

The Friday Five



Take Five Minutes for College Updates

This is the last edition of The Friday Five for the spring term. TFF will take a brief hiatus and then be back periodically throughout the summer. Happy end of the semester! Stay safe and healthy. 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*

Units across the College are preparing for a summer semester that will look different than previous years. Here are ways that some units are preparing to support students and alumni, as well as unique offerings and approaches given the three-term calendar.

The Communications and Marketing team will be extending their student email campaign to support and inform students about making the most of their summer experience at Columbia. The Countdown to Columbia campaign will be expanded to focus on both incoming students and rising sophomores; we will be considering ways to prepare new students for fall term during the transition back to in-person learning. Staff focused on alumni will support virtual Columbia Reunion, welcome CC'21 into alumni-hood and launch the Financial Aid fundraising initiative through updated marketing content and media.

The extension of the academic year into the summer has required significant policy decisions, which the Dean's Office team has been hard at work developing and helping to implement with other units. Policies and processes for students who want to use their [40 points](#) over the summer term impact summer housing, tuition credits and financial aid. The Dean's Office will also continue to respond to the evolving landscape of this unique academic year in managing ongoing needs for Covid-19 testing compliance.

For Undergraduate Research & Fellowships, summer is one of our busiest seasons of the year! The team will be available throughout the summer to advise, support and work with students and alumni on their fellowship applications, and meet with incoming first-years and current students who want to discuss research or fellowship programs for the upcoming year. URF will also continue to offer a variety of informational and workshopping webinars, which range from highlighting opportunities to thematically exploring the components of an application. We also provide assistance, support and programming for our more than 100+ undergraduate and summer research scholars, including helping them prepare for the Undergraduate Research Symposium this fall.

The Center for Career Education is excited to launch a new program this summer, Career Exploration Summits. During the Summer A term, students can be connected with employers from across industries in a series of virtual sessions. We will also continue to support students through expanded internship and mentorship programs (Virtual Internship Programs, CCE Alumni Mentorship Program and Navab Fellowship). Virtual drop-in hours will continue over Summer A; one-on-one career counseling sessions will be offered all summer.

Multicultural Affairs will extend opportunities for learning and skill-building through the Identity and Inclusion Series, offering interactive diversity and inclusion workshops focused on building a socially conscious community. Across Undergraduate Student Life, this summer will look very different: In addition to caring for about 1,200 students, Residential Life will welcome just over 250 first-years who are new to campus during Summer A. Student groups are able to continue virtual programming and spending, both of which are usually paused. Student Engagement staff will work to plan an NSOP 2.0 for sophomores who did not have an in-person experience in fall 2020. The International Buddy Program will

provide virtual social spaces for incoming students to connect before NSOP.

The Center for Student Advising will continue to support students during the Summer 2021 sessions, whether or not they happen to be taking classes. CSA advisers are available for virtual or phone meetings throughout the summer for continuing students; in July, they will mount their yearly campaign to welcome and advise new students who will matriculate in the fall. This is also a busy time for the Premedical Advisory Committee, who interview and write letters of support for students and alumni who are applying to medical school.

The Enrollment Group will be assisting students who have received financial aid to support their needs for the summer term. At the same time, we will be determining financial aid eligibility for all the students who will be continuing at Columbia in the fall. As we connect with prospective members of the Class of 2026 and other members of the public, our team of student workers will play a critical role in outreach programming such as virtual information sessions, live virtual tours, interactive Q&A sessions and one-on-one engagement.

The CCAA will sponsor Summer Sendoffs, opportunities for incoming students and families to build relationships, get introduced to College alumni and current students, and make early connections with classmates. Due to ongoing pandemic restrictions, the Sendoffs are likely to continue as Zoom events.

The CCAA is also offering extended support to the Class of 2021 this summer as they transition from students into the newest members of our alumni community. They will be offering a series of class-specific programming to educate them on the great benefits and resources that the alumni community can offer. This work will be led by the Class of 2021 Task Force: a group of CCAA staff, alumni volunteers and leaders from the Class of 2021.

The Odyssey Mentoring Program (OMP) is hosting a 1:1 Mentoring Match this summer to connect new grads and young alumni mentees with alumni mentors. OMP is also hosting drop-in office hours for students to connect with alumni mentors from a range of industries.

Travel restrictions prevented the realization of traditional components in many UGE summer programs; faculty and staff have been creative in offering a [range of virtual global learning programs](#) for Columbia undergraduates. Applications are also open for the Summer 2021 [Global Columbia Collaboratory](#), a non-credit virtual exchange open to all Columbia undergraduates.

Staff Celebrations and Highlights

Recognizing the College staff community

Olivia Hawkins (Dean's Office) and her family were on Family Feud! The show aired Tuesday night and will replay tonight, April 23rd, at 7:00 pm on Channel 9. She said it was a fun experience; shown in the picture below (left to right) is her brother, Olivia, her mother, her father and her aunt. They auditioned in September 2019, then were flown to Atlanta this past September to record the show at Tyler Perry Studios. Tune in tonight to see how they did!



The Morningside Five! Get to know...



August Runge

Executive Director, Administration and Planning, UGE

Favorite spot on campus?

I like to approach campus through gates near [St. Paul's Chapel](#). It feels like a secret ancient entrance in the middle of that utilitarian stretch of Amsterdam Ave.

College Journey competency that you are most focused on this year:

Global Awareness! Check out the [Global Columbia Collaboratory](#) for one example of an approach to global learning and awareness that does not require travel.

Before I was at Columbia, I was:

A tour guide at Fallingwater. It's less than six hours away from NYC by car, worth the trip!

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

I am rereading the Kingsbridge series by Ken Follet because there was a new installment in 2020 (The Evening and the Morning). They are great if you like historical fiction.

What are your hidden talents?

Tetris.



Jamie Sohngen

Salesforce Administrator, Dean's Office

Favorite spot on campus:

Zoom! (kidding) I haven't been to campus except for my interview and to sign papers but enjoy seeing people virtually nonetheless.

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

Eat coffee ice cream and watch the NBA. I love the NBA and have a Lebron head on my keychain.

What is something others might not know about your team?

How much we love [Codey Bear](#).

How do you practice Beginner's Mind?

In each call with fellow staff members preparing to come into Salesforce, discussing what their processes are and not making assumptions about their work or what is important.

What is the worst job you ever had?

I pet-sat for a family that bred and showed guinea pigs.

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