

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*

Summer 2021: Check out the College's [Our Path Forward](#) (OPF) for updates about the summer term. Students were sent emails about course registration and housing within the last week. Continue to check the page as more information becomes available about financial aid, billing and other topics, and as new FAQs are developed.

We will continue to work under lower campus density requirements through the summer term. Housing capacity will be limited, but will be open to students with guaranteed housing who are registered full-time with a minimum of 6 credits for a summer session. Priority will be given to class standing, and to students who require campus facilities and housing in order to succeed academically. If space permits, summer housing may be available to students who are not registered full-time and/or have an on-campus job or research opportunity.

Reflections on the past year: Covid-19 changed Columbia College operations in ways we never imagined. One year ago, most of us thought we might work from home for a few weeks to "flatten the curve," but we soon learned that the pandemic would change so much more about our lives. We invite you to share your reflections and experiences of the past year using [this form](#); we will share some answers in the next edition of TFF.

Did you know? This week's [Vaccine Update Forum](#) announced that Columbia faculty, staff and students who are eligible based on [NYS criteria](#) can get vaccinated at four Columbia-operated locations (including Lerner Hall) that will be open by the end of this month. Find more details [here](#) and stay tuned for University announcements next week about appointment scheduling (or go to the [COVID-19 website](#)).

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...

Carelle Samuel

**Office Manager, Financial Aid
Enrollment Group**

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

As a N.J. resident and a non-driver, I have two options. I can leave at 6:45 am when my husband leaves for work, which results in a relaxing car ride to the Path train. Once in the city, I can do a little early morning retail



therapy (thank you for being open 24 hours, Target!) before heading to campus. Then there's option B: He leaves without me, resulting in a long, crowded, uncomfortable bus ride to the Path, then rushing to campus.

Three words that describe my current job:

Insightful, Tense, Rewarding

What is the best piece of professional advice you ever received?

"Know your worth and keep your head and standards high." (As a shoe lover, I love to throw the word "heels" in there as well.)

What do you do to motivate yourself when you need a boost?

I turn on my favorite genre of music (soca: Caribbean music) and just dance. That usually leads to cleaning, redecorating or exercising! #getupandmove

Zoom, Google Meet or phone call?

Ummm...how about none of the above!! We are in the 100th month of this pandemic and at this point I am virtually burnt out! Text me! I will respond when I am good and ready.

Erica Siegel

**Assistant Dean of Communications and Outreach, CSA
Academic Affairs**

Favorite spot on campus?

The Low Steps are fabulous for killing time and people watching, especially in the spring and on warm summer nights. (This is a



nostalgic one, since I spent more time there as a student at Columbia than in my current capacity as a dean at the Berick Center.)

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

A decent pair of running shoes.

Favorite campus building?

Lerner Hall. Smack in the middle of my tenure as an undergraduate student, Ferris Booth Hall was razed to the ground and production started on this lovely new glass structure. I've been working at the CSA for almost 10 years and the walk up and down the ramps is still palpably enjoyable.

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

The opportunity to help students find their footing at Columbia and make the most of their time here — particularly as they weather the inevitable rough spots — never gets old.

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

As an imminent college graduate who wasn't entirely sure what to do with her life, a family friend advised me to think less about what specific job I wanted and more about what I liked to do, what my skill sets were, and how I wanted to arrange my work days. From there, he said, you can think about the professional life that can best accommodate those proclivities. It took me about 15 years to realize this strategy.

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1130 Amsterdam Avenue, Hamilton Hall New
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