

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](#).

What's Happening

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

Campus Covid-19 News: A new Covid-19 testing and travel compliance campaign launched this week for our students in residence: **Test Lion Test**. In addition to our regular weekly email outreach, we kicked

TEST LION TEST

things off with events in the residence halls featuring newly designed postcards and stickers. There will also be new flatscreen content, social media posts and a [new website](#) to provide links to critical information and assist students with mandatory twice-weekly testing and travel compliance.

Columbia College Today: The Winter 2020–21 issue of **CCT** is here! We're thrilled that the man who literally wrote the book on New York City is one of our own: Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Mike Wallace '64. For [this issue's cover profile](#), Wallace talks about his *Gotham* series and his "radical" career. Learn how the Core Curriculum will evolve in its second century in [this Q&A](#) with Associate Dean Larry Jackson, and be sure to read [Dean Valentini's latest message](#) about keeping our College community connected. Find these great **CCT** features and more (plus original online content!) at college.columbia.edu/cct.



The Berick Center for Student Advising has hit the ground running in 2021; we've been as busy as ever helping CC and SEAS undergraduates navigate their (still predominantly virtual) lives at Columbia. CSA advisers hold regular meetings by phone and webcam to help students plan their academic programs, determine their majors, gear up for life after Columbia and maintain balance and wellness during these unusual times. The pandemic has also facilitated a few innovations this spring: A new electronic system for petitions has streamlined the process of reviewing student requests for exceptions to various academic policies. The degree application process for graduating seniors has also been moved online, and a virtual "Degree Day" event is in the works. The CSA has also been able to do business traditionally since the fall term: Six CSA staff members have been working in the 403 Lerner student hub (along with College staff from other units), where they are available to safely consult with students face-to-face.

The Center for Career Education saw a high level of interest in career counseling sessions in the Fall term. Career counselors worked with students in more than

1,100 one-on-one career counseling sessions — a 33% increase from Fall 2019. The CCE team also redesigned 15-minute virtual drop-in sessions that allow students to easily access our services.

CCE launched several new virtual programs including “[Networking from Home](#),” a panel and group networking series where students connected with alumni and employer representatives around industries of interest. Career fairs were shifted onto the virtual networking platform Brazen, which put employers and students into one-on-one recruiting conversations; over 1,400 of these chats took place at the 2020 Virtual Undergraduate Career Fair. Career Exploration October also offered a line-up of skill-building programs that covered timely career-related topics such as virtual networking and exploring graduate school (recordings of these can be found in CCE’s blog, [In the Know](#)).

In all, CCE served 3,600 student attendees at virtual recruiting, networking and skill-building workshops. Programming will continue throughout the Spring term, with additional focus on our Spring [Virtual Internship Program](#) and encouragement for students to apply for the Summer [Navab Fellowship Program](#). If you are curious at any time as to what is happening at CCE, make sure to check out our [Weekly Roundup](#) and share widely with students!

Staff Celebrations and Highlights

Recognizing the College staff community

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. Submit a shoutout or something you want to celebrate via this [form](#).

The Morningside Five! Get to know...

Jason Mogen

Assistant Director, Admissions

Favorite lunch spot/order on/near campus:

How many HamDel punch cards are too many HamDel punch cards?

What has been a defining Columbia moment for you?

Adam Glusker playing Senior Admissions Officer Jason Mogen in the 125th Varsity Show



What is the work you are most proud of in your current role?

I love working on our office's rural and small town student recruitment, advocacy and evaluation.

Before I was at Columbia I was:

Working in Major Gifts at the NY Philharmonic and Friends of the High Line.

What is the last TV show you binge watched?

The Queen's Gambit, but also all of them.



Christine Butcher

Assistant Director, Academic Affairs

What is a Columbia lecture or event that inspired you?

In February of 2020, our office hosted an event with [playwright] Suzan-Lori Parks. It was so encouraging to see this woman on stage, picking up her guitar and just sharing her life so authentically before an audience of young college students. And on a side note, after that evening, I picked up my guitar after several months and started playing again.

Favorite lunch spot/order on/near campus:

I used to go to the Hungarian Pastry Shop as a child with my grandma. It's amazing it is still there! I still like to go there sometimes for coffee and remember our times together. Milano Market is also good, because their eggplant parm is the best thing that ever existed!

What was your undergrad major?

Sociology

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

Friendships. I am very grateful for the gifts of friendship, sisterhood and brotherhood that exist in my life.

Favorite new skill you have picked up this year?

Learning how to write songs with my guitar that are based on psalms or poems, or general life experiences.

Stay Connected

Learn new skills and exchange creative ideas

The **Zoom@Noon** series will return soon. In the meantime you may be interested in participating in University [events](#).

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