
This report reflects the leadership of the Parent Leadership Council families for the 2019–20 fiscal year. The Parent Leadership Council is an essential part of the Columbia College community, raising support for the College, bringing together current and past parents and serving as critical partners. Thank you to members of the Parent Leadership Council.
Dear Parent Leadership Council families,

As I consider the experience of the past few months, unprecedented in every way, I recognize even more the importance of your partnership and unwavering support as parent leaders. Despite the many changes made necessary by the pandemic, Columbia College remains focused on guiding students to develop integrity, responsibility, critical thinking and engaged citizenship. No matter the physical distances that separate our community, we will provide the support needed for the academic success and personal development of every one of our students.

Through your active participation as parent leaders, you help the College achieve these objectives. Your dedication as PLC members is critical to making our students’ experiences all that we want them to be. Thank you for your commitment to our great College.

Roar, Lion(s), Roar!

James J. Valentini
Dean of Columbia College and
Vice President for Undergraduate Education

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A MESSAGE FROM
OUR CO-CHAIRS

Dear Parent Leadership Council families,

Thank you for strengthening Columbia College for our incredible students with your generosity.

As fellow parents, we have been deeply moved by the support, resilience and adaptability of the parent community throughout this momentous time. Despite the challenges we have faced, you have remained steadfast in your dedication to the College. Members of the PLC gave $1.48 million to the Parents Fund — more than 67 percent of $2.2 million raised during the 2019–20 fiscal year. In total, members of the PLC gave a remarkable $3.8 million dollars to Columbia College.

Your engagement is crucial to enhancing Columbia College’s undergraduate experience. As we progress further into the 2020–21 academic year, the importance of the Parents Fund is even more apparent — it bolsters the College’s robust financial aid program, student life, internship and research funding and the Core Curriculum.

The College’s mission is to prepare students for bright futures. Your leadership as members of the PLC is an inspiration for our entire community and affirms our shared commitment to shaping the next generation of thoughtful, empathetic leaders.

Sincerely,

Audra and Eric Cohen P: CC’18, CC’21
Raymond Yu CC’89, SEAS’90, P: CC’21, CC’23 and Ya-Ning, Hsu (許雅寧) TC’07, TC’12, P: CC’21, CC’23
Co-Chairs, Parent Leadership Council
FALL MEETING

Opened with remarks by Co-Chair Audra Cohen P: CC’18, CC’21, the fall meeting summarized the Parents Fund’s goal to foster an engaged, supportive community of parents around the world. The presentation included an overview of Core to Commencement progress, Core Centennial celebrations, Giving Day and the Core Competencies. Katie Day Benvenuto CC’03, BUS’12 moderated a panel of students and young alumni exploring their internship and research experiences. Dean Valentini, Kavita Sharma and Larry Jackson also discussed My Columbia College Journey through the lens of the summer experience for students.

SPRING MEETING

Co-Chairs Raymond Yu CC’89, SEAS’90, P: CC’21, CC’23 and Ya-Ning, Amy, Hsu (許雅寧) TC’07, TC’12, P: CC’21, CC’23 moderated a panel with Dean Valentini, Lisa Hollibaugh, Cristen Kromm and Matthew Patashnick. Held weeks after students departed campus as a result of COVID-19, this virtual meeting focused on College staff’s efforts to minimize hardship in the challenging circumstances. The panel discussed the pros and cons of online instructions, screen fatigue, maintaining community and creative use of technology. Dean Valentini reaffirmed his mission to preserve the College’s outstanding quality of instruction and his commitment to the well-being and personal development of all undergraduates. He shared how the Committee on Instruction predicates that every student has equal access to instructors, course materials and every resource available so each student has an equal opportunity to succeed.

PARENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

During 2019–20, the Parent Leadership Council held two meetings featuring Dean Valentini and senior leadership at Columbia College.

Katie Day Benvenuto CC’03, BUS’12,
Senior Executive Director for Development,
Arts & Sciences and Athletics;
Associate Dean, Columbia College
Development and Alumni Relations

Kavita Sharma,
Dean, Center for Career Education at Columbia University

Larry Jackson,
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs,
Core Curriculum and Undergraduate Programs at Columbia College

SPRING MEETING

Co-Chairs Raymond Yu CC’89, SEAS’90, P: CC’21, CC’23 and Ya-Ning, Amy, Hsu (許雅寧) TC’07, TC’12, P: CC’21, CC’23 moderated a panel with Dean Valentini, Lisa Hollibaugh, Cristen Kromm and Matthew Patashnick. Held weeks after students departed campus as a result of COVID-19, this virtual meeting focused on College staff’s efforts to minimize hardship in the challenging circumstances. The panel discussed the pros and cons of online instructions, screen fatigue, maintaining community and creative use of technology. Dean Valentini reaffirmed his mission to preserve the College’s outstanding quality of instruction and his commitment to the well-being and personal development of all undergraduates. He shared how the Committee on Instruction predicates that every student has equal access to instructors, course materials and every resource available so each student has an equal opportunity to succeed.

Lisa Hollibaugh,
Dean of Academic Affairs

Cristen Kromm,
Dean of Undergraduate Student Life

Matthew Patashnick,
Associate Dean for Student and Family Support
Spanning 14 states and 13 countries, the Parent Leadership Council is made up of the most loyal parent donors from around the world. These 148 families are valued members of the Columbia College community.

Parent Leadership Council families play an extraordinary role in supporting Columbia. Their tireless work and generosity are reflected in the leadership roles these members fill.
I think the Core is one of the best parts of the Columbia experience, enabling students to develop a unique but mutual understanding of the world around them. The Core challenges students to think beyond their major, previous experiences and modes of thinking. We gain cultural capital and cultural exposure from the masters of Western Literature as well as the more diverse selection in Global Core classes.  

–Ahmad Khoda CC’23

“My financial aid package provided by Columbia is the reason I am able to afford to attend my dream university! Without the financial assistance Columbia provides, I would simply not be able to be here.” –James Pease CC’22

“Last summer, I was fortunate to work in Milan at Ermenegildo Zegna, a luxury menswear company. There I focused on intellectual property and patent law, helping protect Zegna’s creations from counterfeiting. Interacting with an intellectual community while learning about law, a field I hope to one day enter, was an immensely enriching way to spend my summer. Without Columbia, who generously funded my experience, this would not have been possible.” –Anna Morrione CC’21

PLC members also direct their support to various endowed funds at the College. Spending from these endowed funds is typically restricted for a specified purpose, and the amount available for use by the College is based on interest accrued by the fund. See the top areas of support:

**PARENTS FUND**

$1.48M
For unrestricted use by Columbia College

**CORE CURRICULUM**

$401k
To recruit and retain the most talented faculty to lead the Core

**FINANCIAL AID**

$286k
To help Columbia College offer need-based grants

**GLOBAL PROGRAMS**

$188k
To support international internship opportunities

**FINANCIAL AID**

$245k
To help Columbia College offer need-based grants

The investment of Parent Leadership Council families each year is incredibly important to Columbia College. The PLC gave $3.8 million dollars to Columbia College during the 2019–20 fiscal year, making a difference in the lives of students and the faculty who teach them. Most PLC members direct their support to current-use funds at the College, including the Parents Fund, which means that 100 percent of the money raised is spent in the year it is raised. See the top areas of support:

Giving to Columbia College
2019–20

PARENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

CO-CHAIRS
Audra D. and Eric L. Cohen P: CC’18, CC’21
Raymond Yu CC’89, SEAS’90, P: CC’21, CC’23 and Ya-Ning, Amy, Hsu (許雅寧) TC’07, TC’12, P: CC’21, CC’23

DEAN’S CIRCLE MEMBERS
Elizabeth Albert and Howard M. Kleinman CC’84, P: CC’18, CC’23
Rula L. and Omar M. Asali BUS’01, P: CC’18, CC’20
Edward D. Baker Ill P: CC’20
Gregory S. and Naïri C. Balian CC’88, P: CC’16, CC’22, CC’23
Michele and Thomas Bass P: CC’18
Jeffrey M. Birnbaum and Gille Ann Rabin P: CC’20
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Zeliana Charemi and Ioannis Frangos P: CC’19, SEAS’21
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Xiaoli Chen and Hongbin Peng P: CC’20
Lynn L. Chen-Zhang and Charles C. Zhang P: CC’17, CC’20
Julie Ann L. and Steven Y. Cho P: CC’21
Estelle Choe and Paul Kim CC’87, P: CC’22
Carla De Landri and Florindo Volpacchio GSAS’84, P: CC’20
Rebecca and Robert J. DeSantis P: CC’22
Frances M. and Patrick J. DeSouza CC’80, P: CC’20, CC’23
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Phyllis M. and Hamen S. Fan P: CC’13, BUS’15
Suning and Fengei Fang P: CC’04
Robyn L. Field and Anthony D. O’Carroll P: CC’21, CC’23
Annabel and Francois J. Gouws P: CC’19, CC’22
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Alan Howard P: CC’19, CC’21
Catherine P. and Robert H. Hwang P: CC’22
Margarita Inzerini P: CC’16
George Jiang and Helen Tang P: CC’19, SEAS’23
Michael G. and Michelle E. Kaiser CC’87, PH’92, PS’97, P: CC’20
Jeffrey L. Kateman CC’89, LAW’92, P: CC’19, CC’21 and Nam Y. Kim LAW’92, P: CC’19, CC’21
Delia M. and Bijan Khosrowshahi P: CC’16, CC’18
Mary E. and Adam W. Kirsch P: CC’17
Joshua M. Kraft P: CC’22
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Christine and Kenneth Lee P: CC’22
Grace and Nicholas P. Leone CC’88, P: CC’19, CC’22, CC’24
Chun Liu and Wenjun Qiao P: CC’19, CC’22
Qing and Xiaosong Liu P: CC’19
Victoria F. and James C. Maroulis CC’88, P: CC’21
Samara B. Meshel CC’92, P: CC’18, CC’23 and Adam R. Meshel CC’92, LAW’95, P: CC’18, CC’23
Stephanie P. and William J. Meury P: CC’21
Moe Moe and Soe Naing P: CC’22
Kally and Othon K. Mourkakos P: CC’17
Ann and Francis Neczygors P: CC’08
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Jonas and Natasha M. Steinman CC’90, P: CC’21
Radhieka S. and Prabhash Subasinghe P: CC’22
Shruti S. Tewari SIPA’94, P: CC’20 and Pawan Tewari BUS’94, P: CC’20
Jue Wang and Chengjian Zhou P: CC’19
Walter and Shirley F. Wang BUS’93, P: CC’21, CC’22
Yu Qiao Wei and Yong An Xu P: CC’17
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Yuyan Yang P: CC’18
Louring Zaks P: CC’17, CC’19
Wei Zhang P: CC’22
Anonymous (5)

MEMBERS
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Gael and Emile Bacha P: CC’16, CC’20, CC’22
Sheri and Clifford Bleustein P: CC’22
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Myra and Edward Chen P: CC’22
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Neguine N. and Jens B. Christensen CC’84, P: CC’19, CC’21
Kyoo Wan Cho and Sook Hyun Han P: CC’20

THANK YOU TO OUR CO-CHAIRS
Special thanks to Audra and Eric Cohen P: CC’18, CC’21 and Raymond Yu CC’89, SEAS’90, P: CC’21, CC’23 and Ya-Ning, Amy, Hsu (許雅寧) TC’07, TC’12, P: CC’21, CC’23 who stepped down from their roles after two years dedicated service.
Our Members

2019–20

PARENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Heather D. and John M. Coiro P: CC’21
Victoria Cruz Johner and Juerg Johner BUS’96, P: CC’22
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Ameeta and Varun Gosain P: CC’19
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Erika M. and Blake J. Grayson P: CC’22
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Claire I. Hernandez BUS’85, P: CC’19 and Carlos M. Hernandez BUS’86, P: CC’19
Daisy Ho P: CC’20
Peter Ho and Anisa Sosothikul P: CC’22
Kevin Hu and Yiping Sun P: CC’22
William K. Hui and Jing Zhao P: CC’18, CC’23
Jennifer Kell and Dominic Surprenant P: CC’21
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Yu Li and Jianguo Qian P: CC’20
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Nicole and Allan Mutchnik P: CC’19
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Martha E. Ortiz and Robert H. Diamond CC’82, P: CC’20
Arthur H. and Iline D. Penn SCE’18, P: CC’20
Regina Pitchon and Henry Udow P: CC’14, CC’19
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Wendy and Carl Roston P: CC’22
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W. Reed Simmons P: CC’12, CC’19
So Yeon Son and Jae Ho Song P: CC’21
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Sabine G. and Gavin T. Stener P: CC’22
Eva J. and Jan M. Sudol P: CC’20
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Kari W. and Martin J. Waters P: CC’22
Cindy H. Wenig LAW’91 P: CC’20 and Devin N. Wenig LAW’91 P: CC’20
Vivian Yeh and Marshall F. Kwong P: CC’20
Katherine A. and Brian D. Young P: CC’21, SEAS’17
Anonymous (4)