

# The Friday Five



## Take Five Minutes for College Updates

We're continuing to bring you College news and opportunities to interact with other staff members and teams. Previous communications can be found on the [staff resources page](#).

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## What's Happening

*Get program updates from teams and units  
and news about on-campus developments*

Happy New Year! Here are some things to know as we start the Spring 2021 term.

We have welcomed approximately 1800 undergraduates in residence, including about 900 students who were here in the fall. Newly returning students moved in the week of January 4. During the check-in process students completed the required gateway COVID-19 testing program, followed by a quarantine period

determined by NYS guidelines.

Residential students will be required to undergo twice-weekly testing throughout the spring term, assigned by residence hall. See the “Expectations and Accountability” section of the College’s [Our Path Forward](#) page for more information on how students must maintain compliance with the Columbia Community [Health Compact](#).

Please be reminded that a NEW spring 2021 gateway test is required for all faculty, staff, and students accessing Columbia campuses. This includes staff who have been on a campus throughout 2020 and who participated in the fall gateway testing program. Schedule your gateway test [here](#) as it must be administered by Columbia’s [Program](#). If you do not complete this spring gateway test requirement by **Monday, January 25**, you will not have access to Columbia buildings until you do so. All College staff MUST receive prior approval to be on campus for work (contact [cchr@columbia.edu](mailto:cchr@columbia.edu)).

Given the concerning upward trend in COVID-19 infection rates both nationally and locally, we want to reiterate the University’s call to [recommit to health and safety efforts](#). Wherever you are, we encourage you to practice protective public health behavior to contain the spread of the disease and safeguard yourself and your communities during the coming months. Check out updated [CDC guidance](#) about steps you can take.

The undergraduate Student Hub (CSA suite, Lerner 4) is open daily from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm during the term (except for spring break). You can refer students who are on campus and need in-person support for general and wellness issues to the Student Hub.

Multicultural Affairs will be continuing their [Identity and Inclusion Series](#) this spring, a set of interactive diversity and inclusion workshops on building a socially conscious community. Due to the limited capacity of our sessions, please register only for sessions that you plan to attend.

The Leadership and Excellence Awards committee has extended the final [nomination](#) deadline to **Tuesday, January 19**, at noon for staff and faculty. We welcome you to submit a nomination for students that have positively contributed to the Columbia community for one of the [various awards](#), recognized at the end of the Spring term. Any questions can be directed to [leadershipawards@columbia.edu](mailto:leadershipawards@columbia.edu).

### **Did you know?**

Columbia’s COVID-19 Monitoring Plan: [Learn more](#) about the COVID-19 risk metrics and key thresholds that trigger alerts for campus action. Each alert level carries a specific strategy, such as changes to on-campus activities, adjustments to testing strategies and limits to social gatherings.

Columbia Trivia: Which Columbia building houses the most-filmed college classroom in history? Check the [staff resources page](#) for the answer.

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## Staff Celebrations and Highlights

*Recognizing the College staff community*

In 2021, please continue to share professional or personal accomplishments or milestones about yourself, a colleague, or a College team/unit for inclusion in future Friday Fives. This is also a way to shout out anyone who has gone above and beyond! Submit something you want to celebrate via this [form](#).

### The Morningside Five! Get to know...



#### **Naja Muhammad**

**Assistant Director, Student Engagement  
Undergraduate Student Life**

**Favorite lunch spot/order on/near  
campus:**

DIG INN hands down. I loooovveee fresh vegetables and their mac and cheese! xoxo I miss you!

**If I wasn't \_\_\_\_, then I would be \_\_\_\_**

If I wasn't working in Student Engagement, I would definitely be on Broadway!

**If you could invite anyone to dinner, who  
would it be?**

The Obamas. We have so much to catch up on!

**I'm inspired by the College students because they are:**

DYNAMIC, RESILIENT, and BRILLIANT!

**What's one thing you can't live without?**

MUSIC! I wish my life actually had a soundtrack. I love most types of music.

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**Vivian Tran**



**Associate Director, Budget and Operations**  
**Undergraduate Global Engagement**

**Planes, trains and automobiles! I usually get to campus by:**

Train. I made a very transplant noob mistake of driving to campus once, and realized that NYC is the one city where public transportation outbids private.

**Before I was at Columbia I was:**

At the University of Southern California. I am working hard to convert from a Trojan to a Lion.

**What's the first job you ever had?**

For my 16th birthday, my dad got me a job as a birthday gift. Maybe he thought it was a good joke; starting on my birthday, I was a bagger at a small Chinese takeout restaurant.

**Favorite new skill you have picked up this year?**

Coffeeology. I picked up a weekend barista position because I wanted to experiment with coffee brewing techniques.

**What are your hidden talents?**

My superpower is Copycat. On Thanksgiving, I made a feast for 10 people just by watching three-minute YouTube videos for each dish, including a turducken.

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## Stay Connected

*Learn new skills and exchange creative ideas*

The Zoom@Noon series will return soon! In the meantime consider participating in University [events](#). Offerings include:

**Live from Columbia:** Join Miller Theatre's "Pop-Up Concerts" on January 19 at 7:00 pm for an evening of inspired jazz works featuring Brandee Younger on harp and Dezron Douglas on bass.

**Virtual Full-Body Fitness:** Starting February 2 at 5:15 pm. This challenging, back-to-basics fitness class utilizes your own body weight to strengthen and tone muscles. Each week, we will practice full body movements such as squats, lunges and planks. Participants are welcome to join the program at any time.

[Walking Tour of Historic Harlem \(Virtual Adventure\)](#): Join Big Onion's Virtual Adventure on February 10 at 5:00 pm to explore the history and culture of Harlem.

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