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Issue 027 | March 26, 2021



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*

The Summer Funding Program/Summer Work Exemption Program application opened on March 18th. The program supports College and Engineering students who are pursuing unpaid or low-paid internships, research and volunteer opportunities related to their career pursuits and academic studies. The deadline to apply is Monday, May 10 at noon. Please direct interested students to the [Center](#)

for [Career Education website](#) to review program eligibility and apply. To learn more about the Summer Funding Programs, [please enjoy this brief video overview](#).

Global Learning Scholarships available for Undergraduate Students this Summer! The Center for Undergraduate Global Engagement recently announced funding available for undergraduate students who are interested in applying for summer 2021 global engagement experiences. Opportunities are available across a number of different fields including language immersion, neuroscience, ecology and sustainability, research, core curriculum requirements and more! Students can go [here](#) for further information.

The 2021 Summer Global Columbia Collaboratory Application is Now Available! The Global Columbia Collaboratory application is available to all undergraduate students for the summer term. The “Collab” provides students with opportunities to learn about today’s most pressing challenges and to consider how to make an impact in the world. For more information, please see [here](#). Deadline: April 26th.

We want to hear from you! Do words like *patience*, *surreal*, *perseverance*, *exhausting* or *reflective* resonate when you think about this past year? We invite you to share your reflections and experiences of the past year using [this form](#); we will share answers in the weeks ahead.

Did you know? This week’s [Vaccine Update Forum](#) answered questions about COVID-19 and vaccine rollout, highlighted the expansion of eligibility in New York City and State, and discussed new Columbia vaccination locations. 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...

Sixto Arias

Residence Hall Director - Fraternity and Sorority Life, USL

Favorite Spot on Campus?



Standing in front of *Alma* while facing Butler library. What a breathtaking view!

What did you major in Undergrad?

I was a double major in Psychology and Sociology and a double minor in Business and Liberal Arts and Student Services and Counseling. I wanted to make sure I had a rounded experience with my education, which is what ultimately landed me in the Higher Education field.

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

Being the Residence Hall Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life has been rewarding for many reasons. Seeing the successes of my students and the community every semester and having dedicated student leaders who aren't afraid to tackle important issues impacting our communities has been awe-inspiring.

What is the last TV show you binged watched?

Schitt's Creek (a second time around). It's so relatable and enjoyable. It's my guilty pleasure to watch after a long workday.

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

My family — blood and chosen. I attribute a lot of my development to those who I call family and am so thankful each and every day to be surrounded by them.

Elizabeth Leland

Assistant Director, Financial Aid & Educational Financing, Enrollment Group

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

I live in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn (I love BK!), so getting to campus is a hike. I take two different trains to get to my office and two to get back home. The commute is about an hour and fifteen minutes each way.



What is the best professional advice you ever received?

Be yourself, always. Empathy is everything. Know your strengths and weaknesses. Be honest and speak up. Admit where you are wrong. Stand up for what is right.

What is something that others might not know about Financial Aid?

That our work is very intricate — it involves hundreds upon hundreds of rules, regulations and policies both institutionally and on the federal and state government levels that we must adhere to. This means that we often follow and enforce rules that we have no control over. Our office works with all current undergraduate students as well as all students being considered for admission to the University during the admissions cycles. Most staff in our office wear many different hats, work with several university offices, and navigate often very complex, stressful and difficult situations with families and students and within the school itself. Lastly, everyone in our office is highly dedicated to working towards student success and the very best possible outcome for each student.

What is the best advice piece of advice you would give to a student right now?

Life does not operate on a linear path so do not get too fixed on a particular route. You could check off every box on your list and still feel like you were not where you wanted to be! Focus on how you want your life to feel and go from there. Basically, try not to limit yourself or put yourself in a box in terms of your definition of what a happy or successful life is. It is different for everyone and that is all part of the fun. You never know where you could end up and that is a beautiful thing. Lastly, you are never too old to change things up — I can say that from experience — I did not move to NYC until I was 35 and could not be happier with where I am.

Fashion Trend You Most Regret:

Early 2000's low-rise jeans. If you know you know.

