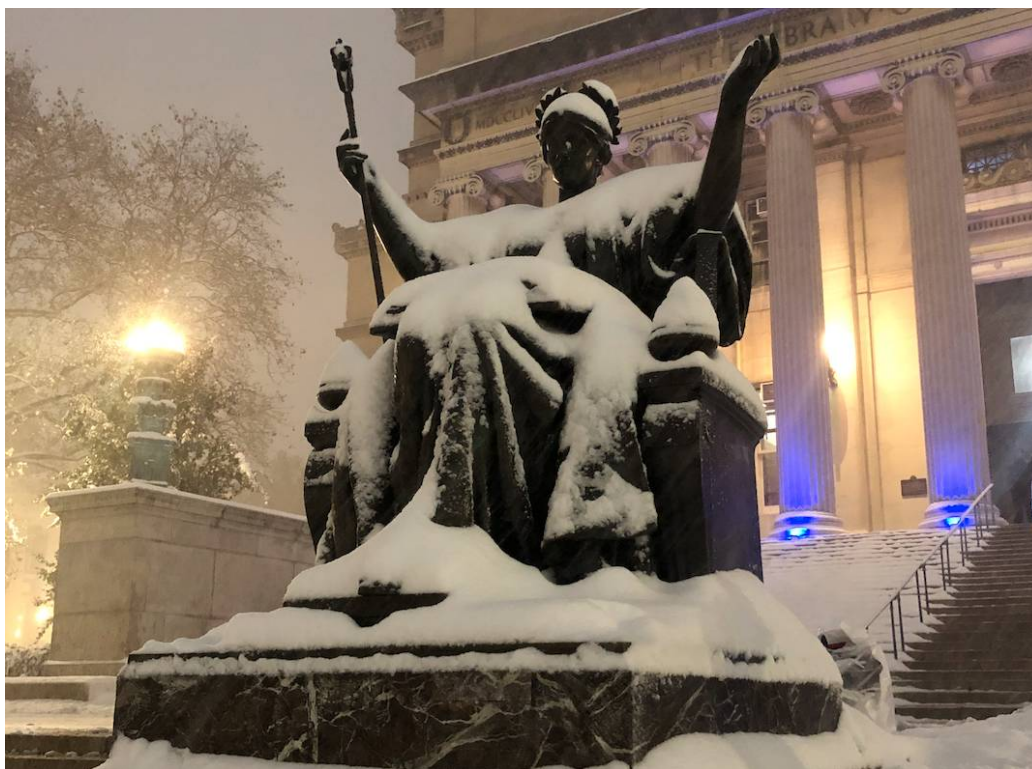


The Friday Five



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*

In case you missed the Dean's message yesterday, the [holiday web experience](#) for College staff is now live! Grab your favorite seasonal beverage and find a cozy spot to explore:

- A **playlist** of songs submitted by your College colleagues. Can you guess who added what song? Hit shuffle and enjoy!
- An **interactive recipe exchange**, where you can share a recipe of your own or find a new one to try out!
- A map showing **where College staff are working**. Discover the locations behind the Zoom calls with this visualization of our 2020 expanded campus.
- An **end-of-year review** highlighting some of the incredible accomplishments of each College unit.

For those who signed up for the bonus Secret Sender card exchange, happy writing! Don't forget to mail your cards soon. If you didn't receive details about your recipient, contact ks3743@columbia.edu.

Did you know?

Curious about the COVID-19 vaccines? Find CDC FAQs [here](#) or view Columbia's vaccine FAQs [here](#).

Need to come to campus in the new year? The protocol for the spring term will remain the same. Email cchr@columbia.edu (and copy your manager) to request a periodic or one-time visit to access your office space.

Staff Celebrations and Highlights

Recognizing the College staff community

Victoria Malaney-Brown welcomed her first-born son, Amadeus Brown, in August. He's now her newest Columbia co-worker in the Office of the Dean! Congratulations, Victoria!

The Morningside Five! Get to know...

Damaris Green

**Input Control Specialist
Admissions**

Which Columbia College alum would you most like to have dinner with?

President Barack Obama CC'83. The most obvious questions I would ask are: "How did it feel to become the first African American president" and "How would you compare your feelings as a President during and after your presidency"?



I would also want to pick his brain on his College experience and how much of an impact Columbia had on him; if what he learned at Columbia shaped who he became as an adult.

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

I have been working as an Input Control Specialist for Undergrad Admissions for 10½ years now. Part of my job is to read emails from prospective students and make sure that their applications are complete. Part of the application process is their college essay where they talk about their struggles in life, their love of Columbia and what they've done so far in their educational endeavors to make their application stand out. I also process the admission acceptance packages; I love to get the emails and videos of the admitted students opening their packages, the overall joy warms my heart and makes my job come full circle.

Before I was at Columbia I was...

I was a paralegal for 11 years. I loved legal work and assisting at trials and working with clients. However, the legal community became very unstable and after losing two jobs in two years, I had to rethink what I should be doing. At the time the Financial Aid office needed a front desk receptionist (only for three months). I took a leap of faith and took the job. While I was almost done with the temp position, my current position became available. I interviewed and was given the job!

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

Given the current status of our world today due to COVID, I have learned to appreciate my family. I come from a big family and married into another big family and for the first time ever I have had to go months without seeing them. We were forced to celebrate birthdays and other special occasions via Zoom. That teaches you that family is most important and time spent together has no monetary value but is invaluable.

What is the last TV show you binged watched?

For Life. It's a show about a wrongfully convicted felon who became a lawyer while in prison and got himself exonerated. Now his goal is to get other wrongfully convicted felons exonerated.



Matthew Patashnick

**Associate Dean
Student and Family Support**

I love Pantone 292 (Yes or No?)

YES! I have bow ties and regular ties in Columbia colors to prove my love.

What's the best piece of professional advice you ever received?

When we normalize crises, we are sacrificing our freedom; decision making under periods of intense stress is often less creative and less compassionate, not more. ([Great read](#) for more information.)

What fashion trend do you most regret?

All of my cargo shorts; khaki, navy, salmon, black, and olive... I apologize for ever wearing them!

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

Every day, I get to work with teams across the College where we discuss ideas, identify challenges and opportunities, agree and disagree, and create a forward strategy.

If you could invite anyone over for dinner right now, who would it be?

I would invite myself to Ina Garten's (The Barefoot Contessa) house. I think we'd be fast friends and cook and laugh together while Jeffrey is away.

Stay Connected

Learn new skills and exchange creative ideas

Thank you for participating in the Zoom@Noon's and Community Pop-ups this semester. We hope that you enjoyed them and found them useful to help you exchange ideas, learn new skills and connect with the vibrant College staff community. You can look forward to more dynamic programming to come in 2021!

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