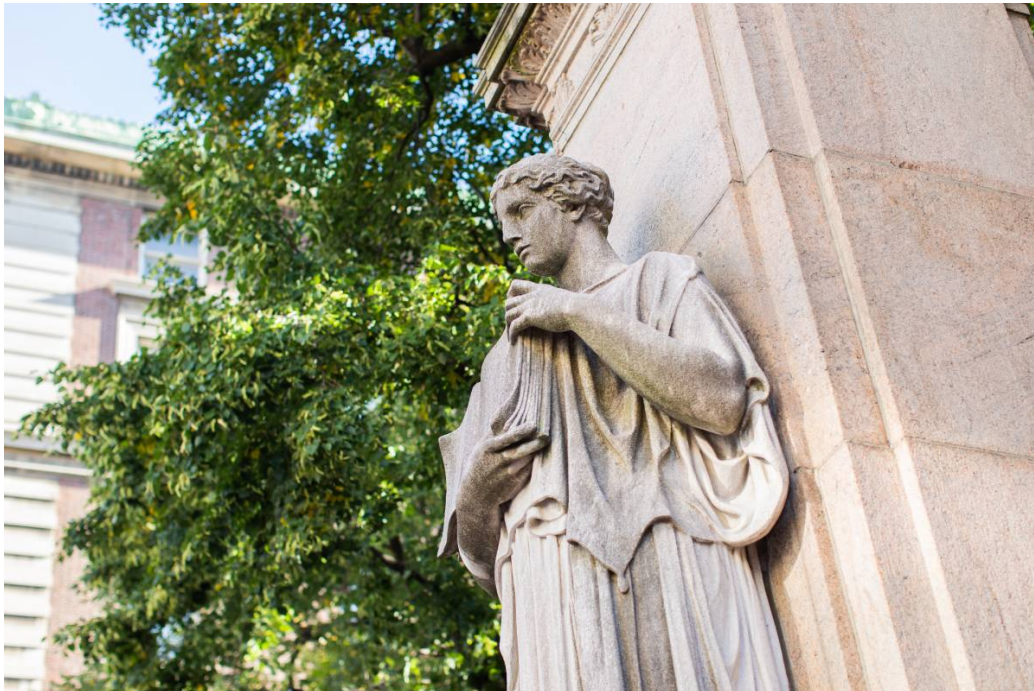


The Friday Five



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*

Our on-campus presence: You may have heard the Student Hub and Admin Hub discussed this fall.

While virtual programs and services are our primary means of engagement with students, the Student Hub located on Lerner 4 is a space that lets students know

that Columbia College and Columbia Engineering is open and accessible to them. The Student Hub has allowed us to support students by providing a one-stop location to get help with general questions, be referred to virtual resources and/or connect by appointment if needed. In addition, it's been an avenue for providing connections that support student well-being.

The Admin Hub, located on Lerner 6, is for staff who need an on-campus space to help fulfill their responsibilities.

These hubs will be the College's primary on-campus presence again in the spring. A smaller space will also be open in Hamilton Hall. Any staff member who would like to request a space in the Admin Hub in the spring should first speak with their manager, then email cchr@columbia.edu.

Don't miss the end-of-year celebration!

Reminder: You're invited to celebrate the season by [participating](#) in the interactive holiday experience for College staff that will launch later this month! Featuring a holiday recipe exchange, staff playlist, and other ways to get in the seasonal spirit with College colleagues, it's something you won't want to miss out on.

Interested in starting the festivities early? Submit your song to add to the staff playlist below!

Staff Playlist

It's a cold, mid-December day and you're hoping for snow. Time to prepare a cup of hot cocoa and turn up some winter tunes. Include song title and artist below.

Submit

Did you know?

Resources for Parents: Since COVID-19 cases are increasing, some schools and child care facilities may temporarily suspend onsite activities. Check [here](#) for University resources for staff.

Staff Celebrations and Highlights

Recognizing the College staff community

The Morningside Five! Get to know...

Kala DeStefano



**Assistant Director, Class Giving
Columbia College Alumni Relations and
Development**

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

A vegetarian sandwich with a side of tomato feta soup from Pret a Manger and eaten in Riverside Park.

Favorite Campus building?

Low Library. I studied there while in grad school at NYU my first year in the city.

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

I manage the Alumnae Legacy Circle. The ALC inspires female philanthropy and elevates the voices of women. They show me the power of female leadership!

What is the last book you read that you would recommend to others?

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett. Read it before the TV show comes out; while you're at it, read *The Mothers* too.

Favorite New Skill you've picked up in quarantine?

Baking bread on Sundays! [This website](#) doesn't disappoint for more baking recipes.

George Macey

**Program Manager
Center for Student Advising**

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

Barack Obama '83, easily. Studying history, international relations and politics are big hobbies of mine. He also built a reputation for stopping at numerous restaurants while he was President — if there's anyone who knows the best places to eat, it would definitely be him!



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

I had this commute for one week before COVID struck: A half-hour walk to my local train station, NJ Transit to Penn Station, and then the subway up to campus. I preferred it over driving, early mornings stuck in traffic are not fun!

Before I was at Columbia I was:

Many things! My list of former jobs includes: grocery store supervisor, banker, electronic salesperson, substitute teacher, paraprofessional, NPO grant reviewer, and medical education grants manager. I'm proud to have tried a number of different jobs in varying industries. It allowed me to learn a lot about different roles and responsibilities, and about the careers some of my peers have; I also figured out what I truly want in my own career. Along the way I met some truly incredible people who have played an important part in shaping who I am today.

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

If you want to do something in life, you will have to truly WANT it. You cannot just expect good things to happen to you. You have to make them happen. Learning the skill of how to never give up will allow you to achieve many of your goals in the face of adversity.

When you need a boost, what do you do to motivate yourself?

I go for a run! I'm always trying to beat my previous times and/or distances on my regular routes. Running clears my mind and allows me to organize my thoughts. Often my greatest ideas will come a mile or two into a run, which motivates me more to finish my session faster and better!

Stay Connected

Learn new skills and exchange creative ideas

Zoom@Noon - Register [here](#)

Join members of the **Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement** on Wednesday, December 9, to learn about the Global Columbia Collaboratory, a new global virtual exchange program that brings together undergraduate students from across the globe to address the problems the Covid-19 pandemic has produced.

Meet with the **Columbia College Alumni Relations and Development** team on Wednesday, December 16, to talk about cultivating the lifelong Columbia connection. Find out how alumni, parents and students stay connected with the College as volunteers, investors, mentors, attendees, lifelong learners and advocates.

Community Pop-ups

Get together with College staff for some virtual fun!

Have you been trying your hand at baking over the last several months? Or have you been a pro baker for years? Register [here](#) for **The Great College Baking Show** on Thursday, December 10, at 12 noon. Come prepared to show off your favorite holiday recipe!

Email sent by **Columbia College**
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