us at either of the addresses above.

We are thinking of you and hope to be able to see each other again soon.

obituaries

Editor's note: In recognition of the toll taken by the COVID-19 pandemic, CCT wishes to acknowledge those in our community who have died from complications of the virus. Their obituaries are marked with a ♦ symbol.

1945

Anthony J. Borgese, retired electrical engineer, Niskayuna, N.Y., on February 18, 2020. Borgese entered with the Class of 1945, but earned a B.S. in 1948 from Columbia Engineering.

1946

Leonard L. Shengold, psychoanalyst and expert on child abuse, New York City, on January 16, 2020.

1947

William I. Silvernail Jr., retired physician, Dothan, Ala., on December 25, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to the [Wiregrass Area Food Bank](#), 382 Twitchell Rd., Dothan, AL 36303, or [The Episcopal Church of the Nativity](#), 205 Holly Ln., Dothan, AL 36301.

1949

Paul R. Meyer, retired attorney, Portland, Ore., on May 1, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to the [ACLU Foundation of Oregon](#), PO Box 40585, Portland, OR 97240.

1950

James J. Ward Jr., retired attorney and football coach, Sarasota, Fla., on January 30, 2020. Ward earned a degree in 1953 from the Law School.

1951

John A. Handley, retired HR executive and certified financial planner, Santa Barbara, Calif., on October 21, 2019. Memorial contributions may

be made to the [Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association](#).

H. Elliot Wales, attorney, New York City, on February 7, 2020. Wales earned a degree in 1954 from the Law School.

1953

Eugene Goodheart, professor of English, Watertown, Mass., on April 9, 2020. Goodheart earned a Ph.D. in English and comparative literature in 1961 from GSAS.

Robert A. Prendergast, retired professor of ophthalmology and pathology, Falmouth, Mass., on May 4, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [feedingamerica.org](#).

1954

Howard Falberg, retired HR executive, La Jolla, Calif., on February 24, 2020. Falberg earned a degree in 1956 from the Business School. Memorial contributions may be made to [Ner Tamid Synagogue, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Beth Emek](#) or the [AKC Canine Health Foundation](#).

1955

Daniel B. Hovey, retired physician, Rochester, N.Y., on April 22, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to Columbia varsity rowing and mailed to Emily Maury, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4523, New York, NY 10025; or made [online](#).

1956

Harmon D. Smith, writer, and retired marketing and communications executive, Kent, Conn., on February 29, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Kentland Trust](#) or [The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research](#).

Matthew H. Stander, attorney, Oyster Bay Cove, N.Y., on March 1, 2020.

1957

David W. Kinne, retired physician, New York City, on March 14, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Columbia's wrestling team](#).

Stephen E. Ronai, attorney, North Haven, Conn., on April 30, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to the [Bronx Science Alumni Foundation](#).

1958

♦ **John C. Diaz**, retired, Philadelphia, on April 3, 2020. Diaz earned a B.S. in 1959 from Columbia Engineering.

Laurence E. Harris, attorney, Potomac, Md., on May 16, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to the [Yellow Ribbon Program](#) at Georgetown Law.

1961

Jeffrey H. Rudell, Jacksonville, Fla., on March 9, 2018.

1962

♦ **Robert S. "Duck" Dickstein**, retired attorney and former wrestling coach, Paramus, N.J., on April 4, 2020.

Frank J. Grady, physician, Lake Jackson, Texas, on January 12, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Backpack Buddies](#), the [Brazosport College](#) scholarship fund or the [First United Methodist Church of Lake Jackson](#).

♦ **Robert H. Weitzman**, retired pulmonologist, Linden, N.J., on April 7, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Congregation Anshe Chesed](#), 1000 Orchard Terr., Linden, NJ 07036.

1963

♦ **Thomas E. O'Connor Jr.**, retired law firm executive, Saddle River,

N.J., on April 7, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to The Grace Foundation of [Terrie O'Connor Real Estate Companies](#), 300G Lake St., Ramsey, NJ 07446.

1964

Jerry Oster, retired writer, Chapel Hill, N.C., on January 26, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Cure PSP, AuthoraCare Collective](#), the [North Carolina Coastal Federation](#) or the [Fistula Foundation](#).

1965

Michael L. Tapper, retired physician, New York City, on March 6, 2020. Tapper earned an M.A. in 1966 from GSAS and an M.D. in 1970 from P&S. Memorial contributions may be made to [Columbia College](#).

1966

Denis P. Behan, retired account executive, New York City, on November 30, 2019. Behan earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. from GSAS in 1969 and 1977, respectively.

♦ **Stephen A. Steiner**, public relations director, Briarwood, N.Y., on March 30, 2020. Steiner earned an M.A. from GSAS in 1967.

1968

David F. Phillips, heraldic scholar, author and retired attorney, San Francisco, on March 26, 2020. Phillips earned a degree in 1974 from the School of Library Service.

John Rice Cole, retired professor, Greenfield, Mass., on March 12, 2020. Cole earned an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. from GSAS in 1973 and 1977, respectively. Memorial contributions may be made to the [National Center for Science Education](#).

1971

♦ **Rafael L. Black**, artist, Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 15, 2020.

Stephen J. Christian, attorney and accountant, Hopewell Junction, N.Y., on October 21, 2019.

James W. Hall, Odenton, Md., on March 11, 2020.

1974

Carl A. Yirka, law librarian, Strafford, Vt., on April 4, 2020.

1978

Donald A. Schwartz, physician, Longmeadow, Mass., on February 1,

2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Baystate Health Foundation](#), 280 Chestnut St., Springfield, MA 01199.

1979

♦ **Donald J. Sorel**, music teacher, and church music director, cantor and organist, Pomona, N.Y., on April 7, 2020.

1982

Michael S. Friedman, attorney, editor, teacher, publisher and poet, Denver, on May 5, 2020.

Rajan Sekaran, investment banker, Weston, Conn., on May 21, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to [Connecticut Food Bank](#), [The Nature](#)

OBITUARY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Columbia College Today welcomes obituary information for graduates of Columbia College. We do not publish obituary information for alumni of any other Columbia University school. Please fill out the “[Submit Obituary Information](#)” form.

[Conservancy](#) or [The Inner-City Foundation for Charity & Education](#).

1986

Frans E. Kramer, retired airline CEO, Val de Loire, France, on March 6, 2020.

1992

James Hoge Daine, retired bank VP and retired volunteer fire chief, Riverside, Conn., on March 2, 2020. Memorial contributions may be made to the [Sound Beach Volunteer Fire Department](#).

Dr. Paul A. Marks '46, PS'49, Cancer Researcher and Pioneering Hospital Leader

Dr. **Paul A. Marks '46, PS'49**, who transformed Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center as president and CEO, died on April 28, 2020. He was 93 and lived in New York City.

Marks was born on August 16, 1926, in Mahanoy City, Pa. He attended Samuel J. Tilden H.S. in Brooklyn, where a teacher persuaded him to apply to Columbia. Marks received a full scholarship and proceeded to P&S for an M.D.

Marks's research career spanned more than 50 years. In the late 1950s, he was the first to identify a genetic defect as a cause of hemolytic anemia, a disorder in which red blood cells are destroyed faster than they can be made. In the 1960s, he identified a genetic defect as the basis of thalassemias, a sometimes-fatal group of anemias. Marks is also credited as one of the pioneers of epigenetics: His work helped to define the way blood cells can become cancerous, and he helped develop a pioneering approach to treating cancer called “cytodifferentiation,” in which abnormal cells are coaxed into becoming normal again.

After completing postdoctoral research at the National Institutes of Health and the Institut Pasteur in France, Marks joined the Columbia faculty. He was the dean of P&S from 1970 to 1973 and VP for medical sciences from 1973 to 1980, when he joined what was then Memorial Hospital. Marks was president and CEO of MSK until 1999, presiding over the unification of Memorial Hospital and Sloan Kettering Institute; he set the institution — and the field of oncology — on a more scientific course. Marks encouraged the creation of integrated medical teams to coordinate patient care, created a research and treatment center devoted to breast cancer and established the first center devoted to cancer pain management.

Marks also revamped MSK's staff by instituting a tenure system with a tough review process; dozens of scientists left between 1982

and 1986. He was known, however, for a sharp eye in recruiting talent. Marks gave researchers freedom to explore, telling them, “You will not be told to work on cancer — we know that what you work on will be relevant to cancer ultimately.” However, he said: “We will expect to see spectacular research.”

Marks wrote a memoir, *On the Cancer Frontier: One Man, One Disease, and a Medical Revolution* (2014), and published more than 400 scientific articles. He was the editor-in-chief of *Journal of Clinical Investigation* and *Blood*, and served as a member of presidential panels on cancer and biomedical research.

Marks was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush awarded him a National Medal of Science in the Biological Sciences category. Marks was presented a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1996, and Columbia Engineering presented him its Michael Pupin Medal in 2016.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; children, Andrew, Matthew and Elizabeth GSAS'84; and several grandchildren.

Read more about Marks in [The New York Times](#), [The Cancer Letter](#) and [CCT](#).



Eugene T. Rossides '49, LAW'52, Lions Football Legend, Prominent Attorney

Eugene T. Rossides '49, LAW'52, a star quarterback who led the Lions to an exciting victory over Army in 1947 and became an attorney who served two Presidents, died on May 16, 2020. He was 92 and lived in Washington, D.C.

Rossides, whose middle name was Telemachus, was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on October 23, 1927, to Greek and Cyprian immigrants. He was an outstanding passer and runner at Erasmus Hall H.S. a decade after Sid Luckman '39 played there. Rossides recalled that Luckman told him, "You go play for Lou Little at Columbia." And that was it." He turned down two full scholarships from other colleges and accepted a partial one from Columbia.

Rossides started as halfback in 1945 and scored five touchdowns against Cornell, resulting in a 34–26 win (a four-year letter-winner, Rossides still holds the school record for scoring during a single game). He switched to quarterback as a junior, after being tutored by Luckman in spring practices. Rossides and Lou Kusserow '48 became known as the "Goal Dust Twins."

Rossides's star-making moment came when he led the Lions to a 21–20 victory over Army in October 1947; the Cadets had previously had a 32-game unbeaten streak and were unscored upon in four games. He also tied a single-game Columbia record set by Luckman and Paul Governali '43 by completing 18 passes against Army. Rossides was selected by the New York Giants in the 10th round of the 1949 NFL draft, but instead accepted a scholarship to the Law School.

After serving in the Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio, Rossides began his legal career in the New York County District Attorney's office, serving in the Rackets Bureau under legendary AG Frank Hogan CC 1924, LAW 1928. Rossides went into private practice, became active in Republican politics and spent two and a half years as an assistant to the undersecretary of the Treasury under President Eisenhower.

After heading Richard M. Nixon's New York presidential campaign office, Rossides served as an assistant secretary of the Treasury in the



Nixon administration, overseeing the Customs Service, the Secret Service and other agencies. In 1972, he established the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; he inducted the first women into the Secret Service that same year.

After returning to private practice, Rossides was a partner in the Manhattan firm Rogers & Wells. In the 1980s, he worked on the presidential election campaigns of Ronald

Reagan and George H.W. Bush, and published several books on Greece's role in U.S. foreign policy and other related topics.

Rossides became a leading voice in the Greek-American community when he founded the American Hellenic Institute in Washington, D.C., in 1974. He was active in Greek and Cyprian causes and received numerous honors, including the Republic of Cyprus Presidential Exceptional Service Medal in 2016.

A stalwart alumnus and supporter of Lions football, Rossides was presented Columbia's Medal for Excellence in 1972 and a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1994. He was elected to the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008 in the Former Male Student Athletes - Heritage Era category.

Rossides's first marriage, to Eleanor Burcham, ended in divorce. He is survived by his wife, Aphrodite (née Macotsin); daughters, Gale and Eleni; sons, Michael '84 and Alexander; brother, Daniel '50, GSAS'58; and seven grandchildren.

Read more about Rossides in [The New York Times](#) and on [gocolumbians.com](#), and view a conversation with him from [The Next Generation Initiative](#).

Saul Turteltaub '54, LAW'57, TV Writer and Producer

Saul Turteltaub '54, LAW'57, a TV writer and producer known for his work on *Sanford and Son*, *The Carol Burnett Show*, *That Girl*, *What's Happening!!* and other popular comedies, died on April 9, 2020. He was 87 and lived in Beverly Hills.

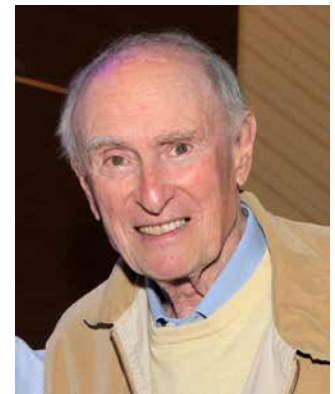
Turteltaub was born on May 15, 1932, in Teaneck, N.J., and grew up in Englewood. He got his start in comedy in the Catskills's "Borscht Belt" with a routine that required him to strip his clothes and reveal a Superman costume. While at the Law School, Turteltaub created the *Columbia Law Review* and wrote jokes for the comedy team of Marty Allen and Mitch DeWood.

Turteltaub was nominated for Emmys in 1964 and 1965 for the satirical news program *That Was the Week That Was*, and in 1968 for the first season of *The Carol Burnett Show*. He and Bernie Orenstein, who wrote together for more than 30 years, formed TOY Productions with Bud Yorkin in the mid-1970s following Yorkin's split with writer-producer Norman Lear. Turteltaub and Orenstein got three comedies

on ABC: *What's Happening!!*, *Carter Country* and *13 Queens Boulevard*, then joined *Sanford and Son* as producer-writers in 1974 and stayed through the sitcom's end in 1977. The pair also worked on the *Sanford* spinoffs *Grady* and *Sanford Arms*.

Turteltaub was congratulated for having done 23 sitcoms during his 50-year career. "You might be impressed that I've made 23 TV shows," he said, "but every producer will tell you that making 23 shows only means that you've had 23 shows canceled."

In a 2016 interview with the Television Academy Foundation, Turteltaub talked about being inspired by comedians. "I used to



admire those guys more than the singers and more than the actors because they would say something and 200 people in the audience would laugh," he said. "So it was my job when I was doing *Sanford and Son* to make 20 million people all over the country laugh at the same time and never hear it. But it was enough to hear the audience in the studio." Turteltaub was a mentor, and gave first jobs, to Richard Pryor, Garry Shandling, Dana Carvey, Nathan Lane and others.

Turteltaub's family said he was "beloved and respected by his entire community for his generosity, endless philanthropy, the giving of his time, his work with civil rights, his role as a teacher to

underprivileged or emerging writers, helping war veterans learning to write and his devotion to endless Jewish charities." Turteltaub was beloved by his CC'54 classmates, as well; he often spoke at reunion gatherings and was the featured guest speaker last year at his 65th.

Turteltaub is survived by his wife of 59 years, Shirley (née Steinberg); sons, Adam and his wife, Rhea, and Jon and his wife, Amy; five grandchildren; and sister, Helena.

Read more about Turteltaub in [The Hollywood Reporter](#), on [MSN](#) and in this issue's [CC'54 Class Notes column](#).

Brian Dennehy '60, Award-Winning Screen and Stage Actor

Brian Dennehy '60, a versatile actor known for multiple film roles and his Tony and Olivier Award-winning performance in *Death of a Salesman*, died on April 15, 2020, in New Haven, Conn. He was 81.

Dennehy was born on July 9, 1938, in Bridgeport, Conn., and grew up in Brooklyn and on Long Island. A history major, he enrolled at Columbia on a football scholarship, though, he said later, what he really wanted to do was perform with the Columbia Players. "In those days, the Players had an artistic definition of themselves which didn't allow a football player to be active," [he told CCT in 1999](#).

Dennehy's first newspaper notices were not as an actor, but as a Lion. An All-Ivy League honoree, the 6-foot-3-inch offensive lineman was picked to be one of the senior captains, but in July 1959 *The New York Times* ran an article headlined "Football Captain-Elect Drops Out of Columbia." Dennehy, who said he had struggled academically, left school to join the Marines, serving in the United States, South Korea and Japan. He completed his B.A. in 1965.

As for his acting career, Dennehy said, "I was an overnight success — after 15 years." He performed in community theater productions, mostly on Long Island, and in the mid-1970s branched out to NYC. His first mention as an actor in the *Times* was in 1976, for a showcase production of *Ivanov*. An agent who was looking for "a pro football type" for the movie *Semi-Tough* saw the show. Dennehy was cast, and small roles in movies and TV series followed quickly. He later starred in the films *First Blood* (1982), *Gorky Park* (1983), *Cocoon* (1985), *F/X* (1986), *Presumed Innocent* (1990) and *Tommy Boy* (1995).

In 1990 Dennehy received the first of six Emmy nominations, for the TV movie *A Killing in a Small Town*. He played John Wayne Gacy

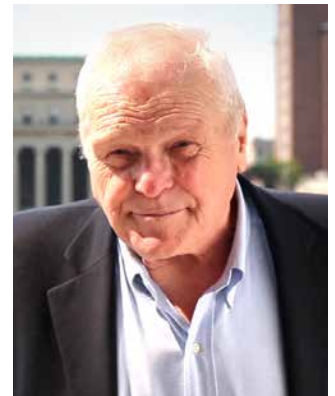
in the 1992 mini-series *To Catch a Killer*, and from 1992 to 1996 played Chicago police investigator Jack Reed in six TV movies, directing and writing four. In recent years Dennehy had recurring roles in several TV series, including *The Blacklist*.

His first love, however, was the stage. Dennehy made his Broadway debut in 1995 in *Translations*; after winning acclaim for his portrayal of Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman* (1999), his roles included *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (2003), *Love Letters* (2014) and *The Iceman Cometh* (2015) — his second time in the show. He portrayed Hickey in 1990 and Larry in 2015. Dennehy was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 2010.

The College presented Dennehy with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement in 1986, and he remained a loyal alumnus. He lent his distinct voice to a [promotional video](#) for the University and was the College's Class Day speaker in 2000.

Dennehy's first marriage, to Judith Scheff, ended in divorce. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Arnott; children, Elizabeth, Kathleen, Deirdre, Cormac and Sarah; and seven grandchildren.

Read more about Dennehy on [gocolumbialions.com](#), in [The New York Times](#) and on [RogerEbert.com](#).



Terrence McNally '60, Tony-Winning Dramatist of Gay Life

Terrence McNally '60, a four-time Tony Award-winning playwright whose work over five decades dramatized gay life, died on March 24, 2020, from complications of COVID-19. He was 81 and a resident of New York City.

Born on November 3, 1938, in St. Petersburg, Fla., McNally's parents owned a bar and grill on the beach. After it was destroyed by a hurricane, the family briefly relocated to Port Chester, N.Y., and his paternal grandfather would take him to the theater. After

the family moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, McNally edited the school newspaper and literary magazine at W.B. Ray H.S.

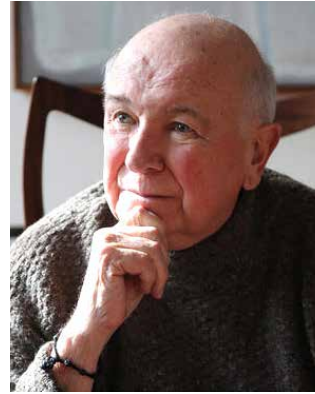
At the College, from which he graduated Phi Beta Kappa, McNally wrote for the Varsity Show. His Broadway theater career began in 1963 when he contributed a few lines to an adaptation of *The Lady of the Camellias* and continued with few interruptions through 2019's revival of *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*.

McNally's work introduced theater audiences to homosexual characters and situations that most mainstream productions had shunted into comic asides. In a [conversation with Philip Galanes in *The New York Times Style Magazine*](#) in 2019, Galanes noted, "You were a pioneer, one of the first playwrights to explore gay characters in your work — from the very beginning, in the 1960s. Did you see that as bravery?" to which McNally replied, "Not at all. I saw it as: These are people. I wasn't writing these plays in Texas. I was writing them in New York, which is sophisticated. I always felt it was O.K. to be gay in the American theater."

Across the next 50 years, McNally's plays — including *The Ritz*; *The Lisbon Traviata*; *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*; and *Anastasia* — traced the same narrative arc that many gay men were experiencing over the same period.

"Though the changes Mr. McNally wrote about were epochal for gay men, his plays were designed not to exclude. ... [they] never came across as a narrowing of theater's human focus but as an expansion of it, and by inviting everyone into them he helped solidify the social change he was describing," the *Times* obituary noted.

McNally was a remarkably prolific dramatist, with some three dozen plays to his credit, as well as the books for 10 musicals, the librettos for four operas and a handful of screenplays for film and television. He won Tony Awards for the musicals *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (1993) and *Ragtime* (1998), and the plays *Love! Valour!*



Compassion! (1995) and *Master Class* (1996), and was presented the 2019 Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement.

In 2018 McNally was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He was presented the 2015 Lucille Lortel Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2011 Dramatists Guild Lifetime Achievement Award. McNally was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 1996.

The College presented McNally with a 1992 John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement, and in 2004 he was presented with Columbia's inaugural I.A.L. Diamond [41] Award for Achievement in the Arts. He was the [2013 Class Day speaker](#).

McNally is survived by his husband of 17 years, Thomas Kirdahy, and a brother, Peter.

Read more about McNally in [Take Five](#), [CCT](#) and in *The New York Times*: [how he was seen by critics](#) and an [interview with him and his husband](#) about their lasting marriage.

Charles P. Wuorinen '61, GSAS'63, Pulitzer-Winning and Prolific Composer

Charles P. Wuorinen '61, GSAS'63, a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer of more than 270 works, as well as a virtuosic pianist and a conductor, died on March 11, 2020. He was 81 and lived in New York City.

Born on June 9, 1938, the son of John H. Wuorinen Sr. GSAS 1931, the former chair of Columbia's history department, Wuorinen was a prodigy who



NINA ROBERTS

started composing at 5. He also was a polymath with interests in fractal geometry, astrophysics, Egyptology and Chinese calligraphy. He earned both a B.A. and M.A. in music, the latter from GSAS.

Wuorinen's music showed refinement, power, technical excellence and wide emotional range, and it found a home in operas, ballets, symphonies, chamber and vocal works of all combinations and instruments.

His last completed work was his *Second Percussion Symphony*, which premiered in Miami in September 2019.

In recent years conductor James Levine became an advocate for the composer, and commissioned five orchestral works; Michael Tilson Thomas, a conductor with whom Wuorinen worked for much of his career, commissioned three; and Christoph von Dohnányi,

of the Cleveland Orchestra, one. Oliver Knussen, a composer and great interpreter of Wuorinen's works, recorded *A Reliquary for Igor Stravinsky*, which incorporated a few of Stravinsky's unpublished musical fragments (a little more than a minute of music) into a new work many years after the Russian composer's death.

Wuorinen also wrote six works for the New York City Ballet, including three scores inspired by scenes from *Dante*, and *Five: Concerto for Amplified Cello and Orchestra*. His works for the stage include operas based on Annie Proulx's novel *Brokeback Mountain* and Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*.

Wuorinen had a strong interest in earlier music, seen in such works as *Delight of the Muses*, written for the Mozart Bicentennial; *Time Regained*, which uses materials from Machaut, Dufay, Gibbons and Matteo da Perugia; and *The Magic Art: An Instrumental Masque drawn from the works of Henry Purcell*.

He received numerous awards, fellowships and honors, including the Pulitzer Prize in 1970 (for *Time's Encomium*), and a MacArthur Fellowship, and was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Wuorinen is the author of *Simple Composition*, used by students throughout the world. He lectured at universities throughout the United States and abroad, and served on the faculties of Columbia, Princeton, Yale, the University of Iowa, UC San Diego, Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory, SUNY Buffalo and Rutgers.

Wuorinen is survived by his husband of 32 years, Howard Stokar.

Read more about Wuorinen in [The New York Times](#) and on his [website](#).

Heyward H. Dotson '70, LAW'76, Lions Basketball Star

Heyward H. Dotson '70, LAW'76, one of Columbia's finest basketball players who later became a Rhodes Scholar and a



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prominent attorney, died on May 1, 2020. He was 71 and lived in New York City. Dotson was twice inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame: in 2006 as a member of the 1967–68 Ivy League Champion basketball team and in 2018 as an individual.

The 6-foot-4-inch Dotson was a capable scorer, solid ball-handler and outstanding defensive player who teamed with Jim McMillian '70 and

Dave Newmark '68 to lead the 1967–68 team that compiled a 23–5 record and was ranked as high as sixth nationally.

The Lions won the prestigious Holiday Festival basketball tournament at Madison Square Garden, captured the Ivy League crown by beating Princeton 92–74 in a playoff game at St. John's and reached the final 16 of the NCAA tournament. Dotson's 32 points in an 83–69 first-round win over LaSalle is the record for a Columbia player in an NCAA tournament game.

That Columbia team, coached by Jack Rohan '53, was known for its tenacious pressure defense, and no one played harder than Dotson. "When we went into big games, teams were not ready for how hard we played," Dotson said in a 2018 interview. "Everybody knew their role and executed very, very well. They used to call us the little [New York] Knickerbockers [of the NBA], we were that good."

Born on July 12, 1948, in Lugoff, S.C., Dotson was raised on Staten Island and graduated from Stuyvesant H.S., where he

played center on the basketball team. When he came to Columbia he was converted to guard and thrived despite the transition, scoring 1,266 points on 54.2 percent shooting and averaging 16.7 ppg for his career. Dotson was a star in the classroom as well, earning Dean's List honors six times. "Basketball was a means to get him off Staten Island, but he always thought of himself as a scholar," his daughter, Kahlillah Dotson Mosley, told [The New York Times](#).

After graduation, Dotson studied at Oxford University under a Rhodes Scholarship and played professional basketball in Europe, following a path paved by Princeton's Bill Bradley several years earlier. He returned to the United States, and after an attempt to play in the NBA, graduated from the Law School and practiced with the firm of Shea & Gould. Dotson held several government positions, including one with the New York State assemblyman Keith Wright and another with New York City Comptroller's Office, and ran for the New York City Council in 2001 but lost in the primaries.

"Heyward was one of the smartest, toughest individuals I have ever had the privilege of knowing. He always rose to the occasion and played his best against the best teams," said Jonathan Schiller '69, LAW'73, a member of the 1967–68 team and chair emeritus of Columbia's Board of Trustees. "He was eloquent, proud and gracious for the opportunities he had earned and what he was able to accomplish as a result. We were fortunate to be with him in life."

In addition to his daughter, Dotson is survived by his mother; sisters, Dorothy Benson and Eva Cooper; brothers, David and Donald; and three grandchildren. His wife, Mildred Dotson (née Singleton), predeceased him in 1998.

— Alex Sachare '71

View an [interview with Dotson](#) and a [collage of his Lions playing days](#), both made for his [2018 induction](#) into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame.

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CORE CARTOON CAPTION CONTEST

In honor of the Centennial, we asked four artistic alums to take inspiration from the Core and provide a cartoon in need of a caption — one for each of our four issues this academic year. Our final installment is by author and graphic novelist Ariel Schrag '03.

The winning caption will be published in the Fall 2020 issue, and the winner will get a signed print of Schrag's cartoon. Any College student or College alum may enter; no more than three entries per person. Submit your idea, along with your full name, CC class year and daytime phone, to cct_centennial@columbia.edu by Monday, August 10. And be sure to check out the Spring 2020 winning caption on our [Table of Contents](#) in this issue's PDF.