

The Friday Five



Take Five Minutes for College Updates

Happy Friday, Columbia College staff! Each Friday while we are working beyond College Walk we will deliver a weekly staff communication. Catch up on College news and see what opportunities there are to interact with other staff members and teams. Previous communications can be found on the [staff resources page](#).

What's Happening

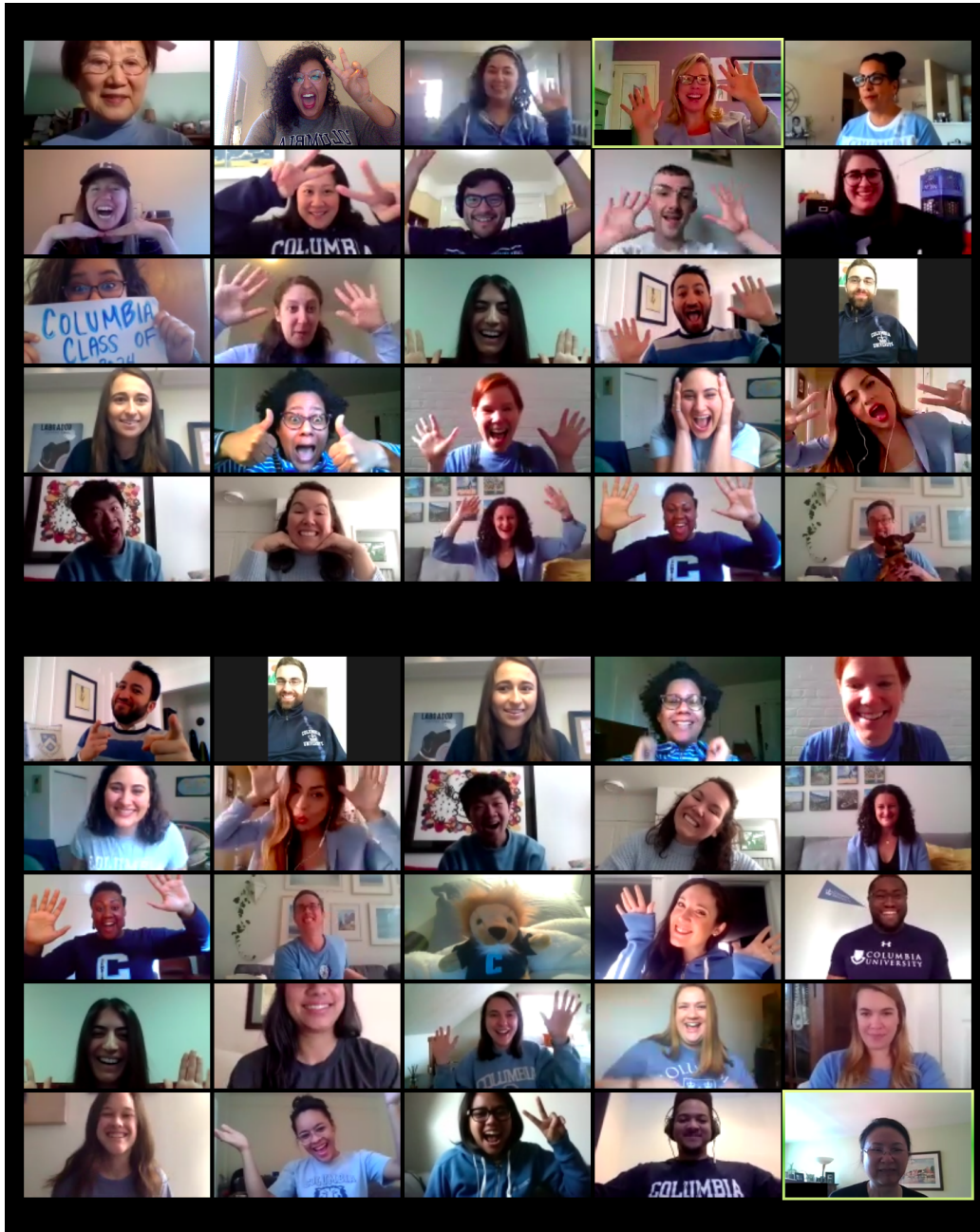
Here you'll find program updates from teams and departments and news about on-campus developments.

Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid

Welcome to the Class of 2024!

Undergraduate Admissions spent the winter reading more than 40,000 applications

and discussing candidates in committee meetings to select the Class of 2024. We finished our reviews remotely, holding virtual admissions committees for the first time in our history. Even with these challenges, we released Regular Decision results online as planned on March 26, 2020, and even took our traditional Mailing Day photo.



Thanks to the virtual yield assistance we received from all of you, as well as current students, faculty and alumni, we saw one of the highest yield rates in Columbia College history. The Class of 2024 has students from all 50 states and 71 countries outside of the U.S., students informed in their perspectives through many different backgrounds and experiences, and students who have shown academic and co-curricular interest in hundreds of fields and activities.

Virtual Days on Campus

We hosted over 30 virtual events for admitted students in lieu of our usual Days on Campus activities. Live events included Faculty Master Classes, panels featuring

colleagues from CCE, Student Life, ASP, Multicultural Affairs, Global Engagement and Advising and Instagram Q&As with admissions officers. Many of you [welcomed new students via video](#), including Dean Valentini, Student & Family Support, and Financial Aid. Representatives from the College Alumni body also sent warm welcomes to new Columbians. Additionally, Admissions, Financial Aid, ASP, CUSP, and CSA met individually with admitted students and families through virtual appointments.

Social Media Outreach

In addition to our popular Facebook Group for the Class of 2024 (for admitted students, admissions officers and current student volunteers) we launched a private Instagram group, which included daily content like Trivia Tuesdays and live chats with admissions officers and current students. Our [Columbia Admissions Instagram](#) reached over 10,000 followers and launched new content like student takeovers and filters like [Columbia Hat](#) and [Which Roar-ee are You?](#)

Transfer Admission

Transfer decisions were released on May 8th, and we admitted a strong, creative and talented transfer class representing more than 100 different colleges from around the country. Last week we hosted Transfer Lions Den, a virtual panel for admitted transfers. Advising and Financial Aid are currently meeting with admitted students through virtual appointments. The transfer response deadline is May 29th.

Financial Aid Outreach

Financial Aid and Educational Financing continues to hold Virtual Appointments, connecting with students and parents; they also offer appointments in Spanish. Working closely with Student and Family Support, the Financial Aid team created and launched a system to disburse Emergency Funding Grants to any student who requested assistance leaving campus in March. Through the Deans' Student Assistance Fund, 139 high-need students who faced particular financial difficulties received additional funding to support their transition during this challenging time.

Financial Aid Applications for 2020-21

After working with the incoming class, the Financial Aid staff has turned their attention to reviewing the financial aid applications of returning students. Eligibility letters will be sent over the summer, and the staff will continue to answer questions and support students virtually.

Stay Connected

Learn new skills and exchange creative ideas for managing our new realities.

Zoom@Noon

CCIT 20/20 Sessions

Did you know that CCIT turns 20 this year? As they did during their popular summit in January, the team will offer educational hands-on sessions to improve your digital work/life. Learn more about [registration](#) for the specific sessions starting May 27.

What's really happening in the entry-level labor market as a result of COVID-19?

Thursday, May 28, noon - 12:45 p.m.

In order for the College community to best support students and new alumni in this uncertain job market, the Center for Career Education (CCE) will share what they are hearing from employers about summer 2020 internships and plans for full-time hiring. The team will outline how different industries are managing through the crisis and engaging students, share trends observed among students in career counseling sessions, and take any questions. [Register here.](#)

Friday Fun



The long holiday weekend is a good time to virtually connect with friends and family and play games!

Check out some fun options on the [staff resources site](#).

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