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Today 

Winter 2021–22

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THE CORE CURRICULUM
GETS AN EXCITING
NEW SYLLABUS

**THE 2021
LION'S PRIDE
HONOREES**
MEET THESE NINE
OUTSTANDING
YOUNG ALUMNI



Twice the Talent

Actress
Amanda
Peet '94
"recognizes
the joy" of
writing as
co-creator of
The Chair

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VOLUME 49 NUMBER 2
WINTER 2021-22

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Alexis Boncy SOA'11

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Lisa Palladino

DEPUTY EDITOR
Jill C. Shomer

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

FORUM EDITOR
Rose Kernochan BC'82

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
James C. Katz '72
Alex Sachare '71

ART DIRECTOR
Eson Chan

Published three times a
year by Columbia College
for alumni, students, faculty,
parents and friends.

**CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS
AND MARKETING OFFICER**
Bernice Tsai '96

ADDRESS

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 4th Fl.
New York, NY 10025

PHONE

212-851-7852

EMAIL

cct@columbia.edu

WEB

college.columbia.edu/cct

ISSN 0572-7820

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Message from the Dean

What I've Learned in a Decade as Dean

This is my penultimate message as dean for CCT. I write it after having spent a lot of time this past fall speaking with students, individually and in small groups — my first chance to do so since the pandemic dispersed us in March 2020, and now my last chance in this, my final academic year as head of the College. Perhaps not surprisingly, the most frequently posed question has been, “What have you learned in your more than a decade as dean?” (I was also frequently asked what I plan to do next, and I will address that in my message in the Spring/Summer 2022 issue.)

I've decided to share with you what I told them.

To start, I've recognized that people are the College's and University's most important resource. Not our impressive and growing endowment, not the grand buildings on our magnificent campus, not our most favorable location in this great city. People. Faculty, staff, alumni and, yes, students. I've seen that by valuing people, they are encouraged and empowered to then use Columbia's other resources in the most effective way possible, through their ideas, initiative, dedication and creativity. This leads to the greatest achievements possible, and benefits us all. I suppose I knew that already, but as dean I experienced it on a much greater scale than I had ever encountered, and it became more than an inclination; it became a deep-seated belief.

I came into this role as a chemistry professor whose knowledge was usually adequate to at least get a start on figuring things out in my everyday professional life. But upon becoming dean, I saw within days that the role was too big and required knowledge of too many kinds to depend so much on one's individual knowledge. And so I learned to seek out advisors. I devoted my efforts to finding and hiring people smarter than I, and then I listened to them, which expanded my ability to address the many challenges the College faces. In talking to the thousands of people I have encountered as dean, I've learned that wherever you are, there is certainly someone who knows more than you do, at least about something. Ask people questions and make sure to listen to them. Over time it becomes clear who has the knowledge that can help you.

In an organization as large as Columbia College, with hundreds of faculty and professional staff, thousands of students, and tens of thousands of alumni and friends, every success, large or small, is the product of many people's efforts. The most meaningful and rewarding successes are collective ones, in which many people contribute ideas and focus their energy toward a shared goal. We did that a lot in the College over the last decade. But even as we celebrated successes, I understood that we should strive to improve, to aim higher, to do better — to have aspirations as a way to continue that shared purpose. That awareness came from a pretty good advisor: Long ago, when my age was measured in single digits, my mother would almost daily recite to me this advice, “Good, better, best, never let it rest, 'til your good is better and your better is best.” It's a simple saying,



yet I learned its real value by reciting it to myself and to others in the College so often that it became a theme for us all. I think my mother would have been pleased to know that she made her own contribution to the College.

A clever person, and there are many clever persons reading this, will realize that all of these approaches to being dean reflect the praxis of Beginner's Mind, the openness to possibilities that I have championed with every single class and every single student during my time as dean.

I hope that at least a few of these things I've learned will be adopted by our students in their lives. I hope they are as blessed with opportunities as meaningful and substantial as I have had with the opportunity to lead Columbia College. What great good fortune it has been to be the dean of a school with such distinction. But we all understand that personal good fortune is not a permanent state, and so it is that I near the end of my tenure. The mindfulness teacher Thich Nhat Hanh advised us to cherish the journey, not the destination, when he wrote, “There is no way to happiness, happiness is the way.” I have had much happiness on my way every day since September 2, 2011, when I first became dean. I thank all of you for contributing to that. May you find happiness on the way, too.

James J. Valentini
Dean

A Roaring Return

Columbia's Covid-19 protocols allowed for a safe and happy Homecoming! Crowds were overjoyed to gather at Robert K. Kraft Field on October 16 to see the Columbia Lions trounce the Penn Quakers 23–14.

JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY





One-of-a-Kind Authority



JOHN ABBOTT

About too few in this world can it be said that they were “one of a kind.” Yet one person emblematic of that accolade was Phil Schaap ’73, who sadly passed away in September after a lengthy illness. [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries,” page 93.]

For several generations, Phil was the jazz mainstay of WKCR. He was, among other exploits, a record producer, recording engineer, liner-note writer and even a nightclub impresario (read: The West End). But most of all, he was a great teacher, a great talker and, seemingly oxymoronically, a great listener.

His passion was teaching others about the wonders of jazz and its great musical contributors by explaining how to appreciate the music through listening. His knowledge was encyclopedic, and he could endlessly expound upon such details as Charlie “Bird” Parker’s brief comment on take five of Bird’s 1944 record date with Tiny Grimes — where Bird uttered the phrase “It’s a drag!” at the conclusion of “Romance Without Finance.”

It was Phil who described Bird and his compatriot and fellow genius John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie as “two halves of a heartbeat.” Phil often would cry out “Bird lives!” during his early morning broadcast, *Bird Flight*.

Phil mentored and inspired numerous WKCR jazz personalities, including Sid Gribetz ’77; Cliff Preiss ’85, TC’06; Sharif Abdus-Salaam ’74; Matthew “Fat Cat” Rivera ’18; and Charles Iselin SEAS’15, SEAS’20.

My son Ken, formerly general manager and program director of WHRB-FM (Harvard Radio) in Cambridge, Mass., himself a noted jazz authority, also cites Phil as an influence.

Yes, “Bird lives!” But also, “Phil Schaap lives!”

Andrew B. Schultz ’64
Franklin Square, N.Y.

Remembering a Great Educator and Friend

Yesterday, with deep sadness, I learned of Professor Deborah Martinsen’s passing. [Editor’s note: See “Around the Quads”/ In Memoriam, page 10.] She was, of course, a major contributor to Russian and comparative literature, but I am compelled to point out the vital role she played for alumni like me.

I graduated from the College too long ago to have been one of Professor Martinsen’s students. Instead, we met when I was an alumnus, more than 15 years ago, through the Mini-Core Courses she planned and implemented for alumni seeking ongoing learning.

It was the beginning of a wonderful relationship. Professor Martinsen’s enthu-

siasm for lifelong education was overflowing and infectious, and she breathed life into the College’s alumni education program. Before the Mini-Cores, I took courses and read on my own, but my connection to the fundamental texts of the Core Curriculum had become attenuated.

Professor Martinsen gave alumni like me a path to reconnect and reinforce our bond with the fundamental texts and ideas that, like the Core, helped shape us as undergraduates and continue to be so important in the pursuit of a good life.

Over many years, I got to know and chat with Professor Martinsen before and after classes — about the readings, the College, family, work and everything in between. Early on, I attended these courses with my father (a CC’54) and mother, and

Professor Martinsen got to know them as well. When their age and illnesses forced them to stop attending, Professor Martinsen always reached out to inquire of them with genuine concern and empathy.

I am so deeply appreciative of the immense time, effort and passion that Professor Martinsen devoted to bringing alumni closer to alma mater and each other. She provided us with an invaluable and genuine lifelong learning opportunity. I hope that the Mini-Core program continues as a perpetual testament to a great educator and friend.

John V. Vincenti ’90
Glen Rock, N.J.

Cover Love

My compliments on the cover of the Fall 2021 issue. I find myself repeatedly looking at it and smiling. Congrats to the artist, Eleni Kalorkoti.

Joseph L. Romanelli ’62
Jerusalem

Pride for Olympic Performances

I asked my rowing coach if she had any videos of elite rowing races. In the one that she gave me, I saw that she was in the Olympics. Upon returning the video, I said, “Barb, you didn’t tell me that you were in the Olympics!”

She replied, “I came in last.”

I said, “That means that you were sixth in the world!”

It warmed my heart to read “Congratulations, Olympic Lions!” (Fall 2021, “Roar, Lion, Roar”), a fusillade against the ramparts of first-place obsession.

Larry Shaper SEAS’65
Thetford Center, Vt.

Contact Us

CCT welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not CCT, the College or the University. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and CCT style. Please submit Letters to the Editor online: college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us.



EILEEN BARROSO

Dean James J. Valentini To Step Down

After 10 years at the helm of Columbia College, Dean James J. Valentini will conclude his term at the end of this academic year, in June 2022. A former chemistry department chair, he was appointed interim dean on September 2, 2011, and College dean on June 11, 2012.

“Serving as dean of Columbia College has truly been the greatest privilege of my professional life,” Valentini said in a September message announcing his departure. “I went from a boy whose earliest access to reading materials was a library bookmobile that made occasional visits to our little Appalachian town, to a scientist who was offered the dazzling opportunity to lead a top institution of higher learning.”

During his tenure as dean, Valentini was committed to two key priorities: enhancing the student experience and sense of well-being, and shaping

a strategic, multi-dimensional vision for the College’s future, supported by fundraising initiatives designed to fulfill that vision at every level. Affectionately known as “Deantini,” he imparted a sense of joyful pride in the College’s distinct identity, and was known for his dedication to Beginner’s Mind, the practice of engaging with the world as if seeing everything for the first time, with eyes open to many possibilities.

“Anyone who has worked with Jim for even a short time feels his devotion to the College and his abiding appreciation for its unique and proud history,” President Lee C. Bollinger said. “When Jim departs as dean he will be missed as much for the spirit he has brought to the College as for any particular accomplishment, as many and as significant as they are.”

Plans to celebrate Valentini’s decade of service will be announced as they unfold.

Leadership News

Duchesne Drew ’89, president of Minnesota Public Radio since spring 2020, was elected to the University Board of Trustees in November. As president of MPR, Drew manages a network of 46 radio stations serving most of Minnesota. While at the College, he was both a staff writer and news editor for *Spec-tator*, and tutored at the Double Discovery Center. Drew is one of 14 College alumni on the 24-member board, which oversees Columbia’s governance, selecting the president, managing faculty and senior administrative appointments, monitoring the budget and supervising the endowment.



Ted Gregory ’74 was named director of diversity initiatives in the Office of Alumni and Development on November 16. In this newly created role, Gregory will be responsible for developing department-wide and unit-specific strategies and action plans to help prevent bias, discrimination and harassment, and to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and antiracism. He comes to the role after nearly nine years as Columbia’s director of diversity initiatives and talent retention, focusing on faculty recruitment and retention through the Office of the Provost, and coaching-staff diversity for Athletics.



Columbia Giving Day



The 10th annual Giving Day, held on October 20, raised \$27,913,242 for the University through 21,359 gifts.

Columbia College led the way among the schools, with 6,499 contributions totaling \$6,080,704.25. These gifts provide resources for the College’s

central priorities: financial aid, stipends for internships, the Core Curriculum and student life.

Alumni Awards

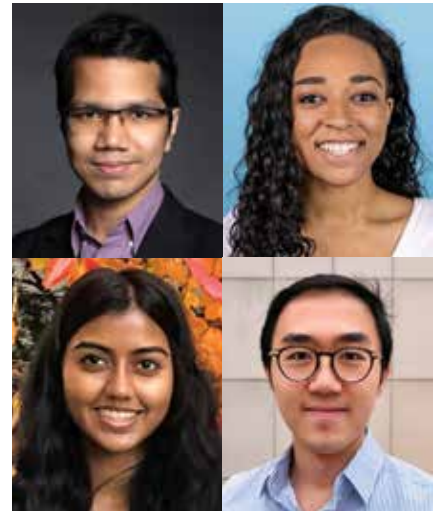
Plans are underway for the return of the John Jay Awards Dinner, which celebrates alumni for their distinguished professional achievement; this year's event, which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, will honor the 2020 recipients, whose original dinner was canceled due to Covid-19. The honorees are **Michael Barry '89** (president and CEO of Ironstate Development); **Lanny A. Breuer '80, LAW'85** (vice-chair of Covington & Burling); **Anna Fang '04** (founding CEO and partner of ZhenFund); **Poppy Harlow '05** (co-anchor of *CNN Newsroom*); **Wanda Marie Holland Greene '89, TC'21** (head of school at The Hamlin School); and **Victor H. Mendelson '89** (co-president of HEICO Corp.).

The Gerald E. Sherwin Young Alumni Service Award, which honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service to the College's young alumni community, was scheduled to be presented

to **Riley Jones IV '17** at the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting on January 18. Jones's volunteerism includes being president of the Black Alumni Council and a member of his class's Reunion Committee. He was featured in *Forbes's* 2019 30 Under 30 for Social Entrepreneurship and was a *CCT Lion's Pride* honoree in 2018.

Academic Awards

Two seniors and one alumna have been named Rhodes Scholars. The program — the oldest international scholarship in the world — offers 100 fully funded scholarships each year for recipients to pursue postgraduate study at Oxford. **Arman Husein '22**, a double major in economics and history, will pursue an M.Sc. in economic and social history, followed by an M.Sc. in economics for development. **Syndni Scott '22**, a political science major with a minor in African American and African Diaspora studies, plans to pursue an M.Phil. in politics (comparative government). **Andrew Chan '21**, a double major in music and philosophy, plans to pursue an M.Phil. in musicology.



Clockwise from top left: Arman Husein '22, Syndni Scott '22, Andrew Chan '21 and Swati Ravi '22.

In addition, **Swati Ravi '22**, an astrophysics major with a concentration in mathematics and biology, has been selected as a recipient of the George J. Mitchell Scholarship, which provides one year of postgraduate study at a university in either the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland. Ravi plans to pursue an M.Sc. in space, science and technology at University College Dublin.



DidYouKnow?

Alma Mater Has Been a Symbol of Columbia for Centuries

Well before the *Alma Mater* statue was placed on Low Steps in 1903, she appeared on Columbia's seal. Samuel Johnson, Columbia's first president (in office from 1754 to 1763), designed the school's seal — which prominently features the personified Alma — in the College's early days as King's College. Minutes from a 1755 University Trustees meeting describe the seal this way: "The College is represented by a Lady sitting in a Throne or Chair of State, with several children at her knees to represent the Pupils ... One of them She takes by the hand with her left hand expressing her benevolent design of Conducting them to True Wisdom and Virtue ..."

A "nourishing mother" fostering growth in students through education has remained a symbol of Columbia ever since, with *Alma Mater's* installation solidifying her place as the heart of Columbia.



SHAHAR AZRAN

Keren Yarhi-Milo

By Jill C. Shomer

There's never been a time in Keren Yarhi-Milo GS'03's life when she wasn't fascinated by diplomatic and military history. Growing up in Israel in a rapidly changing security environment, she often discussed military and political matters with her father, a veteran of several wars. With a dream of one day becoming an ambassador, Yarhi-Milo could speak six languages by the time she got to high school.

Instead of an ambassadorship, she found her place in academia. Now the Arnold A. Saltzman Professor of War and Peace Studies and director of the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Yarhi-Milo is a globally recognized expert on international relations and conflict resolution. She is the author of two award-winning books on international security and foreign policy, and her research specializes in interstate communication, crisis bargaining, and the psychology of leaders and decision makers. Recently, Yarhi-Milo was part of a cohort of conflict experts referenced in a *Foreign Affairs* article about American credibility following the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Yarhi-Milo joined the Columbia faculty in 2020, and though her career journey was circuitous, she always knew she wanted to return to Morningside Heights.

In 1998, after completing mandatory military service in Israel — her fluency in Arabic helped land her in intelligence — she started a B.A. in law and government. “The government part was my passion,” she says.

She was also passionate about New York City. On a childhood trip with her mother, Yarhi-Milo was most interested to see the United Nations and Columbia's campus. “I had read about Columbia in books, and I just really wanted to be part of that,” she says. “When I walked onto the campus for the first time, I couldn't believe how beautiful it was. And then it was a matter of when, not if, I would go there.”

While working on her B.A., she moved to New York for an internship at the Mission of Israel to the U.N. It was there she met her husband, Ariel Milo GS'03, then a GS student; he encouraged her to transfer. “I promised everyone back home it would be just for one semester, but now it's been 22 years,” she laughs.

As a political science major, she took a life-changing class with Robert Jervis, the Adlai E. Stevenson Professor of International Affairs, who died in December 2021. “What he was doing was so brilliant, and it made so much sense to me,” she says. The two had lengthy conversations during his office hours about Middle East security, and Jervis eventually became her mentor. “Bob is the reason I'm in this

field. After I graduated I was very clear about going into academia.”

Yarhi-Milo earned a master's and a Ph.D. in political science from Penn, then worked as a post-doc at Harvard. She was a tenured associate professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton for 10 years before getting the call to come back to campus.

Though she's relatively new to the faculty, Yarhi-Milo is already deeply involved. She's a member of the University Senate and the Joint CC-GS Committee on Instruction, was recently selected as a Provost Leadership Fellow and is heading the Arts and Sciences committee that is studying a potential College expansion. She's also led the charge to make the Saltzman Institute an intellectual home for Columbia undergrads. “I want this to be a place where their ideas about events and curriculum matter,” she says. Yarhi-Milo has already launched two new programs at the institute: The Saltzman Student Scholars Program and the Emerging Voices in National Security and Intelligence program.

Since Yarhi-Milo's own path was forged through mentorship, it's understandable that it's a priority for her. “I know how fundamental the experience of being an undergraduate is — that's when I made decisions about what I wanted to do with my life,” she says. “It was by sitting in a class and feeling like my professor was a role model. That's what I want to do and be.”

One of her favorite classes to teach is a seminar on U.S. foreign policy and crisis decision making that incorporates theory and literature from psychology, economics, behavioral economics, sociology and neuroscience. “My scholarship helped to push this field — the study of decision making — so it's very natural for me to teach,” she says. “Every year there are international crises that are happening, so the students are able to make connections between what they are reading and the events they are experiencing. It's new and engaging every time.”

In addition to her busy Columbia schedule, Yarhi-Milo is a “very hands-on” mom to her sons, ages 13 and 10, and she always has numerous writing projects in progress. Articles about nuclear commitments and cyberattacks are underway, and an idea for a third book is in the works.

“The challenge is how to juggle the service and the scholarship,” she says. “But that's something I'll never compromise on.”

In Memoriam: Deborah Martinsen GSAS'90, Dostoevsky Scholar and Core Leader

Deborah Martinsen GSAS'90, a longtime professor and scholar of Slavic literature who specialized in Dostoevsky, died on November 28, 2021. The first female president of the International Dostoevsky Society (IDS), Martinsen was the author and editor of several books on the formidable 19th-century novelist, including a forthcoming volume on her cherished *Crime and Punishment*. She was also a leader and devotee of the Core Curriculum, and possessed an effervescence and intellect that will be remembered by generations of students, alumni and colleagues.

Martinsen was 67 and had battled pancreatic cancer for more than a year.

"Deborah loved Columbia and she engaged with her colleagues, students and alumni with warmth, an expansive and generous spirit and always, a desire to support and contribute to the betterment of whatever was being set out to be achieved," Dean James J. Valentini wrote in a message to the College community on November 30. "Her encouragement for colleagues was limitless; those of us who had the fortune to work with her felt she was always on our side — and she was."

Martinsen's modest nature belied her outsized contributions to the College. She had been the associate dean of alumni education since 2008 and an adjunct associate professor of Slavic languages — the latest of many roles in a tenure that spanned more than four decades. After joining the faculty in 1978, Martinsen taught courses for the Slavic and the English and comparative literature departments on Dostoevsky, Nabokov and others, and she advised undergraduates on senior theses as well as graduate students on dissertations.

Martinsen was also a committed instructor of Literature Humanities, having led course sections for upward of 20 years, and held roles in the Center for the Core Curriculum, both as the assistant to the director of the Core from 2000 to 2005, and then as the director of the Core Curriculum from 2005 to 2008.

In more recent years, Martinsen invested her energy and enthusiasm for the Core in presenting experiences for alumni through Columbia Reunion and Dean's Day talks, Mini-Core Courses and alumni book clubs. Notably, she co-led a special session of the Core Conversations book club last year on *The Decameron*, using the work's relevance during the pandemic to explore what it has to teach readers about surviving in isolation, and the role of stories in creating and maintaining connections with others, even during difficult times.

"Deborah was an enthusiastic and intellectually creative partner in the College's work to support lifelong learning for our alumni," said Michele Moody-Adams, the Joseph Straus Professor of Political Philosophy and Legal Theory, who two years ago co-led a seminar organized by Martinsen. "It provided some of the most personally and intellectually rewarding experiences of my career, due in large part to Deborah's generosity of spirit and her passionate commitment to the people involved and to the plays and ideas we studied."

Martinsen also was the driving force behind what has become known as the Core Ideas publishing project, a series of short, accessible books on authors related to the curriculum. "In her typically selfless way, Deborah played an instrumental role in setting up this series, in planning its vision and aims, in soliciting proposals for

volumes and in placing the first books under contract," said Gareth Williams, the Anthon Professor of Latin Language and Literature and a former chair of Contemporary Civilization. "She was a model of efficiency and cheerful hard work in the early days of the project, and when the first volumes in the series appear, they will bear the hallmark of her organizational influence and flair."

Martinsen earned a B.A. in Russian studies and French from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa.; an M.A. in Russian literature from Cornell; and both an M. Phil. and a Ph.D. in Slavic languages and studies from GSAS. An

internationally recognized scholar, she was both versatile and prolific. Her book *Surprised by Shame: Dostoevsky's Liars and Narrative Exposure* (2003) was credited as a pathbreaking volume of original insights, and is one of the most quoted sources on Dostoevsky.

She was a co-editor of *Dostoevsky in Context* (2016) and *Teaching Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature: Essays in Honor of Robert L. Belknap* (2014); and the editor of *Literary Journals in Imperial Russia* (1997), an overview of Russian journalism from the 18th to the early 20th century. In 2016, she received the Donald Barton Johnson Prize for best essay published in *Nabokov Studies* that year.

Martinsen was the executive secretary of the North American Dostoevsky Society from 1998 to 2013, and president of IDS from 2007 to 2013. A tribute on the IDS website spoke of her as a sophisticated thinker and an incisive and generous editor, continuing: "Deborah understood that 'everything, like the ocean, flows and comes into contact with everything else. Touch it in one place and it reverberates at the other end of the world.' (*The Brothers Karamazov*.) She 'touched' the world in so many places and these reverberations will remain with us forever."

"Many contributors are indebted to her for judicious editing of their articles; Deborah was thus known to and beloved by scholars around the world," said Irina Reyfman, a professor of Slavic languages and a close colleague and friend. "They mourn with us. The loss is unbearable."

During her illness, Martinsen worked on completing two manuscripts. The first, *Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment: A Reader's Guide*, will be published in February by Academic Studies Press; it builds on her decades teaching the novel in the Core, as well as teaching others how to teach the novel. The second, *A Very Short Introduction to Dostoevsky*, will be published by Oxford University Press.

Martinsen is survived by her husband, Randall Butler GSAS'05, and son, Rory Butler '13.



Look *Who's Talking*

Jason Collado



JILL SHOMER

Assistant Dean, Academic Success Programs, James H. and Christine Turk Berick Center for Student Advising

What drew you to advising in higher ed, and when did you start working at Columbia?

I was always interested in education and providing support to students. I attended graduate school at SUNY Albany, which is where I trained to become a New York State-certified guidance counselor. While there, I worked for its counseling center supporting, supervising and instructing undergraduates. I fell in love with the work. Since then, I have been working in higher education, currently at my third university. I've been involved with leading the Academic Success Programs (ASP) for 15 years.

I read that you focus on “opportunity programs” and supporting under-resourced students. Tell me about that.

I have the best job on campus! ASP is supported by both CC and SEAS and a Higher Education Opportunity Program grant from the New York State Education Department. Our students receive financial support, and in general we provide a life-changing experience for them by helping them to succeed while at Columbia. All participants arrive early to take part in an intensive, pre-first year Summer Bridge

Program that provides academic preparation and college and campus readiness, and introduces them to the Columbia community. From there, our comprehensive support continues through all four years.

What's a typical day for you?

There is no typical day — I know that's a cliché answer, but supporting College students, especially those in ASP, makes my job different each day. And that makes the work truly exciting and enriching. From organizing a seminar series, to connecting students to supportive resources, to helping students navigate their Columbia experience in and out of the classroom or their work on required state reports, our team of six is flexible and ready to help when and where needed.

What's the best part of your job?

That our work has an impact. My favorite day of the year is the first day of the Summer Bridge Program. It is also usually the busiest and most stressful, but the most rewarding, as we witness the first steps of a student's journey. We watch our students arrive on and embrace campus, ready to learn and have an impact in many

different ways. We have an opportunity to shape them, guide them and ensure they stay on the path of success until graduation, and sometimes beyond. I love when our alumni come back to meet with our current students and share their knowledge, wisdom and experiences. It is amazing to see ASP alumni grown and successful, even though they will always be ASP students in my eyes. I fondly recall their success stories and all the meaningful advising conversations we had.

What's one thing about yourself that would surprise readers?

While in college, I hoped to pursue a career as a baseball coach. In fact, I took classes to earn a certification in sports management, but the program was discontinued. I have more than 20 years of experience coaching baseball and softball on a variety of levels. Pre-pandemic, I was the manager for a Columbia College staff softball team and led it to our most successful (and fun) season ever. I have two energetic and active sons, aged 8 and 4. I coach both of their baseball teams, and coached three other teams this past fall. Our weekends were very busy.

ROAR, LION, ROAR

Memorable Moments in Lions Basketball

By Alex Sachare '71

FROM COLUMBIA'S FIRST GAME —

a 24–9 loss to the Paterson (N.J.) YMCA in 1900 — to today's Ivy League play, the Lions have given their fans plenty of indelible moments. To celebrate the return of Columbia basketball, we dug into the archives for some hoops highlights every fan should know. Here's what we compiled before the final buzzer!

Alex Sachare '71 is a former Spectator sports editor, Associated Press pro basketball editor and CCT editor-in-chief who has written, edited or contributed to many books on basketball.

Jim McMillian '70 scored 40 points or more in a Columbia uniform four times, and went on to play nine seasons in the NBA.



1929–30 and 1930–31

Led by George Gregory CC 1931, the first Black player to be selected All-American, and sharp-shooting set shot artist Lou Bender CC 1932, LAW 1935, Columbia wins consecutive Eastern Intercollegiate League (forerunner to the Ivy League) championships.

1947–48

Walt Budko '43, SEAS'47 wins All-Eastern League honors for the fourth consecutive year as he leads the Lions to a 21–1 regular-season record and a berth in the NCAA tournament, where they lost to Kentucky and Michigan at Madison Square Garden.

1950–51

With John Azary '51, Jack Molinas '53 and Bob Reiss '52 leading the way, the Lions win all 22 regular season games by an average margin of 21.1 points to post the only undefeated season in school history. Columbia was ranked second, third and fifth in the three major national postseason polls despite losing to Illinois 79–71 in the NCAA tournament. It was an 85–45 rout of previously unbeaten Cornell on December 6, 1950, that put Columbia on the national basketball map.

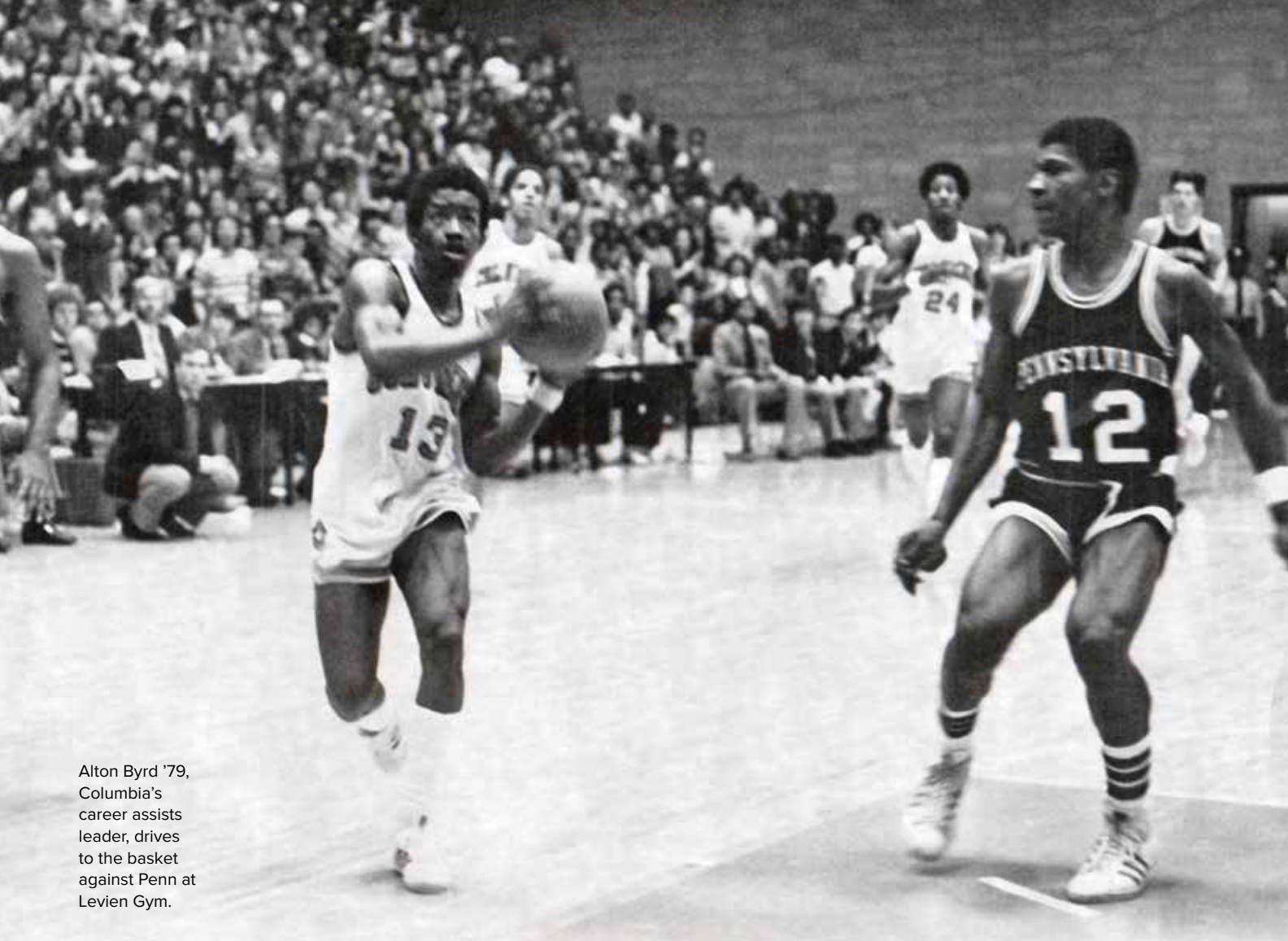
DECEMBER 26, 28 and 30, 1967

Despite having lost their previous three games, the Lions entered the Holiday Festival at Madison Square Garden and beat West Virginia 98–71, Louisville 74–67 and St. John's 60–55 to capture the championship of what was at the time the foremost midseason tournament in the country.



MARCH 5, 1968

After Columbia and Princeton compile 12–2 league records, a one-game playoff is held at St. John's to determine the Ivy League champion. The Lions start fast, turn back several rallies by the Tigers and win 92–74, with 37 points and 10 rebounds by Jim McMillian '70. The victory marks their only Ivy title since the league officially began basketball competition in 1956–57.



Alton Byrd '79, Columbia's career assists leader, drives to the basket against Penn at Levien Gym.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY COLUMBIA ATHLETICS



MARCH 9, 1968

Heyward Dotson '70, LAW'76 scores 32 points as the Lions beat La Salle 83–69 for the only NCAA tournament win in school history. The following weekend, Columbia was eliminated by Davidson in overtime 61–59 and then beat St. Bonaventure 95–75 in a consolation game.

1977–78 and 1978–79

Alton Byrd '79, Columbia's all-time leader with 526 career assists, leads the Lions to Ivy League records of 11–3 and 10–4. A three-time All-Ivy guard, the 5-foot-9-inch Byrd received the 1979 Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award from the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame as the nation's top collegiate player under 6 feet tall.

1984

As the College becomes coeducational, the Columbia-Barnard Athletic Consortium is formed to permit Barnard students to compete alongside Columbia women under the Columbia banner. The first Columbia women's basketball game is played on November 20, 1984, and the Lions beat John Jay College 74–20 en route to a 19–7 season.

FEBRUARY 17, 1986

Ellen Bossert '86 scores 39 points in an 83–82 victory over New Rochelle to set the Columbia women's single-game scoring record. Bossert scores 38 points in the season finale against Buffalo State two weeks later and finishes the campaign with an average of 22.1 ppg. She and Ula Lysniak BC'87 lead the team to a 21–6 record, the most wins in school history.

1986–87

After two seasons in NCAA Division III, where Barnard had competed, the Columbia women move up to Division I and begin competing in the Ivy League this season. In their first Ivy game, the Lions travel to Ithaca and defeat Cornell 65–58 on January 10, 1987.

ROAR, LION, ROAR

1. Judie Lomax BC'10 twice led the nation in rebounding.
2. The 2016 CIT-champion Lions cut the nets in Levien Gym.
3. Camille Zimmerman '18 leads the Lions in career points and rebounds.



MARCH 5, 1988

Columbia's women outlast Penn 114–111, the combined total of 225 points being the most ever scored in a Columbia basketball game, men or women.

FEBRUARY 15, 1991

Buck Jenkins '93 scores 47 points in a 92–77 win at Harvard to set the Columbia men's single-game scoring record. Jenkins finished his career with 1,767 points, the highest total in school history.

2009–10

Led by two-time NCAA Division I rebounding champion and Ivy League Player of the Year Judie Lomax BC'10, Columbia's women compile a 9–5 Ivy record, their first winning season in league play, and an 18–10 overall mark. The 18 total wins and nine Ivy wins are the most for Columbia women since moving up to Division I in 1986.

MARCH 29, 2016

Columbia beats UC Irvine 73–67 in Levien Gymnasium to win the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament. Led by Maodo Lo '16 (above), Grant Mullins '16, Alex Rosenberg '16 and Luke Petrasek '17, the Lions compile a 25–10 record, the most wins in one season.

2016–17

Camille Zimmerman '18 scores 608 points and averages 22.5 ppg, both school records, and is named the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association Women's Player of the Year for the NYC area. She finishes her career with 1,973 points and 940 rebounds, also school records.



DID WE MISS YOUR FAVORITE HOOPS MEMORY?

Let us know: cct@columbia.edu.

In Memoriam: Bill Steinman, Longtime Sports Information Director



GENE BOYARS / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

William C. "Bill" Steinman, Columbia's former sports information director (SID) who was affectionately nicknamed "Stats" for his prodigious recordkeeping, and encyclopedic knowledge of sports history and statistics, especially when it came to the Lions, died on September 21, 2021. He was 76 and lived in New York City.

Steinman was Columbia's SID from 1984 to 2010, following 14 years as assistant SID, and was well known and highly regarded in the industry nationwide. He was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010, and was historian emeritus for Athletics until his death.

"Bill's passion for Columbia was second to none," said the Campbell Family Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Physical Education Peter Pilling. "He touched the lives of so many Columbians, from student-athletes and staff members to the countless members of his student staff that he mentored."

"Perhaps Bill's most significant legacy was in helping shape the professional careers of undergrads," echoed former SID Kevin DeMarrais '64, who brought Steinman to Columbia from the then-New York Nets, where Steinman had been head statistician.

"He was especially good at working with reporters from *Spectator* and WKCR, and led several of them to great jobs in newspapers, radio, television and public relations."

Steinman worked closely with four athletics directors, directing media coverage and helping to publicize Columbia's 1983 run to the NCAA men's soccer championship game and numerous NCAA fencing championships, among other events.

"Bill was a consummate professional whom you could always depend on," former athletics director M. Dianne Murphy said. "He was a gentle and kind soul, and a wonderful person to engage in conversation. I admired him for doing everything behind the scenes in such an unassuming and quiet way. He was not looking for glory — he loved his job, he loved sports and loved our Columbia Blue."

Steinman received the Distinguished Service Award in 1999 from the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association, and the following year he was given both the Irving T. Marsh Award from the ECAC Sports Information Directors Association and the Elmore "Scoop" Hudgens Sports Information Director Award from the All-American Football Foundation. In 2010, the College Sports Information Directors of America presented Steinman with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

A graduate of Hofstra, Steinman was predeceased in April 2021 by his brother, Jim, a Grammy Award-winning composer.

— Alex Sachare '71



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Twice the Talent

When Amanda Peet '94 first approached her husband, the writer David Benioff, and asked for honest feedback on something she'd been writing, she did so with trepidation. Benioff was an acclaimed novelist whose career launched into the stratosphere when he co-created an HBO series called *Game of Thrones*. (You might have heard of it.) Peet was, and is, an actress. Her breakout performance in 2000's *The Whole Nine Yards* led to a big-screen run in movies as varied as the romantic comedy *Something's Gotta Give*, the political thriller *Syriana* and the blockbuster disaster film *2012*. But as enviable as that track record might be, she had always been curious to try her hand at writing.

On its face, the conversation was less than promising. "He was ... fairly harsh," says Peet, recalling Benioff's candid breakdown of the numerous places where he felt her writing was lazy or thin.

You might think that receiving this particularly withering feedback, from this particularly qualified source, would be enough to make someone hang up their pen and notebook for good. For Peet — after she "cried in the corner," she allows — it was exactly what she needed to confirm she was on the right track. "I took it as a huge compliment," says Peet. "It felt like he thought I had potential. If he *didn't*, he would have just sweet-talked me. And then he would have been like, 'What about that part they offered you on *NCIS*?'"

What a difference a decade makes. Last summer, Peet debuted *The Chair*, a Netflix series she co-created with Harvard academic-turned-screenwriter Annie Julia Wyman. She also co-wrote the first three episodes.

If the old saying is "write what you know," Peet didn't need to look too far for inspiration. *The Chair* is set at Pembroke, a (fictional) East Coast university, and creating it led Peet to reflect on her own years at the

**Actress
Amanda
Peet '94
"recognizes
the joy" of
writing as
co-creator of
*The Chair***

By Scott Meslow

Peet photographed
in Los Angeles for
Emmy magazine in
January 2020.

ELISABETH CAREN /
CONTOUR RA
BY GETTY IMAGES



GLEN WILSON

ABOVE: Peet with Matt Damon in a scene from the 2005 film *Syriana*.

RIGHT: Blythe Danner and Sarah Jessica Parker in *The Commons of Pensacola* (2013). The Off-Broadway dramedy was Peet's playwriting debut.

College, in the early '90s. It was a creatively diverse and fulfilling time in her life. After letting her interests dictate the classes she took the first two years, she says, she belatedly decided to major in American history because she realized it was the only field in which she already had enough credits to graduate on schedule.

At the same time, Peet auditioned for, and was accepted by, an independent acting program taught by legendary instructor Uta Hagen. Hagen, a Tony-winning actress who originated the role of Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* on Broadway, had a roster of students that included such luminaries as Steve McQueen, Faye Dunaway and Robert De Niro. "It started

to feel like acting was something that was an option for me as a vocation instead of just a hobby," says Peet. "For so long, I had thought of it the same way I thought about playing soccer after school." Peet's family urged her to temper her expectations, though. "I came from a very traditional family, so the idea of going off to be an actress was frowned upon," says Peet. "If I had started by going to Yale Drama, I'm sure they would have looked at me differently. But that's not how I started. I started doing a Blistex commercial."

It wasn't long before Peet booked parts with a little more rigor, including an Off-Broadway role in the revival of the Clifford Odets play *Awake and Sing!* But even as her acting career started to take off, Peet was nagged by the road she hadn't taken: as a writer, building on the short stories she'd quietly worked on since college. When asked why she didn't continue to write, even while pursuing acting, Peet pauses and thinks for a long time before answering. "I am haunted by that question," she finally says. "I don't know. I don't understand why I didn't recognize the joy that I was finding in it."

In the years that followed, the question never quite faded away, until Amanda Peet, Actress, finally decided it was time to make room in her life for Amanda Peet, Writer. With the encouragement of family and friends, Peet developed an unusual creative process:

sitting not at a desk but on the floor, for hours and hours, hunched over her laptop as she worked out dialogue, characters and plots. Whenever she finished something, she would print it out and read it, only trusting her eye for self-critique when she could see her words on an actual piece of paper. "I'll look at it on the computer and I'll say, 'God, this is so brilliant. I can't believe how good I am.' And then, when I print it out, I see that it's dreck," she says.

Any career in writing comes with a fair amount of rejection, and Peet's was no different. After NBC's *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*, in which she had a lead role, was canceled in 2007, Peet wrote a TV script with her friend Andrea Troyer, wife of Benioff's *Game of Thrones* co-creator D.B. Weiss. Nobody bit. She wrote a pilot with Benioff; that didn't go anywhere either. She even wrote an unproduced play set at Columbia in the mid-'90s, with a story that took place during a single night in the dorms. That one made it as far as workshops, but Peet sounds skeptical about revisiting it now: "David and I talk a lot about the dangers of going back to some of your earlier work. Sometimes there's a reason something didn't achieve liftoff."

In 2013, Peet finally made her debut as a playwright with *The Commons of Pensacola*, a barbed dramedy about what happens to an upper-crust New York family after its patriarch is exposed as a Wall Street cheat. (Peet's characters are fictional, but the parallels to the Madoff family are clear.) When *The Commons* premiered Off-Broadway, *The New York Times* praised Peet's "easily flowing dialogue, laced with biting humor and a brash streak of vulgarity." The paper also noted that, at one point, Peet planned to play the lead role herself. In the end, Sarah Jessica Parker starred.

It's an interesting quirk that while most of Peet's works feature at least one character she could clearly play, she has never actually acted in something she's written. For now, at least, the two sides of her career remain separate. "I always start out writing for myself, and then I get to a certain place — and then I can't do anymore, for lack of inspiration. And then, as soon as I think of the right actor, I can keep going," she says.

The Chair was no different. The series came, in part, out of Peet's frustration over the abrupt cancellation of the HBO show *Togetherness*, in which she starred for two seasons. The series was co-created by brothers Mark and Jay Duplass, and Peet felt her work with them wasn't finished. Switching back to her writer's hat, she began imagining a romantic comedy with Jay Duplass in mind as the lead, building out the premise from a vague, unformed idea about a widower who starts to date again as his daughter goes off to college.

At the same time, Peet was kicking around a separate idea about a female supervisor trying to navigate her personal and professional life when a male colleague — already a close friend, and possibly something more — transgresses in a way that forces her to act. "How would she feel if she were somewhat in love with this



JOAN MARCUS

...I will overcome
...ation of silence."
- Gloria Anzaldúa

Sandra Oh plays
the head of a
fictional English
department in
Peet's Netflix
drama, *The Chair*.



ELIZA MORSE / NETFLIX

person, and his fate was in her hands?" Peet recalls wondering. "What would she *do*?"

In one of the lightbulb moments that writers occasionally experience once they've spent the proper amount of time hunched over a laptop, Peet realized that her two ideas could be, and should be, the same story. The widower/transgressor would be played by Duplass. For the female lead, she imagined Sandra Oh, and began the almost alchemical process of crafting the series' arcs with her two ideal actors in mind. "I started watching Sandra's stuff again, and looking at pictures of her, and looking at pictures of her with Jay, and watching her in interviews, and almost falling in love with her," Peet says. "It's like a muse situation. It's a little bit creepy."

Though Peet initially thought she might set her story in a hospital, she eventually settled on a university, and enlisted Wyman as her co-creator to ensure she depicted academia authentically. It was, they quickly discovered, a potent breeding ground for natural drama. The buzz inside the English department in *The Chair* reflects a hornet's nest of real-life problems that can be found at real-life universities: tensions between long-tenured faculty and new professors interested in shaking up old traditions; disagreements that arise when strong-willed faculty members are challenged by similarly strong-willed students; and difficult choices related to ever-shrinking budgets, especially in a "soft science" department like English that's increasingly forced to justify its value.

All these topics are united by Oh's Ji-Yoon Kim, the newly appointed chair who struggles to hold the department together in the midst of a scandal when Professor Bill Dobson (Duplass) sardonically performs a Nazi salute while making a larger point about absurdity and fascism in an English seminar. A clip of the lecture, shorn from its greater context, soon goes viral on social media, creating a scandal that ultimately engulfs the department altogether.

Since *The Chair* premiered, Peet has heard from a number of actual university faculty and administrators, who are eager to weigh

"I always start out writing for myself, and then as soon as I can think of the right actor, I can keep going."

in on how accurately the series reflects their own experiences. "Some people felt like the old people [in the English department] who are so behind the times are clichés. Too cartoonish," she says. "And then other people said, 'That's *exactly* how it is.'"

The Chair marked Peet's debut as a showrunner, and for an actress who has spent most of her career getting glammed up for cameras and red carpets, being on the other side of it all proved liberating. "I loved how I got to wear really, really dirty sweatpants every day," she says. "My hair was a rat's nest. I felt so guilty rolling in at 6:30 when I knew that Sandra had been in the makeup trailer since 5:45."

At this point, Peet isn't sure if *The Chair* will return for a second season; she has some ideas for where the story might go, but she's playing those cards close to her vest. But as it becomes clear to Hollywood that Peet is a genuine double threat, she'll be able to choose which projects she wants to do *and* whether she wants to be in front of the camera, behind the camera, or both. When asked what, ideally, she'd like to do next, Peet sounds both open-minded and eager to figure it out. "I think the issue is just good writing. Wherever you can find it," says Peet. And as she's discovering, the answer might actually be on her own computer screen.

Scott Meslow is a senior editor for *The Week* magazine and a writer and critic for publications including *GQ*, *Vulture* and *The Atlantic*. His first book, *From Hollywood With Love: The Rise and Fall (and Rise Again) of the Romantic Comedy*, will be published in February.

A Core cornerstone
undergoes its first major
change in decades

By Jill C. Shomer

WHAT'S NEW, ART HUM?

Last fall, during a season of already-radical paradigm shifts on campus, one of the College's most enduring courses underwent a transformation of its own. Art Humanities — among the last pillars to be added to the Core Curriculum, in 1947 — was significantly updated for the first time in its nearly 75-year history.

The new approach reflects the imperative of a more contemporary perspective, and is headlined by a notably more inclusive syllabus. Associate Professor Noam Elcott '00, the former Art Hum chair who championed the review process, says the newly diverse roster has helped to cast the whole course in a different light.

"When I took over as chair [in 2018], there was not a single woman artist or a single artist of color on the syllabus," Elcott says. "Today, the majority of units feature one or both. Collectively, the units of Art Humanities are now better able to bridge the gaps of time and space to interrogate vital questions of our presents and open essential windows into our pasts."

The addition of nine artists — some well-known, some more obscure — has opened entirely new avenues of discourse on subjects such as gender, race, family life, identity and access to education. New to the syllabus are Sofonisba Anguissola, Luisa Roldán, Clara Peeters, Angelica Kauffman, Berthe Morisot, Mary Cassatt, Romare Bearden, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Cindy Sherman.

Significantly, greater diversity allows instructors to ask questions that take other viewpoints into account: "Previously, the question of the male gaze and the female nude was thematized in the course, but there were no women artists to offer the reverse," Elcott says. "The story is vastly more complex and interesting the moment we add female painters."

Along with changes to the "Art" aspect of the course, Zoë Strother, the Riggio Professor of African Art and the Jonathan Sobel & Marcia Dunn Program Chair for Art Humanities, says

that boosting the "Humanities" part has been a major ambition of the reform. "We are prioritizing the big questions that concern us today, and doing a better job of engaging critical issues of contemporary relevance," she says.

To best achieve that, Art Hum instructors meet five times a year for a seminar that operates like a quasi-think tank; participants and prominent guests discuss how to connect with students about the challenging issues that are transforming visual culture. "We used to just have content lectures that had nothing to do with what was happening in the classroom or the world," Strother says. The seminar complements a weekly course designed for first-time instructors, which has been reformatted to focus on pedagogy. "This new style of briefings is working really well; I'm hearing a lot of compliments."

A third component of the Art Hum update is regular syllabus review. "It's now contractual that there is reform every three years," Strother says. "We'll no longer be fossilized. The changes might not be as radical, but it will keep the syllabus alive and help us continue to tinker with it." The next review will begin this year and go into effect in 2023.

Reflecting on the effort that went into the change, Elcott pointed to the graduate students and faculty who thought outside the box and outside their comfort zones to reimagine Art Hum. "The goal was not to create a new canon, but to rethink what we could do with the course," he says. "What's great is that many people feared that by sidelining the question of canon we'd lost the thread that connects all of the units. But it's been quite the contrary — we now see a much richer and complex braiding of art and history from ancient times to the present."

Here, we've put together a guide to some of the new artworks, detailing how they broaden and enrich the student experience of Art Hum.



Self-Portrait at the Easel
Sofonisba Anguissola, 1556

Though Anguissola may be largely unknown, she was in fact the most important female artist of the Renaissance. While contemporaries like Raphael were focused on portraying idealized types, Anguissola painted actual people, with a greater sense of realism. As demonstrated here, she was also a successful self-portraitist. “The question of self-presentation is brought into the mix in a manner that speaks obviously and immediately to a generation obsessed with selfies,” Elcott says. “Suddenly, we’re able to bridge the 500-year gap between the Renaissance and the present.”

Still Life with Flowers, a Silver-Gilt Goblet, Dried Fruit, Sweetmeats, Bread Sticks, Wine, and a Pewter Pitcher
Clara Peeters, 1615

Peeters, now being taught alongside Rembrandt, helped to introduce the still life as a significant genre of painting. “With the preponderance of food photos on Instagram, this is immediately recognizable to undergraduates,” Elcott says with a laugh. “It introduces a level of intimacy, of wealth, of showing off — she embeds self-portraits in reflections on the glasses and dishes.” The inclusion of exotic fruits and objects in Peeters’s paintings also expresses a nascent history of colonialism and slavery. “What look like benign objects carry the traces of the maritime powers of the 17th century,” Elcott says. “This prompts questions we weren’t able to ask previously.”





Zeuxis Choosing his Models for his Painting of Helen of Troy
Angelica Kauffman, 1778

Kauffman was a successful portraitist and also a history painter, which Elcott says was exceedingly rare at the time. This work tells the story of the Greek painter Zeuxis, who in order to portray the world's most beautiful woman, synthesized parts of five models into an ideal whole. In Kauffman's version, one model has snuck behind Zeuxis and grabbed a paintbrush, turning toward Zeuxis's empty canvas. What does it mean for a woman to hold the brush, rather than be the object of idealization?

What does it mean for a woman to hold the brush?

Mother and Sister of the Artist
Berthe Morisot, 1869-79

Morisot, a mainstay of the Impressionist movement, portrays home life for the first time in Art Hum. "We see her representing her mother and sister, in an intimate, private, domestic world in which men were not allowed," Elcott says. "In 19th-century French and English, the phrase 'public woman' was a euphemism for a prostitute — the women in Édouard Manet's paintings are often assumed to be prostitutes or at least hold that potential. Morisot, by contrast, represents private women, and it's a realm that we had no access to before the curriculum reform."





Les Demoiselles D'Avignon
Pablo Picasso, 1907

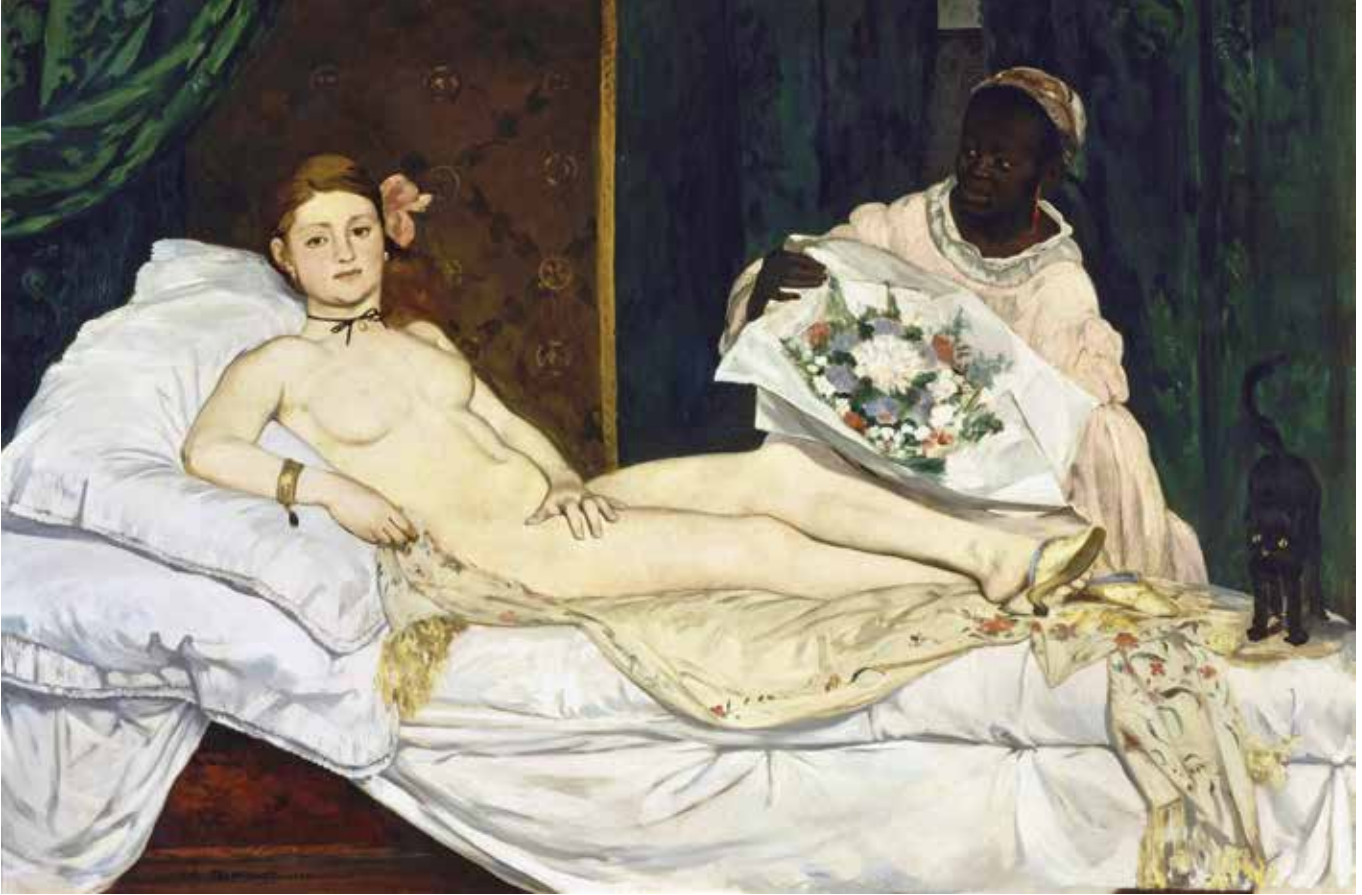


Kru mask
1910

The Prevalence of Ritual (Baptism)
Romare Bearden, 1964



Elcott says the unit on Picasso and Bearden is about three things: the men as artists, Africa and its legacies in Western art, and the practice of collage. The first artists of color who enter the curriculum are the anonymous artists who created the African masks collected by Picasso, which were hugely influential to Cubism and the history of 20th-century art. “Picasso borrowed from these masks to revolutionize art, and Bearden’s discovery of African masks and African art comes through Picasso,” Elcott says. “Both Picasso and Bearden seem to treat Africa as something of an abstraction — Bearden never represents a single, whole, mimetic African-American or African individual. They are deeply complex representations that merge photographs, painting, paper, stereotypes, anti-stereotypes, all of these things together.”



Olympia
Édouard Manet, 1863

Manet sometimes featured people of color in his work — most famously, the maid in *Olympia*. The role of the maid was largely ignored in art history until 1982, when Basquiat painted *Untitled (Maid from Olympia)*. “Manet lifted figures wholesale from 17th-century art, appropriated them and mutated them into his own canvases. Then Basquiat lifts elements from Manet and other artists, doubling down on Manet’s initial interrogation of the tradition and expanding that interrogation exponentially,” Elcott says. “Basquiat draws on a wider range of sources and traditions than any other artist on the syllabus and speaks to a present in which all cultures and all histories are available to us.”

Untitled (Maid from Olympia)
Jean-Michel Basquiat, 1982



In the Loge (At the Opera)
Mary Cassatt, 1878

“If ever there were a painting that complicates the male gaze and the female gaze, surely it is this one.”



Untitled Film Still #54
Cindy Sherman, 1980



In this Cassatt painting, a woman is absorbed in the spectacle on stage, but a man in the background peers at her, and by extension, at us. “If ever there were a painting that complicates the male gaze and the female gaze, surely it is this one,” Elcott says. “This long trajectory of self-portraits [that consider] the male gaze, a woman’s role in society, and the private versus the public, is picked up again with the only living artist in the course, Cindy Sherman.” Sherman’s *Untitled Film Stills*, a set of 70 photos that feature the artist in the guise of generic female movie characters, creates conversation about stereotypical portrayals of women.



THE 2021 LION'S PRIDE HONORS

CCT AND CCYA SPOTLIGHT NINE
INSPIRING YOUNG ALUMNI

WELCOME to the second installment of Lion's Pride, a celebration of outstanding alumni from the last decade. With thanks to Columbia College Young Alumni for its partnership in soliciting nominations, we're excited to introduce our nine honorees — a cohort with a distinct bent toward engaging with the pressing issues of our time: social, political, environmental, cultural. These Columbians are creating space for and provoking necessary conversations; working toward solutions in their respective spheres; reshaping perceptions; and using their creativity to empower themselves and others. Notably, many of them have made their own opportunities. And they all push themselves for what they believe in. At a time when it often seems there's a lot in the world that needs changing, we're glad to have them on the case.

— *The Editors*

INTERVIEWS AND TEXT BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08, ALEXIS BONCY SOA'11
AND JILL C. SHOMER • ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALYSSA CARVARA



Isabel King '13

What does a professional athlete do with no events to compete in?

Triathlete Isabel King '13 found herself contemplating that question in March 2020, only a few months after shelving a newly earned M.B.A. to take a chance on her dream of pro cycling. The timing was unfortunate, and though King could still safely train, she wasn't content to leave it at that. "There's got to be something more that I can do," she recalls thinking.

That something turned out to be Mountains for Medics, a fundraiser to help the healthcare workers who were manning the Covid-19 front lines. The California-based King pledged to ride a grueling 112 miles and climb 12,000 vertical ft., each day for three consecutive days, through her "backyard" in the Santa Monica and Malibu

mountains. "I wanted to emulate the three-day, 12-hour shifts that the frontline workers were doing," she says. The ride raised more than \$20,000 for the UCLA Patient Care and Healthcare Provider Protection Fund.

King's philanthropy didn't end there. After the ride she joined one of her training partners, former Indiana Pacers shooting guard Reggie Miller, to design a "Say Their Names" bike jersey as a fundraiser for the Equal Justice Initiative. Their project, in connection with sports retailer Castelli, raised more than \$70,000 and was the best-selling jersey in the company's history.

King's journey to becoming a pro cyclist was, by her own admission, "non-logical and non-linear." A co-captain of the Columbia soccer team, she graduated with a psychology major yet



Coleman Hughes '20

Coleman Hughes '20 isn't your average up-and-coming podcaster.

Two years into his wide-ranging interview show, *Conversations with Coleman*, he's already hosted figures like renowned intellectual Noam Chomsky, astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson GSAS'92, and journalists Megyn Kelly and Ezra Klein. In fact, the podcast life is going so well that last spring Hughes stepped away from his roles as a fellow with the conservative Manhattan Institute for Policy Research and a contributing editor to its magazine, *City Journal*, to devote himself entirely to his audio venture.

Hughes, who has been a guest on podcasts such as *Making Sense with Sam Harris*, as well as on TV's *Real Time with Bill Maher*, attributes his show's growth to his penchant for asking questions that go beyond the surface of his guests' expertise. "I feel like I've succeeded when my guest tells me, 'This was a more-interesting-than-average interview,'" says Hughes. "I hope that's one thing that's appealing about my podcast to them."

Hughes describes his podcast as a "platform that champions free speech, free thought and open debate." In that spirit, he tackles an array of issues, including race, science and culture. As an independent podcaster, Hughes relishes the autonomy that comes with choosing guests and discussion topics. "I don't have to restrict myself," he says.

Outside the studio, Hughes's commentary on social issues has appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, and in the online magazine *Quillette*, among other publications. He was still in college when *Post* columnist Megan McArdle called him a "thinker to be reckoned with." And his impressive trajectory landed him on *Forbes*'s 2021 "30 Under 30" list in the media category.

Hughes's current path is vastly different from the one he envisioned when he enrolled at Juilliard after high school. The New Jersey native was studying to be a jazz musician when his mother passed away unexpectedly. The loss left Hughes pondering the meaning of life and "what the point of it all is" — questions that prompted him to apply to the College. He studied philosophy, a background that has become the foundation of *Conversations with Coleman*. "It gets you down to first principles, which is a very good thing as an interviewer," Hughes says of his major.

Hughes says he has found that the solitary nature of listening to podcasts encourages him to question his beliefs, and hopes that his show will have the same effect on listeners. "That experience is really profound," he says. "I want to give that to people because I've found it so valuable in my own life."

pursued a career in finance. After four years on the trading floor at UBS, she enrolled in business school at UCLA Anderson, and also discovered a love for triathlons. She decided to balance the two, attending classes while training 20 hours a week. She qualified to compete as a professional triathlete in her fourth Half-Ironman race in 2019.

In 2020 King switched her focus from triathlons to off-road mountain bike and gravel riding. She's a "privateer," meaning that rather than being part of a sponsored road cycling team, King is her own boss: "I treat myself as my own business entity. I layer together sponsors that I believe fit with my brand and that I want to represent. I get to choose the races that I want to go to."

Last year, as pandemic restrictions eased, King traveled throughout the United States to compete. Asked what the off-road experience is like, she points to a race called "Unbound Gravel," in Emporia, Kans. — "200 miles of farm roads, stopping every four or five hours to refuel with food and water. You're literally in the middle of nowhere, following a little bike computer telling you where to go. It's wild."

Asked what's next, King references her father. "My dad had a saying: 'Keep your knees bent.' It came from skiing moguls — sometimes you're not going to see the bump in the road, but if your knees are bent you can absorb the bump and continue down the mountain. So, I'm just going to keep my knees bent, say 'yes' to opportunities and see where I can go."

"I treat myself as my own business entity. I get to choose the races that I want to go to."



Julian Brave NoiseCat '15

To describe analyst, advocate and writer Julian Brave NoiseCat '15 as "prolific" hardly does justice to the volume of his work on Indigenous rights and climate justice. But it's the substance of that work — coupled with the authority of his experience as an Indigenous person — that earned him a spot on this year's "TIME 100 Next" list of emerging leaders.

NoiseCat is VP of policy and strategy at Data for Progress, a think tank that supports progressive causes through polling and policy development, and which has become influential among the highest ranks of the Democratic party. Much of his work in that role has been in the service of climate platforms like the Green New Deal, a focus he says stems naturally from his heritage as a member of the Secwepemc First Nation and a descendant of the Lilwat Nation of Mount Currie of British Columbia. "Indigenous peoples, by definition, have a deep history with a place and the land and water where they come from," NoiseCat says.

As an activist, NoiseCat has been heavily involved in grassroots campaigns in support of Indigenous peoples. At Columbia, he played a key role in the creation of Manhattan House, a residential special interest community for Indigenous students. And in 2019, he helped organize a high-profile canoe journey in San Francisco

Bay that brought together Indigenous communities from as far west as Hawaii. The event commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Alcatraz Occupation, a 19-month long intertribal protest that drew attention to the land rights concerns of Native Americans in the United States. "That movement was incredibly impactful in the United States and in broader Indigenous history, but it remains, I think, unrecognized and uncelebrated," says NoiseCat, who was born and raised in Oakland, Calif. "We wanted to continue the spirit of that movement."

NoiseCat's extensive reporting and commentary has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *National Geographic* and *The Atlantic*, among other publications. He is also a columnist for *Canada's National Observer* and a contributing editor to *Canadian Geographic*, and is working on a forthcoming book that will combine narratives of his life as a contemporary Indigenous man with reporting on Native communities in the U.S. and Canada.

NoiseCat is staunch in his commitment to continue bringing Native issues and perspectives to the fore. "Our continued presence as self-determining Indigenous peoples with distinct cultures, languages and social movements should matter to more people than just ourselves," he says. "That's the idea I've committed my life to."



Nadia Eke '15

How does a premier athlete move forward when their sport is no longer their primary focus? That's the question Olympian Nadia Eke '15 — a Ghanaian triple jumper who hung up her sneakers after Tokyo last summer — wants to help others answer as the CEO of the startup Axxelerate.

Eke co-founded Axxelerate in 2020 with Marquel Carter '14 (a former Lions defensive back) and Aniekeme Umoh SEAS'15. The company is developing educational programming and networking opportunities to help athletes discover what they want from their post-athletic careers and to build personal brands that will allow them to find new meaningful employment. Eke's ultimate goal is to empower athletes to "recognize that 'this is the story that I have to tell beyond the sport, and these are the opportunities I can center around that,'" she says.

It has long been Eke's ambition to "build something to help athletes," and Axxelerate is allowing her to leverage her industry connections and insight to do just that. Too often, Eke says, professional athletes are unequipped to transition into the corporate world. "I'm supporting athletes like I always wanted to, but in a unique way that no one else is doing," she says.

Eke certainly knows whereof she speaks, coming off a track and field career in which

she became one of the world's top female triple jumpers. She has three IAAF African Athletics Continental medals and in 2019 set the Ghanaian national record in the triple jump — a performance that qualified her for the Olympics. Having already decided to retire from competition after Tokyo, Eke soaked in every moment of the Olympic experience. "Mentally and emotionally, I was ready to walk away from the sport, and to walk away at the highest stage," she says.

A four-time NCAA All-American in track and field and Ivy League nominee for the 2015 NCAA Woman of the Year, Eke also had the honor of being the flag bearer for Team Ghana at the Tokyo games. (She and sprinter Yasmeen Al Dabbagh '19 of Saudi Arabia became the first female Olympic flagbearers in Columbia history.) "To be the flag bearer, for me, was a testament to the value of investing in sports and investing in women," says Eke.

Yet even while rising to the pinnacle of her sport, Eke has always seen herself — and wants others to see her — as more than an athlete. It's why she chose to pursue an Ivy League education. And it is the central tenet of Axxelerate. "You never stop being an athlete and start living your life," says Eke. "We are all multifaceted people."



Shaun Abreu '14

For Shaun Abreu '14, public service is a deeply personal endeavor.

When Abreu was just 9, he and his family were evicted from their Washington Heights apartment. He stayed first with neighbors, and later with his nearby grandmother, before moving to the Bronx. Once his parents got back on their feet, they found a place on the Upper West Side. Now, as an attorney specializing in tenants' rights and a recently elected New York City Council member, Abreu is looking out for a constituency with whom he has a long-held connection. His district — District 7 — includes his childhood home, and is in fact where he's lived and gone to school most of his life.

"You grow up in a neighborhood where they see you going through the worst," Abreu says. "And now in many ways the roles are reversed, and

that's what community is about — having each other's backs." He notes the diverse backgrounds and needs of the residents in his district, a long, narrow stretch of the West Side that also includes Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, West Harlem, Morningside Heights and Manhattan Valley. "It's an honor for me to be in a position to have my community's back, to make sure we're pushing for policies that are going to improve lives."

While in high school, Abreu worked at the Morningside Heights branch of the New York Public Library, on Broadway at 113th Street. "Every day I would pass the University, and it would seem both so far away and so close," he recalls. The future political science major became a student at Columbia's Double Discovery Center and participated in its Freedom and Citizenship program, which included a college-level seminar

in political philosophy. Abreu credits those experiences, and especially the Core Curriculum, with “rewiring” his thinking. “It opened my eyes to the social contract and the obligations we all have to each other, and forced me to think about what role I play in a civil society. What do I want to do, and how can I make my community better?”

Abreu’s first and only significant departure from NYC was for law school at Tulane; he graduated in 2018 and the following year began working for the nonprofit New York Legal Assistance Group. He stepped down to join the City Council but notes his experience will help with drafting legislation, and in particular his goal

to build on a law that guarantees housing court counsel for low-income tenants facing eviction.

Looking ahead, Abreu hopes for reelection but isn’t one to speculate further. “I’m focused on my constituents and doing right by them,” he says. “And that’s what it comes down to: Focus on the work and you have a bright future.”

“It’s an honor for me to be in a position to have my community’s back, to make sure we’re pushing for policies that are going to improve lives.”



Bianca Joseph '18

Bianca Joseph '18 is resolute about the need to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, the shorthand term for the national trend of calling on law enforcement to handle in-school student misbehavior or rule breaking, even for minor offenses.

It’s a battle she’s waging on two fronts — as a social worker at a Houston public school that primarily serves economically disadvantaged students of color (the population most often ensnared by the school-to-prison pipeline) and as the founder of Youth Empowerment Through Social Support, a nonprofit that aims to enrich the minds and lives of minority youth through programs that nurture their social and physical environments.

“[These students] are punished more easily,” says Joseph, who majored in psychology at the College and earned a master’s in social work from Penn. “Their struggles in life are dismissed and they are criminalized from an early age.”

Joseph’s career path was informed by her experience with the school system in her hometown of Riviera Beach, Fla.: She felt that as a high-achieving student and athlete, she often received more support from teachers and staff than her struggling peers.

As a social worker, Joseph is “adamant about making sure that I’m a kid’s first stop instead of the police.” She counsels students in grades 6–12 to address anxiety, grief, depression and other mental health concerns so that they can “be present” and focus on school. “I can get them

resources and address their mental health and emotional needs. That way they don’t come into contact with the prison system,” she says. (Such interventions are sorely needed: According to a 2019 ACLU report, 14 million students in the United States attend schools where there is a police presence, but no counselor, nurse, psychologist or social worker.)

Joseph’s nonprofit takes a different approach to interrupting the pipeline, by helping high school students of color get into college through its flagship program, the College Admission Network. Joseph launched CAN while attending Penn; to date, it has paired more than 60 high school seniors at three Philadelphia schools with local undergraduates who help them complete their applications and write essays.

Joseph started the program because, while she was recruited by Columbia for track and field, she saw many of her classmates overwhelmed by college applications. “If more students feel supported in applying to college, they are more likely to want to go,” she says.

All of the students in the program have been offered admission to at least one college or university, notes Joseph. She hopes eventually to expand CAN to high-need schools in other cities. The program is “self-sustaining,” because students who graduate and enroll in college then become advisors for the next cohort. “The idea is that it will be for the community and by the community,” Joseph says.



Kosta Karakashyan '19

Bulgarian director, choreographer, dancer and writer Kosta Karakashyan '19 is using his art to fight for LGBTQ+ equality.

As the founding editor-in-chief of the website Out.bg, Karakashyan is creating positive media representation in one of the most homophobic countries in the European Union. He also recently founded his own production company, Studio Karakashyan, as a hub for his film and stage projects and to help launch other Bulgarian artists.

"We are doing a series of master classes and workshops to develop and empower young singers, dancers and actors, and help them create the career they want," Karakashyan says.

His own career in the performing arts wasn't the original plan. Though he had studied ballroom

dancing from childhood, Karakashyan comes from a family of doctors and assumed he'd be pre-med. But after being accepted to the College, he was invited to appear as a professional dancer on the Vietnam version of *Dancing with the Stars*. "This whole world of entertainment opened up, so I took a gap year to really think about what I wanted to do," Karakashyan says.

He eventually came to the United States and majored in dance through Barnard. The freedom he felt in New York City was revelatory. "I enjoyed how open Columbia and the city were, in terms of LGBTQ+ rights; it really gave me a space as a gay man to think about how free people can feel, as compared to my own country," he says.

Karakashyan found a new avenue of expression through a class where students create dance



Dominique Nieves '12

Nuyorican actress and filmmaker Dominique Nieves '12 is determined to bring more authentic Latinx stories to the small screen. "Too often, stories representing marginalized people focus on trauma," says Nieves. "We should have representation that reflects those challenges while still being joyful entertainment."

Nieves's conviction comes from experience. A former med student, while still in school she landed a string of acting gigs, including appearances on *Inside Amy Schumer* and *Orange Is the New Black*. But she quickly grew tired of being cast as the "sexy Latina sidekick." So when health issues altered her plans to become a doctor, Nieves decided to create her own roles. Since founding Iron Glove Productions in 2017, her films have been selected by HBO's NY Latino Film Festival and the Official Latino Film and Arts Festival in NYC, among many others.

Last year, Nieves got her first television writing and directing credit — and recognition as a BAFTA Breakthrough Director and Writer — for a story she contributed to the PBS Primetime Broadcast Special *The LATINXPERIENCE*. The film, *Our Lady Lupe*, aired in July. Set in NYC, it features a boy named Chico who meets a supernatural mechanic (Nieves) while trying to get his mother's car fixed. The story draws from the mysticism that was part of Nieves's upbringing in

Brooklyn. "*Our Lady Lupe* started as my attempt to incorporate the magical stories I grew up hearing into my urban reality," she says.

Nieves is also elevating other Latinx voices in the industry. In September 2020, during Hispanic Heritage Month, she launched a mentorship initiative for up-and-coming Latinx TV writers. Using the hashtag #ReadLatinxWriters on Twitter, Nieves issued a call for industry professionals — showrunners, agents, executives and the like — who were open to reading and commenting on scripts. Then she invited writers to apply for mentorships and paired about 200 writers with industry insiders. Her goal was twofold: for the mentees to get feedback on their work and to help them forge connections.

Now in its second year, #ReadLatinxWriters is a response to the dearth of Latinx creatives in the entertainment industry: According to a 2020 report by the Writers Guild of America West, the union representing TV writers and screenwriters, just 8.7 percent of television writers identify as Latinx, even though this group is the largest minority in the United States.

Nieves hopes her efforts will lead to greater Latinx presence in TV writers' rooms, and in turn help combat harmful stereotypes. "I really think that storytelling can help to increase empathy, specifically empathy for rarely told stories," she says.

films. He made the documentary *Waiting for Color* about the persecution of LGBTQ+ people in Chechnya; the film has appeared in more than 25 festivals. He later participated in the acclaimed 2020 documentary *Welcome to Chechnya*.

Karakashyan's experiences inspired him to earn a master's in human rights and democratization from the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice, Italy. He then moved back to Bulgaria and launched Out.bg with the Single Step Foundation.

"I got to create the whole thing from the ground up," he says. So far, response has been positive: Out.bg recently posted a well-received feature about a famous Bulgarian bodybuilder who had come out as a trans woman, portraying her in a feminine light for the first time.

"We provide an alternative and respectful lens," Karakashyan says.

And things are humming at Studio Karakashyan: He recently received funding for an immersive theater project that will open in May, and he's in post-production on his next film, *Surrender*, about male dancers and masculinity.

Karakashyan admits it can be "complicated" being back in Bulgaria — "it's exhausting, to always have to demand the same respect, on a personal and artistic level" — but it's also inspiring him to create the kind of supportive and creative community he enjoyed at Columbia. "I'm interested in bringing together all the nuggets of wisdom I've learned in my work abroad to help people," he says. "I'm trying to find a way to empower artists here."

"I enjoyed how open Columbia and the city were, in terms of LGBTQ+ rights; it gave me a space to think about how free people can feel."



Arianna Menzelos '21

A passion for climate change — the defining issue of our time — led Arianna Menzelos '21 directly from Morningside Heights to Pennsylvania Avenue.

After interning at the White House Council on Environmental Quality last spring, in August Menzelos assumed the role of special assistant to National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy. As such, the recent College grad is in the thick of the action at the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy, created by President Biden to oversee a government-wide response to the increasingly urgent climate crisis. It's Menzelos's job to ensure that her team of 20 is prepared for the day's agenda, making her a key cog in the office's operations. "I've had the privilege of engaging with people who are knowledgeable and passionate about climate work," she says of her time on the job so far.

Menzelos, who majored in sustainable development, was on her high school's sustainability council and knew early on that she wanted to focus on environmental issues. She was drawn to climate policy at the College when she "started taking classes that pointed me to the ways in which the climate crisis intersects with all other issues." Menzelos points to "Climate Change Law and Policy," taught by Michael Gerrard '72, founder and director of Columbia's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, as one that continues to resonate. "It

gave a really in-depth dive into the policy levers for combating climate change that I am able to see my team [at the White House] work on," she says.

These days, Menzelos finds herself handling quite a few memos, a format she became familiar with during a sophomore year internship at the Sabin Center, where she conducted research on topics ranging from gas stove emissions in New York to the history of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Menzelos later interned at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and was a policy volunteer on Biden's presidential campaign. And, as a junior fellow at the progressive think tank Data for Progress, she co-authored the Green Marshall Plan, a foreign policy strategy for developing and adopting clean technology.

Climate activism was also an important component of Menzelos's time on campus: She was one of the leaders of Columbia for Carbon Neutrality, a student-led campaign to persuade the University to commit to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Menzelos won't speculate where her career might take her, but says that her work in Washington, D.C., has already shown her that there's more than one angle from which to tackle climate-related issues. "It's just a fascinating scientific, political and economic problem," Menzelos says.

One for the Great Books

Roosevelt Montás '95 credits the liberal arts for transforming his life

What is the value of a liberal arts education?

The question has dogged colleges and universities in recent years, as critics have sown skepticism about its real-world applications and made assumptions about its tendency to advance limited or outdated points of view. There can also be the perception of elitism to contend with: that a liberal arts education is accessible only to the privileged few who can afford it.

Not so, says Roosevelt Montás '95, GSAS'04, a former director of the Center for the Core Curriculum, who argues persuasively for the transformative nature of the liberal arts in *Rescuing Socrates: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation* (Princeton University Press, \$24.95). Montás makes his case largely by way of memoir: He immigrated to Queens from the Dominican Republic when he was 11 — a three-and-a-half-hour flight, but an “incalculable” distance — and credits the liberal arts for profoundly shaping the course of his life.

Montás is talking, of course, about the Core Curriculum, which he first encountered as an undergraduate in 1991. Montás was admitted to the College through a state program for students with “financial need and academic under-preparedness,” and went on to earn a Ph.D. in English from GSAS. He was Core

director from 2008 to 2018 and is currently a senior lecturer in American studies and English.

Montás is also a founder and director of the Freedom and Citizenship Program, a partnership between the Double Discovery Center and the Center for American Studies that teaches the foundations of Western political tradition to low-income high school students. The experience, he says, continually reinforces the relevance of liberal education to students today.

“Liberal arts education equips us to live the life of freedom,” Montás told *CCT*. “It gives us the tools and perspectives that allow us to maximize our human potential. And it focuses on this condition of freedom, this fact that every individual has a kind of autonomy that permits us to organize our lives according to our own conception of ‘the good.’ That’s a responsibility that every individual has to fulfill.”

Rescuing Socrates is organized around meditations on four great thinkers: Saint Augustine, Plato, Sigmund Freud and Mahatma Gandhi. Montás dedicates a chapter to each, weaving discussion of their work with critique of contemporary liberal education and poignant personal reflection. The combination gives the book heft while keeping it accessible to a wider audience. (*The Wall Street Journal* notes its “warm, appealing narrative,” while *Kirkus* called it “a vigorous argument in favor of reading and discussing the canon in order to better our minds and souls.”)

Montás’s choice of authors was driven by their influence on his own intellectual development as well as how they have factored into his work as a teacher and



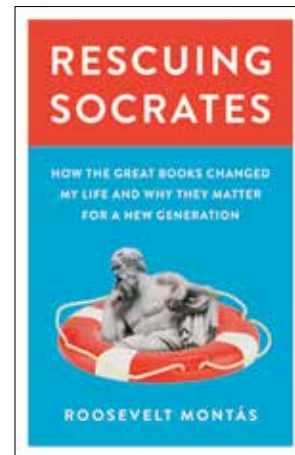
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administrator. These figures may be canonical, but more importantly, he says, they are “famously introspective, committed to the project of self-knowledge. That makes them rich grounds upon which to elaborate and illustrate what the point of a liberal education is.”

The excerpt here speaks to the allure of Socrates by way of his student Plato’s dialogues, and it comes on the heels of the anecdote that gives the book title its layered meaning: As a high school sophomore, on a winter night too cold to linger, Montás found an improbable stack of hardcover classics left out for garbage pickup; he saved two, including Plato’s account of the last days of his teacher’s life. “It is a strange stroke of fortune that Socrates should be the figure to arise from that pile of books on the sidewalk, like a genie rubbed out of a lamp,” he writes.

Asked about Socrates’s significance, Montás observes that his uncompromising approach to the pursuit of truth offers “a set of values that transcend our lives.” As for the Athenian’s effect on his teenage self, Montás calls back to the dislocation of his youth — “of being not just an immigrant who didn’t speak English, but also being poor, being from a rural mountain town and finding myself in New York City.” He was also in the grip of a religious awakening. “I was in a sense looking for salvation, and I was reading [Socrates and Augustine] to find what in them was useful to understanding my own life. And that is characteristic of the liberal education approach — where we read books not just to learn about them, but also to learn from them.”

— Alexis Boncy SOA’11



Chapter 2

The Examined Life: Socrates

The Socrates I rescued from a pile of trash is full of romance. How could my hungry teenage heart resist him? The three dialogues in the book span the period from his trial to his execution: *The Apology*, the *Crito*, and the *Phaedo*. *The Apology* records Socrates’s defense of himself before an Athenian jury. He was brought to court, at age seventy, accused of corrupting the young and of introducing new gods to the city. He was found guilty and sentenced to death.

The next dialogue, the *Crito*, flows from the absurdity of the trial. Things got out of hand. No one could have possibly really wanted such an outcome. It would be ridiculous for Athens to put to death a seventy-year-old-man for engaging in the activity — annoying as it might be — that Socrates was engaged in. Socrates’s old and wealthy friend, Crito, visits him in prison, having made arrangements for his escape. Athenian authorities seem embarrassed by what’s happening and are ready to turn a blind eye if his friends were to arrange for Socrates to leave Athens. So Crito is there, with only a few days to go before the execution, ready to whisk Socrates away. But Socrates says, “No, I can’t go.” Then he argues that to run away would be to betray everything he has lived for and that his entire way of life demands that he accept the death sentence imposed lawfully by the city. It is a devastating argument that leaves Crito completely defeated. His last words in the dialogue are “I have nothing to say, Socrates.”

The *Phaedo*, the last dialogue in the collection, purports to be a record of Socrates's last conversation, in which he argues, and claims to demonstrate, the immortality of the soul. The dialogue then ends with a heart-wrenching description of Socrates "calmly and easily" drinking the poison, lying down, and quietly dying: "Such was the end of our comrade," says Phaedo, "a man who, we would say, was of all we have known the best, and also the wisest and the most upright."

Socrates's defense is simple and plain. It paints a quintessential picture of a life devoted to the pursuit of truth and virtue — what he conceives as the philosophic life. His words to the jury come in three speeches. In the first, and longest, he defends himself against the charges brought against him. He fails at this, and the jury finds him guilty as charged. According to Athenian practice, after a guilty verdict, the jury would choose between a punishment proposed by the accuser and one proposed by the accused. Socrates's accusers propose death. The second speech of the *Apology* is Socrates's counterproposal. Initially, he suggests that he be given free meals at the city's expense, but then, at the urging of Plato and other rich friends, he agrees to a fine which they will pay for him, since he himself has no money. According to the ancient biographer Diogenes Laertius, the margin of the vote to condemn Socrates to death was larger than the one that found him guilty. His second speech, in other words, was an even bigger failure than his first. The third speech in the *Apology* records Socrates's admonition to the jury after its decision to have him executed.

Socrates's initial defense speech doesn't dazzle. At least, it didn't dazzle me. It didn't have the magnanimity and passion I expected from a man in his situation. I remember thinking it was sort of half-hearted; I wanted a heroic blast, a discharge of thunder. But at times, especially early on in the speech, Socrates seems whiny and a little conceited, complaining about popular depictions of him like the one in Aristophanes's play *The Clouds*, where he is viciously and hilariously mocked. His defense sometimes seems calculated precisely to

turn off the jury. Such is the moment when he claims to be a "gadfly":

Indeed, men of Athens, I am far from making a defense now on my own behalf, as might be thought, but on yours, to prevent you from wrongdoing by mistreating the god's gift to you by condemning me; for if you kill me you will not easily find another like me. I was attached to this city by the god — though it seems a ridiculous thing to say — as upon a great and noble horse which was somewhat sluggish because of its size and needed to be stirred up by a kind of gadfly. It is to fulfill some such function that I believe the god has placed me in the city. I never cease to rouse each and every one of you, to persuade and reproach you all day long and everywhere I find myself in your company.

Really? Doesn't Socrates see that this line of defense isn't going to help? That he sounds arrogant and presumptuous? It's as if Socrates has in view not the jury in front of him, but the intellectual tradition he would launch. It's as if he is looking past his fellow citizens to a lineage of dissident intellectuals and telling them, "Your business is to irritate authorities, to challenge the status quo, to ask embarrassing and obnoxious questions of those who claim a public mandate, and to be prepared to pay the ultimate cost for doing so." Compelling as this may sound now, it could not have landed well on the audience of the moment. Nor could it have been helpful to talk about a "divine sign," a "voice" that since childhood had spoken to him ordering him to abstain from doing certain things like entering politics.

Despite his questionable rhetorical choices, the overall impact of Socrates's self-defense is powerful. Its force comes upon you gradually, evenly, and you might not even notice it until it's too late to resist.

Excerpted from *RESCUING SOCRATES: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation* by Roosevelt Montás. Copyright © 2021 by Princeton University Press. Reprinted by permission.

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Low Library's imposing portico features 10 limestone columns measuring 35 ft. high and 4 ft. in diameter. Designed in the Neoclassical style by Charles McKim of the McKim, Mead & White architectural firm, construction on Low was started in 1895 and completed in 1897.

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How to Give Back in 2022

By Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94

In the '90s, when I first was making my way in the world, the last thing on my mind was giving back to Columbia. In fairness, I barely had enough to pay for my studio sublet, with its broken-down stove, which I refused to quit due to its magnificent if oblique view of the Empire State Building. I remember the pivotal moment when I became a giver: I had just attended my 10-year reunion. At my class dinner my college roommate, who fumbled through three prospective majors before landing on the pre-med track, announced that he had upped his annual giving because "it was time." He practically radiated with pride, and even joy. I wanted more of that in my life and decided to join him in support of alma mater. Later that night, as if to impel me to seal the deal, my fortune cookie from Hunan Cottage read "The Time Is Now."

Young alumni, please don't wait 10 years!

The Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) aims foremost to bridge generations of College alumni in the shared mission of supporting the College. Our fellowship brims with stellar volunteers — remarkable alumni of all ages who bring passion to their service.

Following is a brief overview of the CCAA's efforts, which are broadly divided between development (aka fundraising) and engagement.

CCAA volunteers support the development work of the Columbia College Fund team by conducting peer-to-peer solicitations, hosting stewardship events, and raising funds and awareness among the alumni community. Our VP is Raymond Yu '89, SEAS'90, and Jonathan Sobel '88 and Sherri Pancer Wolf '90 co-chair the College Fund. There are also multiple fundraising committees and means of participation, such as the Fund Development Council, co-chaired by David Javdan '90 and Scott Koonin '02; Class Agents, co-chaired by Jennifer Fudge Ryan '89 and Carlos Cuevas '05, SIPA'12, PH'12; and the Alumnae Legacy Circle, co-chaired by Kelley Buechel Badishkanian '98, BUS'08 and Diana Greenwald '11.

On the alumni engagement side, we have six committees, overseen by Ben Cosgrove '90 and Stefanie Katz-Rothman '88:

- **Alumni Engagement**, co-chaired by Emily Miles Terry '89 and John Vincenti '90, focuses on enhancing the programs and experiences that help bring alumni together, particularly outside the Tri-State area.
- **The CC20/21 Task Force**, led by Rita Pietropinto-Kitt '93, SOA'96, was launched in response to the pandemic to provide extra support for the Classes of 2020 and 2021. This task force hosted special experiences for these young alums at Homecoming and organized alumni-hosted dinners in New York City and other regions for them.
- **Student/Alumni Journey**, chaired by Doug Horowitz '97, bolsters connections between students and alumni. This comes in many forms, such as mentoring and Senior Fund events.
- **Homecoming and Columbia Reunion**, co-chaired by David Donner Chait '07, BUS'13 and Chris Della Pietra '89, has carried these marquee events forward despite recent uncertainties. Homecoming 2021 was wildly successful and was the first large-scale, in-person event for alumni, parents, students and friends since the start of the pandemic. The committee is now focusing on reunion (Thursday, June 9–Sunday, June 12).
- **Mentoring**, co-chaired by Ganesh Betanabhatla '06 and David Seidman '06, supports the Odyssey Mentoring Program both online and through in-person events. This committee's goal is to offer mentorship to every College student, as well as provide a robust network of alumni-to-alumni mentorship.
- **Alumni Representative Committee**, co-chaired by Cliff Massey '10 and Diana Nasser '87, supports Undergraduate Admissions by having committee members interview College applicants. Its work expanded during the pandemic, with all interviews taking place virtually and a record number of applicants.

There are many other ways the CCAA builds community and fosters alumni interaction. I am especially proud to note that Columbia College Women is celebrating a milestone this year — its 35th anniversary!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, during which season I pen this note, thank you to all who engage with the College. If you are on the fence, we implore you to join our ranks! Volunteer alongside classmates or donate to the College Fund. Even one hour a month or one gift can add an additional sense of purpose to your life, as you help the next generation of Columbians.

Please feel free to reach out with questions: tedschweitzer100@gmail.com. The time is now.



JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

The CCAA Board of Directors, along with Dean James J. Valentini and several Alumni Office staff members, met before Homecoming 2021.

lions



JÖRG MEYER

Publisher Namrata Tripathi '01 Is Helping Young Readers Make Sense of the World

By Elizabeth Segran '05

When **Namrata Tripathi '01**'s daughter was 4, she came home from the library and asked, "Mama, am I white?" The moment stuck with Tripathi. "I felt like I had failed my kid," she recalls. "I had raised her to be aware of her Indian heritage, but I realized I had not been explicit enough about race. So she had to go into the world without the language to talk about it." A few years later, Tripathi realized she could help other young children and their caregivers begin these challenging conversations.

In 2018, after more than 15 years working in the publishing industry, Tripathi founded Kokila, an imprint for young readers from Penguin Random House. One of her first decisions as publisher was to approach Ibram X. Kendi, author of the bestselling *How to Be an Antiracist*, about writing a board book for kids 3 and under; a few months later, *Antiracist Baby* was born. "If you claim to be colorblind, you deny what's in front of you," the book reads, alongside adorable drawings of babies. "We believe this conversation is appropriate and worth having, even with the youngest members of our society," says Tripathi. "This book gives parents a script."

In just two years, Tripathi has transformed Kokila into a powerhouse. Her team of seven has already produced two *New York Times* bestsellers (*Hair Love* and *Antiracist Baby*), a Newbery Honor winner

(*The Night Diary*) and two National Book Award finalists (*The Legend of Auntie Po* and *Patron Saints of Nothing*). For Tripathi, creating a space to tell complex stories that help young people make sense of the world — and their place in it — is the most fulfilling work of her career.

Thanks to her parents' jobs as diplomats, Tripathi had a nomadic childhood, living in Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Canada, Germany and Poland. She arrived in New York in 1997 to attend the College, where she studied English and considered pursuing a career in academia. When she asked Professor James Shapiro '77 and now-University Professor Gayatri Spivak for guidance, they suggested she take a gap year to explore other career paths. Tripathi followed their advice. In 2001 she took the Columbia Publishing Course, a six-week introduction to the book industry, and then landed a job as an editorial assistant at HarperCollins Children's Books. The work instantly resonated with her. "Children's books serve an essential purpose," she says. "In a picture book, a child is exposed to language, literature and fine art for the first time. It's like a primer on how to be a human."

For more than a decade, Tripathi explored many corners of young adult literature, editing everything from mass market books to award winners like John Corey Whaley's *Where Things Come Back*. But she also observed how representation in children's books could miss the

mark. “It would often be well-intentioned storytelling for white readers,” she says. “There might be a white savior trope embedded in it, or a ‘celebration’ of culture that was very othering.”

Four years ago, Penguin Random House approached Tripathi about being a publisher for one of its existing imprints; she came back to them with the idea for *Kokila*, which she had been dreaming about for most of her career. In her pitch, Tripathi told the head of the children’s division that she was interested in doing more than just increasing representation; she wanted to create a space where top-notch writers, editors and art directors from diverse backgrounds would have a chance to do their best work. “I loved the idea of having the largest publisher in the world supporting this mission,” she says. “Our scrappy group could exert influence on the House and on the industry. We could punch above our weight.” Tripathi got the job.

Kokila has already made a name for itself with its nuanced, layered storytelling. The acclaimed *My Papi Has a Motorcycle*, for example, is about a father and daughter riding around town on a motorbike. But

on a deeper level, the book is about gentrification — the girl’s grandfather once worked in citrus groves in the area, but the lemon trees have been replaced by subdivisions. Her father is a contractor building those very houses, which they will never be able to afford. Still, the book ends on an optimistic note, with the father promising to take his daughter for another ride tomorrow. “In some ways, *My Papi* is about how a child recognizes that nothing is constant,” Tripathi says. “But if you’re lucky, the love of your family will carry you through change.”

With *Kokila*, Tripathi has created a place where storytellers don’t need to justify their identities or points of view. Instead, they tell the stories that are meaningful to them and invite the reader along for the ride.

Elizabeth Segran ’05 is a senior staff writer at Fast Company and the author of *The Rocket Years: How Your Twenties Launch the Rest of Your Life*. She lives in Boston with her CC’05 husband, whom she met freshman year; daughter; and books.

A Meeting with Picasso Changed This Photographer’s Life

By George Spencer

Fred Baldwin ’56, a daredevil photojournalist with a passion for social justice, traces the course of his six-decade career to the moment that started it all — an in-person meeting with Pablo Picasso in July 1955.

Armed with a friend’s Rolleiflex camera, Baldwin had laid siege to the artist’s villa in the South of France, sleeping in his car for three nights outside the gates and hoping to be let in. Finally, after being repeatedly rebuffed, Baldwin wrote a letter that appealed to Picasso’s sense of humor, and gained entry. He photographed the famed painter and came away with his life’s mantra: Dream. Use your imagination. Overcome fear. Act.

“That was the decisive lesson. Once I overcame that fear, I knew I could do anything I put my mind to,” recalls Baldwin, whose 2019 autobiography takes its title from the experience: *Dear Mr. Picasso: An illustrated love affair with freedom*. (The book was recently released as an e-edition.) Today, at 92, Baldwin runs FotoFest, the acclaimed Houston-based international photography biennial he co-founded with his wife, Wendy, in 1983.

Baldwin’s work began as a hobby while a Marine in the Korean War (he matriculated at the College after returning stateside). Despite his heroism — he was awarded two Purple Hearts — Baldwin confesses he had been a “spoiled, conflicted, confused” person until mustering the courage to meet Picasso.

His fear gone, he took charge of his life. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, he tracked polar bears, witnessed wild horse round-ups and went underwater to photograph marlin in the Pacific and cod in the Arctic Sea for publications such as *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Esquire* and *LIFE*.

His philosophy of taking great wildlife pictures was simple: “I wait for something that reveals something special to me, those

peak moments that rise to the occasion, so that then I go ‘click,’” he says.

But Baldwin, a Georgia native and son of an ambassador, felt something was wrong. “I was on a massive ego trip as a journalist. I was doing it for somebody else, not for myself,” he recalls.

A chance encounter with a Civil Rights march in Savannah in 1963 changed his life. For the next two years, he volunteered to photograph events for Hosea Williams, a member of Martin Luther King Jr.’s inner circle, for the *Chatham County Crusade for Voters* newspaper. “I found myself working in a spirit that drew on conditions that I had observed and experienced, but now I was surrendering my secret God-given white self-importance. That was new,” he says.

Baldwin’s life evolved further when he joined the Peace Corps. He supervised 180 volunteers in Sarawak (present-day Borneo), and traveled to India, Malaysia and Afghanistan to document volunteers’ work there.

Back home, Baldwin focused his lens on poverty in rural Georgia and South Carolina, work that resulted in a \$600,000 federal grant for a health clinic. He and his wife moved in 1971 to Texas, where they spent years living in a 13-ft. trailer for a photo/oral history project with the rural poor in two counties. The venture, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, resulted in exhibitions at the Smithsonian and nearly a dozen other museums, and in the 1991 book *Coming to Terms: The German Hill Country of Texas*.



PHOTOS COURTESY FRED BALDWIN '56



Baldwin adopted his life's mantra after meeting Picasso in 1955: "Dream. Use your imagination. Overcome fear. Act."

Looking back on his life, Baldwin says, "I've learned from pain and success and failure. You have to take those things and figure out how to put them to work. Even at 92, every day I worry about finishing all the jobs I have," he says.

He recently became obsessed with a crumpled tube of toothpaste. "I kept trying to get one more drop out," he recalls. "I'd squeeze it and get a bit more. That's a symbol of what you have to do with your life — you've got to squeeze it until you get the last drop out."

[Editor's note: Baldwin died on December 15, 2021, as this issue went to press. An obituary will be published in the Spring/Summer 2022 issue.]

George Spencer is the former executive editor of Dartmouth Alumni Magazine. He lives in Hillsborough, N.C.

Dion Macellari '83 Makes Art for Hollywood Characters

By Rebecca Beyer

Scenic artist **Dion Macellari '83** was once hired to make bad art for the CBS comedy *The Unicorn*, and, when the showrunner complained that the piece was too well painted, Macellari returned to make it look worse.

On another occasion, for the Showtime dramedy *United States of Tara*, Macellari had to destroy a mural he created by carving an obscenity into it, just so the show's main character, played by Toni Collette, could pretend to do the same thing.

Working in Hollywood "keeps your ego in check," he says wryly.

Macellari didn't set out to be a Hollywood artist. In fact, he didn't want to be an artist at all. Raised by a sculptor father and an actress mother, he once hoped to be almost anything else.

"I didn't want to be like my dad," he recalls. "Then, when I got out of school, I realized I had no talent whatsoever — except art."

Macellari grew up in Greenwich Village and Tribeca; his father had a two-story loft in a building so run-down it had a sign to let

first responders know people lived there. At the College, Macellari studied French language and literature, which he calls "the path of least resistance," because he had taken the language as a high school student. He also co-captained the lightweight crew and did illustrations for the College's humor magazine, *Jester*.

In 1987, Macellari finished a master's in painting from Hunter College. He planned to teach but instead took a job working on pharmaceutical advertisements. In 1991, he moved to Los Angeles and airbrushed record covers for Tower Records until he landed a gig making massive hand-painted theatrical backdrops for performers including Madonna, The Shins and Bon Jovi.

"It fell right in with what I could do really well, which is paint fast and realistically," he says. "If you have to [paint] 50 feet in three days, you can't overthink it. Or you can, but then you don't get any more work."

Macellari makes non-commercial art, too: He contributed mixed-media work to the book *Almost All Lies Are Pocket Size*; copies are owned by the de Young museum in San Francisco, The Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

He says connections — and especially his membership in the Art Directors Guild — helped launch his Hollywood career, which has been going strong now for more than 15 years. He has worked on all kinds of television shows, including *New Girl* and *Dead to Me*, and the film *500 Days of Summer*. Macellari describes his work as "dark" and "creepy"; the characters he creates for are often troubled or brooding. To get into their mindsets, he receives advance copies of scripts and background notes on the parts he's helping bring to life. But he says he prefers less information, rather than more.

"If I think too much, I'm going to go off course," he says. "Whatever your first thought is [for a piece], that's probably the right one."

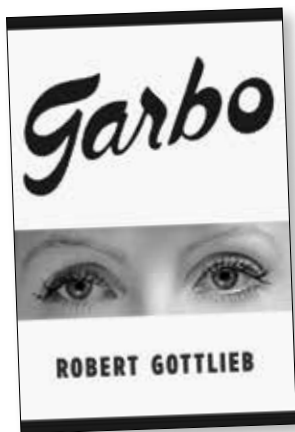
Rebecca Beyer is a writer and editor living in Medford, Mass.



ANGEL DE JESUS SILVA

bookshelf

First Letters After Exile by **Thomas Mann, Hannah Arendt, Ernst Bloch, and Others** by *David Kettler '51 and Detlef Garz*. Letters between exiles from Nazi Germany and former colleagues and friends provide unique insights into the aspirations, hopes and fears of both sets of writers (Anthem Press, \$40 Kindle edition).

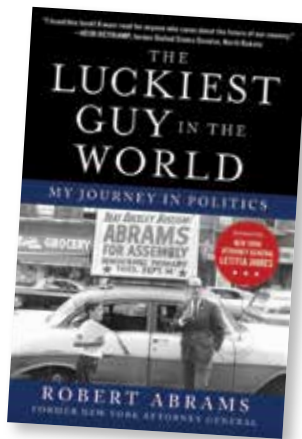


Garbo by *Robert Gottlieb '52*. Legendary critic and editor Gottlieb examines the life and career of movie star Greta Garbo, and the culture that worshipped her (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$40).

The Side of the Moon by *Dr. Irvin D. Milowe '53*. The second

collection of poetry from Milowe, a psychiatrist, psychoanalyst and professor (independently published, \$10).

The Brief and Glorious Reign of King Frederick the Brave by *Lewis Segal '56*. In this novel, an ordinary man is drawn into the 1956 uprising of the Hungarian people against oppression by the Soviet Union (Dorrance Publishing Co., \$21.08).



The Luckiest Guy in the World: My Journey in Politics by *Robert Abrams '60*. This political memoir from the former attorney general of New York State (1979–93) takes an optimistic view of our country's potential to return to its fundamental values (Skyhorse, \$28).

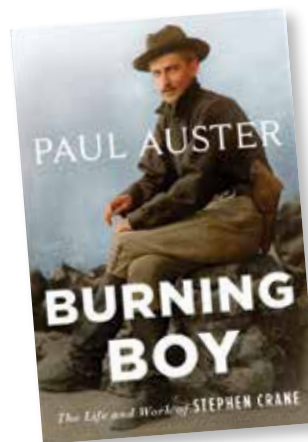
Future Memories by *William Tannenbaum '60*. In this novel, three Jewish students escape Poland in 1940 and take refuge in Shanghai (Page Publishing, \$15.95).

Laertes in America: Collected Poetry 2018–2020 by *Stephen M. Honig '63*. Honig's fourth book of poetry considers the struggling state

of America, the tensions of modern life, the impact of nature and the search for self and for God (Stephen M. Honig, \$14.95).

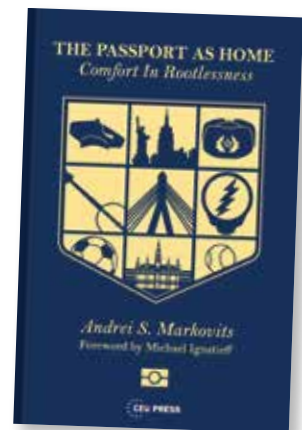
Death Tango: Ariel Sharon, Yasser Arafat, and Three Fateful Days in March by *Yossi Alpher '64*. Alpher analyzes the events of March 27–29, 2002 as being a catalyst of extensive change in the Middle East (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, \$36).

Empire of Ruins: American Culture, Photography, and the Spectacle of Destruction by *Miles Orvell '64*. An exploration of how photographers, writers, painters and filmmakers respond to ruin — abandoned factories, toxic landscapes, and devastation from fires, hurricanes and floods — in an effort to make sense of the past (Oxford University Press, \$45).



Burning Boy: The Life and Work of Stephen Crane by *Paul Auster '69*. Auster describes how Crane, best known as the author of *The Red Badge of Courage*, transformed American literature

with his short stories, novellas, poems and war reportage (Henry Holt and Co., \$35).



The Passport as Home: Comfort In Rootlessness by *Andrei S. Markovits '69*. Markovits's memoir includes a chapter about the College, as well as a panorama of key events that shaped the second half of the 20th century (Central European University Press, \$22.95).

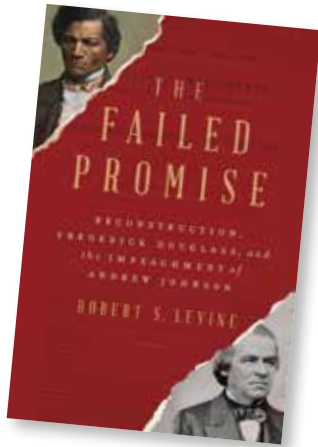
The Abalone Ukulele: A Tale of Far Eastern Intrigue by *R.L. Crossland '70*. In this historical maritime novel, Crossland, a former Navy SEAL officer, tells the story of four cultures colliding in 1913 Shanghai (New Academia Publishing/The Spring, \$26).

Travels in Africa: A Year by Land Rover Through the Great Continent by *Fred Abramowitz '73*. Feeling that life was passing him by, in 1987 Abramowitz left his job as a lawyer and took off for the journey of a lifetime (Respondeo Books, \$22.95).

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf



The Failed Promise: Reconstruction, Frederick Douglass, and the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson by Robert S. Levine '75. Levine, a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, reframes the history of Reconstruction by focusing on the radically different visions of Douglass and Johnson (W.W. Norton & Co., \$26.95).



The Serpent Papers by Jeff Schnader '75. Schnader's first novel is set amidst the 1972 demonstrations at Columbia against the Vietnam War, and aims to heal the divide between those who fought and those who protested (The Permanent Press, \$29.95).

In the Aftermath of Pandemic: Interpersonal Therapy for Anxiety, Depression, and PTSD by Dr. John Markowitz '76. This accessible treatment manual enables psychotherapists to use interpersonal psychotherapy to address the psychological consequences of the

Covid-19 pandemic and other large-scale disasters (Oxford University Press, \$29.95).

Windows on a War: The Korean War as Seen by Peter Koerner, USAF, 1950–1953 by Mark Koerner '79. In letters to his parents, Peter Koerner chronicles his journey from Portland, Ore., to Kadena AB on Okinawa (Mark Koerner, \$15.95).

The New Ph.D.: How to Build a Better Graduate Education by Leonard Cassuto '81 and Robert Weisbuch. The authors argue that universities should prepare graduate students for career options other than academic positions (Johns Hopkins University Press, \$32.95).

In the Founders' Footsteps: Landmarks of the American Revolution by Adam Van Doren '84. An illustrated tour of historical sites from the original 13 colonies (David R. Godine, \$38).

Hope Valley: A Novel by Haviva Ner-David '91. Ner-David tells the story of two women, one Jewish-Israeli and one Palestinian-Israeli, who form an unlikely friendship (Bedazzled Ink Publishing Co., \$16.41).

Titan of Tehran: From Jewish Ghetto to Corporate Colossus to Firing Squad — My Grandfather's Life by Shabrizad Elghanayan '94. The life of Habib Elghanian, the first civilian executed during Iran's 1979 revolution (Associated Press, \$26.99).

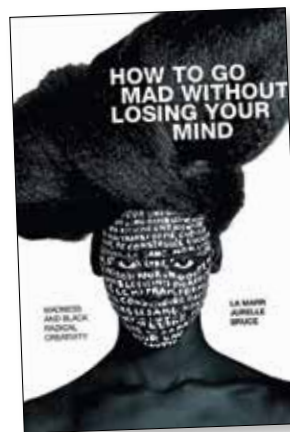
A Good Mother: A Novel by Lara Bazelon '96. Bazelon's debut novel is a legal thriller about two young mothers and a shocking murder that puts them both on trial (Hanover Square Press, \$16.99).

An Open Secret: The Family Story of Robert and John Gregg Allerton by Nicholas Syrett '97.

How the man known as "the richest bachelor in Chicago" adopted his partner of nearly 40 years as his son — the first such adoption of an adult in Illinois history (University of Chicago Press, \$17).

Many Points of Me by Caroline Gertler '99. Gertler's debut is about a sixth-grader's experience of friendship, family, grief and creativity (Greenwillow Books, \$16.99).

Pipe Dreams: The Urgent Global Quest to Transform the Toilet by Chelsea Wald '00. Wald, an award-winning science journalist, describes a potential revolution in sanitation (Avid Readers Press/Simon & Schuster, \$27).

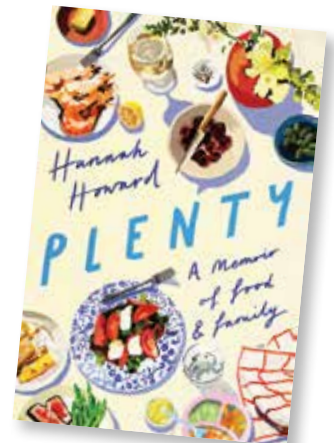


How to Go Mad without Losing Your Mind: Madness and Black Radical Creativity by La Marr Jurelle Bruce '03. Bruce theorizes the meaning of madness and explores the mad in literature, jazz, comedic performance and protest music (Duke University Press, \$27.95).

Virulent Zones: Animal Disease and Global Health at China's Pandemic Epicenter by Lyle Fearnley '05. An account of the search for the origins of influenza pandemics in China and the global plans to stop the next pandemic at its source (Duke University Press, \$26.95).

The Unfinished History of the Iran-Iraq War: Faith, Firepower, and Iran's Revolutionary Guards by Annie Tracy Samuel '06. An innovative history of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp, and an analysis of the links between war and revolution (Cambridge University Press, \$99.99).

If You, Then Me by Yvonne Woon '06. In this coming-of-age story set in Silicon Valley, a teen designs an artificial intelligence app to answer questions about her future self (Katherine Tegen Books, \$17).



Plenty: A Memoir of Food & Family by Hannah Howard '09. Howard explores food as a point of passion and connection, and as a powerful way to create community (Little A, \$24.95).

— Jill C. Shomer

classnotes



COLIN SULLIVAN '11

Winter is here!
A dusting of
snow blankets
the campus,
bringing a sense
of serenity to
College Walk.

1940s

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Allen S. Brower '47, SEAS'48 reached out to *CCT*: "When on July 1, 1944, I stepped on campus as a pre-engineering student, I had no inkling that I would spend the next nine years at Columbia. By September 1945, due to the wartime acceleration and a Summer Transition term, I had completed the two pre-engineering years. Having learned about the Professional Option, or 3-2, I decided to remain in the College for the additional year and

thus became a member of the Class of 1947. I have never regretted that decision. Two years in the Engineering School completed both the A.B. and B.S. degrees. I was appointed a graduate assistant as I began study for the MSEE degree and then instructor in electrical engineering for each of the following four years. My wife, a 1949 Barnard graduate, and I were married in the University Chapel the morning after her graduation. I began employment with the General Electric Co. in Schenectady, N.Y., in June 1953 and spent the next 36 years as engineer and engineering manager working with industry in both this country and abroad. Now in retirement for 32

years, we celebrated our 72nd wedding anniversary last year with our three children and seven grandchildren, all of whom live in the Capital District."

CCT and your classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too! You are welcome to share news of your career, retirement and/or family, as well as a favorite story or memory from your days on Morningside Heights, or news on how you have been faring during the pandemic.

Please send an email to cct@columbia.edu, or use the online Class Notes submission form, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and your thoughts will be shared in a future issue. Enjoy the winter!

1950

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT was pleased to get a note from Dr. Raymond Scalettar, clinical professor emeritus of medicine at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

“You might be interested in what I have been doing for the past few years. I have been working with Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting. The first paragraph of Session 1 references my presentation at the World Summit (worldsummitcpfoh.info). I have also been a consultant for the compassionate release of prisoners and recently ended an eight-year tour as medical expert consultant to Social Security disability review.

“In other words, I am still here!”

CCT and your classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too. Share news of your career, retirement and/or family; a favorite story or memory from your days on Morningside Heights; or news on how you have been faring during the pandemic.

Please send an email to cct@columbia.edu, or use the online Class Notes submission form, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and your thoughts will be shared in a future issue. Enjoy the winter!

1951

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

No news from classmates, but you can change that! CCT and your classmates would enjoy hearing from you. You are welcome to share news of your career, retirement and/or family,

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on CCT Online and in archives.

as well as a favorite story or memory from your days on Morningside Heights, or news on how you have been faring during the pandemic.

Please send an email to cct@columbia.edu, or use the online Class Notes submission form, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and your thoughts will be shared in a future issue. Happy New Year!

1952

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT reached out to the class in the fall and heard from four alumni — and we'd love to hear from more! Share your news and updates with us by email: cct@columbia.edu, or online via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Now, on to the notes.

Dr. John R. Benfield, professor of surgery emeritus at the David Geffen School of Medicine in Los Angeles writes: “Our grandson Cody Joshua Benfield ’21’s Columbia experience was excellent and stimulating, but not as good as that which we had. His classes had more students than we did, and the likes of Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920 and Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS’38, who would teach us in groups of about 15 students, are now replaced by graduate students. I have called this negative change to the attention of the Columbia powers that be, but my remarks seemingly fell on deaf ears. So be it in higher education. It has become a business, similar to other businesses. Cody has become a happy New Yorker, now gainfully employed, and unlikely to return to live in California. His younger brother, Parker, is a freshman at the Parsons School of Design, and soon Mary Ann and I will have dinner with Cody and Parker in Soho — where else nowadays?”

“I am fortunate still to be active after my 90th birthday, pontificating once a week in the medical school, and also teaching in Loyola Marymount University’s excellent Jewish Studies program. As a result of the latter, I was invited to contribute a chapter that I titled ‘Refuge, Adaptation and the Quest to Belong’ to the textbook *Literature of Exile and Terror*. It was published in 2016, 78

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	School of General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
PS	College of Physicians and Surgeons
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary

years after my father, mother and I escaped from Vienna and the Holocaust. In our great United States, I have had opportunities and success that I believe exceed what I might have achieved in Austria.

“A significant part of my time is spent advising and guiding folks through our contorted healthcare system, which is dominated by for-profit insurance companies. We do indeed have the best health care in the world available to us, but I argue that the United States has the worst system among our peer nations. We are still the richest and most powerful among nations, and so we should have the best healthcare system. After 43 years of actively practicing and teaching surgery, and 23 years as emeritus professor, I am often asked for advice. I can tell you that the average American is often overwhelmed and not served as he or she should be.

“A sad note for me, and doubtless for all of us from the Class 1952 who are still around, is the relentless passing of compatriots and peers. Thank goodness for the young people around us, ready and able to succeed and to exceed us. May they be spared the wars that our generation has experienced.”

Max Frankel GSAS’53 says: “I can only contribute some perspective:

We graduated 70 years ago in a year that produced the election of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower as President. As a span of time, that is comparable to the distance between our arrival at college and the end of the presidency of Gen. Ulysses Grant.

“Seventy years is a very long time. Oh, to be 70 again!”

Dr. Irvin Herman writes: “Received a fundraising letter from CC and for some reason all day and even now running through my mind were snippets of ‘Sans Souci,’ ‘Roar, Lion, Roar’ and ‘Who Owns New York?’

“Could have driven me a batty. So, I googled ‘Columbia College songs’ and found performances by the Kingsmen and a mixed chorus singing those good old college songs ... marvelous, but lacking the beery quality I remember from my college days.

“I write this Class Note as an aid to others of my vintage who might become nostalgic but can’t remember all the words ... and probably can’t carry a tune.

“Let’s all Roar, Lion, Roar and echo up the Hudson Valley, or wherever.”

Frank Dux also wrote: “This note is somewhat unusual, as it is neither an update on my life nor a memory from college days, but fitting I think as a contribution from a Columbian who finds himself well beyond the need or ability to exchange such

everyday thoughts. I offer a short poem that says that which otherwise cannot be said.”

Peeling an Apple

My old-man hands on the table
remind me
Of my grandmother's hands
As she would peel and cut an apple
Sitting on that X-frame chair
Under my father's portrait of
my mother.

I didn't then, but now I understand
Her need to peel and cut her apple,
As I now do the same with hands
that were
Always what they were going
to become.

1953

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Mary Lou Lempert BC'54, TC'55 wrote on behalf of her husband, **Richard "Dick" Lempert LAW'55**: “For years Dick and I have looked forward to news of '53 in *CCT*. We met at the campus radio station (*WKCR*: The Voice of The Roaring Lion) in fall 1950. I was a DJ, and Dick was my engineer. He also was a Fiji, a Sachem and the treasurer of Blue Key. We both received graduate degrees from Columbia (an LL.B. for Dick, a master's for me at TC), and married in 1956, while Dick was in the Coast Guard. We have shared more than 70 wonderful years! Dick had a fortuitous service experience, stationed initially

at Pier 9 in Manhattan, followed by a year as commander of a LORAN station in Alaska. His first legal experience was with an admiralty law firm in Manhattan. In 1959 American Airlines initiated an in-house legal department, and hired Dick (on referrals, I might add, from Columbia's Alumni Affairs Office!). For the next 27 years Dick was an officer at American, a senior VP, and for 15 of those years, the company's general counsel. A native New Yorker (born in Brooklyn, raised in Queens, educated in Manhattan), Dick, and Mary Lou and their children, Jeanne and Peter, lived in Douglaston, N.Y., where the whole family enjoyed sailing and racing on Long Island Sound, and where Dick was president of the Douglas Manor Association.

“As you might guess, the Lemperts all became world-class travelers, although their favorite destination always was a cabin at Lake George in the Adirondack Mountains. This idyllic life became dichotomous in 1979 when AA relocated its corporate headquarters to Texas. Neither the kids nor Mary Lou wanted to relinquish their enviable travel privileges, and Dick really liked his job, so they moved, to Dallas. Now, more than 40 years later, they still reside there although the political climate ensures that they remain ‘damned Yankees!’ However, that did not deter Dick from serving on the boards of the Dallas Symphony and the Dallas Chamber Music Associations.

“Retiring from AA in 1989, Dick continued his legal career as a shareholder in the Dallas law firm Johnson & Gibbs, and as principal and managing director of McKool Smith. Retired in 2006, Dick enjoyed a rather engaging lifestyle, with more time at the cabin in upstate New York, and considerable world traveling. This charmed existence has been marred of late by a diagnosis of Parkinson's, the manifestations of which only became onerous in the last several years. An avid and combative tennis player, Dick enjoyed exercising and running marathons. Thus, he has been particularly affected by the physical ravages of his neurological condition. He does not manifest the characteristic tremor but over a period of some six years he has gradually lost a great deal of motor control, for which we have pursued rehabilitation. Presently he is a

patient in an assisted living residence that provides excellent medical care, the best we could find.

“We looked forward to Homecoming 2021 (‘Go, Lions!’) although we could not attend. But, we are pleased that our granddaughter Claire Lempert BC'23 did get to the big game and some weekend festivities, in the company of ‘a male friend from the College.’ Can history be repeating itself? We certainly hope so!”

Dr. **Arthur Elkind** writes: “I have a short memory and story! My memory of my last semester at Columbia College in 1953 was quite important. My wife, Arlene Ruth, and I traveled by the IRT from the Bronx, Pelham Parkway, to the Pupin physics building (with its astronomy telescope at the roof); early evening classes weekly in astronomy. The professor allowed her to join in the course. I put a telescope together at home to enjoy studying the celestial sky. It worked! We read *The Realm of the Nebulae* by Edwin Hubble. Arlene was an art student at NYU, which led us to The Frick Collection and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The combination of art history and astronomy was valuable then and still is now.”

Angel I. Ferrer checked in: “I am 89, and quite decrepit. I was remembering fall 1951 and meeting Christa Michel from Barnard. Miss Michel's father was ambassador to the UN from Austria.

“I had the pleasure of giving Miss Michel a tour of New York City that included the Statue of Liberty, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the top of the Empire State building.

“I could walk then and we walked everywhere, even going on foot from Columbus Circle to her father's office at the UN.”

Saul Elkin Ph.D. SOA'63 notes: “Retired from SUNY Buffalo as distinguished professor of theatre. Am the founder and artistic director of Shakespeare in Delaware Park, now in its 47th season. Also the founder and artistic director of the Jewish Repertory Theatre, now in its 19th season. Pushing 90 and still very active.”

We'd love to hear from you, too! Share your news and updates with *CCT* by email: cct@columbia.edu, or online via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1954

Bernd Brecher
brecherservices@aol.com

Not so long ago — just seems like it, really — a new class (ours) was admitted to Columbia College: 600-plus eager freshmen, all wearing light blue beanies (I'm guessing), most of us graduating four years later (remember those days?) to “go out and conquer the world.” We didn't do badly at all; matter of fact, we did great! Medicine, law, fiction, autobiography, research, teaching, business, public service, philanthropy, diplomacy, government, computer programming, engineering, journalism, and more. Today, as I prepare these Class Notes for a 2022 issue — the 50th anniversary of the NYC Marathon is being celebrated — we are a bit more diminished in membership, with only 128 email addresses remaining on our list. Still, with all of us in or entering our 10th decade, and many even making plans for the next 10 years, we are fortunate indeed. So-o-o-o-o, welcome once again to this column, and keep writing, calling, complaining, suggesting, and questioning to keep me sharp. Remember, we are still the Bicentennial Class of Destiny!

Note that an occasional complaint I get — although I vet, edit, and sometimes cut every item that is sent in — is that some classmates are frequently covered while others might not be at all. Some of the latter, of course, have never submitted any news of any kind. And I'm getting too cranky to keep chasing each of you for a hot new scoop, fun as that has usually been.

While Dean Lawrence H. Chamberlain GSAS'45, a Midwesterner, a gentleman, and a *mensch*, who reminded us during Freshman Week that he likewise was a frosh, will always be “my” dean and who retired as a VP of Columbia, be aware that Dean James J. Valentini, a regular guest and speaker at our five-year reunions, will leave the deanship on June 30 after a decade of service. We wish him well as he continues in his professorial position. At the same time, Steve Coll, also after a decade, will leave the deanship of my other Columbia degree-granting school, the Graduate School of Journalism. Change is constant, even during Covid-19 lockdown.

Stay in
Touch



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:
[college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect](mailto:cct@columbia.edu).

Our double-threat classmate Dr. **Edward Raab** — M.D. and J.D. — continues his hospital-based practice of pediatric ophthalmology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. Without taking time out, he earned a law degree from Fordham in 1994 but does not practice law. He is a certified arbitrator in the New York City Civil Court - Small Claims Part, and “tries to educate colleagues about medicolegal matters,” an area in which he is frequently called upon as an expert witness.

“What I find remarkable,” he says, “is the ingenuity asserted

based on the records and interviewing and examining the applicant, which is often not favorable. It is hard work but pays well enough to keep me busy without running a private practice.”

Larry and his wife, Linda, live in NYC, on the East Side. They have two children and six grandchildren, “all involved in different things.” One granddaughter is a senior in medical school and has expressed an interest in pulmonary/critical care. “We shall see!” says granddad. Any classmates want to take a bet? We assume Larry is giving good odds.

“New” responder **Alfred Grayzel** SEAS’55 retired at 60 from MIT to

on “having been another tough year so far as I lost my college roommate, Bob.” Still, he also alerted us to a happy prediction, the soon-to-be arrival of a 13th great-grandchild. Columbia College, here they come!

Our man in Washington, D.C., **David Bardin** LAW’56, continues his committed personal government watchdog responsibilities; on October 28 he was one of four members of the public who addressed Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm and her team during the first meeting of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board.

David’s oral remarks and previously written submittal focused on America’s limited and shrunken capacity to manufacture essential items for electric power grids, such as large power transformers, in the United States; impediments to expanding domestic manufacturing; and concerns about the experience and assertions of manufacturers in three states.

David believes that the U.S. Department of Energy should assure that a repository of pertinent information is at hand to guide policymakers in the Executive and Legislative Branches. He writes, “DOE should learn and have published information about ways to reduce dependence of USA electric power grids on critical equipment that has been increasingly imported from such ‘offshore’ suppliers as the People’s Republic of China, where wage scales and environmental regulatory costs might be much lower than in the USA. I am also concerned by reports of PRC manufacturers that insist maintenance of equipment they manufacture be performed only by engineers sent from China, to the exclusion of American engineers.”

Thanks, David, for your passion, truth-telling, history lessons, commitment to facts, belief in democracy ... what are you doing in Washington?

I’ll sign off with the promise to share some news about yours truly in the next column, but I close herewith with reference to an article from the archives of *The New York Times*, summarized on November 9, 2021, in the “A Headline in History” section, indeed a history lesson for today.

“COUP STARTS IN BEER HALL”
November 9, 1923. ‘Berlin was startled late last night by news from Munich that the Von Knilling Gov-

ernment had been overthrown by the Hitlerites,’ *The Times* reported. Adolf Hitler, Erich Ludendorff and armed Brownshirts stormed the Burgerbraukeller, a beer hall; imprisoned Bavarian government officials there; and declared a national revolution. Their coup attempt quickly unraveled, and in another article published on Nov. 10, *The Times* reported that Ludendorff and Hitler had been ‘thoroughly discredited.’ By 1933, the Nazi party established a foothold in the parliament and Hitler was named chancellor, a position he used to eventually seize control of the German government.”

Read and heed, folks, indeed a dog-eared playbook being referred to in our country today.

Please stay in touch — write, call, email, text — however and any way you like so we can in this column all share your news, good and any not so, with our classmates.

If you sent me something but don’t see it here, it’s likely because of the technological problems I’ve been having during the pandemic. Please resend it to brecherservices@aol.com. And if you’re not getting my emails, it’s because the Alumni Office does not have a valid email address for you. If you want to be included, or ensure that you are already included, send it to cct@columbia.edu, or use the online submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info.

Be well, be good, do good, hug your loved ones, help your neighbors, always help heal the world, with luv, Bernd. EXCELSIOR!

1955

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

[Editor’s note: After 40 years as class correspondent, **Gerald Sherwin** has stepped down. *CCT* is grateful to Jerry for his devotion, dedication and endless Columbia spirit! Going forward, please submit news to *CCT* by email: cct@columbia.edu, or online: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

CCT was pleased to hear from eight class members this past fall!

Herbert S. Gardner writes: “How do you define ‘retired’? Hard to do inasmuch as 2021 marked the fact

Alfred Grayzel ’54, SEAS’55 relocated to the Salt Lake City area; at 88 he still skis, with an oxygen machine in his backpack.

by people about coping with the defense against Covid-19 and how vital is the needed compliance with the limitations and requirements of life during the pandemic.”

Dr. **Larry Scharer** PS’58 trained at Bellevue, where he became interested in pulmonary diseases, interrupted by a two-year tour of Army duty and then further training at UC San Francisco, returning to Bellevue for more pulmonary disease training. He entered private practice in 1965, with an academic appointment at Columbia, followed by several years at Roosevelt Hospital, now called Mount Sinai West, where he is visiting professor of medicine at The Icahn School of Medicine.

“The World Trade Center disaster has been a big boon to the medical community,” Larry writes, “and there is now a full industry to pay for the care of victims of the disaster. Because of my interest in pulmonary diseases, I have been able to leave private practice and spend time working on medical boards to judge disability for city workers (mostly firefighters and police officers). We don’t treat anyone but if they were permanently injured by the disaster they are entitled to significant retirement benefits, which continue to their families if they die from WTC conditions. Many of the people we see claim disability but the medical board (three physicians including me) makes a recommendation to a pension board

his house on Lake Sunapee, N.H., but in 2000 decided he would rather be skiing in Utah and relocated to the Salt Lake City area, meeting his wife that year at the Alta Ski Area. At 88 he still skis but because of the altitude does it with an oxygen machine in his backpack.

Al writes, “I continue to do my own independent R&D; theoretical work and computer simulation. I have received three patents in the last four years on microwave circuits and published numerous papers on field-effect transistors (google me).”

Al has three children and five grandchildren; the oldest is an independent videographer, currently filming the Indigenous population in Canada (google Ben Grayzel).

Just before the pandemic Al and his wife took a cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg arranged by fraternity brother **Arnie Tolkin**. They saw the opera at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow and the ballet at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg.

Al was deeply saddened “to hear of the passing of my fraternity brother **Bob Weber** SEAS’55, SEAS’56. Bob and I were classmates at Midwood H.S., Columbia College and Columbia Engineering. We stayed in touch over the years, and he will be missed.”

Our “regular” correspondent **Arnie Tolkin**, likewise a College roommate of **Bob Weber**’s, reflects



Attending the Class of 1956 luncheon on September 14 at the Bonnie Briar Country Club in Larchmont, N.Y., were, left to right (seated) Dan Link '56, Jack Katz '56, Stephen Easton '56 and Al Franco SEAS'56; (middle row): Elinor Baller, Barbara Fine, Margo Siroty and Beverly Fischer; and (back row) Jerry Fine '56, Bob Siroty '56, Alan Broadwin '56, Paul Bergins '56, Bob Touloukian '56 and Bill Fischer '56.

that I have been retired for the same number of years that I was employed! On the contrary, I have been super busy over these last 33 years.

"To wit: after leaving the NYC school system as director of music, I chaired the education department at the Manhattan School of Music, Five Towns College and The Hebrew Arts Society. Now, as an official snowbird, I have been mentoring teachers in Palm Beach County, Fla., Elizabeth, N.J., and Rockland County, N.Y.

"But wait, there's more! I have been conducting local orchestras north and south, currently The Baroque Ensemble of The Palm Beaches, and writing a host of music teaching materials for students at every level. Most importantly, I am enjoying my 63rd year of marriage to my college sweetheart, Jane Were-Bey Gardner BC'55.

"Still can't define 'retired.' Hope all of my CC'55 classmates are doing great things and keeping healthy.

"You, too, Elliot!"

Dr. Myron B. "Mike" Liptzin shares: "Happily retired psychiatrist enjoying life in Chapel Hill and summers in Boone with my wife, Anne, except the pandemic has seriously impacted our ability to travel, and to see kids and grandkids.

"Milt Finegold is the only classmate I have kept up with, plus two senior TEP email pen pals. I am thrilled to learn how The Kingsmen have expanded their world horizons. I sing in two groups locally, and as

before, always conscripted to sing/ approximate 'tenor' due to a dearth of real tenors. As we say in the South, stay well, and 'Y'all come and see me!'"

Welcome to **Stanley Corngold**, who writes: "Although I received my degree in 1957, after two tears of Army service, I properly belong to the Class of 1955."

He submitted his first Class Note: "Stanley retired from Princeton University in 2009, after teaching German and comparative literature for 43 years. He was also adjunct professor of law at the Law School 2006–09. He is the author of many books, several of which deal with the work of Franz Kafka. Two books are due out in February 2022: *The Mind in Exile: Thomas Mann in Princeton* and *Weimar in Princeton: Thomas Mann and the Kabler Circle*. For more biography, see complit.princeton.edu/people/stanley-corngold."

George Raitt SEAS'56 says: "Don't have much to add! Both my roommates, **Jack Freeman** SEAS'55 and **Don Schappert**, have passed away. Still communicate with Dale Granger '56."

We heard from Dr. **Albert E. Sacknoff**: "Two weeks after graduating from the College I married my wife, Joyce. I graduated from SUNY Downstate Medical School in 1959. We moved to the New York area, where I practiced medicine for more than 40 years. Through the years we were blessed with three children and eight grandchildren. We reside in a gated community in Plainview, N.Y."

Also checking in is Dr. **Howard Lieberman**: "While I maintain my medical license, I have stopped doing neurosurgery, and spend my spare time writing poetry. I recently had a volume printed (now that I have it I am not really sure what to do with these volumes), *Conversations with My Dog, and Other Attempts at Communication*. I'll give you an example:

Livingston Hall

I remember when the phono played: That was prior to its categorical demise, its frivolously mutated replacements, those records that twirled, those dervish relationships, scratching all the way from Beethoven to Schoenberg? They were ennobling times, and we were its pages, infatuated academics, each day its significance emblazoned, its yesterday's loves well lived though soon forgot, time-bagged time-blown, hot-air balloons out windows onto the street below; all that was ephemeral, but unforgettable, like cherry blossoms in the park.

So evenings went; never ever a loss, never an admission, not even a feeling of exhaustion, we were like sub-atomic particles, leptons, attracted briefly, as in some super-collider, then scattered, sentinels to the four corners. Now the phone does not ring, but I can still hear their voices, the exhilaration it recalls.

Dr. **Charles Solomon** DM'58 wrote, too: "Continued to teach at the Dental School through the pandemic. Rode out the storm in Hampton Bays, in a small cottage on Peconic Bay. Back in NYC now, regularly seeing **Mort Rennert** DM'67 and **Bob Schiff** DM'58."

William Kronick wraps up the column: "Still trucking along on novel (seventh) while watching weather-caused catastrophes everywhere but here in sunny Los Angeles — so far. Try to give moral support to son, Max, not yet 30, whose trajectory in the film biz hasn't been helped by the pandemic Best wishes to all."

1956

Robert Siroty
rrs76@columbia.edu

Fred Baldwin wrote that an e-book version of his 2019 autobiography was recently published. Fred died on December 15, 2021. [Editor's note: See "Lions."]

Dan Link's country club was the scene for a CC'56 luncheon on August 19. Present were **Bob Siroty**, **Bob Toloukian** PS'60 (all the way from Woodbridge, Conn.), **Stephen Easton** (from North Carolina), **Jerry Fine**, **Alan Broadwin**, **Jack Katz**, **Bill Fischer**, **Al Franco** SEAS'56 and **Paul Bergins**, along with four wonderful guests. A great time discussing old and new, and recognizing that 69 years ago we were preparing for Freshman Week. See the nearby photo!

A story ran in *The Middlebury [College] Campus* about its long-standing carillonner, **George Matthew Jr.**, who has been playing the bells since 1986, and has no inclination to give up the arduous climb to the stairs of the chapel. After graduation, he practiced chemistry for 15 years, then reverted to his true love, music. "I have no intension of stopping!" he says.

Have received word of the passing of **Stanley Kling** GSAS'59, with the note of "how much his time at Columbia and the city were formative for him, and he carried good memories."

A note for those of you reading this but not getting my emails: It is because we do not have your current email address. If you are interested, please send it to the Alumni Office (online: college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info, or email: cct@columbia.edu) and to me.

1957

REUNION 2022
JUNE 9–12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu
Development Contact
cctfund@columbia.edu

Herman Levy
hdlleditor@aol.com

Dr. **Alan Brown**: "I believe few members of our class will remember me. I chose to live off-campus in a

dark tenement room on West 118th Street, off Amsterdam, leaving it only to get the occasional meal at the Columbian on the corner and to go to classes and labs. I left after my third year to go to Vanderbilt Medical School, using the professional option available to us then and avoiding the dreaded MCAT, but returning for Commencement. I will always be grateful to Dr. **Erich Gruen**, who made a determined effort to get me to lead a semi-normal life during my Columbia years. That it was unsuccessful was/ is on me.

“After graduation from Vanderbilt I interned at Vanderbilt University Medical Hospital, and then, after a stint at the Bronx VA, did a residency in neurology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/ Jacobi Medical Center, where I met my wife, Elinor, who was a medical student at Einstein. In Yonkers I was the chief of neurology for 25 years at four competing hospitals, aided by the fact that I was the only neurologist for many years. (Yonkers was a wasteland.) I retired in 2002.

“I have lived since then in Lincoln Square and do the usual Manhattan things. Elinor, also a physician, worked with the disabled. She passed away in March 2019. I am now in a relationship with someone, also widowed, whom I knew prior to meeting Elinor.

“I have formed a close friendship with **Martin Brothers**, whom I met at one of our '57 luncheons hosted by **Ed Weinstein**. We regularly torment each other with political differences (the usual ones). I continue to travel (London, Florida and the east end of Long Island, stopping off to visit my home in Jamaica, Queens). I have three children, all Ivy graduates but no Columbians, and six grandchildren, but no pets. I'll try to make the next reunion if Covid-19 and fate permit.”

Dr. **Stanley Cohen** PS'61: “I haven't sent anything for Class Notes in quite a while, but here is some up-to-date stuff.

“After a long career in immunology and pathology and after two retirements, I've switched to the burgeoning field of artificial intelligence. Along the way, I won an AAAS 'Golden Goose Award' for the discovery of cytokines. The award sounds like a gag, but it's for federally funded work that

sounded silly at first but that led to breakthroughs having an impact on society. What was silly about it was that I found the first one looking into chick eggs rather than the immune system.

“I'm active on various advisory boards and professional societies related to artificial intelligence in medicine and halfway through a textbook on artificial intelligence in pathology, based on an earlier monograph. My favorite memory of College life was meeting my future wife, Marion BC'60, on the steps of Low Library under the approving gaze of the bronze statue *Alma Mater*. Now, more than 60 years later, we have three children (all of whom are in the family business, academic medicine) and nine grandchildren, most of whom are not. Marion and I live in Haverford, Pa., and the kids are scattered all over.”

Ron Kushner: “Reading our classmates' reminisces, accomplishments and obituaries in *CCT* reminds me that we're at that stage of life where many of us look back in an attempt to make sense of the arcs of our lives. Some of my friends are writing memoirs as a way of doing this and leaving a mark that will help people to remember them.

“My old friend **Erich Gruen's** contribution in the Fall 2021 issue points to the enormously successful and respected career he has had as a historian. Remembering Erich from our college days, I'm sure that his reputation is well deserved. There are many such stories from members of our class — professional or other lives filled with significant accomplishments and deserved recognition.

“My own journey was of a different sort. I had two different 'careers' (one in computers and organizational information systems and the other as a psychotherapist and director of a mental health clinic) that I worked at with varying degrees of success; lack of success and fulfillment; and frustration. However, I never really felt that I had a career in the sense that I worked at something that my identity was wrapped up in and that fully engaged my intellectual and emotional resources. They were a way of making a living. Don't get me wrong. It is not that I was indifferent to the job that I was doing — I always tried to do the various jobs I had with focus, energy, integrity and reasonably high stan-

dards — but I didn't feel that they defined my identity. I didn't have the passionate drive to achieve and succeed that I believe many others in our class had.

“I consider myself one of the lucky ones. I was born at a time and in a place that, coupled with an upbringing that valued the mind and provided what I think of as a humane ethical framework, shaped the course of my life. I believe that most, if not all, of our classmates are similarly lucky. We came of age in a time of peace, in an expanding economy that gave us choices and opportunities and that enabled the bulk of us to live lives free of want and with some degree of comfort and fulfillment, as technological innovations were introduced at a dizzying pace that helped make our lives easier.

“I have been blessed with reasonably good health, a loving marriage partner, and children and friends with whom I live in a climate of mutual love, affection and respect. My retirement years yield enough income for my wife and me to live comfortably without feeling deprived in any way and I'm engaged in activities, for example, learning to play jazz piano, that I feel passionate about that engage me in many ways and give me a purpose in daily life.

“If there is something my identity and my energies are wrapped up in, it's a striving to become a *mensch*. It's a goal I'll probably never reach, but it's a goal worth pursuing.”

Carlos Muñoz: “Having received our vaccinations and booster shots, my wife, Kassie, and I are looking forward to resuming an active travel schedule, starting with a North American Bridge Championship in Austin, Texas, this past November, and continuing with a Caribbean cruise in February and a Reno tournament in March. The pandemic forced us to cancel a Mediterranean cruise planned to celebrate our 20th anniversary last summer, a meeting in London last November and bridge tournaments in Columbus, Montreal, Tampa, St. Louis and Providence during the past 18 months.

“I was able to attend the first face-to-face Columbia College Board of Visitors meeting on campus in early October, where we celebrated the return of students to

full campus residency, while lamenting the upcoming departure of Dean James J. Valentini at the end of this academic year. I'm hoping to see as many classmates as possible at our 65th reunion this year.”

Donald K. Larsen: “Can you recall the turning point of your life? “Mine was attending McDonough School, a boys' military school in Baltimore.

“In my early years, my single mother boarded me on farms and at an orphanage, and I attended Detroit public schools for a year. During my seven years at McDonough (I repeated third grade), I was taught self-discipline, truthfulness (at any cost), sportsmanship, the concept of leadership as an article of faith, honor and ‘We give something more than we take.’ The basic teaching concept was that every boy was to be treated as though he were the only one in school. McDonough led to an NROTC scholarship to Columbia. And I met my wife, Marjory, now of 64 years, in December of my freshman year. She was a student at St. Luke's Hospital and was a blind date for Dean's Drag.

“Arriving in New York by train from Detroit and at the Columbia campus by taxicab was traumatic. My roommates, **Mike Chapman** and **Marty Fisher**, helped me acclimate, and I soon was involved in ADP, Van Am Society, NROTC Guide and, oh yes, attending classes. A few highlights of my Columbia years include Van Am Society (president in junior year), Senior Society of Sachems and executive officer of the NROTC unit. I got a C in physics in my senior year, having failed it in my junior year. I took 42 credit hours to graduate in my senior year, experiencing ‘critical thinking’ and a teaching staff second to none.

“Following three successful years of Navy shipboard duty, I began an aluminum industry career, joining Alcoa in June 1960, as the national administrator for its aluminum telephone booth business. Remember those? Through 13 moves, including those in the Navy and one ‘move up’ in value, three Alcoa moves in seven years, followed by four years in Chicago with Howmet Aerospace (a small producer) and finally moving to St. Louis in 1971 to be a part of Phelps Dodge Aluminum Products Corporation (then just starting), I was

regional sales manager, covering all products for one third of the country.

"After several years of accumulating and starting aluminum-producing divisions, I was assigned to the wire division. Through various acquisitions, Aluminum Pechiney bought Phelps Dodge Aluminum and renamed it Consolidated Aluminum. My division was sold and the new owner resold it, and I found myself president and part owner of Nichols Wire. We earned a top reputation in our field here and in Europe. For example, we were sole supplier to Lipton Tea for its teabag staple wire, and our wire was used for 90 percent of the rivets used by the Boeing Co.

"I retired in 1998 and found purpose volunteering at the St. Louis Science Center and the Missouri Historical Museum. Also, I tutored elementary school [children] for 21 years."

"Marjory and I have four daughters, 10 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and more on the way, and continue to live in the home we built on St. Louis County farmland in 1971.

"I invite all classmates to get in touch with me. My email address is dklmcl@aol.com."

1958

Peter Cohn
petercohn1939@gmail.com

It is late October 2021 and it is gratifying to finally see a decline in Covid-19 hospitalizations and deaths after the latest surge in Covid cases due to the Delta variant. Assuming the vaccination rates (I hope) continue to increase as the various mandates come into effect across the country, maybe 2022 will really see a return to "normalcy." Seeing large numbers of people again dining indoors and going to indoor cultural and sports events would be a nice development for the new year.

Following Columbia football this season has been fun. The team has been playing well, with the offense showing a balanced run and passing attack and the defense likewise doing an excellent job. As I write this, the team is 4-1 after another successful Homecoming game, marking the fourth such victory in

Al Bagnoli's six years of coaching the Lions. For those of us who enjoy a visit to the Baker Athletics Complex in the fall, we hope the second half of the season is as enjoyable as the first half was!

I don't know of anyone in our class who has a military record to equal that of **Bob Orkand**. He has provided *CCT* with a summary of his activities to coincide with the October publication of his first novel, *The Spandau Complication*. The book is a Cold War thriller set in Berlin in the mid 1960s, where Bob served on the staff of the U.S. Commander Berlin. Bob was drafted into the army during his senior year, 1953-54 (he was originally in the Class of 1954). He went to Officer Candidate School and then served 16 months in Korea with the 17th Infantry Regiment. He reenlisted, and a temporary duty assignment to New York in 1958 allowed him to return to Columbia and graduate with our class. After a second tour in Korea he was sent to Vietnam, where he was both operations and executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division. Post-Vietnam, Bob attended the Command and General Staff College. He subsequently published a book on Vietnam combat experiences. In the 1970s Bob became the executive officer of the 197th Infantry Brigade at Fort Benning, Ga., the prototypical volunteer army unit. He became a spokesman for the secretary of the army for the volunteer army project. In retirement, he joined Knight Ridder newspapers in a series of senior management positions around the USA.

Bob and his wife, Belinda, live in Hunstville, Texas, where they work with offenders at a Huntsville prison unit as volunteers for the Bridges to Life rehabilitation program.

Quite a career, indeed!

Unfortunately, there is a death to report. Just before this issue went to press, we learned from Anita Orlin BC'61 that **Howard Orlin BUS'59** had passed away. Howie fought the effects of multiple sclerosis for 40 years, and thanks to Anita, a wonderful wife and caregiver, managed to live a meaningful and productive life for many of those years, even when confined to a wheelchair. Howie was an accountant with expertise in international tax law, a mentor to those just entering the

field, a terrific family man and a proud member of the Columbia community. Always with a smile on his face at our reunions, no matter what the circumstances of his medical condition, he will be sorely missed. Our condolences go out to his wife and family.

1959

Norman Gelfand
nmgc59@hotmail.com

I hope that this finds you well and ready for winter.

Joseph Ramos Quiñones SEAS'60, SIPA'64, GSAS'68 reports, "In January 2021 I was chosen Economist of the Year by my peers in Chile. And the Spanish editorial house Planeta recently informed me that it will publish my book on the existence of God, no less, in 2022 (I come out in favor). So there still is lots of life at 82 it seems."

Paul Winick writes, "So far my wife and I have managed to stay clear of Covid-19. My triplet grandchildren are applying to college. The young man of the trio has applied early decision to Columbia. I've spent time with him extolling Columbia's virtues. I hope he is accepted.

"My wife, Dotty, continues to paint. Although she has had offers, she refuses to sell, but gives them to friends and family. I spend my time mostly reading and writing. My latest book, *Tale of an Unlikely Pediatrician*, has a chapter or two set during my Columbia years. I have finished a [work of] fiction based on real characters, *The Last Two Jews of Kabul*, and am trying to get it published. A number of my stories have appeared in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, and in the last four issues of the American Academy of Pediatrics' *Senior Bulletin*. As I tell my wife, we have to keep on dancing."

From **Matthew Sobel** SEAS'60, GSAS'64 we hear, "My wife, Susan GSAS'78, and I are very fortunate. We live near Cleveland, and continue many of our pre-Covid-19 activities. She became professor emerita in 2020; in 2014 I became professor emeritus at Case Western Reserve University. We continue to publish research papers in major journals and bicycle avidly (four centuries this year). When there is sufficient snow we cross country ski

and snowshoe. However, research productivity and bicycling speed diminish with each passing year, and now I avoid cross country trails if they are steep or narrow. We zealously minimize the risk of contracting Covid, but we yearn to resume attending live concerts and traveling. We are keenly aware of what we are missing. Post-vaccination and booster, our Covid mortality risk is low but the disease can be life-changing even after you survive it. My son and his family had delayed severe after-effects although they had seemed to recover completely. My three children and four grandchildren are dispersed in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Missouri, and I hope to hug most of them in January when we'll cross country ski and watch one of my grandsons play basketball for Middlebury College."

Ralph G. Risley informs us, "The past 14 months have been full of the rigors associated with the virus and the losses caused by not taking it seriously from the start. While at Columbia I was exposed to the rigors of science and fact-based logic. During the past 14 months I have had to deal with and accept the direction of politics and alternative facts.

"This period, while hard, has had its benefits. I have had more time to focus on sifting thru my Rolodex, email addresses and phone numbers, eliminating those I never talk to or have insufficient commonality with to have a discussion. Additionally, as most of you, I have lost a number who have 'crossed the bar.' Two years ago, I stepped back from the edge, saved by a quadruple bypass.

"I have gone back to my roots, which were fed by the substance of Contemporary Civilization and a fact- and science-based thought process.

"In the context of these times, anxiety and isolation have evaporated in the company of Bandit, my Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.

"Now that things have opened up, the open road beckons. We left Tucson, where we live, for three to four months, traveling Highway 1 from San Diego to Washington State. We will return wherever the road takes us."

From Edinburgh, **Charles Raab** writes, "My missives to Class Notes in 2004 and 2009 are now deservedly forgotten, so here is an update. I officially retired in 2007 from my

position as professor of government at the University of Edinburgh, and became emeritus, but I kept on working in several funded research projects. This was anomalous for the university, so, in 2012 it stripped me of my emeritus title (rather like Captain Alfred Dreyfus having his epaulettes torn off on the military parade-ground in Paris), but gave me back my chair until 2015, when it invented a title and a position for me, kept me on the payroll and let me carry on, with more projects and many other things to do, both within and outside the university. I suppose I will ask to be readmitted to emeritus status sometime in the next few years, but who knows?

“Over several years, I have accepted external calls to sit on advisory bodies in the United Kingdom and Scottish governments, with reference to law enforcement and the ethics of policing, and identity verification for public services. These are closely related to the field of data protection and privacy, which has occupied most of my research time for 35-40 years. In the Covid-19 years, all these meetings have been by Zoom and the like, which saves a lot of traveling to London for some of the meetings. But I have had other reasons to go there frequently, including my position as fellow of the Alan Turing Institute, which is in the field of artificial intelligence and data science; I co-chair the Turing’s Data Ethics Group. Those meetings are now also virtual rather than in person. I regret not seeing the wonderful exhibitions and so on in London, but most of them were canceled or went online. I am at work on a Turing-based research project that deals with the way privacy, trust and human agency feature in UK and Japanese developments in human-machine interaction. For all these departures (policing, artificial intelligence, human-machine interaction, etc.) I have had to dive over my head into areas of burgeoning literatures, with my lifebuoys being the conceptual staples of privacy, trust and agency that have featured in my earlier long-standing work on surveillance and its regulation. This stretching and absorption is a good way to see whether your neurons still work. People tell me that mine do, but what do they know?”

“That aside, I occupy myself with painting and drawing, as I have

done since the age of 12, and exhibit occasionally at the Scottish Artists’ Club (founded 1873), of which I am a member. My wife, Gillian, and I celebrated our 53rd anniversary last year. She, too, is still gainfully working academically in her field of applied statistics, now as professor emerita and a researcher. She advises, and also reads and writes stuff that I can’t hope to make sense of, but we have much to talk (and argue) about with regard to mutual things like data confidentiality, anonymization and government policy (she applies her work to health-related topics). I also do a lot of cooking, while she does a lot of gardening, which includes vegetables, flowers and fruits. She also is well into Jewish philosophy, Hebrew and literature of all kinds. She helps to run our Liberal Jewish congregation and I serve as warden, but our services are currently Zoom-only. So, too, are the talks put on by the venerable Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society (founded 1888), which we help to run.

“Our daughter, Anna, her husband, Tim, and our granddaughters, Connie and Sadie, live about an hour away, where they run a very highly acclaimed restaurant that they have had to scale down during the pandemic. But that enabled them to step away from it and do other things as well (Tim teaches cooking part-time in a post-secondary college). With the 2021 easing of restrictions, the restaurant is getting back on track. Our son, Jonathan, lives in Malta with his son and partner; we haven’t been able to visit there for a long time, but hoped to do so in late 2021 if travel restrictions and quarantines eased. Weekly FaceTime calls are a partial substitute. It is a privilege to live in such a beautiful and historic city as Edinburgh, and to make use of its rich and varied cultural resources and facilities.”

From **Norman Bernstein** LAW’64 we hear, “I was off to London this past fall for a business conference. I am trustee at two Superfund sites in Indiana, maintain an active legal practice (N.W. Bernstein & Associates; nwbllc.com) focused on solving environmental problems for business and environmental litigation in Federal Appellate Court. I have had the pleasure of beating arguments of the United States Department

of Justice in a landmark Superfund case, *Bernstein v. Bankert*, in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. My wife, Michele Braun (we married in 1995), and I purchased in December 2020 a ranch house in Pound Ridge, N.Y. We have two lovely acres of lush property and a heated in-ground pool.”

James Kniskern reports, “On June 3, 2021, I became a great-great grandfather. I am wondering if any classmates share my precious gift. I also have six great-grandchildren: Taylor (21), Nicholas (19), Deven (19), Madison (18), Kaela (17) and Katie (12). I have no living daughters, as they were both killed in an auto accident 29 years ago. A granddaughter was also killed in the accident.”

Contributions from **Jerry Friedland**, **Robin Motz**, **Mike Tannenbaum** and **Steve Trachtenberg** will have to wait for the Spring/Summer 2022 issue.

I am saddened to report the death of **David Raskin** on April 4, 2021, at Lantern Hill Senior Living (New Providence, R.I.) from Parkinson’s. I have no more information.

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Robert A. Machleder
rmachleder@aol.com

Larry Rubinstein loves retirement life in Maine, and is delighted to share his experiences.

“We moved from New York in 2003. For a few years, the Thursday Lunch Group would visit in August for a lobster lunch. I am involved in the cultural life of Portland and sit on a number of arts boards: trustee of the Portland Museum of Art, the Portland Chamber Music Festival, the Choral Art Society, and the Friends of the Kotschmar Organ. The Kotschmar is one of the largest concert organs in the United States. Indeed, if one wanted to hear the full repertoire of orchestral music, it cannot be heard in New York, as it has no major concert hall with a pipe organ. We have a fine symphony, as we are one and three-quarters of an hour from Boston and are the triple-A farm team for the Boston Symphony. Our museum is outstanding for its size and is more user-friendly than the Metropolitan Museum or MoMA. As vice-chair of the Maine Arts Commission for

six years I started a 501(c)3 to raise money in support of the commission, which has been useful recently since many artists (to whom more than 100 grants have been made) lost ‘gigs’ and their source of income.

“In addition to a rich cultural life, we can take full advantage of outdoor activities. I bike ride at any time (three to four days a week) on uncrowded streets, and we live about 100 yards off the Eastern Trail (a 19-mile rail-to-trail pathway) where I can either walk or ride my hybrid bike. I am active on the board of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine and sit on the committee that plans BikeMaine, a yearly, fully supported weeklong ride to different parts of Maine.

“I participate in an online program for college grads that resembles Literature Humanities. During the last two years we read *Democracy in America*, a few plays by Shakespeare, the *Iliad*, the *Republic*, some James Baldwin essays and *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf, and now we are reading the *Decameron*. As one of the older participants I find it fascinating to hear the comments of the younger folk.

“We live in a condo association. Most of the people are retired and we enjoy a wonderful social life with them. My one Columbia connection on a personal level is with Derek Wittner ’65, who moved to Kennebunkport a few years ago with his wife, Kathryn, after he retired. He was dean of alumni affairs and development for the College and she worked in what was then called Student Affairs. We have a good time discussing Columbia.

“I continue to enjoy listening to music and playing the piano. Right now I am working on Schubert impromptu, a Chopin waltz and some Joplin rags. When I walk on the Eastern Trail, I listen to opera, most recently *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and *Don Carlos*.

“I am so sorry to see that we lost some of our more famous classmates. It reminds me of our fragility as we move into our 80s.”

Four classmates have had books published recently.

Thad Long is the author of *The Impossible Mock Orange Trial*, a fictitious account of an effort to represent a corporate defendant in a civil suit in a venue notoriously unfavorable to corporate defendants. As Thad describes it, “Although



AMY POLLACK

Former College Dean Robert Pollack '61 and his grandson Eilam Lehrman '22 were at Faculty House on October 8 to view the collage behind them, which was created by Pollack's wife, Amy.

written as fiction, it is based on an actual rollercoaster case I tried that got a lot of local and national notoriety as one of the most significant trials of the year. It details the effort to obtain justice in a hostile venue, and the struggle to win with a meritorious defense when the sympathy, home turf and emotional factors are pulling powerfully in the opposite direction. Even a bribery attempt has to be dealt with."

A review of the book on Goodreads expands on Thad's introduction and succinctly summarizes the relevant facts, obstacles and issues. See it online: bit.ly/3wFVqfe.

Bill Tanenbaum is the author of a novel, *Future Memories*, that focuses on the experiences of three teenage Jewish students who escape from Poland in 1940 before the German occupation is complete and flee to Shanghai. Although reluctant to go, they leave their families behind, anticipating returning to them after the war.

They endure fear and suffer hardship in their struggle to reach Shanghai and from the moment of their departure from Poland through the time spent in Shanghai, they face uncertainty as to where they will be after the war. In Shanghai, they become part of the more than 20,000 Jews who sought refuge from the war raging in Europe. With the Japanese occupation and control of Shanghai, the students, as well as the Chinese, suffer intolerable living conditions throughout the war.

Memories of family and home help these Jewish students survive. Little do they know that these memories will be all that remains of their life from pre-war Europe.

Tom Hamilton's vivid imagination and prolific pen have produced his fifth book of fiction, *Altered Times*. In this collection of 12 short stories, Tom examines consequences that could result if a single historical event had taken a different course. The first example proceeds with an event theorized by astronomers, that the Moon was formed when a Mars-sized planet, Theia, made a glancing impact with Earth 4.2 billion years ago. But what if Theia avoided the collision and our Moon never came into existence? Moving rapidly ahead, Tom considers what might have occurred had Caesar heeded the Soothsayer's cry from the crowd, "beware the ides of March." And what if Aaron Burr's flintlock misfired and, the duel aborted, Alexander Hamilton CC 1778 went on to pursue and fulfill a political career? As the stories proceed in time to the present Tom presents two alternative outcomes of the events of that pivotal day, January 6, 2021, when Congress was proceeding to certify the results of the presidential election. Be prepared for a version grievously repugnant, and a second version reassuringly whimsical.

Bob Abrams SIPA'63, GSAS'66 has written his memoir, *The Luckiest Guy in the World: My Journey in Politics*. As Bob describes it, "It

traces my family roots, stories about growing up in the Bronx, some of my reflections about attending Columbia and how it triggered my entry into politics, my various races for the state Assembly, borough president of the Bronx and New York State attorney general.

"It includes behind-the-scenes stories of my interactions with prominent figures such as Mario Cuomo, Hugh Carey, George McGovern, John Lindsay, Shirley Chisholm, Cesar Chavez, Robert Moses and Golda Meir. I trace my battles as a reformer and insurgent against the political bosses as well as my efforts as attorney general to clean up the environment, protect consumers, retain a woman's right to choose and vigorously enforce Civil Rights laws. The introduction captures my successful effort at keeping the Yankees in the Bronx, escaping the fate of the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants."

For those who might not be fully familiar with Bob's career, he served three terms in the New York State Assembly, three terms as Bronx borough president and four terms as attorney general. He served as president of the National Association of Attorneys General and in recognition of his stellar efforts in professionalizing the New York office, received the Kelley-Wyman Memorial Award as the outstanding attorney general in the nation. Indeed, he has received several hundred awards from academic, business, professional, public interest, religious and philanthropic organizations. Bob might have the unique distinction of seeing a government office building — housing the Court of Claims and the Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department — renamed in his lifetime, as the Robert Abrams Building for Law and Justice.

1961

Michael Hausig
mhausig@yahoo.com

See the above photo of **Bob Pollack** and his grandson Eilam Lehrman '22 at Faculty House this past October, after the first in-person lunch of Professor Pollack's Research Cluster on Science and Subjectivity to meet in Faculty House since late 2019. Behind them is Bob's wife Amy

Pollack's 1995 collage *Primary Geography*, on display since 2019.

Chuck Gutowski BUS'63 is translating another book from the French. This one is a historical novel about Geneva in the 1930s and Swiss neutrality during WWII. The author is a highly respected Swiss journalist.

Chuck would like to hear from anyone with information about any foreigners interned in Switzerland during the war. He can be reached at cgg@bluewin.ch.

Sam Cherniak LAW'80 has finally retired from his position in the Law Department of the New York County Supreme Court. He says he looks forward to reading books that interest him and seasonally cultivating his herb garden in Tusten, N.Y.

David Konstan GSAS'67's latest book, *The Origin of Sin: Greece and Rome, Early Judaism and Christianity* (online: bit.ly/3kTfY0G), is about to be published. David believes the book should be of interest to a fairly wide readership, and is being sold at a modest price.

James Milgram donated his large collection of orthopaedic pathology glass slides and photographs to The Johns Hopkins Department of Pathology in September. The collection will be stored in a special room in the department's Division of Neuropathology and will be under the care of Dr. John Gross. The collection contains more than 50,000 slides and includes the teaching collection from Northwestern, some Johns Hopkins cases and material from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Jim was informed it will be called The Milgram Collection.

Bob Salman LAW'64 analyzed the 2020 election, made predictions about some 2021 elections, looked at the 2022 midterm elections and even touched on the 2024 presidential race on the class monthly Zoom call on October 20. He repeated much of this program in an October 25 lecture at Brookdale Community College Lifelong Learning program. As a member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, Bob was active in Gov. Phil Murphy's reelection campaign.

Bob's granddaughter Taylor is a branch administrator for wealth management at Morgan Stanley, and his granddaughter Sydney is a clinical dietician at Hartford Hospital. Bob

says Sydney recently got engaged to a great guy named Tyler, even though he is a Red Sox fan! Bob's grandson Jack is a junior at Wharton, where he is a TA. Finally, Bob's granddaughter Mackenzie is enjoying life as a freshman at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Bob and his wife, Reva, plan on a February vacation at their daughter Elyse's Palm Beach home. Elyse's husband, David, is the grand-nephew of Columbia legend Sid Luckman '39.

Stan Weiss writes that he and his wife, Betsy, are well, but still not going to movies or shows because of Covid-19!

Mickey Greenblatt SEAS'62 has assumed the role of monthly class Zoom meeting coordinator after **Tony Adler's** untimely passing. Live monthly luncheon meetings of the New York City group remain in limbo as a result of Covid-19.

As noted, **Bob Salzman** spoke on the upcoming elections; **Allen Kaplan** spoke about Covid on November 3; **Tom Lippman** discussed the Middle East situation on November 17; and **Oscar Garfein** PS'65, BUS'97 and **Stan Weiss** discussed staying healthy on December 15.

My wife, JB, and I completed the sale of our San Antonio home and moved full-time to Frisco, Colo., in September. We had split our time between the locations for about 10 years, but since the onset of Covid-19, have spent the majority of time in Frisco. We continue to be volunteer ski ambassadors at Copper Mountain and enjoy the mountain environment.

Mich Araten SEAS'71 informed me that **Arnold Goldberg** SEAS'62 passed away on September 22, 2021, in Palm Beach, Fla. Arnold earned a B.A. from the College, a B.S. from Columbia Engineering and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota. After a varied career, he retired as president of AIG Programs Loss Control Services. Donations in memoriam may be made to Hospice of Palm Beach County.

Bob Ladau GSAPP'65 wrote that **Eric Rosenfeld** passed away of Covid-19-related causes in the company of his wife and son on August 24, 2021. Eric was an inveterate traveler, shooter, fisherman, polo player, climber and cyclist, and was a leader in Millbrook and Dutchess County in New York.

Eric graduated from Harvard Law. Asked about his most important experience at Harvard Law, he replied, "mountain climbing." While simultaneously pursuing corporate and real estate law in New York with the firm of Rosenfeld, Fischbein, Bernstein & Tannenhausner — his partners for more than 40 years — he pursued his passion for climbing. His favorite story about his law practice was coming down to a limousine and finding someone in his car talking to his driver. That trespasser was Bob Dylan, who had mistaken the car as his own. Eric proceeded to spend an entertaining evening with the singer.

History, particularly military history, was a lifelong interest. Woe be the poor lecturer who received a letter of correction and criticism. More often than not he or she was won over to Eric's usually correct and encyclopedic recollection of history. He read widely and retained information, which he could deploy at lightning speed.

Eric cut a wide swath through many clubs at various points: The University Club of New York, The Explorers Club, Harvard Club, Mashomack Preserve, Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club, The Fusiliers, Tamarack Preserve and Squadron A Association, in addition to being a founding member of Mashomack Polo Club. His passion for riding was an original motivation to move to Millbrook.

Eric is survived by his wife of 36 years, Diane "Dede" Rosenfeld of Millbrook, and son, Timothy, of Lawrence, Mass. Another long-held passion of Eric's was the Dutchess Land Conservancy, where he was a founding board member. Memorial contributions made be sent there: Dutchess Land Conservancy, PO Box 138, Millbrook, NY 12545.

If you wish to send a note to Eric's family, the address is 767 Bangall Amenia Rd., Amenia, NY 12501.

Eric's oenophilia enlivened his adult life and led him and Dede to ownership of two charming houses in Burgundy, ultimately in Beaune, the heart of wine country. Eric was a proud Chevalier du Tastevin, and both a discerning drinker and eater. He found joy in his large garden behind the house on Bangall-Amenia Road, and that joy doubled at the table when consuming wine and the fruits of his garden with friends.

1962

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

John Freidin
jf@bicyclevt.com

Following are some regular notes and the responses from classmates, A to L, discussing what two or three developments over their lifetimes were most significant to them and why.

But, first, my apology to **Frank Stoppenbach** and the rest of our class for inverting the meaning of a central point in his reply that appeared in the Fall 2021 issue. Frank actually wrote: "Some easy calculations can show that, if a viral disease (which affects only a small fraction of a population) has an antiviral treatment, say at the same cost as a vaccine, it would be far less costly to treat illnesses rather than vaccinate the entire population." I wrote "more" instead of "less."

Steve Stein, whose response arrived too late for the Fall 2021 issue, wrote: "Climate change, because it is a threat to our country and the entire world as we know it with ever-worsening widespread storms, famine, floods and fires of biblical proportion. The pandemic, because it has killed more Americans than all our 20th-century wars combined. I hope a curative medicine will be developed and tested for safety and efficacy. In the meantime, mass vaccination and masking are our only hope to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus."

Andy Jampoler SIPA'81 listed: "War against Hitler and the Nazis, because I improbably survived being born in German-occupied Poland in 1942. The war in Vietnam, because I spent a year on the ground there in the service of a misguided cause. And January 6, because I fear it means we in the United States are on a terrible and perhaps irreversible path."

Roman Kernitsky said: "The three most significant developments for me have been 1.) Cold War and fear of communism, because my parents and relatives lived under communism, and I saw firsthand the

terror they endured. The fall of the Soviet Union was an unexpected and wonderful event. 2.) Legalization of abortion. As a Roman Catholic I was upset to see abortion legalized by the unelected Supreme Court. Abortion is not mentioned in the Constitution, and it should have been left to the democratic functioning of the individual states. And 3.) Deaths and medical struggles of your peers. The recent death of my wife, to whom I was married for 51 years, from breast cancer was the most traumatic development in my life, and I will never recover from it."

Chris Haakon thought the list was great, but added three developments that were especially significant to him due to his work on the exploration of space and national defense: Landing astronauts on the moon. Creation of television. And creation of the global positioning system aka GPS, and all the subsequent location technology. "After college," he wrote, "I started working for Paramount Pictures in New York, where they developed a single gun TV tube, Trinitron. They sold the patent to Sony for half a million and got out of the TV market. Dumb move. I also had a tie to landing men on the moon. Our photographers selected the landing sites from Lunar Orbiter imagery."

From Hendersonville, N.C., **Arthur Lebowitz** emailed: "As a physician whose sub-specialty was infectious diseases, AIDS was most impactful. I'd been practicing at Bellevue for 10 years when I saw something new: the occurrence of co-extant rare infections, such as pneumocystis, multiple parasites, cytomegalovirus, toxoplasmosis and the previously very rare malignancy, Kaposi's sarcoma, in one individual. But personally, nothing compares with the rise of the internet and artificial intelligence. Without a smartphone and the internet, I'd be lost. Third is the ubiquitous effects of climate change. Fourth, the rise of fascism under Trump accompanied by the collapse of a responsible Republican party, overt racism and naked attempts to suppress voting. I omitted Covid-19, because with advances in vaccine design, it is medically manageable, provided our leaders implement well-established public health policies."

Geza Feketekuty wrote: "After thinking about the list of major events during our lifetime and how I



From left, Doron Gopstein '63, Steve Barcan '63 and Paul Neshamkin '63 cheered the Lions on home turf when they took on Harvard on November 6.

was affected, I recalled my job as the budget examiner in the Bureau of the Budget (now the Office of Management and Budget) during the Vietnam War. I reviewed all non-military expenditures in East Asia, including Vietnam. One of my first tasks was to provide greater accuracy of the probable costs of President Johnson's Vietnam policies. That led me to make an unexpected recommendation to increase the budget by \$5 billion. My proposal was greeted by great derision, but finally accepted. Everyone was trying to understate costs to mollify Johnson. After Nixon was elected, I was sent to Vietnam to inform the embassy's Mission Council that all future budgetary requests should be significantly reduced. When I was told that no one knew how to do that, the White House instructed me to stay in Vietnam to draft a budget request that met the new requirements. Of course, later in the process, I had to review the request I had drafted after it had been submitted by the Agency for International Development!"

David Cohen thought: "The list of major events during our lifetime was sobering. I was of course aware of them all, but experienced them merely in the background as I pursued my personal and family goals. Sort of like Forrest Gump, but going forward in time rather than backward. The great historical and philosophical themes we had studied, emerged in reality, but I finessed them and felt them only abstractly until several hit me between the eyes: two economic recessions with loss of employment and income,

along with Trump and my lost faith in our political system. In the end we cannot control our media and environment. I am fortunate to feel empowered to enjoy my semiretirement and get more involved."

Richard Schwartz GSAS'67 was clear about what was most significant to him: "Climate change and our collective default in controlling air pollution due to global consumption of fossil fuels is the greatest crisis facing our survival. In the '90s, I resided in the beautiful mountain community of Paradise, Calif. It was a shock when the Camp Fire of 2018 leveled this pristine community of 11,000 homes. Also, the pervasive use of the internet has spawned social platforms which, sadly, are used maliciously to spread falsehoods. The harm to the fabric of society is incalculable. On the other hand, the internet has brought our generation much good."

Carl Jakobsson SEAS'63 reports that "after graduating from the Engineering School, I served two years in the Navy, and then stayed on as a civilian, working as an engineer for approximately 42 years. I retired in March 2007. In retirement I have been active with my church and the NAACP. I chair the Political Action Committee of the Bremerton, Wash., branch and the International Relations Committee of the Alaska Oregon Washington-State Area Conference. I've been married since 1988 to Estela. It is a second marriage for both of us, and we have seven adult children, 23 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter."

In late September **Phil Lille** SIPA'64 emailed to say that **Charles**

"Lucky" Bowers LAW'65 had passed away on September 19, 2020, and that his passing had not been reported in this column. I apologize to all of Lucky's family, friends and classmates for this oversight. I had not heard that sad news. Lucky grew up in New Brighton, Pa. After graduating from the Law School and being offered positions by several major New York law firms, he returned to New Brighton to practice. He was a skilled civil and criminal litigator and master of cross-examination. In a long, distinguished career, he was most proud of serving more than 50 years as the borough solicitor for his hometown. In 2019 the Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association awarded Lucky its Champion of Justice award. He was also a sailor and golfer. His wife, Janice, died before him, but he is survived by three children and a grandson, Charlie Bowers. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

In August I had a delightful lunch and conversation with **John Kater**, who was visiting his cousin's widow, a Sri Lankan, who lives near Middlebury. John had recently returned to the United States after teaching at Ming Hua Theological College in Hong Kong for more than 10 years.

1963

Paul Neshamkin
pauln@helpauthors.com

It was good to reconnect with **Phil Satow** in person at Homecoming. We only had a minute to greet each other, but it reminded me how much I have missed seeing all of you. It was a beautiful day, a great crowd and an exciting win! I hope by the time you read this I will have seen more of you at the remaining home games, and perhaps at our live, monthly class lunches, which, I hope, will have returned. Although we have continued to hold our virtual lunches, now biweekly, it would be so much better to greet you in person.

Kalmon Post PS'76 has been named president-elect of The Pituitary Society, an international organization dedicated to furthering the understanding of diseases of the pituitary gland. Kalmon is the surgical co-director of the Pituitary Care and Research Center and chair emeritus of the Department of Neurosurgery, the Faculty Practice

Associates, and The Medical Board at Mount Sinai. He is internationally known for his work and results treating pituitary and parasellar tumors, as well as cerebellopontine angle tumors, particularly acoustic neuroma with hearing preservation.

Kalmon earned an M.D. from NYU, followed by a surgical internship and residency in neurosurgery NYU and Bellevue. He completed fellowship training at the National Institutes of Health and the National Institutes of Neurological Diseases and Blindness. Kalmon began his academic career as an instructor of neurosurgery at the Tufts University School of Medicine, followed by positions of increasing responsibility at P&S. In 1991 he joined The Mount Sinai Medical Center as professor and chair of the Department of Neurosurgery. Kalmon has been president of the New York Neurosurgical Society and the New York State Neurosurgical Society and is presently on the editorial boards of *Neurosurgery*, *World Neurosurgery*, *Surgical Neurology* and *Pituitary*.

Mel Gurtov SIPA'65 writes, "I continue to do research and write on international affairs. Last year I published my 30th book, *America in Retreat: Foreign Policy under Donald Trump*, and I am in my seventh year of blogging (In the Human Interest, melgurtov.com). I also do podcasts and a local radio program, both as The Global Citizen."

Art Eisenson writes, "Garth Hallberg '64, JRN'69, BUS'70, author of *The Piketty Problem, or The Robots Are Coming, the Robots Are Coming*, and I have been saying kind things about each other's novels. He has a new one in the works, and I have the first of a bunch up on Kindle Direct, *Choke Hold: A Paranoid Thriller*, by Frank Steel (online: bit.ly/3oG7gm7). The pseudonym is a reclamation of the English translations of my grandparents' surnames, and besides, 'Arthur M. Eisenson' is a fine name for an academician or doctor or lawyer or some such respectable person, none of which is me."

Alan Wilensky writes, "I retired as a full professor in 2015 after almost 40 years as attending at the University of Washington's Regional Epilepsy Center. Since retiring, my wife, Judi, and I spend about eight months a year in Seattle and (pre- and post-Covid-19) and four on the

East Coast visiting family, including our three daughters and six grandchildren. Our oldest daughter graduated from the College in 1992, our second from the University of Rochester in 1995 and the youngest from Barnard in 2001. Our oldest grandchild graduated from high school last year and will attend the U of Rochester. When we are in NYC on the second Tuesday of the month, I look forward to attending our class luncheon.”

In August **Peter Gollon** GSAS’69 marked the subsidence — temporary, as it turned out — of Covid by joining a group hiking in Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park and the substantially reduced in size Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, all in Utah. He writes, “From an ambient temperature point of view July wasn’t the best time to be there, but these days one takes what one can get.” He says he enjoys being physically fit, even if he can’t keep up with people 20 years younger. If he ever could.

Nick Zill’s Capitol Comedy troupe received some early, good reviews in Los Angeles. Read his latest review, for *Biden My Time*, online: bit.ly/3CqNHmo. The opening number from Capitol Comedy’s show filmed at the Zephyr Theatre in West Hollywood may now be seen in full on YouTube: youtu.be/ubf8Ye7Fg3c.

On a more serious note, Nick writes in his Institute of Family Studies blog, “Growing Up With Mom and Dad: New Data Confirm The Tide Is Turning” (online: bit.ly/30vQVIn), “It is too early to say for certain but growing numbers of actual and would-be parents seem to be heeding the conventional wisdom that a stable two-parent family helps children flourish ...” And, “One of the most encouraging developments is the rebound in the proportion of black children being raised by their biological fathers as well as their birth mothers.”

Steve Barcan reports four wonderful family events from last spring. Steve and his wife, Betty BC’65, have four grandchildren. In May and June, they and their family celebrated a confirmation, a college graduation, a bar mitzvah and a high school graduation at Fenway Park! It was just weeks of continual excitement.

Zev bar-Lev writes, “Our kids have moved to Texas and elsewhere.

I’m busy writing my book, *Be Try-Lingual* (it’s almost impossible for adults to be truly bilingual, but anyone can be try-lingual, trying out bits and pieces from many languages). My book contains examples of lexicon and literature from French, Italian, Spanish, Greek, Russian, Hebrew, Arabic, Chinese and Japanese.”

Howard Freese GS’67 writes, “I have two grandsons in Southern California. Both are graduates of Harbor Day School (Newport Coast) and Corona del Mar H.S. (Newport Beach), and have full scholarships to UC Berkeley; both nearly 4.0 grades throughout. Jake Giffin is now in medical school at UC Irvine. Kyle Giffin (younger brother) left UC Berkeley after seven semesters to work on CRISPR technology and start LatchBio. Two interesting connecting points are Nobel Prize winner Jennifer Doudna and Samuel Sternberg ’07 (*CCT*, Fall 2021).

“I’m retired but still active with ASTM and implantable metallic biomaterials. My wife, Gail, and I have traveled extensively to Europe (Paris Air Show and Farnborough Airshow for ATI Allvac, 1994–2014; many Viking Cruises including France, Italy, Spain, Russia, Hungary, Amalfi Coast, Mediterranean Sea, Rhine-Danube Rivers, etc.). Plus regular summer trips to Western Montana to visit North Carolina friends who have moved to the Bitterroot Valley and to the Lemhi Pass (Lewis and Clark, Sacagawea) on the Montana-Idaho border.”

We’ve lost two more of our classmates. I have been informed by his widow, Joan, that **Sam Fromowitz** died last April. He was a retired Foreign Service officer. And just after my *CCT* deadline passed, I learned of the death of **Peter Zimroth**. *Requiescat in Pace*.

[Editor’s note: See “Obituaries” for more on both.]

When you’re back in NYC, you can reconnect with your classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club (we will still gather at the Princeton Club). We hope to meet again this winter/spring on February 10, March 10 and April 14. In any case, we will continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m. EST. Let me know if you’d like to join us, and I’ll send you an invite.

In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you’re doing and what’s next. Stay safe!

1964

Norman Olch
norman@nolch.com

During the last 18 months I have started Class Notes expressing the hope that by the time the column appears, society’s lot in the time of a pandemic will have improved. Alas, my hopes have been dashed. At this writing (October 2021), more than 730,000 Americans have died from the virus and many millions more are infected.

But there are some reasons for optimism: More and more people are being vaccinated (some as the result of private and public mandates). Here in New York City, restaurants and theaters are opening, masking requirements are limited to certain places such as public buses, and news reports say that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines (with boosters) will provide more long-term protection than originally anticipated. I remain cautious: While I remove my mask for walks in Central Park, I wear it in enclosed spaces such as elevators and supermarkets. I hope all of you are being careful.

Bob Goldman writes from California: “After 50 years of teaching, research and administration at UC Berkeley, interspersed with long periods of work in India and Oxford, I finally bit the bullet and retired (in a manner of speaking) from the university last June as a professor of Sanskrit and the Catherine and William L. Magistretti Distinguished Professor in South & Southeast Asian Studies. I have since been appointed as professor in the Graduate School, and I will continue to teach my graduate seminar on Sanskrit literature and, *Deo volente*, supervise my continuing doctoral students until all have filed their dissertations. I remain heavily engaged in a number of ongoing research projects.

“I entered the College as a chemistry major fully intending to do the pre-med thing, but in our sophomore year I took the long-established course Oriental Civilizations (permissible in those days to be called that). This was a subject about which I knew little or nothing, but it seemed as if it might be new and engaging. Under the tutelage of such extraordinary scholars and teachers as Professors Wm. Theodore de

Bary ’41, GSAS’53; Ainslie Embree GSAS’60; John Thomas Meskill; and others, we learned about the great civilizations of India, China and Japan from antiquity to modernity, an amazing intellectual journey. I found the cultures and civilizations of China and Japan fascinating, but the study of Indian civilization just blew me away. When I asked Professor Embree what courses I could take to learn more, he said, ‘If you are seriously interested in the study of India, you should take Sanskrit.’ Being young and foolishly impressionable as I was, I said, ‘Uh ... OK.’ And that was it. I changed my major to Oriental studies and completed my doctorate in Sanskrit at Penn in 1970. It was bit of a blow, I guess, to my parents, but my mother at least had the satisfaction of truthfully introducing me to her friends thereafter as Dr. Goldman, without specifying what *kind* of doctor.

“I went to India 1968–70 and, living and working among traditionally trained Sanskrit Pandits, I kind of missed all the ructions at the College and around the country in that fraught time. I was so out of what was going on in the world that when, one day in July 1969, an Indian professor at the Deccan College rushed up to me in great excitement, and pumped my hand saying, ‘By God, you did it! You walked on the moon!’ I actually thought that he had lost his mind.

“After that first stay in India, I was for a year assistant professor at the University of Rochester, then came to Berkeley in 1971 just as the last clouds of tear gas were drifting across campus. I remember being stunned to see that many of my colleagues had gas masks on coat hangers in their offices.

“In the half-century since coming to Berkeley I have authored a number of books and many scholarly articles. My major work has been as organizer, general editor and a principal translator of a seven-volume, ca. 5,000-page translation and annotation of the critical edition of the ancient, monumental and enormously influential Sanskrit epic poem, the *Rāmāyana*, attributed to the legendary poet-seer Vālmiki. This was in part a collaborative work with several scholars that my wife and colleague, Senior Lecturer Emerita in Sanskrit Sally Sutherland Goldman Ph.D., and I produced together. The seven volumes

were published serially 1984–2017. A single volume, a revised and unabridged translation of the seven-volume set without the original publication's dense and voluminous scholarly annotation, will appear in January 2022 in paperback for the benefit of college students and a general readership curious to know about one of the most influential works ever written and one of the foundational texts of the civilizations of South and Southeast Asia from antiquity to today's news.

"Along the way I have received a number of awards and honors, starting with the Taraknath Das Prize from the College at graduation, then a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Spaulding Visiting Fellowship at Wolfson College, Oxford, election as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the President's (of India, that is) Certificate for Sanskrit (International), the World Sanskrit Award, and the Distinguished Teaching Award from UC Berkeley.

"So there is no doubt that my time at Columbia dramatically changed my academic focus and my life as, I suppose, the best education is meant to do. Since graduation I have been back on the campus numerous times to meet colleagues, attend meetings, present papers and so on, and, of course for our 50th reunion.

"Last summer, after deciding with no little trepidation to risk the travel issues in the midst of the pandemic to visit my three sons, their two wives and my two grandchildren, my wife and I did a tour of NYC, Boston and Philadelphia to visit, respectively, with them and their families. Jesse '95 (Ph.D. KSU) lives with his wife and their daughter, Clara (7), in Springfield, Pa. He teaches physics at Drexel. My middle son, Seth (UC San Diego, Ph.D. Harvard), lives in Brookline, Mass., with his wife and their two-and-a-half-year-old son, Zev Inder. He runs a biological testing lab at Harvard. The youngest, Aaron '08, SPS'21, last summer completed an M.A. in applied analytics from the School of Professional Studies. He lives in Brooklyn with his girlfriend while he looks for work in tech.

"Our rambles in Morningside brought back a lot of memories of our relatively blissful youth.

"Heartfelt good wishes to all the gallant lads of '64."

With the pandemic shutting down our monthly in-person class

lunch in Manhattan, **Bernard Catalinotto** has taken the reins and hosted a monthly Zoom meeting. He writes from California: "About a dozen of us have met virtually during the past five months, starting with a kickoff meeting in July and proceeding every four weeks to date. Five to eight participants have met informally each time, signing in from the Berkshires, Great Neck, Florida, the Bay Area and even West 86th Street. We've received wisdom on a head-spinning variety of topics from classmates with expertise in Latin American politics, construction engineering (Florida collapse), artificial intelligence, teaching mathematics, performing modern dance, promoting Broadway plays, working as an expat in Saudi Arabia, consulting to pasta factories in Sicily and other cool topics I've forgotten. We've also gotten to know one another better in a lighthearted way, now that much of the book has been written, and we even allowed a little kvelling over our descendants and grandchildren. Thanks to **Joel Abramson, Steve Case, Beryl Lapson, Dave Levin, Steve Rodner, Jonathan Stein, Peter Thall, Richard Waldinger** and **Michael Wimpfheimer** for contributing. Next meetings are February 10, March 10 and April 7, 4 p.m. EST, Zoom ID=7114899750. It's a great way to keep in touch."

Bernard can be reached at bernardcatalinotto@gmail.com.

Yossi "Joseph" Alpher, a well-known author and columnist living in Israel, has his latest book out in February: *Death Tango: Ariel Sharon, Yasser Arafat and Three Fateful Days in March* looks at three events [that took place] March 27–29, 2002, and their enduring impact on peace in the Middle East.

By the time this column appears 2022 will be upon us. Happy New Year. I wish each of you and your loved ones Good Health, Peace, Joy and Prosperity.

1965

Leonard Pack
leonard@packlaw.us

Bill Mitchell '64 sent me a copy of a note sent by David Filipek GS'67 to his fraternity brothers on the passing of **Jim Boosales** in August 2021: "I'm very sorry to report that Jim

passed away a few weeks ago (online: bit.ly/3orclqy). Jim and I both pledged Beta during our first semester. Our pledge class was large, 13 of us: John Cirigliano '64, Lenny DeFiore '64, Bill Mitchell '64 and Stan Yancovitz '63 were upperclassmen; **Jim "Boo" Boosales, Steve Danenberg**, Tod DeFronzo, Dave Filipek GS'67, Steve Freese, **Roger Holloway, Jerry Hug** (our pledge class president), **Mike Moore** and **Jack Strauch** were first-semester freshmen. Boo immediately became close to all of us. He was responsible for recruiting many more Betas from the Class of 1965 (and later classes as well). Our class's Betas include **Ron Adsit, Jim Alfini, John Bashaar, Bill Brown, Gene Chwerschak, Art Cutler, Bob Donohue, Lou Tangorra** and **Ed Vassallo SEAS'65**. Also: John Murphy and Paul Katin '66. Boo was a linchpin of our Class of '65, as well as a mainstay at the Beta House.

"A fond memory from our freshman year occurred at the Columbia Spring Carnival, 1962. A Chevy Impala convertible was raffled off, and I was with Boo when he found out that he had won it. Boo drove home to Chicago that summer in style." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

James Levy LAW'68's loyalty to our football team was finally rewarded on October 22. Jim writes: "Columbia College's remarkable football shutout triumph last Friday night, occurring as it did in the wilds of Hanover, N.H., against a nationally ranked Dartmouth team, has generated a plethora of thoughts, memories and flashbacks, which euphoria, not yet tempered by discretion, compels me to share with others. Having attended probably 15–20 of the biennial rites of gridiron agony in the Granite State since relocating in 1969 to St. Albans, Vt., yesterday's denouement (a 19–0 win) was stunning, as well as cathartic, perhaps because it was so unexpected. The following comments, observations and reminiscences come to mind:

"The absence of the Columbia band, whose ranks at one time included my son Daniel '94, was somewhat disappointing. Once billed as the 'cleverest band in the world,' and often surpassing its justly earned off-color (no pun intended) reputation by performing outlandish skits that undoubtedly would be verboten in today's woke environ-

ment, the band if it had been present undoubtedly would have added notes of outrageous vibrancy to the fall evening event. Some of its more compelling performances, retrieved from memory lane, are:

"a. Leading the Columbia section of the crowd in an unfortunately all-too-frequent fourth-quarter chant: "You may be winning but we get to leave."

"b. Addressing the Big Green student body: "For all you Dartmouth students who were rejected by the Columbia Admissions Office, we dedicate the next number to you," followed by a refrain from 'I Hear You Knockin' But You Can't Come In.'

"c. Paying tribute to the Dartmouth community by depicting Hanover as 'a venue where the sheep outnumber the human denizens.'

"Finally, I can't memorialize this remarkable night in Hanover without reflecting on some of my departed classmates and friends, who were so much a vital part of the Columbia football tradition and with whom I now should be sharing my glee and exuberance after so many years of frustration and disappointment (perhaps better characterized as gridlock on the gridiron). Among them:

"a. **Peter Mound** (also my classmate and dear friend at Trinity School, Class of 1961). After every Columbia victory (far too few during the past five decades), one of us instantly would pick up the phone to call the other, no matter where we were at the time, and engage in a clinical analysis of the Lions' win. As an example of our seemingly manic absorption in all matters relating to Columbia football, I recall a Saturday in late September 1971 when Columbia's vanquishment of Princeton, thereby breaking a losing streak extending across many years, triggered a phone call where the birth of my son several days previously was only mentioned as an afterthought or footnote. Ah, if only Peter were still around to savor the bliss of the moment, the culmination of years of loyal, dedicated devotion to a football program that generated for half a century nothing but frustration, angst and disappointment but at long last seems to have turned the corner.

"b. **Lee Dunn**, who on several occasions joined me in Hanover

(coming from his Boston home base) to endure the Dartmouth football experience. Renowned for his spirited repartees, he probably would have elevated victory celebration to a new plateau.

“c. David Keith Mano ’63 (also a Trinity School alum), whom I believe attended most Lion football games no matter the venue. I will always remember fondly our all-too-brief biennial encounters in Hanover.

“Roar, Lion, Roar!”

Don Bachman PS’69 sent a pandemic-era update: “We have thus far avoided getting Covid-19 and received immunization as soon as we could. Our activity was limited for the last 18 months but dividing the year between Cape Cod in the summer and Sanibel Island, Fla., was not a major hardship. I realized that many activities and commitments I skipped were hardly missed and life has been simpler. Having retired from medicine, I am sometimes envious of classmates who continue to work at fulfilling careers, but it seemed time for me to step back. My wife, Karen, and I observed our 50th wedding anniversary on July 11 and were able to fit into our wedding outfits, although body shape has changed. The week in Provence or Tuscany will have to be deferred to 51, as well as many places on our travel list not yet realized.”

Don also sent me this link to an excellent in memoriam article about **Alan Green** in *Neuropsychopharmacology*: go.nature.com/3Haiqb4.

Bob Caserio has been no slouch in retirement. “In April, Penn State’s College of the Liberal Arts presented me with its 2021 Emeritus Distinction award. The award is for continuing scholarly endeavor after retirement. I retired in July 2018. In 2020, alongside editorial and consulting jobs, I contributed chapters to [Christopher] *Isherwood in Transit* and *Diplomacy and the Modern Novel: France, Britain, and the Mission of Literature* and I published an essay and four book reviews in various scholarly journals. My co-edited *The Cambridge History of the English Novel* (2012) was reissued in paperback. Other things are in the pipeline.

“The pandemic has helped keep me to my desk, although I expect that a greater freedom would not have much distanced me from study. The best news of 2020–21 was the

continuation of dear Columbia friendships with **Howard Matz**, **Roy Skodnick** GSAS’67 and **David Denby** JRN’66, and the resumption of other friendships, with **Michael Friedman** (Mike and I shared days post-Columbia at Cambridge University) and with friends Dickens scholar Robert Newsom ’66 (who also came to Cambridge) and poet and Conrad scholar Aaron Fogel ’67, GSAS’77. Now I must restore contacts with **Peter Rutter** and **Elliot Dorff** GSAS’71! Any news of them?”

Peter, Elliot and all other classmates, let your correspondent hear from you!

Arnold Fleischer LAW’68 generously contributed some memories of **Ed Goodgold**. “Ed and I, along with **Len Zwerling** and **Bill Wertheim**, were classmates at Brooklyn’s Tilden H.S. before moving on to the College. (Our high school classmates are **Harvey Rubin** SEAS’65, SEAS’70; **Joel Bert** SEAS’65; **Jerry Rosenbaum** SEAS’65, SEAS’71; and Susan Rothberg Malbin BC’65.)

“Ed chose me as a judge at the first trivia contest because I knew the real name of actor Bruce Bennett (*Mildred Pierce*, *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*) and more to the point from a trivia standpoint, the Republic serial *Hawk of the Wilderness*). I once phoned Ed at his office, and when his secretary asked who was calling I replied, ‘Herman Brix.’ He knew it had to be me.

“Ed’s definition of trivia focused on entertainment and sports, especially from the late ’40s through the ’50s, and excluded the purely factual matters he dismissed as ‘minutiae.’ As Ed explained, ‘Who invented the pencil?’ was minutiae; ‘What was the name of Jack Benny’s parrot?’ was trivia.

“When Ed was features editor of *Spectator*, he somehow managed to add restaurant reviewing to his journalistic activities. Surely his most memorable review was of a long-defunct Manhattan establishment, Nando’s Miramar Restaurant, whose service was, he wrote, as imaginative as Ray Felix in the pivot (fans of the late 1950s New York Knicks will recall the 6-foot-11-inch Felix as an awkward, undistinguished center).

“Ed told me a story about his year at NYU Law that seems to me to sum him up perfectly. At the

beginning of the semester, one of his professors told the class not to back bench — the practice of sitting in the back of the room rather than in your assigned seat in order to avoid being called on. If you were unprepared to be called on, said the professor, simply let me know before the class begins and I won’t embarrass you. One day, however, Ed was back benching and did not answer when the professor called his name. The professor recognized Ed and said, ‘Mr. Goodgold, you know you should not be back benching. Why didn’t you let me know before class started that you were unprepared today?’ And Ed replied, ‘Oh no, sir, you don’t understand. Today I’m absent, tomorrow I’m unprepared.’”

I asked Arnie for a personal update too. Sadly, I don’t have space to include it until my next column. But he sent a video: “At the risk of wearing out my welcome, here’s a video of me playing. The two young kids playing guitar and fiddle have since graduated from the Berklee College of Music in Boston. I am the banjo player: bit.ly/3kRV2Wz.”

Dan Waitzman GSAS’68 shared his impressive new video: “In my YouTube video, ‘Reflections on Contemporary Musical Composition’ (youtu.be/2b0fDixjEVA), I argue for the revival of older musical styles for use in contemporary musical composition, either ‘out of the box,’ or as points of departure for new styles. This is in addition to the YouTube videos of my compositions (mostly in electronic MIDI realizations, alas) and a few of my concert performances.”

Just look Dan up on YouTube for his performance videos.

1966

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Tod Howard Hawks reached out: “I greatly enjoyed reading about a number of my classmates in the Fall 2021 issue, which has inspired me to contribute similarly. I have corresponded recently with **Ira Katznelson**, one of the many geniuses of our class. Ira was, as I’m sure most of you remember, a Eureka J. Kellett Fellow at Cambridge. I got to know him through Nacoms our senior year. He has held

many august posts throughout his brilliant career, including his stellar tenure as interim provost of the University. **Alan Feldman** GSAS’69 contributed a poem to our Fall 2021 Class Notes, which has inspired me to do the same.”

THOSE WHO RULE

We shall keep the poor poor. We shall be on them like a master’s whip on the backs of slaves; but they will not know us: we are too far and too close. We shall use the patois of patriotism to patronize them. We shall hide behind our flags while we hold only one pole. We shall have the poor fight our wars for us, and die for us; and before they die, they will kill for us, we hope, enough. In peace, we shall piecemeal them, and serve them meals made of toxins and tallow. For their labor, we shall pay them slave wages; and all that we give, we shall take back, and more, by monumental scandals that subside like day’s sun at eventide. We shall be clever, as ever, circumspect and surreptitious at all times. We shall keep them deluded with the verisimilitude of hope, but undermine always its being. We shall infuse their lives with fear and hate, playing one race against another, one religion against a brother’s. Disaffection is our key; but we must modulate our efforts deftly, so the poor remain frightened and angered, but always blind and deaf and divided. And if, perchance, one foments, we shall seize the moment and drop his head into his hands, even as he speaks. This internecine brew we pour, therefore, into the poor to keep them drunk with enmity and incapacitation! Ah, eternal anticipation! Bottoms up, old chaps! We, those who rule, shall have them always in our laps. We are, as it were, their salvation.

James Taylor writes: “Please tell **Chet Komarin** how much I liked reading his piece in the Fall 2021 column. I too came to Columbia from a small place: Dothan, Ala. The biggest place I had visited prior to my being deposited in Penn Station was Jacksonville, Fla., where my aunt lived. “The academic environment was as challenging as anything I had encountered.

"I did become one of those doctors but only decided to do so the summer before senior year. I took all the pre-med courses that year.

"The memory of those four years remains a joy I visit often."

Robert Ready GSAS'70 also contacted *CCT*: "Robert Ready retired as professor emeritus of English at Drew University. He was NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor, the Winifred B. Baldwin Professor of Humanities and dean of the Caspersen School of Graduate Studies. His literary-critical work and his short fiction appeared in more than two dozen scholarly and creative writing journals. His novel, *Eck: A Romance*, was published in 2021. He is married to Susan M. Levin GSAS'74, retired professor of English and comparative literature at Stevens Institute of Technology. Their son, Jonathan, is professor of classical studies at the University of Michigan, and is married to Margaret Foster, associate professor of classical studies at Michigan. Their daughter, Freda GS'09, PS'14, is a general surgeon at the Navajo Reservation in Shiprock, N.M., married to Megan Whitley, an attorney at Littler Mendelson in Denver. Susan and Robert have four grandchildren, and they live in NYC and North Truro, Mass."

David F. Tilman reached out too: "Greetings to my friends and classmates! I was so pleased to see a good group from our class at the virtual reunion last spring. The Tilman family are all well and thriving. Avrum Michael SEAS'04, B.S., and NYU Stern School of

Business, M.B.A. 2015, is a senior computer engineer for Bloomberg. Rabbi Howard is husband to his beloved Naomi, father to Micah Toby (4) and Sophie Daniela (2), and rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, Scotch Plains, N.J. Alana is director of Sprout Brooklyn Day Camp, a dual language camp of the Young Judea movement. My beloved wife of more than 40 years, Ellen, retired as director of library services at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, Pa., leaving to her successor an active, dynamic and innovative institution at a time when many synagogues are eliminating their library programs.

"In 2011 I retired as cantor and music director of Beth Shalom Congregation, the Frank Lloyd Wright Synagogue in Elkins Park, after 36 fulfilling and productive years, filled with life cycle events too numerous to count, bravado singing at Shabbat and holiday services, five choirs, magnificent choral and instrumental music and wonderful interpersonal relationships. I spent five years as adjunct associate professor at the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary. For two years I was consultant to the curator of the *Leonard Bernstein at 100 Centennial Exhibit* at the National Museum of American Jewish History. I am now in my 11th year as choral director and pastoral outreach professional at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel of Elkins Park, where I conduct a 30-member volunteer and professional adult choir and spend significant time reaching out to the synagogue membership in need of counsel and friendship.

"In 2018 and 2019, I was music director for *Sing Hallelujah*, a mega concert of 175 singers drawn from Jewish and non-Jewish choirs in the Delaware Valley, on the stage of Verizon Hall in the Kimmel Center of Philadelphia. These two events each attracted 1,500 audience members. We were on our way to the third *Sing Hallelujah* concert in March 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic exploded throughout the USA, necessitating the concert's postponement. Choral music activities throughout the world came to a silent halt. Choral singing was declared by medical and choral experts to be a major spreader of the insidious virus. Live interpersonal choral rehearsals were

replaced by virtual choral activities. I prepared four virtual choral recordings, although several of my singers found the process too daunting and did not participate.

"During the pandemic I presented two virtual lectures, on the Bernstein centennial and on the 50th anniversary of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Both programs are filled with musical and video excerpts, and were well received. My Shir KI Choir returned to active rehearsals and public singing during the recent High Holiday season, fully masked and socially distanced from each other and from the congregation. The masks filtered out both viral particles and precise diction and initial and final consonants. We pray that we shall be able to sing in person and unmasked during the coming year.

"I was glad to learn that **David Gilbert** will soon be paroled. His tape, which we heard at a reunion, was both moving and very dramatic.

"My health is good, although I am afflicted with orthopedic issues. We pray for our good health and the good health of our families. I wish classmates and our families a joyous New Year during these difficult times."

At press time, *CCT* learned of the passing of **David S. Weissbrodt**. Read more online: srib.mn/3ckcvlt.

Share your news and updates with *CCT* for a future issue by email: cct@columbia.edu, or online via the Class Notes submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Our best to you in 2022.

1967

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9-12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
cctfund@columbia.edu

Albert Zonana
azonana@me.com

We heard from a few classmates.

Leigh Dolin wrote: "When we moved to Burlington, Vt., and Montreal in 2018, our plan was to spend half the year in each place, as our son, daughter-in-law and three grandkids live in Montreal. Initially,

that worked out fine, with uneventful border crossings. Then came Covid-19 and crossing the border became Mission Impossible. In June we had to do three Covid tests and a two-week quarantine before our long-awaited family reunion. In September, we had to do only one Covid test and no quarantine. We're anxiously awaiting the return of the good old days. Meanwhile, we're grateful for Zoom!"

Harold Koenigsberg GSAS'69: "My wife, Elizabeth, and I are doing well. Our daughter is a sophomore at Sarah Lawrence College. I do neuro-imaging research and treat patients as a professor of psychiatry at Mount Sinai."

Gary Breissinger: "I had a 32-year career at Procter & Gamble, serving in a number of executive positions including VP, U.S. sales; VP, Europe, Middle East and Africa sales; and VP, global customer business development. Following P&G, I spent 10 years as a senior advisor to the Boston Consulting Group. Now enjoying retirement and playing lots of golf in the Western North Carolina mountains."

Herb Broderick GSAS'78: "Happy to report that I am on sabbatical after teaching art for 43 years at CUNY Lehman — triple-vaxxed and hanging out in our house in Oyster Bay, Long Island. Hope to return to home base in Manhattan soon."

T. (Travis) Brown: "I work part-time as a geologist in the energy sector. Spending a bit more time with my hobbies of woodworking, fly fishing and gardening. Have had limited contact with classmates, but I am surviving the pandemic. Hope others are faring well, also."

Tony Greco GSAS'76, BUS'82: "I guess I'm a hard-core New Yorker, having lived in Manhattan with only brief interruptions for all my adult life. I still love it, along with my wife of 40 years, Celia Orgel. Our son Daniel is an associate professor of philosophy at Yale, and Celia and I enjoy weekly trips to Connecticut to help out and spend time with the grandkids, Ben (6) and Sam (4). The city is reviving as Covid restrictions ease, and we're looking forward to going to concerts and plays again, but I sorely miss Butler Library, still closed to alumni. I keep busy reading, playing chess (I used to be a rated expert but in my old age I've mostly been just a class A player)



Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

and more than occasionally posting to my blog, Talking about Politics, at tony-greco.com. My readers include a number of College alumni, among them several classmates.”

Charles Fisher: “Am alive and well in Florida on Singer Island in Palm Beach County. Wish all classmates the best.”

Les Wandler: “Married and divorced twice. Expensive. Served as a lieutenant in the Navy in Vietnam. Worked in banking at NYC’s Manufacturers Hanover. I was one of the founders of HSN, which was sold in 1993. I have done some cable television consulting since. I am now retired and have one son at Bank of New York. A stranger in a strange land today.”

Tom Werman BUS’69: “Briefly: Two years at the Business School, one year at Grey Advertising in NYC, then 30 years in rock ‘n’ roll, first at CBS’s Epic Records (with Gregg Geller ’69) in NYC for eight years, and then as an independent producer. Moved to Los Angeles in 1978, stayed 23 wonderful years in Laurel Canyon, produced 52 albums, 20 of them gold or platinum, burned out big time, bought a farm in the Berkshires (bluest county in the bluest state in the country), a stone’s throw from Tanglewood (coincidentally next door to Richard Taylor ’68) and established a luxury B&B.

“After 20 years of inn-keeping (harder than it looks), I sold my record royalties and the farm, and we’re renovating a wonderful house a mile down the road (love the town, love the neighborhood). Supply chain notwithstanding, we should be in by January.

“Still blissfully wed to Suky after 51 years, with three middle-aged children whom we see frequently, although our son is still in L.A. at Warner Music Group. Learning from my unpleasant year on Madison Avenue, I advised our kids to forget about what conventional wisdom advises them to do, and to do what they like doing best. Turned out to be good advice.

“We still see **David Zapp** LAW’70 and family, Hope Geller and Gregg Geller ’69, Jonathan Brauer ’69, Bob Merlis ’69, not enough of Woody Lewis ’69 or Phil Shopoff ’66, and reminisce about The Walkers and the ’60s with **Billy Schwartz** (aka Billy Cross), who lives in Denmark. I’ll always

remember my wonderful six years on Morningside Heights with great fondness. And considering the state of the union and the values of its citizens, I now fully understand why they call them the good old days.”

Allen Spiegel: “Honestly, I have nothing much to report other than my joining our 55th Reunion Committee. I hope we will be able to enjoy the reunion in June live rather than via Zoom. I’m enjoying a ‘deceleration’ of my former activities since stepping down as medical school dean in 2018, and trying to take advantage of all a recovering NYC has to offer. Would be happy to see classmates living in or visiting Manhattan.”

Bruce Kawin: “I taught English and film at the University of Colorado at Boulder 1975–2015. Previously taught at Wells College, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz and the American Film Institute. Now retired, still living in Boulder with my partner, retired psycholinguistics professor Lise Menn. Finally placed two books of poems, one, *Starting Over*, published by the now-deceased Les Gottesman ’68, GSAS’69. Other books include *Telling It Again and Again*; *Mindscreens*; and *The Mind of the Novel*. Hoping to hear from old friends!”

Keith Cohen: “Since retiring from teaching comparative literature, I have been doing translations from the French to English. My translation *A History of Virility* was published by Columbia University Press. Currently, I am translating poems by Haitian writer Denizé Lauture.”

Jesse Waldinger GSAS’69: “After a 40-year career in medical malpractice in the New York metropolitan area, I retired to the Berkshires in 2013 and write plays that are occasionally produced and also become staged readings directed by my wife, Barbara, whom I met in high school and dated throughout my time at Columbia. One of my earliest plays, *The Knights of Mary Phagan*, received its first staged reading at C.W. Post in 1983, when the head of the Theater Arts Department was none other than Stefan Rudnicki ’66, who had directed me in a small role in the 1966 Varsity Show, *The Barud’s Opera*, by **Michael Feingold** and **Bruce Trinkley** ’66, GSAS’68. At the 1966 Columbia reunion I reconnected with composer Trinkley, and we are working collaboratively on a

musical rendition of *Rumpelstiltskin*. Rudnicki, a major audiobooks standout, was unable to attend that reunion. He played Horatio in The Columbia Players’s 1966 production of *Hamlet*, in which I excelled as the second gravedigger. A couple of years ago I approached Jill Eikenberry after a production at the Berkshire Theatre Group in Stockbridge in which she starred with her husband, Michael Tucker. She had no memory of me, even though I was partly responsible for her character, Ophelia, being buried on consecrated ground.

“As an undergrad, I lived in Furnald Hall for four years. Dr. **Errol Dendy**, a neighbor for one of those years, and I now see each other socially; our wives have been friends since junior high school. I also stay in touch occasionally with my good friend **George Farkas**, who was my roommate during Freshman Week in New Hall in 1963. Likewise **Danny Raybin**, a friend of the family back then, with whom I drove to Montreal on a memorable weekend in June 1967 for Expo, returning (if I remember right) in time for graduation.”

Be well, all of you, and do write. Please note my new email address, at the top of the column.

1968

Arthur Spector
arthurspector@gmail.com

Greetings and salutations from Miami Beach. Heard from retired Judge **Peter Benitez** LAW’71. He sounds great, and is splitting his time between Tucson and the Hamptons. Sounds like good judgment. For years I used to run into him on the West Side. I believe Peter is one of our many swimmers.

I went to the Columbia-Penn Homecoming game expecting a win, again. The Lions did indeed win 23–14, and played great. I saw **Paul de Bary**, **Seth Weinstein**, **Art Kaufman**, **Tom Sanford** and **Peter Hiebert** ’71 (no class with that class, but Peter is impressive and lives in Miami Beach, too). Columbia football of recent years has been great and should only get better. I am very interested in women’s basketball, as I think the team is loaded with talent; I suspect Coach Megan Griffith ’07 is among the finest in the country.

On a happy note, last summer I was in Saratoga for two months and was visited by Paul and his wife, Stefana. We had a great time. Also saw Bob Costa ’67 and his wife, Joan. We had great Mexican food, and some good cheer.

Larry Borger wrote: “I live in mile-high Bisbee, Ariz. My wife, Jane, and I have seven dogs and cats. Most of our children and grands live about 200 miles up the town. Our old border-area mining town is relatively quiet and uncomplicated compared to Phoenix and Cooler. I find myself truly enjoying life and staying surprisingly busy. I play guitar and sing in a local band. We play a lot of country, old rock and folk.”

Larry adds that he is a capable singer; as an aside, I always was a better shower singer than **Michael Newmark** and definitely better than Jonathan Schiller ’69, LAW’73.

Larry continues: “I’ve been on a number of boards, and I still limp around the golf course. I am still a mediocre, yet enthusiastic carpenter.”

He has written two books. One is about his four years with Columbia basketball; the other is more serious, about ill buddies. Larry adds that he is healthy but does a little less running, cycling and basketball. He also has a salute for **Bob Carlson** and his wife, Susan, for whom he and Jane have great affection for their longtime friendship.

At our next reunion, Larry needs to sing and bring books for the class!

John Odell writes: “I like to check in with alma mater at least once every 50 years, so here I am, long retired after some 25-odd years in the TV biz, partially overlapped with 12 years teaching broadcasting and video production at City College of San Francisco. I recently published a book, *Elmer & Virginia: A World War II Romance in Letters*, based on more than 700 pieces of correspondence between my parents 1939–44. They begin when both are 17-year-old high school graduates, and end when he returns from Europe a hero fighter pilot, and she’s a reporter for a Long Island newspaper. The book was a finalist in the History: United States category for a 15th Annual National Indie Excellence Award, and garnered a four-of-four-star review by Online Book Club and a five-star review and gold medal from Literary Titan. Check out elmerandvirginiabook.com.

com, which features a ‘jukebox’ with tunes from the era.”

Steve Ross GSAS’70, always charming and entertaining, has a great story about a woman from years ago. I am leaving it out so you can get it from him at the next reunion. He did write: “Starting junior year there were three Steve Rosses at Columbia College: me, Steven Jay Ross; Steven Joseph Ross ’70 and Stephen Jay Ross ’70. The Bursar’s Office regularly screwed up our scholarships, and of course credits. And I got letters intended for one of them, from a girlfriend. Fast forward 53 years or so, I receive a registered letter informing me that I was being sued based on my role on the board of some company.”

Of course he was not the Steve Ross. Our Steve Ross called one of the other Steve Rosses, a history professor at UCLA, to warn him. Our Steve reports that the other Steve had written a book (which he highly recommends) about Nazi penetration in Los Angeles before and after WWII, *Hitler in Los Angeles: How Jews Foiled Nazi Plots Against Hollywood and America*, about how a group of Jewish amateur spies foiled them. Our Steve said it reads like a spy novel.

He adds he is “doing well, working in the consulting world in information security and writing a column in a professional journal for 23 years on the topic. Travel, which has been an important part of my life, has been negated by the pandemic but now it is possible to go to Canada, where my wife and I have a second home. I encourage classmates who have an interest in wine tasting to take a look at my online magazine, *Power Tasting – The Wine Tasting Experience*.”

Paul de Bary wrote a book on wine, as you might recall, and on the Core. Paul and Steve, bring wine and educate us more at our next reunion. They select, we drink and they can comment as we imbibe. Also, Steve, it’s useful to speak French, as you do, I gather.

I heard from the Hawaiian surfer once upon a time, **Leigh-Wai Do**. He is an activist there and aspires to do more to have China and America become friendlier. He says, “Aloha, Art!”

Look up the many meanings of “Aloha.”

Aloha back to him and to all of you.

I was so happy to see so many at Homecoming. Now that we have a winning program, I hope to see more of you. Next year should be even better. Our **QB** is very good, and the team has lots of talent. I did get to chat with Bob Kraft ’63, who is generous and gracious — and from Boston, like me. He calls me “Ahtha.”

I was also pleased to see the co-chair of the University Trustees, Lisa Carnoy ’89. She is an outstanding chair! Not only did I see Lisa, but also I was so pleased to say hello to Dean James J. Valentini, who was greeting students and alums and being thoughtful and just marvelous. He has done an outstanding job as dean. A gold-medal winner, for sure!

I hope you are well and getting out in this locked-down world.

1969

Nathaniel Wander
nw105@caa.columbia.edu

Irving Ruderman writes “Homecoming turned out to be a beautiful, sunny day,” and he shared a table with “**John Lombardo, Ta Li SEAS’69**, who came in from Denver; **Alan Silberstein SEAS’69**; and **Rod Reef SEAS’69**.” They “reminded about our days in school, accomplishments and the loss of **Joe Materna**, a regular at Homecoming, who was so proud that his three daughters graduated from the College.” Irv adds: “The football team had a good day too, defeating Penn 23–14, upping their record for the season to 4–1.”

David Sokal cofounded the non-profit Male Contraception Initiative, which “supports the research and development of male birth control methods,” declaring “Reproductive Autonomy for All” after stepping down from a position in medicine and public health at UNC. He writes: “After retiring from paid employment ... I am now doing low-profile volunteer work with Citizens’ Climate Lobby. I’m hopeful that I’m contributing in a small way to slowing climate change.” He asks others to join in emailing the White House re: a plan for carbon tax/dividends (citizensclimatelobby.org/white-house). David reports, “My wife, Mary Lacombe, and I are relatively healthy for our age and enjoying life.”

Frank Eld writes: “After retirement 10 years ago, I began traveling throughout the upper United States and Canada documenting original Finnish log construction, [which] led to my first book, *Finnish Log Construction—The Art*. Since then I have been a Finlandia Foundation National Lecturer of The Year, involved with various projects and Finnish organizations.

“A milestone was reached last summer when the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation opened a permanent exhibit I created at the site of the 1638–founded New Sweden Colony. (The Foundation has replicated the *Kalmar Nyckel*, which brought the Swedes and Finns to the colony.) The exhibit explains the involvement of the Forest Finns, who were conscripted as settlers for the colony and the unique style of log construction they introduced to the American landscape. The ribbon-cutting was held at the Grand Gala on September 18, and included Delaware dignitaries, the Swedish ambassador and the Finnish Political Counsel.”

Edward Hyman is “now well into my tenure as scientific director and chief forensic officer of the National Institute of Forensic and Behavioral Sciences, having landed there when Gerald Ford was president. I will be 75 on October 25, 2022, and envision an early retirement!”

As a clinical psychologist in practice in Sausalito, Ed’s work as a forensic examiner has recently taken him to Cheyenne, Wyo.; Billings, Mont.; and soon to “a winter working vacation in Maui [with] my wonderful wife, Dr. Deborah McDonald.

“My older boy, Dr. Cameron McDonald-Hyman Ph.D. [is taking over leadership of] the Blazar Laboratory [at the University of Minnesota] ... one of the leading immunology labs in the world.”

Cameron and his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Jarrett M.Ph., recently presented Ed with their second child, grandson Graham Jarrett.

Ed continues, “My younger son, Devon McDonald-Hyman, is in Hollywood and a documentarian, filmmaker, visual artist and assistant to Professor Stephen Prina, director of the Harvard Film and Visual Arts Studio and Laboratory in Los Angeles.” Following undergraduate “degrees at the USC School of

Cinematic Arts and the USC Roski School of Fine Arts [Devon] went to Harvard for graduate work.”

Having “survived five heart attacks and two cancer surgeries, all is well” now, Ed observes. “My mistletoe was neatly placed on a glorious bed of white, but in this case white Maui sand.”

Alan Senauke has “been in Berkeley from the early 1980s, living as a resident Zen Buddhist priest at Berkeley Zen Center since 1986. After the death of my teacher, Sojun Mel Weitsman Roshi, in early 2021, I was appointed abbot of BZC. My wife, Laurie, is also a Zen teacher. We have two wonderful children, Silvie (30) and Alexander (27).

“Social and political values and action run deeply through my life, intertwined with my practice of Buddhism. In 2007, I began a modest nonprofit, Clear View Project, providing Buddhist-based support and training where we can, with a focus on the democracy movement in Burma, human and political rights for ex-untouchable communities in India and resources for prisoners in the United States.

“In other realms, I continue to be a student and performer of American vernacular musics, though playing closer to home these days and not touring. My latest book, *Turning Words*, will be published in late 2022.”

Hilton Obenzinger, whom Alan notes is a close friend (along with **Rick Winston, David Anderson, Mark Rudd** and **Peter Clapp**), also has a recent book: *Witness 2017–2020*, which has been garnering positive attention.

Jonah Raskin — who relates to Hilton as one of the “veterans of the Sixties who have gone on dreaming the dream” — praises his work (bit.ly/2Z5qg4L), as did the now-deceased poet Diane di Prima, who called Hilton “funny, surreal, radical ... the American Jonathan Swift” (ymlp.com/zzPaQT).

Andrei “Andy” Markovits BUS’71, GSAS’76’s recent “memoir, *The Passport as Home: Comfort in Rootlessness* ... dedicates a chapter to his experiences at Columbia ... which have shaped every aspect of his life.” Andy immigrated to the United States at 11, but only managed to spend subsequent summers on the Upper West Side. He fell in love with Columbia; the Butler Library reading

room became his home base and remains a touchstone.

“When it came time to apply to universities, the College was obviously my first choice.” Andy was “offered nearly three semesters of advanced standing by virtue of my Viennese secondary education.” What Andy calls his then “arrogance” led him to “finish [the remaining] five semesters in four, certainly the greatest regret of my academic life — perhaps one of the gravest in my life as a whole.” Could he do it over, he would have been “a full-fledged undergraduate for four years, experiencing college life at one of the greatest academic institutions in the world!”

Since 1999, Andy has held dual appointments at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, as the Karl W. Deutsch Collegiate Professor of Comparative Politics and German Studies and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of German, Sociology and Political Science, having “taught at Wesleyan, Boston University and UC Santa Cruz ... [and] chaired two study groups, and was founder and editor of *German Politics and Society*” at Harvard. He has also been “visiting professor at universities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Israel... Still, I will always wear my Columbia gear with pride and joy! Go Lions!”

Read more about Andy in CCT Online’s Take Five: college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/take-five/columbia-shaped-every-aspect-professors-life.

James Gagne had been retiring from a long career as a specialist in addiction medicine and pain control mostly in southern California when cancer recurred and he was given a prognosis of only a few weeks. At the late October date of this writing, he is still hanging in with us. Mary Hardy, his wife of 32 years, is also a physician. Of at least three other College classmates who graduated with Jim from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1973, **Neal Flomenbaum** is flourishing and active in NYC medicine, **Joseph “Joe” Okon** died early, at 61, on May 6, 2011, and as I have learned extremely belatedly, German Maisonet ’68, a good friend during my early Columbia years, considerably preceded Joe in death.

German, a beautiful soul, was the first openly gay man I ever

knew, having been raised in the “shelter” of working-class Jewish Brooklyn. I met him through my roommate **David Powell**, who had likewise come to NYC from San Juan, Puerto Rico. German not only opened my eyes to matters of sexual preference, but also to race in the Caribbean: Afro-Latino German had a sister as blue-eyed and blond-haired as Tom Sawyer’s Becky.

After medical school, German went on to specialize in HIV/AIDS medicine, notably in the California prison system. He campaigned for humane treatment of infected prisoners and for long-range planning to rein in the uncontrolled spread of HIV through prisons nationwide. He was also a key figure in Los Angeles Act Up. German died on August 22, 1996, of complications from AIDS.

Michael Braudy informs us that his close friend **Stuart Scott** recently died. Stuart’s friend/colaborator Counterpunch reporter Robert Hunziker has written, “Stuart’s bold commitment to a sustainable planet and equitable allocation of resources has inspired people throughout the world.” Read more online: facingfuture.earth/the-legacy-of-stuart-scott.

[Editor’s note: See “Obituaries.”]

1970

Leo Kailas
lkailas@reiterlaw.com

We are all still dealing with Covid-19 but each day brings more reasons to be optimistic that we will return to normalcy (whatever that is) in 2022.

Professor **Paul Starr** writes: “Together with historian Julian Zelizer, Paul Starr has edited a volume of essays about one of Columbia’s leading figures in the 1960s, Daniel Bell: *Defining the Age: Daniel Bell, His Time and Ours* (February 2022).”

Professor **David Lehman** is a prolific writer, editor of *The Oxford Book of American Poetry* and editor-in-chief of the Best American Poetry blog. David also writes in an informed and entertaining manner about movies: “For *The American Scholar*, I write a regular column on movies. Here is a link to my latest ‘Talking Pictures’ feature, about Humphrey Bogart and, among his movies, *The Maltese Falcon* and *The*

Big Sleep: bit.ly/30DhTO7. I hope you like it. If you do, please feel free to leave a comment!”

David also did an ode to Gene Kelly, focusing on “the four great movie musicals Gene Kelly made in the early 1950s: bit.ly/3Fvw0nH.”

Dov Zakheim writes thought-provoking columns for *The Hill* and also reports: “I recently published my fourth book, *The Prince and the Emperors: The Life and Times of Rabbi Judah and the Prince*, twin biographies of the rabbinic leader Rabbi Judah the Prince and the Emperors Septimius Severus and his son Caracalla. My grandson Max won a basketball scholarship to Bryant University (Division I) — too bad it wasn’t Columbia!

“My report on Dr. **Paul Rosen**, an old and dear friend: I have known Paul since we both attended Bronx Science. Paul went on to NYU to a graduate program sponsored by the NSF to study science and to help improve science teaching in the NYC public school system, helping to identify minority students with special talents for careers in science. Additionally, Paul taught in the nursing division at NYU. Moved by the tragic murder of a nursing student, Paul left the academic world and spent 10 years in law enforcement, including on the joint fugitive task force.... He was involved in some of the major arrests of multiple felons in the 1970s and ’80s before he was badly wounded during an arrest and found himself in physical rehab. While there, he was encouraged at 40 to apply to medical school. He was admitted to UNC on a full scholarship and the rest is history. Paul was at the WTC as a doctor to help with volunteer efforts from the fall of the second tower. He was there to help with the AIDS epidemic as a resident in lower Manhattan and more recently to help with the Covid-19 pandemic. He has published multiple articles on the integration of mental health and primary care medicine. He teaches residents and medical students. He is still working hard in some of the poorest neighborhoods of NYC as a dedicated physician.”

Ralph Allemanno wrote: “We’ve come through the Covid pandemic more or less unscathed but leading much more restricted lives. Lockdown was frustrating and tedious, especially as travel was not allowed.

We can travel about the United Kingdom now but travel abroad is still problematic and risky. I can visit daughters and son in London now but eldest daughter in Los Angeles has been out of reach. Fortunately, she was planning to come to the U.K. in December! Still enjoying retirement and running. Did the Seven Hills of Edinburgh Challenge in July (more than 14 miles!) and the Great North Run in Newcastle in August (half-marathon). Living history events have been on hold for 18 months but we squeezed one event in at the end of August: a Roman army display on Hadrian’s Wall. We hope 2022 will see a return to a ‘normal’ schedule of events!”

Leonard Levine GSAS’77 reports: “On New Year’s Day 2018, I retired from about 33 years of service with the federal government, mostly as a computer scientist with the Defense Information Systems Agency. For the last six years we were located at Fort Meade, not far from Baltimore. I worked on international standards, including the Unified Architecture Framework (for IT Systems), accepted by the International Organization for Standardization... After retirement, I began auditing a couple of graduate school classes in political science and systems engineering at nearby George Mason University. Plans for retirement activities were shelved by treatment that summer of a serious colon cancer. Skipping over chemotherapy and two long hospital plus rehabilitation stays, I survived the pandemic by isolating at home. I did regret we could not hold our planned 50th reunion on the Morningside campus... I have been active with the Jewish community, particularly the Chabad Jewish Center of Tysons Corner, Va.”

My friend **Michael Aeschliman** GSAS’91 alerted me to his article on Professor Edward Said: “How Edward Said Reoriented the West: bit.ly/3FCPXJD.”

Michael continues: “I had Said as a graduate student. I wasn’t alone in finding him arrogant and unsympathetic, though he was of course also brilliant. In recent months I have been proud of CC graduates such as Rep. Peter Meijer ’12 of Michigan (anti-Trump Republican), Princeton professor Sean Wilentz ’72 (critique of clear untruths in *The 1619 Project*) and journalist Abigail

Shrier '00, author of the brilliant investigative book *Irreversible Damage: Teenage Girls and the Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters* (June 2021), which barely got published in the USA and was ignored by the 'mainstream media' but in its subsequent UK publication won a 'Best Book of 2021' from *The London Times* and a 'Book of the Year' from *The Economist*."

Lewis Siegelbaum relocated from East Lansing, Mich., to Pasadena, Calif., in November 2020. Retired after 35 years of teaching history at Michigan State, he says he is finding his feet anew and, at least for the time being, somewhat lonely. Any classmates in the vicinity? Drop him a line: siegelba@msu.edu.

Geoff Zucker reports: "Having retired from medical practice in gastroenterology in 2018, and my wife's retirement the following year as professor of nursing, we've come full circle, moving back to Northport, N.Y. (Long Island). We're seven minutes away from our 3-year-old grandson and look forward to watching him grow, mature and learn to be a fine young person. I've yet to decide whether to start volunteering or get a NYS license and work, but probably the former."

Martin Newhouse GSAS'79 writes: "I retired on October 1 from my position as president of the New England Legal Foundation."

My friend **Frank Motley** LAW'74 writes: "Six years retired from Indiana University, I am snowbirding between Bloomington and West Palm Beach, playing golf and chess with my brother, Thomas Motley '76, and

reading all the CC and Humanities books I skipped reading during the many Columbia strikes and protests ... Still reeling from the loss of so many (**Zach Husser**, **Bruce Fogel**, **Merville Marshall**, Eugene Buckingham '71, **Jim McMillian** and **Heyward Dotson**)."

Bill Schur wrote: "Having resisted the temptation to resume my career as an attorney after retiring from AT&T at the end of 2013, I am now a member of the City of Fort Worth's Building Standards Commission and the City's Redistricting Task Force, both unpaid positions. Since 2017, I have pursued a new hobby, nature photography. I spend an inordinate amount of time photographing insects, plants, birds and other living things around my neighborhood and uploading my photos to inaturalist.org and bugguide.net."

Carl Shubs sent a first-time report: "This last year has certainly had its ups and downs. First, and wearing my psychologist hat, is that my book *Traumatic Experiences of Normal Development: An Intersubjective, Object Relations Listening Perspective on Self, Attachment, Trauma, and Reality*, was published in 2020. Wearing my other hat, that of a contemporary fine art photographer, the first piece of good news is that one of my photos was invited to be in the USA Exhibition of the 20th Japan International Art Exchange Exhibition, in The Chiba City Museum of Art, neighboring Tokyo. The next piece of good news, again wearing my photography hat, is that I had my first solo exhibition, online, via Dab Art and shown through Artsy. The downside of that is that the pandemic limited the exhibition to be online only instead of also being in a physical space, which again limited the attendance. Best to everyone!"

Hoyt Hilsman LAW'75 reports: "I continue to divide my time between writing and politics. I recently completed the pilot for a TV detective series set in Hawaii and am working on a screenplay about Donald Trump. ... In my spare time, I'm working on improving my tennis game, and visiting my son and daughter-in-law, who live nearby. My wife, Nancy Turner, after retiring from teaching, is bumping up her career as an artist and critic. Travel plans largely on hold but hope springs eternal! Best to all classmates."

Peter Joseph gave this update: "Having retired 10 years ago after a 35-year career in emergency medicine, I continue my efforts addressing global warming by leading the Marin County, Calif., chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby. I'm liaison to my member of Congress, have recruited numerous members of the advisory board, written three winning proposals in the MIT Climate CoLab contests for a US carbon price and remain active at a national level — even during the pandemic. I've also funded a Lamont fellowship in climate science. I was thrilled to participate in the clinical trials of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine, and received my booster as part of the ongoing study. Our three sons are doing well, and our three grandchildren are thriving in San Francisco and San Rafael. We see them frequently, and they're a motivation to work harder to preserve a livable world. I miss New York and look forward to visiting when the coast is clear."

1971

Lewis Preschel
l.a.preschel@gmail.com

The 50th reunion is over, and we look forward to reunion number 51 and beyond.

Robert Mayer reports that his 2020 summer camping trip was postponed because of Covid-19, but the tradition was resumed in summer 2021 with **Larry Teitelbaum**, **Elliot Cahn** '70 and his brother **Alan Cahn** PS'62. **Larry Masket** however, deferred participation this summer. Larry retired from the practice of medicine after working for Kaiser for most of his career, and is apparently getting enough nature having become "a gentleman farmer," tending his garden in the Sonoma Valley and enjoying his wine collection.

Rob also stays in touch with **John Jaeger**, **Lloyd Emanuel** and **Phil Nord** GSAS'82. John and I both played basketball in high school for Larry Teitelbaum's brother-in-law, the Columbia legend, **Stanley Felsing** '66.

Speaking for myself, as I age, life's strands twist and twine together more and more. **John Jaeger** is also in contact with my baseball teammate **Paul Armstrong** SEAS'73,

whose wife went to high school with John and me many years ago. It is more than 50 years since we graduated from college. Wow. One last set of Columbia memories from Rob: The West End and Mama Joy's. It forces to ask you the age-old late-night question: Mama Joy's or Ta-Kome subs: Which was your go-to eats? Similar question with The West End or the Gold Rail: Where to drink?

Howard Selinger reports that his computer had trouble connecting so he missed out on the virtual reunion, although he still wants to connect with classmates. He remembers shooting baskets in the old gym with **Ron Rosenberg**. He also reminisces of his adventure in collegiate sports, the golf team, where he played the number 2 position. To quote him, "I got my ass kicked." He remembers the contrast of carrying his golf bag back to campus during the Spring 1968 protests; perspective and point of view are everything.

I remember Howard as the voice of Columbia sports along with **Jim Miller** '70, who lived in our off-campus apartment my senior year, and **James Goldman** '70, who became a news anchor on television in Philadelphia.

On graduation, **Howie** chose to earn a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. He based his decision on the values he absorbed and observed during those turbulent years on campus. We all learned that making a difference in people's lives was an ultimate goal. He earned his degree at the University of Connecticut and interned in the Denver public health system. Having only lived in New York and New Jersey prior to moving to Denver, Colorado offered a new life experience that he grabbed. He has lived there since 1975. **Howie** remains committed to his work because of the emotional reward in helping a person recover from their crises in life. Fifty years later he is still on the job. For relaxation, he plays golf in local tournaments and on worldwide trips — Scotland, Ireland and England. His wife, **Marilyn**, tags along. He has visited almost every major golf resort in the United States. **Howie** wants to give a shoutout to **Dr. Neal Rosen**, his buddy from **Furnald Hall**, but of greater importance, **Neal** put together a team of oncologists at

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Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he is a prominent researcher. That team saved Howie's wife's life when she developed a head and neck cancer.

As I previously noted, life's strands are twisting more and more as I age. We were seeds of ivy planted in the fertile soil of Columbia College. We grow up the wall of life, aging as we go. Our lives intertwine, supporting each other. We make up the Class of 1971.

David Josephson '63, GSAS'72 replied to my question about a 13th floor on the top of Carman Hall. His class was the first to live in "New Hall." It was not even named yet. In fact, it was not ready for occupancy when they arrived on campus in September 1959. He remembers living in suite 1304; however, he cannot confirm whether the elevators had a 13th-floor button. Of greatest note, and spoiler alert to all Jets fans, stop reading at this point and skip to the end. His suitemates were Marvin Rosen '63, Michael Rothenberg '63 and Robert K. Kraft '63. David is a professor emeritus of music at Brown.

Several classmates offered condolences to **Rich Milich's** and **Joey Rotenberg's** families. I received a "Thank You" from Barbara Rosenzweig Rotenberg BC'73. She wrote, "... my husband lived on the Upper West Side, but was a regular at the JTS dining hall, especially after we met in 1970. Joey attended NYU Law School and earned both a J.D. and an LLM in tax law. He practiced law for only a short time and joined his father as an investment advisor. He retired from Morgan Stanley as a senior VP in August 2020."

Joey and Barbara married in 1972 and raised five children while living in Teaneck and New Milford, N.J. In 2017 Joey published a book of short stories, *Timeless Travels: Tales of Mystery, Intrigue, Humor and Enchantment*. He was in the process of a second book of short stories at the time of his death. His family cherishes his many accomplishments including using the knowledge gained as a member of the Columbia ice hockey team to coach his children's hockey and baseball teams. He looked forward to coaching his grandchildren, but unfortunately, his to-do list remains unfinished.

As a class we are reaching retirement and have the wisdom that age brings. We should share our experi-

ence and continue our common education. Our unique enlightenment to life during our college days should cause us to support each other. We have a duty to ourselves to stay in touch and let each other know where life has led us.

Next issue is only five months away, so now is the time to send me an email: l.a.preschel@gmail.com.

Be well, be safe and keep growing up the wall of life, learning every day.

1972

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9-12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Paul Appelbaum
pappel1@aol.com

As I write this, Morningside Heights is once again full of students, with a full array of classes and extracurricular activities. Most everyone is vaccinated and masked indoors. One could feel the neighborhood begin to hum again as streams of cars unloaded students and their essentials when the term began last summer. We're all hopping — as you are — that this trend toward normality will continue as vaccination and continued caution bring the pandemic under control.

From a different campus, **Rick Danheiser** reports, "My two-year term as elected chair of the MIT faculty ended last July. The advent of Covid-19 early in my term certainly made it an interesting two years. I am now happy to be able to focus my full attention once again on research and teaching as the A C Cope Professor of Chemistry." Rick earned a Ph.D. at Harvard, joined the MIT faculty and has been teaching and doing research in organic chemistry there ever since.

Steven Hirschfeld PS'83 continues his work with the National Institutes of Health, the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences and private sector therapy development, "with the understanding that to keep up with the rest of the household requires energy and really advanced project management and skills."

Like so many of us, he's been working from home during the pandemic, along with his wife and his son, Josh.

Steven continues: "[W]hat has kept us all so productive during the pandemic is that we realize that we live in our own 'Blue Zone' [places with clusters of centenarians, marked by supportive relationships, purposeful lives and healthy lifestyles], with our garden and a sense of purpose, and that we really like being with each other. We look forward to the day when we can return to having guests and in-person social occasions; we find that remote working can be positive and functional, and remote visiting is better than losing contact but really not a substitute for personal interaction."

Hope you're all planning to come back to see Morningside Heights for yourself for our 50th reunion this spring. (Would you believe The West End is now Hex & Co., a gaming café?) Stay tuned — more to come from the Alumni Office.

1973

Barry Etra
beta1@bellsouth.net

Not much action this time. Keep them cards and letters a-comin'.

James "Jim" Thomashower was honored with the Distinguished Service Award by the American Guild of Organists, of which he's been executive director since 1998. Jim previously was executive VP of the National Society of Accountants. He and his wife, Penny Brickman, live in Garrison, N.Y., and have one daughter.

Louis Erlanger wrote in, saddened by the death of **Phil Schaap**. "Phil was a big influence in my life ... I was a blues fan, and when Phil began booking jazz at The West End I spent many nights there watching the acts he brought in. ... We became friends, and he befriended my band, The Sting Rays (which was mostly Columbia students). He financed our 45 RPM recording on his label."

Phil kept Lou on track when he contemplated changing fields, always pursuing his lifelong mission. He will be more than missed.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."] That's all ye wrote, fellas. Stay safe.

1974

Fred Bremer
fbremer@ml.com

Has anyone else been offended by the FDA's classification of those over 65 as "the elderly"? Makes us seem to be washed-up geezers. Readers of this column during the last five years have seen evidence that certainly belies that label.

Further supporting this is the recently publicized 2018 study in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. This study found that the most productive age in a person's life is when they are 60-80. For example, they say this age span has the largest number of Nobel Prize winners and CEOs of Fortune 500 companies. (I don't recall seeing any classmates drooling, but I imagine there are some who, when they see a fetching young lady, do try the classic line from *Laugh-In*: "Want a Walnetto?") We are smack in the middle of this age range; make the most of it!

Before delving into some of the recent forays of our small group of viral guys, I must report that our group is two smaller. Within little more than a week last September, two of our own passed away.

First came news that **Chris Hansen** had succumbed to ALS in London on September 3, 2021. After 21 years in New York, Chris moved to London in 1994 and was a software testing professional until he retired in 2009. He was active in the Church of England, where he became the Lay Chair of the Deanery. He joined the Freemasons and was a founding member of the Columbia University Freemason Lodge. Chris leaves behind his husband, Tan Wai-Liang, with whom he had shared 23 years of companionship, including 16 years of marriage.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Then came word from **Patrick Dowd** (now living in Eugene, Ore.) that his Columbia roommate and good friend, **Brian Phillips**, had died on September 13, 2021, of a progressive neurological disease. Brian lived with his wife, Siripan, in a small town southeast of Bangkok. After graduating from the College with a degree in philosophy, Brian earned a law degree from the University of Washington in

1979 and founded Spaulding & Phillips, a law firm in Everett, Wash. He also worked for the United Nations in Eastern Europe. Brian spoke fluent Thai and taught contract law at Bangkok University. In retirement Brian was part of an actors group and also was a stand-up comedian. Says Patrick, “Brian had a great sense of humor, but was also well-read and thoughtful. I miss him dearly.”

Albie Hecht (who lives in Montclair, N.J.) is the chief content officer at pocket.watch, whose website describes its business as “a digital-first studio building franchises for the next generation of families. We transform material from the top-performing family YouTube channels into multi-category global franchises.” Albie writes, “I always had confidence that our show *Ryan’s Mystery Playdate* would be a hit, but I never thought we would have produced 90 episodes in two and a half years.” The shows can be seen on Nickelodeon.

An email came in from **David Katz** (who lives in Waltham, Mass.) giving us an update on what he has been up to in the last few decades. After graduation he went to Oxford on a Eureka J. Kellett Fellowship. After completing a Ph.D. there, David was offered teaching positions at Columbia and Tel Aviv University. He writes, “Somehow going back to New York was going backward, so I set off for a new adventure in Israel.” David taught there 41 years until he hit the mandatory retirement age. Fortunately, his wife, Amy Singer, was offered a chair in Islamic studies at Brandeis, and David was invited to join her. So now he is director of the History of Ideas program at Brandeis and a member of the history department. He adds, “Best of all, there is no compulsory retirement age, so I hope to carry on for years to come.”

Writing in for what he says is only the second time in 47 years, **Vince Marchewka** was motivated by a note in a recent column about how the pandemic had postponed the weddings of some of our kids. His youngest daughter, Katie, was supposed to have a large NYC wedding in May 2020, but Vince says this ended up being a simple ceremony in Chicago attended only by their two best friends. Vince has been working for Mizuho Securities in Manhattan for a number of years, but retreated to work from

home starting in March 2020. He says, “As a three-time cancer survivor, I had to be very careful of this unexpected plague. There is no retirement in sight.”

Having grown up in California, **Peter Sullivan** and his wife, Mary Krueger BC’74, have moved from New York City to Santa Barbara. Part of their motivation was to be near their first grandchild, Piper (daughter of their daughter, Hilary ’07, who lives in nearby Los Angeles). Being free of his duties and travel demands at his former law firm (Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher), Peter says his retirement days are filled with a lot of biking, reading and exploring the area.

We got an update on another recent retiree, **Tom Sawicki JRN’77** (who lives in Jerusalem). He tells us his son, Ariel, is an advisor to the minister of energy, where he works on Israel’s energy policy. Ariel’s brother, Amitai, is a physician in the internal medicine department at the Sheba Medical Center in Israel. Both boys are each parents to two kids. This gives Tom four grandkids to spoil during his retirement from the American Israel Political Affairs Committee.

There you have it. We mourn the loss of two of classmates, but celebrate the births of new members of the Class of ’74 family and the new adventures in the lives of other classmates. Good or bad, keep sending in news on yourself and classmates with whom you are in contact.

1975

Randy Nichols
rcn2day@gmail.com

Jeff Schnader sent an update on his first novel, *The Serpent Papers*. In the Spring/Summer 2021 issue he wrote that he was looking for an agent and publisher. Success!

Jeff writes: “I have signed a contract with The Permanent Press for publication in January 2022. The book takes place at Columbia University 1971–72, during the campus demonstrations against the Vietnam War. No novel has been written about these protests (*The Strawberry Statement* was nonfiction and about 1968). The Vietnam War is still the defining event of our generation. It created a rift between



From left, Jim Bruno ’76, Jim Berquist ’76 and Ken Howitt ’76 enjoyed Homecoming on October 16.

those who fought and those who protested — a rift that this novel aims to heal with rapprochement. *The Serpent Papers* was a short-listed finalist in the Blue Moon Novel Competition 2021 and has received rave pre-publication reviews (see jschnaderauthor.com/author-bio for reviews, a synopsis of the book and a link to the publisher’s website). The book should be of great interest to the classes at Columbia that lived through these times, i.e., the Classes of 1972–75.”

Send me your news for a future column! Please use the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

Photos and captions should be submitted directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

Best wishes for the New Year!

1976

Ken Howitt
kenhowitt76@gmail.com

The turntable has Arthur Rubinstein performing Chopin’s Nocturnes. I am writing this column after a long weekend of celebrating a football road victory (a shutout) at Dartmouth and I need to calm down. Chopin usually does the trick! So many accomplishments: first time Dartmouth was shut out in a decade, first Columbia shutout in 12 years and the first Columbia shutout of Dartmouth since 1944 — wow! Of course, you are reading this column long after the football season’s conclusion, but it still deserves a big shoutout.

I received a few emails as a result, from **Nick De Monico**, **Richard Cohen** and **Tom Motley**, who were

all equally impressed. Unfortunately, due to travel plans, I won’t see Nick and **Bryan Alix** at the Yale Bowl, as I have in the past. I must admit that if Columbia wins, I might be going to Ithaca for the last game of the year, which I will write about in the Spring/Summer 2022 issue, when I finally thaw out.

The same group above was on an email chain started by **Terry Corrigan LAW’81** when he notified us of the Columbia vs. Yale fall golf match at Saint Andrews Country Club in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., which celebrated the 125th anniversary of the first intercollegiate golf match, in 1896. The article on that celebration is in *Sports Illustrated*: bit.ly/3oKcY6p.

I then sent that article to my college roommate, **Dave Reed**, who was the golf team captain during our senior year. So, that leads me to a great update. Dave and his wife, Anne, have a granddaughter, Madeline, born in September 2020!

Moving back to football, Homecoming 2021 was terrific, with a win over Penn. Did some serious tailgating with the Jims — **Jim Berquist** and **Jim Bruno** — before heading to the tent and running into **Jonathan Margolis**, who kept his promise from a June email that he would be there. See the nearby photo!

Last summer, **Hasan Bazari GSAS’79** and his wife, Wendy, came to New York to visit his daughter in Queens. Before going to Queens, they stopped at The Hungarian Pastry Shop, where they met Patsy Geisler GSAS’79, from the Dean of Students Office back in the day, and had a great afternoon of conversation, catchup news and terrific memories.

Frank Jacobyansky sent in this great story. Like many of us, Jake has done interviews for Admissions with high school students through the

Alumni Representative Committee since our graduation.

He writes: “During the mid-’80s through the mid-’90s I did off-site interviews for Columbia applicants; probably 40. Only a very few attended. Recently, at the end of one of my workdays — I am a dentist in Normalville, Pa. — my receptionist told me someone had stopped to say hello. It was a young man (at least 20 years younger than I) who came up to me and said, ‘You probably don’t remember me. I’m Ben.’

“It turns out that I had interviewed him in 1995 and gave him a glowing report. He graduated from the College in 2000 and is in the midst of a successful career as a hedge fund manager in the south of France. I saved my admissions evaluation on him, and it turned out to be very prescient. He told me that I had changed his life, although I had very little to do with it. I think each one of us should get to hear this once in a lifetime. I practice full time in a small town, busier than ever, and plan to work, I hope, 10 more years. I am close to Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater, so if anyone is visiting it, stop in and say hi.”

Another update came from **Gara LaMarche**: “I stepped down from my post as president of The Democracy Alliance at the end of June, and for the first time in more than 40 years I am not running or helping to run an organization. It feels pretty good! I’ve really loved my leadership positions through the years in human rights organizations and philanthropies, but there is a big dividend in time and stress in moving away from leadership.

“I’m hardly retired, and diving into a series of new organizational relationships. I am a senior fellow at the CUNY Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at City College, where I teach courses on leadership and human rights, and where I am helping to build a social justice leadership center. I’ve also joined The Raben Group in Washington, D.C., as a senior advisor and work on a range of issues, from judicial nominations to philanthropy. I’m also helping the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights as a senior advisor during its leadership transition, and working with Encore.org as a senior fellow, exploring intergenerational connections in the social justice world. I’ve

been appointed a visiting fellow of The Council of Independent Colleges, and I have a bunch of other writing and consulting projects and still serve on a number of nonprofit and foundation boards, including as chair of The New Press. In January I’ll spend three weeks in Abu Dhabi at NYU’s campus there teaching a course on philanthropy.

“As if that’s not enough change, in February 2021 we bought a house in Stonington, Conn., five miles from where I grew up, and have spent most of our time there during the pandemic. Around the same time, in March 2021, our fourth grandchild and first granddaughter, Phoebe, was born. All in all, a great time in our lives.”

Rich Scheinin JRN’78 checked in from New Mexico to reminisce about Phil Schaap ’73, the WKCR jazz icon. [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries.”] That led to an exchange of emails with **Joe Graif** BUS’78, **Fred Kameny** and **Rich Rohr**. If you get a chance, read this amazing interview from April 2021, when Phil was recognized by the National Endowment of the Arts with an A.B. Spellman NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship for Jazz Advocacy: bit.ly/32cqTKN. It has terrific videos and a wonderful give-and-take between Rich and Phil, who stayed friends all these years.

Finally, **Toomas Hendrik Ilves** was in touch with links to his speech at the Warsaw Security Conference to mark Alexei Navalny’s 2021 Knight of Freedom Award. Here is a shortened version: wapo.st/3CtFG0l. In his email, Toomas repeated what he said during one of our reunion Zooms, saying his thoughts are “yet another product of CC from 48 years ago.”

The Zoom sessions we started during the pandemic continue. We did one in the fall, and my hope is to continue those mini-reunions four or five times a year. Please let me know if you have a time preference for the sessions. Usually, the schedule is for a weekday evening, but a Sunday afternoon allowed our overseas participants to join, so we have options.

Thank you to all classmates who contributed on Columbia Giving Day on October 20. Your generosity allows another generation of Columbia students to create their futures from Columbia College’s unique

Core Curriculum and environment. The fiscal year does not end until June 30, so you will hear from **John Connell** and me continually!

Please remember that Columbia Reunion 2022, scheduled for Thursday, June 9–Sunday, June 12, can be attended by all classes, not just milestone classes (this year, classes that end in 2 or 7). So, let’s think about getting a few of us together in early June to mark our 45th reunion, one year late. I believe that Dean Harry Coleman ’46 would give the entire class an incomplete from last year’s reunion to allow the celebration in 2022 (college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/reunion2022).

Stay safe and create many more memories that you can report as updates!

The 18 Nocturnes are done, so I guess I will move on to the waltzes and Études, and just relax!

1977

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

David Gorman
dgorman@niu.edu

The 45th reunion is upon us. It will be held on the second weekend in June. Covid-19 willing, I hope to attend. That is to say, I plan to attend, but aside from being an oldster now, going to New York means traveling from Chicagoland (as it is actually called). Everything has an asterisk on it these days. I don’t have a complete list of Reunion Committee members at the moment, but it includes **Mark Goldberger**, **Bill Gray**, **Jon Lukomnik** and **Brent Rosenthal**.

The only news to report is from **Dave Stanton**, who sends “greetings from Orange County, Calif., where I have spent my professional career since 1986. I am a still-practicing gastroenterologist.”

At Columbia, Dave played for three years on the golf team, but has tried other sports since, including running and skiing. About 10 years ago he took up cycling, and eventually moved into competitive cycling. Last September, Dave won

a National Championship and Gold Medal at the USA Cycling Masters Track National Championships in the men’s age 65–69 division, individual pursuit event, in what he describes as “the iconic velodrome in Trexlertown, Pa.” This was no casual accomplishment, as he explains: “I had to beat multiple other national champions, including a former Olympian, to capture the Stars-and-Stripes jersey.” He is now looking forward to this year’s World Championships in Los Angeles, adding, “I look forward to attending another Columbia reunion in the spring!”

Now there’s the let’s-go-Lions spirit for you.

1978

Matthew Nemerson
matthewnemerson@gmail.com

Thanks for another great set of contributions! I’m not always sure about the future of democracy in America these days, but I do think Columbia football is looking up, so who’s complaining ...

Joseph Zablotski, a freshman friend and one of the great tape bowlers — the official Five Jay sport — writes, “I’m a real estate attorney, and my wife, Theresa, is a corporate attorney, in Buffalo. Son Casimir, a Hamilton senior, is editor of *Enquiry*, the undergraduate publication of the Alexander Hamilton Institute. He interned for Rep. Chris Jacobs (R-N.Y.) last summer, and in 2019 was at Poland’s Jagiellonian University. Younger son, Aleksander, a Johns Hopkins sophomore, interned at its School of Medicine. Daughter Greta is a senior at Nardin Academy.

“I have kept in contact with **Dave Jachimczyk**, **Mike Giniger**, **Dave Sherman** ’80 and **Steve Kushel** ’80.

“On a sad note, my dear friend **Mike Hodinar** ’77 passed away. **Matthew Nemerson**, **Chris Paul** and **Rob Blank** will remember Mike as our freshman orientation coordinator. Mike was the first person I met on that hot and humid Friday before Labor Day weekend in 1974. Mike and his mother fled the communist oppression of Czechoslovakia following the Soviet crackdown in 1968. I’ll miss his knowledge, empathy and good humor. An attorney and financial consultant, he and his wife



Homecoming on October 16 brought together (left to right) Tom Mariam '78, Dean Margolis '78, Fred Rosenstein '78, Don Simone '78 and Matthew Nemerson '78.

traveled the world, and we received postcards from Borneo to Patagonia, and all points in between."

Dr. **Bob Crochelt** touches base, "I'm enjoying life in California, working part time in Ukiah. The coast is about an hour away. Still masking here, avoiding indoor gatherings. Covid-19 is still crushing the community, although not as bad as previously. We've missed out on family gatherings that can't be made up. We avoid parties (which are happening again). We are still giving great patient care. And we still love each other."

Dr. **Michael Schulder** PS'82 has a house full of doctors, "Our daughter Ilana was married last August to Daniel Ross, a terrific young man from London (Hendon, if you must know). Their wedding was postponed for more than a year because of Covid, but now they live two blocks away from us, so we see them quite often. Ilana will soon be a child psychologist. Her younger sister, Talia, is getting a Ph.D. in clinical psych at CCNY and living at home for a while. We all live on the Upper West Side. The future of the city seems uncertain, but so far things seem no worse than the mid-1970s, and those were great times!"

World traveler **Christopher Dell** is "writing from Lisbon, on my way to Germany for work with the United States Africa Command. We had a trip to the United Kingdom, where my stepson got married on a glorious summer afternoon in London (meaning it only showered twice for five minutes at a time). Daughter Tedi works for USAID and will be going to Kiev next.

"The turning-an-old-wind-mill-into-a-home-in Portugal project is nearing completion, and we also bought a small place in Charleston as our future foothold in the States, so it's goodbye to Washington, D.C., for good soon. Retirement plans figure large in our thoughts, and I recently visited **Nick Serwer** LAW'81 at his new post-Singapore home in Maine. Beautiful home in a spectacular spot. Here's hoping he gets to enjoy it soon."

Christopher Allegaert does a Sundial-worthy recap of the Homecoming game as he writes, "Attended Homecoming with crew pal **Joel Levinson**. There was an enormous turnout of students on a beautiful, almost summer-like day, reveling in the schadenfreude of Penn losing as in 2019 to its former coach, Al Bagnoli. The turnaround under Bagnoli and his staff has been extraordinary. My wife summed it up: 'They look like a team that expects to win.' Gone are the days when overmatched but spirited Columbia teams might let the bad bounces get them down or lose a game by a wide margin after hanging tough as long as they could. The team is led by a preternaturally cool and talented QB from Seattle, Joe Green '24, who retracted a commitment to Harvard to go to San Diego State, only to decide he'd rather come to Morningside Heights, where he promptly became the starter. Roar, Lion, Roar!"

Next **Joel Levinson** himself notes, "My daughter, Allison '10, recently got engaged, and my son and daughter-in-law, Brett and Victoria, have a son, Leo (2), and a daughter, Madeline (3 months)."

Chuck Callan was also at Homecoming, "It was great to see **Fred Rosenstein, Tom Mariam**, Our Faithful Scribe and others along with a full stadium with current students and recent grads all eager to attend. I had an opportunity to thank 'Dean-tini' (departing College dean James J. Valentini) and wished him well."

Legal PR and New York sports maven **Tom Mariam** drove your Scribe to the game. He writes: "I've been enjoying this Columbia football season, both by being able to again attend games at Robert K. Kraft Field under Columbia blue skies and watching a really good team. Homecoming was a joy, not just by beating Penn convincingly but also by being reunited with classmates such as Our Humble Scribe, **Fred Rosenstein, Dean Margolis** and **Don Simone** (see photographic proof). I continue to cover games of our pro teams in the New York area for radio, including live game updates for SiriusXM NFL Radio and many postgame Zoom press conferences after Yankees games. I was recently selected to become one of the rotating anchors for the Associated Press's new nightly radio sportscasts, which can be heard on stations around the country and on podcast sites such as Apple."

"On a family note, daughter Madison is a freshman at Tulane, and son Michael a junior at Emory's Goizueta School of Business."

Rabbi **Ian Silverman** writes: "I'm in my 19th year in my pulpit position at my synagogue. We are now doing in-person services on the Sabbath. My wife, Beth, is a social worker at a local nursing and rehab facility. Son Alan recently earned a master's in music therapy and son Marc is working on a degree and certification in cyber security. Waiting for the pandemic to be in the rear view, but our spirits are good, and we are more fortunate than so many!"

"Beth and I are contemplating retirement and looking forward to someday being 'pensioners' in a New Jersey beach community."

Great to hear from **Marvin Ira Charles Siegfried**, who writes: "I finally retired from the NYC DOE, after 34 years teaching in the same high school but also teaching as an adjunct at Kingsborough Community College. We got a puppy, to keep me busy and to get some exercise, and we're also hosting my daughter, son-in-law and our two grandchildren

while their house is being remodeled. [As I write this], we expect another grandchild in November. It was a busy summer with a full house, and we'll be back to the new normal by Christmastime."

"Some people are just ignorant and think that the freedoms in the Bill of Rights mean they don't have to wear a mask or get vaccinated. These are the same people who forget that some vaccinations have been required for years to attend public schools and seat belts are also required by law. It's like my favorite Robert A. Heinlein quote: 'Never underestimate the power of human stupidity.'"

Mark Axinn recently switched law firms but still is in the condo and coop biz in Manhattan. "After 35 years in a boutique firm, I've joined Phillips Nizer's NYC office. Mr. [Louis] Nizer [CC 1922, LAW 1924], like me, was once the coxswain on Columbia crew, so it seemed like the right place to be."

Russ Frazer writes, "I have been in contact with other Glee Club members and am going to join the University Glee Club of New York City. In the meantime, I've been staying in on Saturday night and avoiding the fever."

Steven Wexner is "director, Digestive Disease Center and chair, Department of Colorectal Surgery, at the Cleveland Clinic in Florida, as well as vice-chair, American College of Surgeons Board of Regents and editor-in-chief, *Surgery*. My wife, Dr. Mariana Berho, became chief of staff at the Cleveland Clinic. Both sons have jobs in NYC, one in tech and one in private equity."

Steven Kugler notes, "My wife, Michele, is a social worker and psychotherapist. We've been married for 30 years and have two children, Orly and Chase. For the last 16 years I've been an attending neurologist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. We enjoy spending time at our condo, which overlooks the beach at the Jersey shore."

Perhaps they will run into Rabbi Ian.

Joseph Michael Schachner SEAS'79 has news: "I'm planning to retire in a year or so. In the meantime I'm proud that we took an old piece of software that younger employees couldn't deal with and added a Python interpreter so now we can keep people who want to program in this language."

We're all playing to the millennials now, I guess.

We more than filled our allotted space this issue so if your piece got edited a bit, my apologies!

1979

Robert C. Klapper
robertklappermd@aol.com

Michael Daswick's sixth novel, *Chip Rock and the Catalina Kid*, has been published. It chronicles the saga of an industrious yet unsettled burger artist who's aged out of a clammy orphanage on the SoCal coast. With little hope for a meaningful place in the world, the Kid shocks the community when he embarks on a daring open-water swim to Catalina Island. *Catalina Kid* is the nail-biting sequel to the acclaimed *Chip Rock and the Fat Old Fart*. While at Columbia, Michael won the Bennett Cerf Memorial Prize for Fiction, and the Cornell Woolrich Memorial Scholarship for Creative Writing.

Robert C. Klapper: "Today's Columbia thought comes directly from *CCT's* Spring/Summer 2021 issue, because, and I'll be honest, I don't really read many of the other Class Notes columns. However, I could not help but glance at the CC'78 column, when my eyes caught a name that struck a major neuron in my brain's memory bank. It was an update from Robert Crochelt '78. I kept saying to myself, 'I know that name, I know that name ...' and then it hit me.

"I had three guardian angels during that horrific freshman year living in that concrete jungle of a dorm, Carman. Living in Carman was awful. If it wasn't for guardian angel number 1, Doc Deming, in my life, I never would have survived the crushing testosterone challenge. His nurturing and ability to speak to the athletes still amazes to this day. I witnessed two football players physically throwing 'Barney Fife' out of the elevator and saw how Deming handled the crisis, and that memory has stayed with me. The second guardian angel was the pre-med advisor, Patricia Geisler GSAS'79. Where it seemed every professor enjoyed the cutthroat nature of what life as a pre-med student entailed and actively participated in turning up the stress, if not for her optimism and kind-hearted reassurance, my dream of becoming a surgeon never would have come to fruition.

"But this column is about the third guardian angel who entered my life when I was a freshman. In a previous column I mentioned that I had discovered my Columbia University Bookstore assignments and 'dates to remember book,' 1975–76. You remember that red plastic planner book that cost \$1.59? The fact that anything in life could cost \$1.59 amazes me 46 years later.

"Back to guardian angel number 3: Robert Crochelt '78. The reason Bob's name in *CCT* lit up my memory bank is because his name appears almost 30 times throughout the year in that red book. He was my tutor. I realized how underwater I was going to be in freshman chemistry, and someone alerted me that if you went to the Dean's Office there was a tutorial service available. This was no longer a matter of pride, but one of survival. I requested the services of a tutor and was randomly assigned Bob. Forty-six years later I never realized that the service provider was a sophomore. All these years I had made the false assumption that Bob was either a graduate student or a University employee. It was not until this issue of *CCT* that I realized he was a really smart Good Samaritan sophomore who dropped out of heaven to make time for me, a pestering mentally deficient freshman desperate for his freshman chemistry pearls of wisdom.

"My freshman academic planning book was filled with reminders to

go to crew practices, bus rides to the Catskills for my busboy job, family crises at home and so on, but prominently displayed each and every week were my appointments with Bob. He made time in his own college experience to accommodate me. He did this over and over and over.

"So guess what I did? I tracked him down, and I'm writing this column to tell you that I finally called him on all that I have been able to accomplish because of his generosity. With each word on the phone more and more of the rust in my brain broke off, revealing those moments at Butler Library, Hartley Hall or John Jay, where we could quietly close a door and translate the hieroglyphics that freshman chemistry appeared to me. I couldn't wait to ask him what he remembered of me, and to tell him that words alone were not enough to convey my gratitude, especially now realizing that he was just a student like me being charitable with his own precious time. His recollection transported me back to a time in my life where all I had were dreams and student loans with no guarantee for any success. How he remembered me and his description filled my heart with joy.

"Columbia was really tough for me, especially that transitional freshman year, where we were finally on our own, no longer living at home. It's clear the only way to thank those angels that we met 46 years ago is to be an angel ourselves to a stranger and pay it forward.

"Roar, lion, roar!"

1980

Michael C. Brown
mcbcu80@yahoo.com

"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."

— Anonymous

I trust you all had a wonderful holiday season and are welcoming 2022 in style. The cold weather in NYC has me moving to South Florida for the winter. I do not miss the winds on campus!

Steve Kane LAW'83 checked in with this commentary from a recent event: "Almost to the day of the 45th anniversary of Columbia

Ultimate's first win (for the record, it was over Yale 21–20), Columbia alumni from the Classes of 1978–84, including three alumni who were at that first win, gathered under clear blue skies on September 11 in Hardyston, N.J., to play their annual Ultimate Frisbee reunion game. The alumni reunion game is a tradition dating from 1990.

Despite the two-year layover (we skipped the 2020 reunion due to some pandemic), the play was as brisk as usual. Chris Schmidt '81, GSAS'83, BUS'85 opened the game with a diving catch and closed the game with a diving (almost) block. The blue team came back to defeat the white team 15–13. Coaching by **Steve Kane** and Maurice Matiz SEAS'79, SEAS'84 brought out the best from all players. No one argued with any call by the observer/referee Jerry McManus '89, GSAS'97, professor of earth and environmental sciences at Columbia. The fact that there was no significant injury was a victory for all. Post-game conviviality was hosted by Paul Tvetenstrand SEAS'82, SIPA'82, LAW'83 at his Beaver Lake house, where toasts were made to team founder David "Buddha" Meyer '77, who is in the Ultimate Hall of Fame, and stories were retold in which the older we get, the better we were. Pre-game carbo loading occurred at V&T on Friday night, after which several team players loosened up at 10 p.m. with a round of disc golf on campus, where Ernie Cicconi '81 was able to set a personal best low score (aided by the fact that some holes are no longer playable or exist, such as the 11th hole that consisted of starting at the stairway on the east side of Uris and throwing the disc into the urn that used to be between Avery and Fayerweather)."

John Morace send me this nice note: "I was very happy to read in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue that José Abete '79 is now the secretary-general of the Fondation Jardin Majorelle in Marrakech.

"Five or six years ago, my partner, Tom Kennedy, and I were traveling through Morocco and visited with José. We even took a cooking class at his beautiful riad in the center of Marrakech, La Maison Blanche. During that trip we also visited the former home of Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge, the Majorelle Garden and Yves Saint Laurent

Stay in
Touch



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:
college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.

Museum. Majorelle is a very special and beautiful place. To take on the responsibility of leading it is a great public service and I wish José much joy and success in this new role.

"I had the opportunity to enjoy surf and turf with super lawyer Bruce Paulsen '80 at Sparks Steak House in NYC and Billy's Stone Crab in Hollywood, Fla. It was great catching up on world events."

Drop me a line at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

1981

Dan Albohn, Kevin Costa and Rich Gentile
daniel.albohn@gmail.com
kevinyal@icloud.com
r.gentile@snet.net

One of the pandemic's visible social symptoms is "The Great Resignation": Millions of Americans have quit their jobs because they are no longer willing to tolerate poor working conditions, and have shown themselves willing to trade off some material comforts for a better quality of life.

Long before The Great Resignation, there was Eric Hansen '84. Through example and counsel, Eric helped many others examine that tradeoff for themselves. He entered with the Class of '79 and had many friends in our class. You might have read his obituary in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of *CCT*, which summarized the one in *The New York Times*: bit.ly/HANSENOBIT.

Despite abundant intellectual, comic and musical talents, Eric

chose not to live an achievement-driven life. For his friends, the importance of Eric's life was aptly summarized by **David Huemer**, who eulogized him as someone who, by "doing very little" was always "demonstrating the profound nature of being present." In this way, he inspired "love, affection and good feeling in others."

Eric was active in the Columbia community throughout his entire adult life. Rebecca Turner '87 described Eric as "a major figure in my college life and that of so many others." Rebecca calls him "one of the most legendary members of the Columbia University Glee Club — perhaps the most legendary." To her, Eric was "the quintessential Columbia man of the '80s: mega-smart, musical and poetic, charming, hilarious, sarcastic, talented, music-obsessed, different and doing it his way." You could say he was like a real-life modern-day character from *On the Road*, the classic novel by Jack Kerouac '44.

On July 9, Rebecca reports, a daylong celebration for Eric brought together many alumni and friends, including **Ron Yanagi; Bob Maddox; Stuart Christie; Greg Staples; Dave Cook; Dean Todd '76; M. George Stevenson '80, SOA'99; Bruce Pross; Larry Scoones '92; Laurie Gershon '87; Bev Weintraub BC'82; Cathy Mazza BC'81; Michele Hierholzer BC'82; Tina Pinocchio Staples BC'83; and Maya Panvell-Hartheimer BC'87.**

Margarita "Ari" Brose BC'84 described the opening act of the festivities at V&T: "The group laughed, told stories and sang toasts to the departed. Memories of Eric included his ability to be the last person to leave a party or bar, his encyclopedic musical knowledge and his love of bowling."

Act Two of Eric's last party took place at Freddy's Bar in Brooklyn. "Freddy's," Ari explained, "is probably the closest spiritual heir to the now-defunct West Village watering hole McGovern's, site of the Blowhole theater musical revue, where Eric often performed as a one-man tribute band called 'Tom Waits for No One.' Blowhole's creator, Don Rauf, led a succession of musicians and readers that feted Eric. Tom Waits numbers and other songs were sung in tribute." (Impossible to include was Eric's memorably surreal rendi-

tion of Tony Orlando and Dawn's "Candida" channeled through Tom Waits.) Appropriately, **Kenny Young** and the Eggplants were among the performers that night, for Eric's deep, rich baritone was featured on several of their albums.

A few of Eric's poems were also read from the stage, including these:

Kill This Poem

These words you see,
 spread so haplessly across the page
 Serve to remind you that,
 given enough time
 You too could write this poem.

The Hyenas Come to Feast

They laugh at food.

They're short poems, maybe too short — like Eric's life. Thanks, Rebecca and Ari. Eric will be missed.

Steven Gee writes: "Forty years since our graduation has gone by more quickly than I ever imagined. I'm lately reminded of 9-11, which was just 20 years ago but seems much more recent. When we were at Columbia, the end of WWII was less than 40 years earlier, yet seemed like something that only existed in textbooks. Now our college experience lies the same distance back. Immediately following graduation, I went to Wharton for an M.B.A., and then started my career in business and finance. I met my wife, Teresa, a Hong Kong native who attended Wharton undergrad at the same time I was there. After I started working and after she graduated, Teresa and I frequently met in locations between New York and Hong Kong and spent time traveling to various 'neutral' locations in the Pacific Rim, especially Hawaii, which we have grown to love. I've worked at various companies, including General Motors, Salomon Brothers, Citigroup, Barclays and now Bloomberg, where I've worked on corporate finance, capital markets, derivatives and structured finance transactions. The transactional life has generally been fun, though the ups and downs that 'The Street' dishes out make you appreciate life and your network of friends. Early on, there weren't so many Columbia alums on Wall Street, but over time I met more alumni from the College and the Business School. (But Penn grads

who migrated to NYC to work in finance always outnumbered Columbia alumni. Maybe it comes down to the difference between the Core Curriculum and Ben Franklin's focus on a practical education in 'business').

"I've lived in Manhattan since getting married in 1987 and have two daughters, Maddie and Kristen, both of whom opted to follow their mother's footsteps to Penn. I guess the appeal of being about 100 miles from home was more attractive than having helicopter parents in the same borough! As a family, we've traveled extensively, exploring much of Asia (given my wife's roots there) and spending summers in Hawaii when the girls were in K-12. With the girls catching the travel bug, together we have visited many places, including Finland (to see the Northern Lights), the Greek Isles, Bali, Maldives and various countries in Western Europe. I was most interested in the Parthenon and the Parthenon museum — it must have been because of Art Hum. Our visits to Athens finally made me appreciate what we were exposed to on campus and in class. The College and campus have blossomed during these 40-plus years, and it seems that today's Columbia students have more fun than we did. Nonetheless, I can say that I appreciated my time on Morningside Heights, and I do treasure the learning experience of those four years.

"I've stayed in touch with some classmates, including **Steve Williams**, whom I look forward to seeing when he comes up from Florida, and **Allan Taffett**, who lives in the same building I do. Alan continues to work out furiously and has the same youthful look some of you might recall from dining with him in the John Jay cafeteria. From my early finance days, I'd occasionally see **Brian Krisberg, Tom Glocer** and **Jim Moglia**. Others whom I wish I'd run into are Dr. **Tom Cava**, my tennis and pre-med buddy ("You made it through!") and Michael Rogers '80, another tennis buddy who might think of himself more as an '80 grad since he graduated early, but we know better. Sad that two of my Stuyvesant H.S. homeroom classmates, **Tom Barlis** and **Chuck Murphy**, are no longer with us. We all made the short trek from 15th Street to 116th Street. I still pop up to the Columbia neighborhood occasionally, but these days it's to stand in line at



Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Absolute Bagels. There's a really good vibe and always a nice feeling to be around campus."

Rich Hauptschein SEAS '81 recently relocated from Kennett Square, Pa. (the Mushroom Capital of the World), to Bluffton, S.C., and in August celebrated his 40th work anniversary with DuPont, DowDuPont and Corteva Agriscience, a career run that included a stint in Raleigh, N.C., before he landed at the company's Wilmington, Del., headquarters. As an IT professional, Rich led multiple global implementations for DuPont, primarily in warehousing and logistics. Rich has competed in several triathlons, including the Hawaiian Ironman Triathlon, and continues to enjoy a good round of golf. The father of three, his two eldest, Jeffrey and Lauren, ventured to Happy Valley for college, and having graduated from Penn State, both have followed their dad into the corporate world. Rich's youngest, Matthew, is a junior at Temple. Rich stays in touch with several members of the swim team, including Rick Robinson '84, Mike McCool '84 and Jeff Wetzel SEAS '78. Rich says he relishes his years on the team and gleefully recalls the two upset wins over Princeton, including one in their pool.

1982

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Andrew Weisman
columbiacollege82@gmail.com

Greetings one and all from sunny Colorado. As fall turned to winter, an old man's thoughts turn to CC'82 Class Notes. Fortunately, I was not alone in this endeavor!

Writing in this period was the good doctor, **Saul Newman**: "I have not written to Class Notes in decades but given the low number of submissions from '82, I thought I would. I live in Silver Spring, Md., and am the associate dean for undergraduate education in the School of Public Affairs at American University in Washington, D.C.

In addition to my day job, I recently completed a stint of active involvement in my synagogue, including two terms as president. My wife, Naomi Baum, spent 20 years working in the U.S. Senate for Senators Levin, Cranston, Kohl, Kerry and Warren, and is now the COO of a nonprofit research organization that develops transformative policies to reduce energy waste and combat climate change.

"During the pandemic, our three children returned home to hunker down but have now largely returned to where they belong. Our son, Ezra, is a lawyer at a large firm in New York and recently bought an apartment in the city. Our daughter, Leah, is a 3L, works at NBC and also lives in New York. As a New Yorker myself, it is nice to have family in NYC again. Our youngest, Betzalel, lives in D.C. and works at the National Democratic Institute. Five years ago, Naomi's mom moved in with us, but she kept her house in San Francisco so when it is relatively Covid-19-safe to fly we try to get away from the oppressive humidity of the D.C. area to spend time in the less-oppressive fog of the Sunset District by the Pacific."

Thanks, Saul, for staying in touch! Gentlemen, if anyone else gets the urge to follow Saul, it would be greatly appreciated by all of us!

1983

Roy Pomerantz
bkroy@msn.com

Greetings, classmates. At the time of this entry, the Columbia football team is 5–1 (2–1 in the Ivy League). I attended Homecoming with my wife and sons. After the pandemic hiatus, the 23–14 win over Penn was particularly gratifying. I enjoyed spending time with Mike Schmidberger '82, LAW'85; Marc Mazur '81; David Filosa '82; Doug Wolf '88; Michael Behringer '89; Chris Della Pietra '89; Raymond Yu '89, SEAS'90; and Stefanie Katz-Rothman '88.

Stirling Phillips: "I am blessed and thankful to be among the living as we go through this pandemic. I am a full-time mediator for the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights. I had volunteered for a number of years as mediator for the Conflict Resolution Center of Mont-

gomery County, the District Court of Maryland and for the Maryland Commission for Civil Rights. I discovered a passion for conflict resolution work and enjoy my work as conflict resolution practitioner.

"My wife, Paulette, and I are proud parents of three amazing young people, all of whom are in college now. Hence, the new career as mediator (smile). Our eldest daughter, Niani, is a student at the Fashion Institute of Technology, with a focus on sustainable fashion design. Our son, Nathan, is a pre-med/film student at the University of Southern California and our youngest daughter, Noelani, is a pre-med student-athlete (track and field) at Boston University.

"My hobbies include gardening, and I am involved in various ministries at my church in Maryland including Bible study, community service outreach to people experiencing homelessness and teaching a Saturday morning Sabbath school class. I have kept in touch with Rhona Julien SEAS'84 and **Oladipo Onipede SEAS'83**. I fondly recall working on the *Black Heights* literary magazine and still have a copy. I really enjoyed Professor Hollis Lynch's lectures and great conversation during soirees at his home."

David Propert: "I have been married for nine years to Amber, whom I met through work. We have two boys, Jamie (7) and Rhys (3). We live in Alexandria, Va., which has been my home for 30 years. Professionally, I am in my 36th year of federal service as a contract specialist, 11 years with the Navy and the remainder in various other offices working on defense-wide issues, including the last 13 with the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Most of that time has been spent transitioning procurement processes from paper to data and enabling department-wide visibility into operations.

"I am not in touch with the rather more well-known prior executive branch occupant from our class, but I am in touch fairly frequently with **Mark McMorris**, who was also a roommate my last two years at Columbia."

Mark Reisbaum: "Despite the common refrain in the media, San Francisco, which has been my primary home for 30 years, is still a great town. I left my longtime role at the Jewish Community

Federation and Endowment Fund and started my own philanthropy advisory practice three years ago (reisbaum.com). I love my work advising high-net worth individuals and families on their foundations, giving strategies and volunteer roles. The son of one of my clients recently joined a Columbia University board, which made me feel both proud and rather ancient. I am on a few boards myself, and recently began my term as chair of the board of Spark* SF Public Schools, the nonprofit that connects our school district to the philanthropic and business community. I've stayed in touch with a number of Columbia pals, including **Steve Min**, Dr. Ronald Shaw '82 and Henry Fischman GS'83, who started in Engineering.

"I cherish my time at Columbia, and remember fondly the amazing faculty, including Professors Carol Gluck GSAS'77, Ainslie Embree GSAS'60 and Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, GSAS'53. My husband, Michael Case, grew up in Maine, so we get back to the East Coast regularly. We purchased our 'retirement home' in Palm Springs a few years back, and that was our sanctuary during much of 2020. Summers in the desert are too hot for me so we'll likely find a place near the coast of Maine one day, too."

Ralph Rivera: "We've been living in London for 11 years, but New York will always be home. Our two kids are enrolled in the American School in London so we can enjoy some U.S. community ties here, and prepare them to return if and when that happens — British accents and all. Note them, not me. My Bronx accent is still very much intact.

"I came to London to work for the BBC, and stayed to work for Discovery and now the NBA with a focus on Europe and the Middle East.

"Time is going by fast. Can't believe we graduated from Columbia almost 39 years ago. Very fond memories of being a freshman in Carman; late nights getting access to computer time in Mudd; studying in Butler; basketball in Levien Gym; living at the Alpha Phi Alpha frat house; eating at Tom's, V&T and Mama Joy's; and playing Ms. Pac-Man at The West End.

"Wherever I am and whatever I do, it's because Columbia — the education and the community — helped put me on that path."

Philip Wolinsky: “I lived in John Jay (14th floor, I think) soph year. I went to NYU med school and became an orthopedic surgeon. I work at UC Davis and am an ortho trauma surgeon. I’ve been here with my family since 2002 when we moved from NYC. I am married to Kim Cusimano, a psychologist. We met at Vanderbilt, where she was finishing her Ph.D., in 1998. We have a 13-year-old daughter, Hudson. They both love riding horses and somehow this Queens guy ended up owning three horses. We are moving back to the East Coast this summer, to Hanover, N.H., and I will start a job at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

“I have lost touch with my Columbia friends but remember my time there fondly.”

Bill Schultz: “Flew into New York (from Atlanta) to go to my first (perhaps last) WWE event with my sons, Joshua and Daniel ’16, and to visit my daughter, Rebecca, and our grandson, Benjamin (Class of 2042, we hope)! Benjamin got to see my 93-year-old dad, who graduated from the Law School in 1956, in person for the first time (due to Covid-19 restrictions)!”

Gardner Semet BUS’91: “I became the business line manager of the Commercial Real Estate Department of the Israel Discount Bank of New York in March 2020. First it was remote and now I have been in the office at the Grace Building. My wife, Daphne, worked through the pandemic at Mount Sinai, where she is vice-chair of administration and finance. Last August, my daughter Gabriella married Shaun Tafreshi at our home in Pompton Lakes, N.J.”

Jim Trainor: “I studied English literature at Columbia and remain a great reader, but my real passion in life has always been filmmaking, especially animation. I made a series of films in the ’90s and ’00s that showed widely at international film festivals (one was in the Whitney Biennial). You can see them on Vimeo: *The Bats*, *The Moschops*, *The Magic Kingdom*, *The Fetisbist*, *The Presentation Theme* and *The Pink Egg*.

“To support my animation habit I worked a variety of jobs, including a happy stint as a bartender in a tiny East Village bar, but in 2000 I was offered a job as a film professor and moved to Chicago. The School of the Art Institute of Chicago is

wonderful, and I have been happy here, although I miss my 21 years in New York every day. I am married to a talented musician and singer, Caroline Nutley, and we have a 9-year-old boy, Charlie, who likes dinosaurs and ‘bad CGI movies’ like *Sharknado* and *Piranhaconda*.

“In recent years I have strayed from animation a little in favor of writing (novels, stories, screenplays and biographies); we’ll see what happens with that, but at the very least I am having a lot of fun and not the slightest tinge of writer’s block. I am in touch with quite a few of my Columbia and Barnard pals, and when the Covid-19 crisis is over I plan to take my family on a New York City vacation, where we will spend about a week in the American Museum of Natural History and, of course, visit my beloved Columbia campus. Much love and good feelings to all classmates.”

Mike Schmidtberger ’82, LAW’85 co-authored an op-ed on NCAA Reform: “Compensating College Athletes: Moving the Ball Forward” (bit.ly/3Duvshf).

John Bonomi and I enjoyed Homecoming at Hamilton College. Our daughters, Liza and Rebecca, are sophomores and have become good friends.

Great news! Columbia will welcome back fans to Levien Gym this winter. Hope to see you at some basketball games.

1984

Dennis Klainberg
dennis@berklay.com

Theaters might have been closed during the pandemic, but **Peter Schmidt** took to the internet to produce his play, *Sheep May Safely Graze: a chemo cabaret*, in cooperation with Actors’ Equity Association. The performance raised thousands of dollars for ovarian cancer research. Says TV producer **Adam Belanoff**, “It’s just a flat-out brilliant production.” Per yours truly, **Dennis Klainberg**: “Life-affirming! Get a bunch of laughs and give a bunch of shekels.”

If you’re curious and would like a laugh (yes, there are plenty of laughs in this play), you can watch it at bit.ly/3DyPRIC.

Life is better because of the jab, but **Scott Avidon** didn’t throw away his



Hiking Camelback Mountain in Phoenix on October 9 were (left to right) Don Henline ’84, Rick Robinson ’84, Mike McCool ’84 and Jim Knocke ’84.

shot: “I saw that Broadway musical about our fellow alumnus, *Hamilton*, for my 59th birthday. Been a workers’ compensation law judge for about 20 years. Unfortunately, I now sit alone in ‘The Room Where It Happens,’ my courtroom. Videoconference hearings only since Covid-19.”

Segue to Jurassic Park via New Haven: **Dr. Steven L. Saunders**: “I am president-elect of the New Haven County Medical Association and practiced primary care internal medicine throughout the pandemic. I teach medical students at both Yale and Quinnipiac and am proud to have recently been awarded the Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine. I remain one of the few solo practitioners in primary care.”

Steven continues, “My son Andrew is finishing his senior year as a chemical engineer at Washington University in St. Louis and has been offered a position as a chemical engineer in research and development at Unilever.

“Eldest son Brian is an industrial engineer, having graduated from Northwestern in 2018, and is a senior data engineer/scientist at Caesars/William Hill, now working remotely from Florida. My wife, Michelle, and I are truly empty-nesters, with the exception of our beautiful little 9-year-old Miniature Red Poodle, Heidi.”

Also in the spirit of *naches* (joy), **Mark Simon** checked in to mention that his oldest child graduated from Lehigh in May 2021 and is gainfully employed as a mechanical engineer at a large engineering/construction firm. His younger son, Oliver, is a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis, where Mark has joined a board of its medical school to advise on life science translation to industry. He has twin daughters in 10th grade

and donates his time to a foundation that is overseeing a clinical trial for hospitalized Covid patients.

And what would our column be without another mention of **Yossi Rabin**, his wife, Kochava, and their marvelous *mishpocha* (family)? Mazel tov on the birth of their 12th grandchild, a *yingele* (boy) named Yair Ahuvia Rabin.

Covid got your tongue? From Scottish to British to Yiddish to Yinglish, **Mark Binder** has seen the last of the wee bairn fly the coop, and is much relieved. Professionally, he has taken the pen name of Izzy Abrahamson, and is in the process of issuing four books in The Village Life Series. The first two, *Winter Blessings* and *A Village Romance*, have received great reviews. He’s also going on tour (virtually and eventually in person) with The Village Life Live ... Whether you’re Jewish or not, these are books that you’ll enjoy.

And speaking of flying saucers: On his recent controversial Netflix special, *The Closer*, comedian Dave Chappelle invokes UFOs and “space Jews,” but did you know that we had a Columbia Ultimate Frisbee team? Did you know that it has annual reunions? Did you know that **HJ Lee**, **Jim Drennan**, **Phil Hirschhorn**, **Chris Betts** and **Joe Strothman** were involved? I surely did not know — or truly have no recollection (senior moment?) of this team, but thanks to an email from Stephen M. Kane ’80, please direct your attention to the Class of ’80 column and find out what we’ve been missing!

All kidding aside, with sadness, we belatedly announce the passing of **Eric Hansen**, whose obituary was in the Fall 2021 issue, and we regret to inform you of the passing of Richard M. Froehlich ’85, LAW’88, a friend to so many in the Class of ’84. A tribute

to Richard can be found in Jonathan White '85's column, and an obit in the Obituaries section of this issue. May their memory be a blessing.

1985

Jonathan White
jw@whitecoffee.com

Sam Denmeade was recently named editor-in-chief of the medical journal *The Prostate* and also appointed director of genitourinary oncology at Johns Hopkins. "I have been leading an effort to develop a form of treatment for prostate cancer involving administration of high doses of testosterone to men who have developed resistance to standard hormone treatments," he writes.

After enjoying the last 20 years based in Moscow, where he was CEO of DeltaCredit Bank and Rusfinance Bank, **Serge Ozerov** BUS'89 has moved to Paris to join ALD Automotive, the European leader in automotive leasing. "Aside from giving my wife and me an opportunity to enjoy Paris, it also brings us a little closer to our twin sons, Anthony '23 and Max '23."

Congrats to **John Phelan** on his daughter Unity being named a principal dancer in the New York City Ballet — one of the youngest in the company's history (nyti.ms/3nabdQy)!

We got a couple more Covid-19 updates. **Terry Jones** BUS'97 reports that "the Covid experience was eerily positive for me in that my kids were home from work, university and high school, which is pure joy for the parents as we seemed to fall into our silly family competitions and binge-watching various shows. Also, some Columbia track alums and I have had monthly Zoom calls. The participants are Ward Bobitz '86, Dave McCarty '86, Andre O'Reggio '87, Doug Teasdale '89, Bruce Furukawa '87, John Sun '87 and Greg Gonzalez '87. I have long since retired from 30 years on Wall Street and I am in the process of looking at starting/acquiring a company with some of my friends and former colleagues. Retirement is not all it's cracked up to be and I think that the next chapter will be the most fun of all."

For **Gregory Jarrin**, the last year and a half has been difficult in Arizona. "Beginning in March 2020,

during my last six months in Winslow, Ariz., serving the Southern Tier of the Navajo nation, our healthcare facility was overwhelmed with Covid patients. We had a pharmacist and a secretary on the medical-surgical unit die suddenly in April 2020. I worked with a family physician from Winslow to educate our community members about the seriousness of this novel coronavirus and how wearing masks, washing our hands and avoiding large gatherings were all effective strategies to prevent the spread of Covid.

"In September 2020, my wife, Vanessa, and I moved to Whiteriver, Ariz. She is a nurse practitioner in the ER while I was the solo general surgeon. We have struggled with the rise and fall of Covid cases on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. The OR was initially limited to emergent procedures only but finally opened up to elective cases a few months ago. But now, with a severe nursing shortage, we are once again limited to only emergency surgery.

"We enjoy living and working in Whiteriver. The mountains are beautiful. It is cool most of the summer and we get to experience four seasons. We hope to travel soon once the pandemic starts to wane."

Greg also commented on a theme many of us are facing: "We are now empty-nesters! Our youngest, Chloe, graduated from high school in June 2020 and is a sophomore at St. Mary's College of California. We are planning to travel to Spain and Portugal in April to visit our other daughter, Felicia, who is teaching English along the Mediterranean Coast of Spain. She graduated from Santa Clara College in June 2021. Felicia is applying to Columbia for graduate school in the fall. Our oldest, Julian, graduated from Arizona State University in May 2020. He works in Phoenix in theater light design for two companies. He recently helped set up the stage and lighting for the Eagles at the Footprint Center (formerly the Phoenix Suns Arena). Our other son, Luke, lives in San Diego and is a wildlife biologist for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. I send my best wishes to the Class of 1985. Please stay safe!"

David Zapolsky dropped his stepson off at Santa Clara College in the fall, so like many classmates, he's trying to figure out his next chapter as an empty-nester. "I'm still very

happy and lucky to be fully engaged at Amazon," David writes, "but I am also going to start teaching this year, starting with a survey course on law and policy of the internet and e-commerce at the University of Washington School of Law this winter. If I like the way it comes out, I'll probably try to teach the course at other schools as well."

Unfortunately, the rest of David's note was about the tragic and unexpected death of **Rich Froehlich** LAW'88 this past September. [Editor's note; See "Obituaries."] After graduating from the Law School and stints at several prominent law firms, Rich found his calling in the world of public financing for affordable housing. He joined the New York City Housing Development Corporation as general counsel in 2003 and was promoted several times to his last position as first executive VP and chief operating officer, where he directed the corporation's bond finance and operating activities, and was regularly recognized in the real estate community for his efforts. He had suffered the loss of his husband, Joe DeVito, in 2020.

David had many great memories of Rich, at Columbia in the Glee Club and the Notes and Keys, and in many other contexts since. "Rich and I had dinner in 2019. He was in Seattle for a housing conference and we spent a delightful evening dining at a restaurant in Pike Place Market catching up and reminiscing. In an odd coincidence, I was meeting with a congressman in D.C. just a day before Rich died, who had professional history working on New York public housing issues. When I asked if he knew Rich, he smiled and said, "Of course. Everyone knows Rich." A day later I heard the tragic news ... He was a leader and role model in our class, in many ways, and I know he will be dearly missed."

Paul Bongiorno was at *Spectator* the same time as Rich, and remembered him as an inquisitive and thoughtful reporter. **Steve Sivakoff** said Rich was "a kind and happy man." **Sebastian Sperber** expressed the sentiment of many: "How sad."

Rich was an ever-present part of our Columbia experience. As **Gregory Jarrin** put it, "Every interaction I had with him was positive. He was a hard worker who was dedicated to improving our experience at Columbia College. He seemed to be

involved in so many different activities during our four years that it was hard to keep track of how much he really contributed."

In addition to my experiences with *Spectator* and singing groups with Rich, we worked extensively together on Freshman Orientation. Rich was chosen to lead the College program, and did a great job in revising how the week could create and foster College-specific spirit, something that has grown on campus ever since. He brought a tireless work ethic, as well as a passion and conviction for his beliefs, and made many lifelong friends along the way.

Of course, Rich's loss compounds the loss last year of **Tom Vinciguerra**. As **Joe Titlebaum** commented, "Wasn't it just yesterday that I sat in the same Lit Hum section with Tom and Rich, in fall 1981? I think many of those books are actually on the shelf behind me in my home office as I write this; may the memories of Tom and Rich be a blessing."

Leslie Smarrt summed up 2021, a tragic year for CC'85, so elegantly: "In my montage of moments that made being a Columbia student so special, Rich and Tom show up in frame after frame. They were those people — the ones who show up, push the rocks, make things go and bring everyone along with them. Each was in his own way quirky, mischievous, earnest, generous, brilliant and open-hearted. They were both connectors, the glue, at the intersection of so many campus activities. I keep replaying this one poignant line from the 'Columbia Marching Song,' which Rich sang with the Glee Club so many times: 'We're all young together and the best of life's ahead ...'

"The way forward is less bright with the sudden loss of these inimitable classmates."

Amen.

1986

Everett Weinberger
everett6@gmail.com

James Carr: "It occurs to me that later this year will mark 10 years since the untimely passing of our friend **David Rakoff**. This world has been a bit dimmer, a bit colder and certainly less full of laughter since David left it. As with all such bright

lights that inevitably go out, we can only imagine how differently the events of the past decade might have unfolded had there been a David to skewer and chase away the demons (within and without) with his wit and insights. It would be nice to think about some sort of remembrance to mark the anniversary.

“News from me? Daughter Nina graduated from UVM and is now hopping through farms in Europe; son Jonah is freestyle-scooter his way through high school; and wife Kim BC’88 has published her fourth book, which will also come out in England next spring, *Dear Knausgaard*, an epistolary literary critique of the bestselling Norwegian author of *My Struggle*, Karl Ove Knausgaard.

“I am refocusing my attention on my architecture practice after a four-year stint on the busy Brookline Planning Board, looking to (shall I say it?) build back better, as a more design-focused practice, still rooted in sustainability. Caught up recently with Corinna Snyder BC’87, Roger Miller ’83, and Doug Jones ’89.”

Congrats to **David Green** for successfully completing his six-month run across America on September 26! The run took him from Jacksonville Beach, Fla., to Muir Beach, Calif. Check out davidgreen.run for lots of details and photos.

Michael Gat: “I moved to Seattle about three years ago to take a role at Amazon Web Services, which has served me well. Last summer, I made a move to Stripe for a much more interesting role at better compensation. Hard to believe that I’ve managed to somehow remain technologically relevant after all these years, but not complaining about the ongoing rewards. With the border now (finally!) open, I’m again able to see my Canadian girlfriend in person, and have begun to establish a semi-permanent weekend presence in Vancouver. In interest of my knees’ longevity, I’ve mostly stopped skiing, but continue cycling (both road and mountain) and in recent years started doing some motorcycle touring in the dry season (in Seattle, that’s about two days in August). I’ve been getting to New York more than I had for several years, and been reconnecting with some old friends and colleagues.”

Matthew Epstein: “Living in Hoboken with my wife, Juliane; we

celebrated our 33rd anniversary in December (where did the time go?). We have three children: Lukas (28), working in consulting and living in Williamsburg (as to be expected); Noah (25), finishing his last year of law school and will clerk for a federal judge on the 10th Circuit (very proud parents); and Leah (23), living in Austria on a Fulbright researching the connection between diabetes and gut biome (literally looking at people’s shit; and again very proud parents).

“I started my own merchant bank in 2020 and am thoroughly enjoying myself (I get to look in the mirror every morning and curse out my boss and he doesn’t fire me, go figure). Time has flown and we did not expect to be where we are today, but we have no complaints, are happy and generally enjoying life. Regards to all.”

John “Brynjo” Brynjolfsson: “The most important thing to know about me since graduating from Columbia is family comes first. I have been married for more than 30 years to Peggy, who brought me four beautiful children. Peggy loves being a mother, and is a passionate traveler, hiker and part-time sailor. William (28) is a pilot for Delta Connection and recently bought his first condo in Atlanta. Megan, still precious to me, tragically passed in 2019 from a pulmonary embolism. She was an EMT and phlebotomist, and is now a posthumous graduate of Chapman University in medical sciences. Nicole (22) is a junior executive in fashion, and an honors graduate of UC Berkeley. And my youngest, by a minute, Alexis (22), is also a junior executive and graduate of UC Berkeley. My brothers, Olaf, Erik and Alan, all recently moved to California. My sister, Ariane, lives in Denmark, with her husband and three daughters, where she was, and they were, born.

“As far as hobbies, I have been a lifelong sailor. As a child in Wayland, Mass., I learned to sail on a Sunfish, and later saved money earned from washing dishes to buy one of the first windsurfers, in 1980. I was anointed ‘Helmsman’ by Community Boating on the Charles River in summer 1979. I headed to Lake Cochituate, Mass., every time winds topped 20 knots. Family vacations to Lake Winnepesaukee, Squam Lake and Cape Cod would often involve renting a Hobie Cat

catamaran. After retiring in 2016, I jumped with both feet back into sailing with the purchase of a Beneateau First 40. I quickly gravitated toward fleet racing, and my First 40 won its class in the March 2021 Islands Race under the tutelage of San Diego Yacht Club member and America’s Cup alumnus Chris Doolittle. In April 2021, I bought a 2006 TP52 racing sailboat and christened her *Saga*. The boat is now immaculate and was relaunched in September. Chris, a team of 50 sailors and I now practice three times a week, and have a full 2022 West Coast race season scheduled. The pinnacle of our schedule will include the Rolex Big Boat Series at the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco next September.”

John Chachas: “I relocated all three of my businesses — Gump’s San Francisco, Inyo Broadcast and Methuselah Advisors — to Salt Lake City, having moved back to the west. I’ve had a house in Deer Valley for a decade and I moved into it full time. I saw enough ballets and philharmonic and Yankees and such for a lifetime. Wishing New York adieu after 40 years!”

Mitch Earleywine: “Like most of us, I’ve been keeping my head down during Covid-19 just hoping to survive. I’m a professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. My lab recently published some data suggesting that marijuana creates some of the mystical experiences that seem to underlie psilocybin’s antidepressant effects that have made their way into the news lately. (A huge dose of THC administered with psychological support might help folks battle depression in the same way the key molecule from ‘magic mushrooms’ does.)

“My older daughter is a pre-med student at USC and my younger one recently qualified for the New York State finals in diving and seems poised to sign an offer to dive for the University of Denver. I always get a kick out of hearing how our classmates are doing.”

Steve Klotz: “I’m recently back from UNESCO World Heritage Sea of Cortez in Mexico, where I spent 11 days mostly underwater. It’s known as the aquarium of the world for good reason. I saw sea lions, whale sharks, hammerhead sharks and schools of Mexican mackerel in the thousands. Also, I’m very proud to be part of a forensic psychiatric

expert team assisting veterans in recovering more than \$100 million from hospital fraud.”

Judy Chinitz sent her first update: “I am a licensed special education teacher in New York and the director of Mouth to Hand Learning Center in Westchester. It’s an educational center where we teach nonspeaking children and adults with autism and related disorders to speak via spelling on letter boards or keyboards. My own son, Alex, has nonspeaking autism, and for 25 years of his life, was treated as though he were profoundly cognitively disabled. Two years ago, I heard about this technique, learned it and it turns out that my son has a genius IQ and in August he passed (with distinction) the New York State high school equivalency exam. We are now looking at colleges. I teach students of all ages, and have found the same: Most cases of nonspeaking autism are not what they were believed to be. My students are, for the most part, brilliant, empathetic, funny and in every way wonderful. At my center, we not only teach them to communicate, but we also provide education and social opportunities.”

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REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Sarah A. Kass
sarahann29uk@gmail.com

We start this column with a double dose of great news about **Leslie Vosshall**. First, Leslie has been appointed VP and chief scientific officer at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. She will lead and manage HHMI’s science department portfolio, which includes the HHMI Investigator Program and the Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program. Leslie earned a Ph.D. in molecular genetics at Rockefeller University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Columbia University lab of Dr. Richard Axel ’67, an HHMI investigator and Nobel laureate. It was in Axel’s lab



ERIC ORLINSKY

Margaret Traub '88 (left) and Dr. Diane Bauer Orlinsky '88 had an impromptu visit in Park City, Utah, on July 24.

that Leslie developed a career-long interest in how smell works. Since becoming an investigator in 2008, she has pivoted her lab's research focus to the deadly *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, including its biology and behavior. Leslie will maintain her lab at Rockefeller. She will begin her duties part time at HHMI in January 2022, transitioning to full time in March.

As if that wasn't enough, Leslie has also been elected to the National Academy of Medicine. Her election cited her work in building the aforementioned "yellow fever mosquito *Aedes aegypti* into a genetic model organism for neurobiology and uncovering major insights into how these disease-vectoring insects select and feed on the blood of human hosts."

Double congratulations to Leslie!

Good news, too, for **Magaly Colimon-Christopher**, who was awarded \$5,000 through the 2021 City Artist Corps grant, a program for NYC-based working artists. Magaly was recognized for *AFTER-SHOCKS: A Tetralogy of Our Times*, a video compilation of short plays, animation and montage art she conceptualized. The show explores love and life in Caribbean-American communities in New York City during the coronavirus pandemic.

In more awesome news, **Sandy Asirvatham** recently released an album, *Innocent Monster*, which has been generating a lot of buzz. Sandy and her album were recently featured in *Rolling Stone India*: bit.ly/3oGMYS5.

And because what can be better in pandemic times than MORE good news, we are sending hearty congratulations to **Karin Wolman**, who has been named among Super Lawyers for the fifth consecutive year, and also was selected by Best Lawyers in America. Both selections

involve peer review and indicate being among the top 5 percent in one's practice area, which, in Karin's case, is immigration law.

Send your news to me at the email at the top of the column or via the Class Notes submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note/

1988

Eric Fusfield
eric@fusfield.com

Lots of legacy news to report. Congratulations to **John Williamson** and his daughter Kathryn Williamson '21 on Kathryn's graduation. John is one of several classmates who is a parent of a College alum.

In the "like father, like son" category, former Columbia football star **Matt Sodl** wrote, "I have some pretty cool news: My son, Patrick Sodl, a senior linebacker at Loyola H.S. in Los Angeles, has committed to play football at Columbia. He will be a first-year in September."

Diane Orlinsky reported, "I was lucky enough to be the parent of two Covid-19 graduates (lol): my daughter Alexandra SEAS'21 and my son Charlie '20. Also, my niece Samantha Zinman '21. Her twin brother, Matthew Zinman '22, is graduating this year. My cousin Jack Muoio '24 plays on the soccer team."

"I recently finished a two-year position as president of The Johns Hopkins Medical & Surgical Alumni Association and was elected to the Johns Hopkins Alumni Leadership Council (not a traitor ... colors are still blue and white!)."

Diane further noted, "I was blessed to attend the beautiful wedding of Herbert Rimerman '21, son of **Claudia Kraut Rimerman**."

Claudia added, "Herbert graduated with a multitude of honors I'm embarrassed to cite. He was married on August 29 to Elizabeth Latham '20 Cornell. They both attend Oxford, where Herbie is working toward a master's in history at Christ Church College."

As for herself, Claudia wrote, "I live in Stamford, Conn., and am VP partnerships for a leading digital therapeutics firm based in Israel."

Diane also wrote, "I ran into my dear friend **Marge Traub** when I was in Utah last July. She saw on Instagram that I was in Salt Lake City and we were able to connect."

See the nearby photo!

Shari Hyman shared the news that **Graham Dodds**, a professor of political science at Concordia University in Montreal for 17 years, has written *Mass Pardons in America: Rebellion, Presidential Amnesty, and Reconciliation*. "Again and again in the nation's history, presidents of the United States have faced the dramatic challenge of domestic insurrection and sought ways to reconcile with the rebels afterward," according to the Columbia University Press website. "This book is the first comprehensive study of how presidential mass pardons have helped put such conflicts to rest."

Graham weighed in, "It's my third book on the general topic of presidential power ... Somehow it's become my lot in life to explain the mysteries of American politics to puzzled Canadians — seldom an easy task."

Dr. **John McHugh** reported, "I'm enjoying getting back to the passion that drew me to medicine so many years ago: How do we become even healthier? This fall, I was honored with the title of fellow from the American College of Lifestyle Medicine for work on connecting the foundations of diet, sleep, stress and exercise to health outcomes. Southern California is a perfect place to practice what I'm preaching with great food, sandy beaches and bike trails."

Marc McCann wrote with sadness that **Mike Zegers SEAS'88** passed away "on August 21, 2021, in Denver, where he was surrounded by his family. Mike fought a long and courageous battle with osteosarcoma, always with grace and a sense of humor."

Mike took part in an annual fantasy football draft in New York with

Marc and **Doug Wolf**; **Ravi Singh**; **Mike English SEAS'89, GSAPP'89**; **Dave Moson '89**; and **Rob Daniel**.

1989

Emily Miles Terry
emilymilesterry@me.com

[Editor's note: This issue's guest columnist is **Erik Price**.]

Maybe it's the color of the leaves or the crossroads I'm standing at, or maybe it's the baseball playoffs on TV, but October of our sophomore year has been on my mind.

It's the 10th inning of that famous 1986 World Series game, exactly 35 years ago. The Mets are mounting their historic rally against the Red Sox, and it's late in the evening on the first floor of Ruggles Hall. My suitemate, **Dave Streitfeld**, is having a moment. He's on his knees praying for a Mets victory, promising to go to synagogue if the Mets win. Miraculously, they do win. The next Friday, Dave and I attend campus Hillel for the first time and make some friends.

Dave lives with his wife, Deb, and cat, Henni, around the block from me and my wife, Paula, in Berkeley, Calif. Dave is a veteran software developer, and as ever, he continues to go deep with the things he loves. Eventually he masters them all, including playing acoustic guitar and teaching tai chi.

Across the room that night, **Jeff Udell**, a lifelong Mets fan, is screaming and punching the air. Years later, the energy is still there. A partner at a boutique litigation firm, Jeff's legal practice is booming. This spring, he'll begin teaching legal ethics at NYU Law. He's also learning "Thunder Road" on piano and runs into The Boss himself with uncanny frequency. Jeff and his wife, Lucy, a social worker, live in Harrison, N.Y. Oldest daughter, Michaela (20), is a junior at the University of Wisconsin, and just loving it. Their youngest, Daniela (11), is in goal for her soccer team and, like her dad, is enthusiastic about everything. And if you ever wake up before dawn and head out to Jones Beach, there's a good chance you'll see Jeff and his son, Alec (16), standing in the surf, casting for striped bass as the sun begins to rise.

Mike Schrag, an SF Giants fan, didn't care about the Mets or the Red Sox, but he was there, too. Mike and **Andrea Franchett**, who lived across the hall from him on Carman 5, are still together and live in Oakland, Calif. Mike writes: "Andrea is one of the last independent family physicians standing and has a thriving neighborhood practice in Oakland. I've been representing consumers in class actions against large corporations for 25 years. Having sent our kids, Oscar (24) and the twins, Ruby and Eli (21), to school on the East Coast, we are crushing empty-nest life: running the trails in the East Bay hills, traveling and seeing as much live music as we can with Erik and Paula."

Not caring much about the World Series that evening was **Patrick Murray**, a Chicago Cubs fan. He was likely playing R.E.M. albums and skimming philosophy texts. Pat writes in from Chicago that his son, Nathan (9), is thriving behind the plate in Little League and always looks natty in his uniform. (It's true, he really does.) Pat is an attorney for the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, and volunteers as a tour guide with the Chicago Architecture Center. He's also a loyal member of the Columbia University Club of Chicago's book club. Pat sent me a CD of country music songs that are getting him through the pandemic. Yes, he still burns CDs.

Please keep the music coming, Pat.

It was wonderful to connect with **Robyn Gratt Sealander BC'89**, **GSAPP'92**, Andrea's suitemate in Ruggles. Robyn wrote in to say hello from the tiny town in Maine where she practices architecture and raises her own beef and lamb. She let me know about a virtual reunion of "Junior Studio," where she had a great time reminiscing with other Architecture School alumni. Present were **Noel Williams '90**, **Anita Lin**, **Sarah Dunn GSAPP'94**, **Aubrey Summers**, **Jon Sturt** and **Julie Meidinger Trelstad**. The group would love to include more Junior Studio classmates next time, so please reach out to Anita if interested: anita1227@gmail.com.

Stop the presses! In early November, **Duchesne Drew** was made a University Trustee, bringing to five the number of our classmates serving on that body. Duchesne

joins **Lisa Landau Carnoy**, **Victor Mendelson**, **Wanda Holland Greene TC'21** and **Julie Jacobs Menin**. Some readers of *CCT* might remember the excellent profile of Duchesne published in the Winter 2020–21 issue, when he was named president of Minnesota Public Radio. In that article he said it best: "I'm a Head Start kid who went to Columbia and Northwestern. I've been with my wife for 25 years. I've had a great run, and I'm not done."

Congratulations and thank you, Duchesne.

Jon Tukman BUS'98 and his wife, Mary Beth, live in Telluride, Colo. "I run the Avalanche Forecasting and Mitigation program for the Telluride Ski Resort," writes Jon. "We have a large operation that includes a couple of WWII-era 105MM Howitzers to help reduce avalanche hazard." Anyone who visited the cozy Cucamonga wing of Ruggles, where Jon and friends lived, will remember the family vibe there. I was glad to discover that Jon and his suitemate **Ethan Nosowsky** married women who are first cousins, so they are now actually in the same family! Ethan lives in Oakland with his wife and two young daughters and is editorial director of Graywolf Press.

Bernard Ravina and **Joanna Ravina** (née Lapkin) wrote in with more proof that true love could be found in the Columbia dorms. Bernard and Joanna, my neighbors from Carman 11, have been together ever since. "We are fortunate to have three great kids," Bernard writes. "Sam recently graduated from Davidson College and is on the way to San Francisco to work at Wedbush Securities in equity research. Sophie, after finishing freshman year at Colgate, is rock climbing in Utah and doing environmental studies for a semester. Leo is a sophomore in high school and a great drummer. Joanna is a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Newton, Mass., and I am chief medical officer at a biotech in Boston. We recently saw **Andy Hoffman** and his two great kids when they were visiting from the United Kingdom. We'd be delighted to connect with any Class of '89 Columbians in the Boston area."

Sue Loring-Crane LAW'92 reported from Homecoming 2021, where she enjoyed running into **Chris Della Pietra**, **Donna**



From left, Mike Schrag '89, Dave Streitfeld '89, Erik Price '89 and Jeff Udell '89 at dinner in Oakland, Calif., on July 5.

MacPhee, **John MacPhee** and **Bo Hansen SEAS'89**. Sue is still on the stat crew for the football team and officiates the finish line at home rowing races. Professionally, she's had a long career as an IP counsel. Sue added: "My husband, Hugh Crane '88, and I were thrilled to finally move our son, John '24, into his room in Broadway Hall, the dorm built in 2000. He unfortunately spent his freshman year on the Randolph, N.J., campus of Columbia University. Turns out he lives down the hall from **Frank Seminara's** son, Luke."

Now that sounds like a fun hallway.

"All good in Atlanta," **Dave Kooby** writes, "Eighteen years later, I'm still on staff at Emory as a professor of surgery, treating awesome people with cancer and training the surgeons who will take care of us. I'm spending as much time as possible with my fiancée, Jodi Green, and my kids Dylan (16) and Sienna (14), whom I gently dragged for a walk across the Brooklyn Bridge last summer, while I tortured them with the history of the bridge, reminiscent of the 'all-night bike ride' from Kenneth Jackson's 'History of the City of New York' class."

Jesús Escobar shared this news: "I started my 13th year at Northwestern this fall, my first as a full professor of art history. My godson is a sophomore here, and my niece started college at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo [in the fall]. So now I feel I really understand my current undergrads or at least empathize with them in whole new ways — yes, I'm becoming a pushover." Jesús's second book, *Habsburg Madrid: Architecture and the Spanish Monarchy*, will be published in April.

"It's been a long time since graduation," notes **Edieal Pinker**,

"but I have been fortunate to have been able to spend a lot of time on the Columbia campus over the years as an academic (now deputy dean of the Yale School of Management) coming to conferences hosted by Columbia, or as a parent visiting my kids, a daughter in SEAS'18 and a son in CC'21. I stay in touch with dear friends **Michael Young** and **Naomi Benser**, and we all miss the late, great **Han W. Harris SEAS'89**, whom we lost much too soon."

Samantha Jouin is running for reelection to her local school board in what has turned out to be a very trying time to do so: Let's wish her luck! She is otherwise coming to grips with having one child out of college already (BC'21) and another already in his junior year.

Galen Sorrells is a public interest attorney in San Francisco, and a mediator and lawyer for the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing and the California Lawyers for the Arts. He notes that "the professional work is great, but classmates are probably most curious about the fact that my identical twins recently turned 6. No retirement for me any time soon."

Mahinder Kingra is appearing for the first time in *CCT*. In his role as the editorial director at Cornell University Press, Mahinder has had the great pleasure of working with poet, writer, editor and fellow Ithaca, N.Y., resident **David Lehman '70** on two books.

Thanks for letting us know about this Columbia collaboration, Mahinder.

Finally, we have another new Lion enrolling next academic year, courtesy of **Daniel Laifer** and his family. "I never moved that far from Columbia," writes Daniel. "I live on the Upper West Side with my wife and three kids. My oldest, after complet-

ing a gap year abroad this year, will enter with the Class of 2026!”

Thank you so much, **Emily Miles Terry**, for letting me pinch-hit for you in this edition, and thank you for your years of service keeping the Class of '89 connected.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
younggrache@hotmail.com

I am bursting with gratitude for everyone who wrote with updates and news, many for their first time (just like last column). In fact, I had so many people write that I exceeded my word limit and am forced to defer some classmates' news until the next issue. But for now, let's get to it!

Last spring, **Chris Harwood** GSAS'00 was promoted to senior lecturer in Czech in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Columbia. His son, Jáchym '24, finished his freshman year, all on Zoom.

News from **Andrew Glenn!** “After graduating from law school in 1995, I was an associate at Debevoise & Plimpton, and then made partner at Kasowitz Benson Torres. In February 2020, six of my partners at Kasowitz and I decided to form a firm — Glenn Agre Bergman & Fuentes — focusing on bankruptcy, complex commercial litigation and white-collar crime. We started up during the pandemic, which was challenging and exciting, but we've been fortunate that we've

already had some great successes, including representing hedge funds that bought Hertz out of its historic bankruptcy. One of my partners is Michael Bowen, an awesome trial lawyer and **Judy Shampianier** LAW'93's husband. Judy and I had a great time catching up on all things Columbia at our firm's launch party. Other Columbia alumni represented by the firm include my partner, Jed Bergman LAW'97; his wife, Jennifer Pepper GS'93; and our litigation manager, Ed Lee '00. My wife, Risa, and I have been married for 25 years and have five great children.”

Peter Hasapis writes, “I've been lucky enough to have been practicing internal medicine in the town I grew up in, New Canaan, Conn., for 20-plus years. My wife, Jessica, and I have three children and live in nearby Westchester County. But the big Columbia-related news in our house is that my daughter Elizabeth '25 lives on Carman 12, just three floors above where I lived freshman year. She is loving it so far. Our other children are William, a junior at Cornell, and Ryan (13), who is missing his siblings. Sometimes. My former roommate **Jay Myers** also has a daughter who is a first-year in the College. Jay and I; Jay's wife, Kelly; and our daughters met up in NYC the night before drop-off and Convocation, and enjoyed a nice hearty meal. At drop-off and Convocation we ran into **Mike Fahey**, Michelle Jacobson Goldberg '91 and of course the indefatigable Mike Behringer '89.”

Elliott Graham Ph.D. has worked for James Bell Associates, a

health and human services consulting firm based in Arlington, Va., for 17 years from his home office in Saint Paul, Minn. He and his wife, Cynthia Conley, recently celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary. When he isn't working or spending time with his family, Elliott can be found riding a backroad on his motorcycle or overseeing the restoration of his 1984 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am (and is sure that David Hasselhoff would be proud!).

Scott Hall SIPA '92 says, “All is going well here. I live in Chester, N.J., with my family, and I run a bulk spice importing business that I started 20-plus years ago (Occidental International Foods). Business is thriving. We're expanding our warehouse space to accommodate increased volume. My international travels stopped abruptly with the pandemic and I have yet to begin traveling again. I'm hopeful that this year things will return to normal. My son Kent SEAS'22 is finally back in live classes after being remote since the spring semester sophomore year. He has done remarkably well in computer science and has been a TA for operating systems and advanced programming since his sophomore year. He has a job offer already in Silicon Valley, so looks like he'll be heading out west next summer. My daughter Samantha is a sophomore at Northeastern, and my youngest son, Evan, is a freshman in high school.”

Vivian Jonokuchi was going to wait to see if she graduated before writing but figured, no time like the present. She has come back to Morningside Heights. “After raising four children in the suburbs of Connecticut, I am finally an empty-nester, and my husband and I have moved back to the Upper West Side. I am thrilled to be a master's candidate in applied physiology at Teachers College! Learning to expand my comfort zone to include reading for more than an hour is, well, challenging. Also, I believe I am testing the limits of neuroplasticity as I learn Excel. The eldest of my four kids, Dr. Alex Jonokuchi '14, is a third-year resident in pediatric neurology at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center and serves as an inspiration to help this English major discover that it's never too late to become a scientist.”

Ariel Kronman, who is at Weil, Gotshal & Manges, reports, “My

wife, Lin, and I celebrated our 20th anniversary last August. And a few days later, our Greenwich Village apartment became a half-empty nest, when our son set off for MIT. So, after lawyering from home through the pandemic I now have a home office, at least until Liam came back for Thanksgiving. Actually, it's all coming full circle, as his room was my library back when my hair was pepper and not salt. I can finally bring many of my books up from the basement. The pride of my collection are works on Chinese calligraphy, seal carving and poetry, the appreciation of which I owe to the wonderful teachers I had at Columbia, including the late, great Gari Ledyard, Hans Bielenstein and of course Ted de Bary '41, GSAS'53, in addition to Marilyn Wong-Gleysteen, Paul Rouzer and Dawn Delbanco. In other family news, our daughter, Ella, is a junior at Hunter College H.S. She's been enjoying a science honors program at Columbia and maybe, just maybe, our cub will be the next Lion in the family.”

Carol “Kate” Guess's most recent short story collection, a collaboration with Aimee Parkison titled *Girl Zoo*, was published in 2019. She has a new collection of short stories, *Sleep Tight Satellite*, forthcoming. Carol teaches in the MFA Creative Writing program at Western Washington University and lives in Seattle.

John Graves lives near Seattle with his wife, Melissa, and sons, Henry (11) and Wesley (7). What's keeping him busy? “Some things I'm working on include helping **John Kelly** JRN'10 build Graphika, as board chairman of that 32-person company, which has become a recognized leader in disinformation detection/risk assessment for social media platforms and brands. It's been a wild ride! I recently left the Washington State Investment Board after 10 years, where I co-founded the Real Assets team and invested ridiculous sums of money in private partnerships like Global Infrastructure Partners, I Squared Capital and Orion Resource Partners.”

Our final news comes from **Kristin Friedholm Bissinger**. “I went to law school, graduating in 1994, and in 1995, I married Mike Bissinger '88. After practicing law for 17 years in New York (Goodwin Procter) and New Jersey (Novartis



MIRANDA CHADWICK

Left to right, Jeremy Buchman '91, May Cowan BC'95; Jennifer Cowan BC'91, Judy Shampianier '90, Robin Wald SEAS'90, Rachel Cowan Jacobs '90; Ben Jacobs '93, Ruth Schwartz Cowan BC'61, Edward Cowan '54, Laura Marks '90 and Joel Tranter '90 (plus, not pictured, German Gomez '90, Laura Shaw Frank '90 and Sharon Rogers '90), gathered for a bat mitzvah at the Ohr Kodesh Congregation in Chevy Chase, Md., on August 19.

Pharmaceuticals), we made a move to Greenville, S.C., in 2010 to slow down and allow us/me to spend more time with our three girls. I have done some tutoring during the last 10 years (mainly assisting dyslexic students). Mike and I have one daughter who is a junior at Cornell, one who is a senior in high school and one who is a freshman in high school. I spent some time with Deirdre Flynn '92, LAW'95 at the Columbia vs. Cornell women's soccer game in Ithaca. It was so great to see the Columbia women play and to reconnect with Deirdre and a few other former teammates (Julie Davidson '93, Susan Kerr Bernal BC'91 and Joan Campion '92). I have kept in touch with **Lynn Murphy** and **Jenny Thompson Harvey** through the years and although we don't get to see each other all that often, we did attend Lynn's wedding in Napa Valley a few years ago. I also spent time with Janis Linos Jarosz BC'89; her husband, Paul; Donna MacPhee '89; and John MacPhee '89 while in Houston pre-pandemic for soccer with my daughter. It was so great to see them."

It is always great to see college friends! I was lucky to hang out with a few at my daughter's bat mitzvah, finally held in August after a 15-month pandemic-induced postponement. As I'm prone to do, I had Columbia alumni gather for a photo. Three people were MIA, yet we still had 11 in the picture. Very satisfying. Looking to the future, let us all hope that the worst of Covid-19 is behind us and that only good news will greet us around the corner.

1991

Heather E.G. Brownlie
heatherhj@yahoo.com

Heather E.G. Brownlie writes: "I encourage all classmates to submit their news and notes to me at heatherhj@yahoo.com or via the Class Notes submission form, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note! Wherever you are and whatever you are doing we want to hear from you, so please take a moment to submit today! It has been so great to hear from so many of you over the past year — please keep up the good work!"

Jack Cheng submitted: "An update for CCT! My first! After graduating as an art history major, I got a Ph.D. in the subject and then in 2001 began teaching in the Clemente Course in the Humanities, a one-year, mini-core curriculum offered to low-income adult students and accredited by Bard College. I teach an art history survey, not unlike Art Hum, and students from age 20–70-plus also take philosophy, literature, American history and writing courses. About five years ago, a local documentary filmmaker, James Rutenbeck (who received an Alfred I. duPont–Columbia University Award for his work) asked to film in our classroom. He then followed two of our graduates for the next four years as they navigated their lives in Boston and reflected on the humanities. The film, *A Reckoning in Boston*, has been garnering high praise and awards, and was broadcast nationally on PBS's Independent Lens on January 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Anyone who appreciates the Core Curriculum and believes it makes a difference in people's lives is encouraged to watch this film. And you can go to clementecourse.org to find out how to start a Clemente Course near you — there are already dozens across the country — or donate your time or money to support a local course. Thanks for watching!"

Michael Feldschuh sent a quick note: "My wife, Alicia, and I have been splitting our time between Upstate New York (Sloatsburg) and NYC. We love the nature and peaceful scenery and have been embracing the paradigm of remote work as the new normal."

Christopher Front GSAS'93 wrote in: "Last year, just in time for Covid-19, I became assistant head of school for academic affairs at John Burroughs School (St. Louis), where I have worked since 2002. Planning and coordinating the school's response to Covid (distance learning, hybrid learning, modified hybrid) was a trial by fire, but thankfully we started the year with 100 percent of the faculty/staff and an unbelievable 98 percent of the student body vaccinated, so we're close to normal. Shoutout to all the other educators in our class."

1992

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu
Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Olivier Knox
olivier.knox@gmail.com

Hello, classmates! Don't forget: We're steaming towards our 30th (gulp) reunion this spring. Watch for emails and check out our Facebook class group (bit.ly/3CEAsPd).

Now to the business at hand.

My friend **Peter Hatch** wrote in about a significant professional shift. After more than seven years in City Hall, including a pandemic stint as NYC's Covid-19 Public-Private Partnership "Czar," Peter was named by former Mayor Bill de Blasio as commissioner of the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP), the oldest and largest municipal consumer protection agency in the country.

"We license and regulate 59,000 businesses in more than 50 industries, enforce the city's strong Consumer Protection Law and enforce groundbreaking workplace laws, including those that provide the right to paid sick leave, fair scheduling and protections for workers not traditionally covered by labor laws, like freelancers, domestic workers and delivery workers," Peter wrote. "DCWP also pioneered the field of municipal financial empowerment and exemplifies how a city can prioritize the financial health of its residents with programs that provide free financial

counseling, tax prep and help claiming valuable tax credits. I could not be more proud to help lead this work."

Peter adds: "On the Columbia front, during our summer travels, my wife, **Hilary Hatch**, and I were able to catch up with **J[ason] Schwartz** in the Hudson Valley and **Farnaz Vossoughian**, **Hilary Semel**, Josh Levy '94 and Christopher Sheridan GS'90 in Montauk.

"This past fall it was great to reconnect with other members of our Reunion Committee: **Joanna Della Valle** (née Jacovini), whose daughter is a ninth-grade classmate of our older daughter, and **Dan Herman**, who was in from Los Angeles visiting his son at Columbia."

I also heard from **Maria Ramirez Jurgens**, who recently moved to Rumson, N.J., after three decades of living in Manhattan. That has "put some physical distance" between her and Morningside Heights, but she remains an active Columbia community member. Maria is a member of the Board of Friends of the Double Discovery Center (DDC), helping organize fundraising that supports the not-for-profit's college preparation programming for teens from Harlem and Washington Heights. She also is an active member of the Board of Columbia College Women and a Class Agent for the Columbia College Fund. If you're interested in volunteering with or donating to DDC, or you're a Monmouth County resident looking to connect with fellow alums living by the Jersey Shore, Maria can be reached at mer33@caa.columbia.edu.

David Aserkoff reported in. "I live in London (25-plus years now), where I enjoy replying to personalised Class Notes emails and reading *The Washington Post* online to see my classmates' work."

Yes, personalised with an "s."

David continues: "I have not seen **John Henick** since he flew here from Uzbekistan to see a dentist; he also bought a dozen avocados on that trip. Carman 9 veterans and other CC'92ers should drop me a line if they're in town."

In a subsequent email, David added: "The Henick story is true. Both the dentist and the vegetables."

Do you have a tale to tell about a visiting classmate? A dentist? Produce? Drop me a line at olivier.knox@gmail.com. This column only works when you write in!



Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

1993

Neil Turitz
lovematza@aol.com

When last I entered your mailbox, surrounded by notes from lesser classes than ours, I offered the sad news that **Mike Sardo** had died, after spending half his life battling cancer and related health issues. Since Mike's death came right after the deadline for the last issue, I promised I'd write more about him in this one, which I will do directly, but first some more tragic news: Fellow football team alum **Dennis Lafferty** BUS'01 died of ALS in August.

I knew both men fairly well in college, less so in the years afterward, though Dennis and I would often run into each other on the Upper West Side throughout the '90s and into the early aughts. Both guys were wonderful, lovely human beings, the kind of guys who made you feel good just being around them. Mike was famous for wearing shorts in any weather — literally *any* weather — and never having a bad word to say about anyone. Dennis actually wore pants, but he had a similar attitude about life.

I asked two close friends of theirs to talk about them here, to do them justice better than I could. First up is **Chad Moore**, writing about Mike:

"Mike was a special kind of person. On the field, he was a smart, fearless and tough-as-nails receiver whom you could always count on to make the big catch. He didn't talk big, he walked big. He was a team-first player who never took a play off, never took a day off. He just showed up, did his job and took care of business. I'm proud to say that I shared the same field with him. By the end of his final season, he was fifth on the Columbia all-time career receptions list.

"But it was off the field where Mike really made his mark with me. Mike was always a quiet guy. He did his best to stay out of the spotlight. He didn't want to be the center of attention. But if you got to know him, you started to realize that there was a lot going on under the surface. He had a great sense of humor. He was quick with a smile. He told a great story if you could coax it out of him. But most importantly, he was a great friend.

"For those of you who knew Mike — I'm sure you have stories just like

this. For those of you who didn't — suffice it say that Mike was one of the good ones. A good man, and an even better friend, husband and father. The world is poorer without him in it. He was the best of us."

I also talked to **Scott Spivey**, about Dennis. Here's what he had to say:

"Four years of football together and a cherished friend and brother in the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. From a football perspective, he was big, and could run forever. He typically pissed everyone off during conditioning, because we would have to keep up with him and it sucked! Most of all, he was just a great kid from Buffalo and loved his Bills and Sabres.

"He was an excellent example of work hard/play hard, never shorted on fun, but was serious about school and got his M.B.A. at Columbia, too. He had a successful run at Goldman Sachs, where he spent most of his career and where he met his wife, Ellen Winkler, with whom he had four kids. He battled ALS for two years, and is gone way too soon."

Just like last time, there's no easy segue, other than to say that both Mike and Dennis loved Columbia, and clearly made lifelong friendships there, something the next generation of CC students will also get to experience. My Carman 11 floormate **Lorenzo Wyatt** BUS'02 dropped off his daughter Milei '25 for the start of her time in Morningside Heights, telling me, "I have always loved Columbia. I am blessed that Milei will share an experience and love that has been so transformative in our lives."

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries" for more on Sardo and Lafferty.]

My fellow *Spectator* alums **Kristina Nye** and **Arthur Weise** also dropped off their kids, with one having an easier time than the other. Arthur emailed, "Kristina and I recently moved our daughter into East Campus's old hotel, now called the Townhouses, for her senior year. It is likely the best housing on campus, really quite spacious and private."

Clearly much better than it was my sophomore year, when it was a pit, but that's neither here nor there.

Arthur continues: "We had previously moved our son into McBain on the day of the flood. His first night in a dorm, sophomore year, McBain flooded. Welcome to Columbia!"

Meanwhile, we have several classmates doing new and exciting things. Old pal **Rod Azar** is now on the school board in Abington Heights, Pa. He was appointed to the board in October 2020 after another board member resigned, then won a proper election last spring.

It's a complicated and challenging time to be a school board member with all the Covid-19 issues," he told me, "but it's certainly one of the best ways to give back to your local community."

Speaking of helping the community, another Carman 11 alum, **Joseph Ori**, founded a cannabis company in 2018. The Michigan-based operation is 70,000 sq. ft. of "state-of-the-art indoor cultivation, processing and multiple brand lines," Joe said. "We recently became a multi-state operator, having won licenses in Illinois." Joe and his five partners now have their eyes set on New York and Arizona. "We are dedicated to having the art of cultivation meet the science of creating completely pure, toxin-free cannabis products for both medical and recreational use." Joe is the director of communications and thought leadership, as well as general counsel, though that last one is temporary.

Another pal, **Lucy Ruwlich Langer**, is leaving behind clinical medicine to take on the role of national medical director for oncology and genomics for UnitedHealthcare. This, after practicing for 14 years and being practice president for Compass Oncology in Portland, Ore., for eight years, as well as chairing the National Policy Board for the US Oncology Network for six. "I hope I can play at least a small part in the transformation of the U.S. healthcare system by helping patients with cancer receive the best possible care and at the same time make sure cancer care remains affordable for all," she told me. An econ major, Lucy says that a particular class that highlighted the imperfect sharing of information among physician, patient and payer is why she became a doctor in the first place, so "this new role is bringing me full circle. And I get to work from home, so my kids who are in ninth and 12th grade don't have to move."

On the creative side, **Suzette Holder Batista** SIPA'95, married to **Miguel Batista** BUS'99 for 24 years now, is an in-house tax attorney as her day job, but also self-publishes

a series of children's nonfiction books. Her latest, which came out November 16, is *Hao and Sabine Buy the World's Currencies*. "Basically, it's a cross-continental global adventure where my two young protagonists learn about the currencies of every country and territory in the world," she said. "But being philomaths, they cover so much more than currencies, including global climate change."

And finally, another old friend, and stalwart volleyballer, **Gretchen Mull Hudson** PH'97, wrote in to offer her first-ever update! She did so after reading the Fall 2021 issue, so let this be a lesson to the rest of you: IT IS NEVER TOO LATE! (Sorry I yelled, but come on! This is good stuff!) Anyway, after graduation, Gretchen did two years in the Peace Corps in rural China, returned to Columbia for a master's in public health policy and administration, got a job with a software company based in Birmingham and has been there ever since. She is a director of IT for a national behavioral health company that is a subsidiary of Anthem, has been married for almost 22 years and has two sons, Jack (19) and Kees (17). Jack is working to be an auto mechanic, while Kees will attend the University of Alabama next fall. "Overall," she said, "life is good."

It sure is, Gretchen. Thanks for reaching out, and thanks to everyone else who did this issue, as well. For the next issue, I expect more of you to do the same. If you don't, I will be forced to give a blow by blow account of my flights to and from Hawaii. Not the honeymoon, mind you, but *the flights*, one of which is a red-eye. And, I'll draw it out to 1,500 words. No one wants this, so consider yourself warned.

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Leyla Kokmen
leylakokmencct@gmail.com

Send me your news for a future column! Please use the email above or send updates via the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

Photos and captions should be submitted directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

Best wishes for the New Year.

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Janet Lorin
janet.lorin@gmail.com

Thanks to **Daniel Krisch** for sending an update. I remember Dan from *Spectator*, where he was co-sports editor. He was recently selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2022 list. A partner at Halloran Sage and chair of the firm's appellate practice group, he received recognition for his appellate and insurance law practices. Best Lawyers lists are compiled based on peer-review evaluation.

Dan earned a J.D. cum laude from the University of Connecticut. He is co-author of *The Encyclopedia of Connecticut Causes of Action*, is an elected member of the American Law Institute and has taught moot court and appellate advocacy at the University of Connecticut School of Law. He also co-authored *Connecticut Superior Court Civil Rules, Annotated* and *Connecticut Superior Court Juvenile Rules, Annotated*.

Dan and his wife, Sophia, have three kids: Felix (5), Evelyn (3) and Estelle (7 months).

Beto O'Rourke, the former congressman from El Paso who ran for President in 2020, is now trying his hand in the Texas governor's race. He's challenging the "ultraconservative policies and anti-immigrant rhetoric" of the current officeholder, Gov. Greg Abbott. *The New York Times* called it "a long-shot bid to win an office Democrats last occupied in 1995."

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Photos and captions should be submitted to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

1996

Ana Salper
ana.salper@nyumc.org

Hello, my classmates! I hope this winter finds you healthy and well. It has been a long year, hasn't it? Here is to a happy, peaceful and healthy 2022!

On January 13, **Liz Yuan** JRN'98 moderated a Columbia College Women virtual talk, "Cocktails with a Curator," featuring one of our own distinguished classmates, **Alice Tseng**. Alice is a professor of Japanese art and architecture at Boston University. She discussed modern Japanese woodblock prints during the virtual talk. At the time this was written (this past fall), Liz hoped to "see" some of you there!

Alice shares that she and **Derrick Choi** have one daughter, Clara, who played Clara in *The Nutcracker* for the Brookline Ballet School in December.

Marc Menendez is busy continuing his entrepreneurial career, having built and sold eight privately held and founded companies in 20-plus years. Marc is general manager and chief solutions officer for Data Dimensions. His oldest son attends Emerson College in Massachusetts, studying communications, marketing and business; he also plays lacrosse for the school. Marc's youngest son attends Culver Academies in Indiana, and is a starter for its nationally ranked prep lacrosse team. Marc and his family still live in Naperville, Ill.; it's been 21-plus years since moving there from NYC, but they are looking to relocate somewhere warmer soon. Marc has been in touch with some Columbia colleagues, including Joe Cormier '98, Gary Edmonds '95, John Jennings '94, Scott Roetter, **Jake Lill**, **Jim Lill**, **Linda Pyo Cavalier** and Penelope Kliegman '94, as well as Coach Erv Chambliss and Coach Keith Clark (now coaching at Dartmouth).

I was happy to hear from **Nick Kukrika**, who is a partner at Genera-

tion Investment Management, investing in tech companies. He lives in London with his family; his son Theo is 4 and his daughter Maria is 8.

This past fall Nick enjoyed helping move his nephew into Carman Hall 4, and was reminded of how small those dorm rooms are.

Ahh, yes, those cinderblock walls ... Remember those, my fellow Carman classmates?

Nick's nephew rows crew and is very excited about the team and about being at Columbia.

Melis Behlil is the head of the Radio, TV and Cinema Department at Kadir Has University in Istanbul. She also has a weekly radio show as a film critic. Melis invites classmates to reach out to her if they find themselves in Istanbul!

Will Savage remarried in December 2020 in a backyard wedding with close family followed by a "blow-out post vaccination celebration" at The Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. Will was recently promoted to chief medical officer at Disc Medicine, a hematology biotech in the Boston area.

Congratulations, Will!

Gregory Peck lives in Sherman Oaks with his son, Otis (10), who's in fifth grade. Greg owns and operates the Crescent Hotel in Beverly Hills, and is developing a large mixed-use hospitality project in Inglewood next to the new SoFi Stadium and the site for the new Clippers Arena (the Intuit Dome). He writes that he misses Columbia and all our classmates.

Pamela Laufer-Ukeles, married to **Meir Ukeles**, writes that after 10 years as a law professor at the University of Dayton School of Law, she and her family moved full-time to Israel, where she is a professor of law and healthcare administration at the Academic Center for Law and Science (fka Sha'arei Mishpat College) in Hod HaSharon, Israel. Pamela has a recently published book, *Global Reflections on Children's Rights: 30 Years After the Convention on Rights of the Child*, co-edited with Ellen Marus, that is a collection of essays from around the globe on the progress of children's rights legislation.

I'll round out these notes by sharing that I had a great time hanging out with **Whitney Berkholtz Chiate** at Homecoming this past fall. Whitney flew to NYC from sunny Malibu, and it was such a treat to see her. We introduced our youngest kids to each

other: my Max (12) and her Benton (10) caught up.

Thanks to all of you for responding to my mass outreach for notes. Keep them coming! I leave you with this:

Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this
son of York;
And all the clouds that low'r'd
upon our house
In the deep bosom of the
ocean buried.

— *William Shakespeare*, Richard III

1997

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Kerensa Harrell
kvh1@columbia.edu

Dear classmates, I hope that you all had a wonderful autumn. First, we have two pieces of College news:

- 1) Our 25th reunion is coming up in the late spring!
- 2) As of this past fall, alma mater now places second in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rankings of the nation's best colleges! This is our highest ranking ever. We currently share the number 2 spot with Harvard and MIT (Princeton is number 1).

I am delighted to present the following updates from classmates.

Eviatar Yemini is joining the UMass Chan Medical School in January as an assistant professor of neurobiology.

Rushika Richards Conroy HN'00 writes: "I am a pediatric endocrinologist and weight management physician at a hospital in Springfield, Mass. I have been here for 10 years. I live with my husband and kids (14, 12 and 10). I am trying to be the typical superhuman, working full time, taking kids to their activities, joining their schools' PTOs or being class mom, cooking and cleaning, remembering birthdays and anniversaries and still having time to exercise, binge-watch bad TV and see my friends and family. I enjoy work, as I get to spend most of my time doing what I love, which is managing kids with obesity

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and type 2 diabetes. I do mostly clinical work with a bit of research as well. With Covid-19 there has been a surge in cases of pediatric type 2 diabetes and obesity, which has left us with more patients than we can handle, but we are doing our best to get everyone seen and cared for. I am so sad watching my kids grow. Gone are the little voices and cute faces and hugs and kisses all the time. They have been replaced by teen attitude, eye rolling and an occasional hug or kiss. It is amazing to watch them grow into these wonderful people but I miss when they were little ones.”

Doraine Hemchand Burrell writes: “I am proud to be appointed the volunteer board chair of HealthRight International’s Development Committee. HealthRight is a global health NGO started by Dr. Jonathan Mann more than 30 years ago that supports the growth of community-based, sustainable healthcare systems in marginalized areas. I welcome fellow alumni to learn more by contacting me.”

Monique Chang writes: “I and Dan Russo GS’96, BUS’98 are in Greenwich, Conn., with a middle-schooler. While many families acquired pandemic pets, we acquired prepper chickens. The chickens have us swimming in eggs, so the eggs go to neighbors and colleagues, and I make quiches and Boston creams. I took electrician classes right before the pandemic shut everything down, and have been rewiring and upgrading two old houses. I would love to discuss trades education and the state of skills imbalance as craftsmen and tradespeople begin retiring.”

Petros Babasikas shares the following link with news about himself: bit.ly/3c6Oyy1.

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, I decided not to travel last summer due to the pandemic. As I sit here finishing this column it is late October, and I’m looking forward to taking my daughter trick-or-treating on Halloween night. She is almost 5, and I’m so glad that I’ve been able to be a full-time mother to her since she was born, because I just really don’t want to part with her! Luckily I don’t have to send her to kindergarten until next year because being an October baby she narrowly missed the age cutoff for the start of this school year. In the meantime, we are keeping busy with a

bunch of other activities for her. She started her second year of martial arts (Korean taekwondo), as well as ballet and tap dance, which look so adorable at this age, and I also added a tumbling (pre-gymnastics) class to her schedule. She’s now in her second year of Girl Scouts as a Daisy. And since Cub Scouts recently became coeducational, she started doing that too, as a Lion, and I volunteer as the den leader for her Lion den. Also, we tried Little League this past fall, in addition to weekly sign language (ASL) lessons with a private tutor.

Since it’s Halloween time as I wrap up this column, and we are headed to baseball practice, I will now cue the “Supermassive Black Hole” song, from that famous vampire baseball film scene, as I sign off (“Glaciers melting in the dead of night ...”).

I hope you are all enjoying a wonderful winter season by the time you read this!

Blessings to all, please stay safe during the pandemic and do send us your updates.

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
sandie.chen@gmail.com

I apologize for the short note but hope everyone is having a good winter.

My short-and-sweet update is to congratulate **Rob Travis**, who got married in 2019 and has a new job. He has accepted a position serving as the rector of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in High Point, N.C. Rob began his post in November, leaving Wakefield, R.I., and the two churches he served there since 2015. On October 12, 2019, Rob married Leah Franklin in St. Augustine’s Church in Kingston, R.I., and their families were united. Rob and Leah have seven children between them from previous marriages. Alums in attendance included **Peter Dixon-Moses SEAS’98**; his wife, Jessica Williams ’00; and their children.

Congratulations, Rob, on your new beginnings!

Please send updates to me via the CCT Class Notes submission webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note), and they’ll end up in a future column!

1999

Lauren Gershell
lauren@gershell.com

Hi everyone! I am thrilled with the outpouring of news from so many of you for this issue. Please continue to reach out with your fantastic updates!

Andy Newcomer shared the heartwarming news that in 2019, he and his husband became foster parents to a patient at UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital, where he works in the UCLA Department of Pediatrics. The infant was 7 months old at the time and had been dialysis-dependent his whole life. This past fall, at nearly 3, he finally got a kidney transplant and is doing wonderfully. Andy noted that his son’s bravery and resilience have been a real bright spot in a difficult year.

Shazi Visram BUS’04 wrote, “After last year, I feel closer to 100 than 44! My husband, Joe, and I have two kids, Asha (5) and Zane

would reach out. And if any classmates have a baby in diapers, please send me your address so I can hook you up with the good stuff. Sending warmest wishes to everyone.”

In August, **Avi Meyerstein**; his wife, Dana BC’99, JTS’99; and their three daughters moved to Israel for a year where Avi is working with the organization he founded in 2003, the Alliance for Middle East Peace, partly supported by a Fulbright. ALLMEP is a coalition of more than 150 organizations and tens of thousands of Israelis and Palestinians building people-to-people cooperation and partnerships among their communities. Avi is working with the ALLMEP team to build out the infrastructure that will enable dramatically scaling up and amplifying this field, especially following the recent bipartisan passage by Congress of the Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act, which they led in advancing and which provides \$250 million to invest in these efforts.

Andy Newcomer ’99’s son, nearly 3, recently got a kidney transplant and is doing wonderfully. His son’s bravery and resilience have been a bright spot in a difficult year.

(11), who has very real autism. It has been a challenge and a gift, and our journey has inspired me on every level to focus on supporting maternal and infant health in all I do. After having left as CEO of happybaby (the organic baby food company I founded in 2003) in 2018, I decided to torture myself for the good of humanity and new parents just one more time to help create safe environments for babies to thrive in today’s world. We launched a line of brain-safe organic baby essentials like diapers and skin care at healthybaby.com in late 2020 to share a lot of the things I wish I had known about babies’ development and brain health in the early days to make a proactive difference. We have activities, parenting support and a lot of wood to chop in Tribeca! Crazy times to start a business, but for those of you who know me, I’ve always been a little crazy. I would love it if anyone who has inspired ideas or is looking for work

This past fall, the Journalism School announced in a press release that **Daniel Alarcón**, an assistant professor of journalism, a celebrated novelist and co-creator of the award-winning Spanish-language podcast *Radio Ambulante*, was named a 2021 MacArthur Fellow. Read more: bit.ly/3DgtuB9.

Those of us in the tri-state area are familiar with the career of **Jennifer Maxfield Ostfeld JRN’00**, who has been a reporter for NBC New York for eight years. Jennifer wanted to update our class about a special profile that she did on her friend **Joseph Della Pietra**, who was killed on 9-11 while working at Cantor Fitzgerald. Jen shares, “Joe was one of the first people I met at Columbia when we were freshmen and both living on the seventh floor of Carman. He was such an outgoing and friendly person. I think about him all the time, and what a wonderful guy he was. **James Koutras** and **Mary Vouyiouklis**, who also went to high

school with Joe, helped connect me with Lisa Della Pietra, Joe's older sister, who is featured in the story: bit.ly/30pu01x.”

Erika Jaeggli (née Moravec) is an artist and lives in Dallas with her husband, Nelson Jaeggli '97, PS'04, and their two teenagers. Last spring, Erika received an award from the Dallas Museum of Art to fund travel and research into the cave systems of Texas, which are the subject of her recent work.

Christopher Dye practices classical Chinese medicine, acupuncture and Chinese herbology in downtown Manhattan. He writes, “When I first began my practice, the entry level was a master's and national board certification, which I fulfilled studying with Jeffrey C. Yuen, an 88th generation priest of the Jade Purity sect of Daoism. In the 17 years since, the profession has started moving to a doctoral level. I'm playing my part for the profession and for my patients. I went back to school and earned a doctorate in acupuncture from Pacific College of Health and Science.”

Dominique Sasson is a senior VP at Citi and was recently appointed a senior credit officer (SCO). There are only about 500 people globally within the Institutional Clients Group at Citi who have achieved this designation, and Dominique had to successfully pass numerous rigorous courses and exams, and do an intense weeklong case study presentation boot camp evaluated by senior leaders. While others have to wait up to two years to become an SCO, she was appointed immediately after successfully fulfilling all the requirements.

Congratulations on this impressive accomplishment!

2000

Prisca Bae
pb134@columbia.edu

Two classmates sent news using CCT's Class Notes submission webform. (And you can too! See my note at the end.)

Glenn Yiu is a vitreoretinal surgeon and associate professor at UC Davis. Last summer he was awarded a \$3.2 million grant from the NIH to study age-related macular degeneration using rhesus monkeys.

After pandemic lockdown, he hopes to travel again with his wife, Melody, and son, Westley (5).

Paul Sheridan is the executive director of Four Winds * Westward Ho, an independent nonprofit summer camp on Orcas Island, Wash. He and his wife, Linda, have two kids, aged 10 and 4, and assumed guardianship of a 14-year-old last summer.

Send me your news for a future column! Please email me or submit online: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

CCT also welcomes photos that feature at least two CC alumni: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Best wishes for the New Year!

2001

Jonathan Gordin
jrg53@columbia.edu

Hi everyone!

My fellow Carman 11 floor-mate **Samra Haider** was recently promoted to president at the Center for Employment Opportunities in New York.

Daniel Fazio recently joined DLA Piper as a partner in the firm's employment practice.

Congratulations to Samra and Daniel on these huge professional achievements!

Israel Gordan wrote with huge news: “Last August, my wife, Abby, and I celebrated our 15th anniversary. Our kids are Maya (7), Eli (9) and Noa (11).

“I have been the cantor of the Huntington Jewish Center for a bit more than 10 years. Last May, I was honored by the synagogue for my decade of service to the community. The last two years, however, I have been working less than full time, as I have gone back to the Jewish Theological Seminary for rabbinical school. Now that I am in my third year, we sold our car and house and moved the whole family to Jerusalem for the year, where I will study, my wife will work remotely and my kids will attend school. It's been a long-time dream of ours to live as a family here, so if anyone is passing through the area, please let me know!

“I attended a pre-reunion event in the fall, and it was lovely to see some old, familiar faces on the screen, but somehow never heard anything after

that about our 20th. I guess we'll just have to look forward to our 25th. I hope this year is a better one for everyone!”

Izzy also reports that my pal from *Spectator* and first-year physical education, **Daniel Feldman**, lives with his wife and five children in the same apartment complex as Izzy in Jerusalem!

Finally, I'm excited to share personal news as well. On October 9, my eldest daughter, Julian, became a Bat Mitzvah. Juju did an exceptional job, and Jamie Rubin BC'01 and I are so proud of her, but we were simply blown away by our alum friends who joined us for the event in Los Angeles. All our friends had prominent roles in the service and impressive moves on the dance floor! **Dina Epstein**, **Annie Lainer Marquit**, **Rachel Bloom BC'01**, **Erin Fredrick BC'01** and **Mirka Feinstein BC'01** all showed their spirit. It was incredible to have so many close friends who made such a long trip to be with us! I hope Juju develops lifelong friendships when she goes to college, like Jamie and I did.

Great hearing from all of you!

2002

REUNION 2022
JUNE 9–12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu
Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Sonia Hiradarami
soniahird@gmail.com

Hi, CC'02! Winter is here and before we know it, it will be time for our 20-year reunion! Save the date: Thursday, June 9–Sunday, June 12! Hope to see so many of you! Don't miss the chance to reconnect with Columbia friends, and ideally even make new ones!

Cassius Michael Kim was the director, writer and executive producer for a documentary short, *7 Years and Counting: The Unjust Imprisonment of Marvin Guy*. It was created in partnership with activist Shaun King and his organization, Grassroots Law Project. More information on this injustice, as well as the full 18-minute film, here: freemarvinguy.com.

Lawrence “Larry” A. Haber has been a hospitalist at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center for 10 years and an associate professor of medicine at UCSF. He has been taking care of hospitalized Covid-19 patients during the pandemic and continues to do so!

David Chubak led the pandemic recovery response at Citibank including leading its branches, mortgage and wealth teams and spearheading the Paycheck Protection Program. He writes, “It has been the challenge of a lifetime but one of the proudest and most impactful of my career.”

Mike Mellia filed and directed fashion advertising videos for international brands including Hermès, Loro Piana, Tory Burch, The Gap, Brooks Brothers, Swarovski, *W* magazine, *Vogue* and more. His work has been featured by *Adweek*, SFMOMA, MoMA PS1, *WSJ*, CNN, MSNBC, The Huffington Post, *The Guardian*, Vice, Artinfo and more (mikemellia.com).

Daryl Weber is married to Jennifer Legum Weber '05, and has two boys, Avi (6) and Devin (3). They live on Long Island in Great Neck, N.Y. Daryl wrote a book on the psychology of brands, *Brand Seduction: How Neuroscience Can Help Marketers Build Memorable Brands*, and has been doing brand strategy consulting. But now his focus has shifted to the launch of his own brand — a line of modern sleepwear for men, Bedfellow (bedfellowdreams.com or @bedfellowdreams).

Send your news to the email at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

Photos and captions should be submitted directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo)!

2003

Michael J. Novielli
mjn29@columbia.edu

It's been a challenging two years for the world, so I sincerely hope you were able to spend some quality time with family and friends during the recent festive period.

On the topic of celebrations, **Carter Reum** and **Paris Hilton** had

pre-wedding festivities in Las Vegas and Los Angeles and were married on November 11. Those interested in following the preparation leading up to what was certainly an epic wedding can watch her new series, *Paris in Love*.

Raquel Gardner writes, “I’m spending the year living outside of Tel Aviv with my husband and five kids, continuing my work remotely for UCSF and establishing scientific collaborations with scientists at Sheba Medical Center. So far it’s been quite an adventure.”

Jessica Beard writes, “I want to share an update about the work I am doing in gun violence prevention in Philadelphia. I’m a trauma and critical care surgeon at Temple University Hospital in North Philadelphia. In addition to being on the frontlines of the Covid-19 pandemic, I also respond to our city’s gun violence epidemic. Since the onset of Covid, we have cared for double the number of shooting victims at my hospital, which

planning for high net-worth clients. The American Bar Association also appointed me, effective September 1, as vice-chair of the International Tax Planning Committee.”

Fiona Sze-Lorrain shares a film about her poetry, translations and zheng harp music: bit.ly/3DHdisO.

Send me your news for a future column! Please use the email at the top of the column, or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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2004

Jaydip Mahida
jmahida@gmail.com

The Class of 2004 continues to bring the heat with another great round of updates from across the globe:

Trauma and critical care surgeon Jessica Beard '03 is passionate about gun violence prevention and advocating for her patients.

has been incredibly challenging. I am passionate about gun violence prevention and advocating for my patients. I was recently named a Stoneleigh Foundation Fellow and am working on a research and advocacy project to leverage the media as a public health tool for gun violence prevention: bit.ly/3DAeT3H.”

Jen Baskin shares, “I was very fortunate to meet up with **Leena Gupta** (née Krishnaswamy), **Jill Freedman** (née Janeczko) and Alison Nogi (née Goodwin) BC’04 in New York City. We had a full day on campus hitting our favorite spots: lunching at Le Monde, drinking frozen margaritas at The Heights, buying gear for our families at the Bookstore and soaking in the sun on the Steps! After all these years we finally spotted the owl hidden in *Alma Mater!*”

Kambiz Eli Akhavan updates: “I am senior counsel with the international law firm of Norton Rose Fulbright US. I specialize in domestic and international estate

Adam Gidwitz’s first book for children, *A Tale Dark & Grimm*, was published in 2010. This past fall, it was produced as a 10-episode animated series on Netflix. It was the number 3 most watched kids’ show on Netflix in the United States, and one of the top 10 most watched shows on Netflix worldwide. Adam says, “Just as when it came out as a book, some people thought it was too scary for children. And children thought those people were wrong.” He continues to write novels, and is working on new television adaptations as well. Adam is married to Lauren Mancia ’05, and they have a daughter, Ellie (5).

My fraternity brother **Nohn Ma** writes: “Our company, Numerade, recently raised a \$26 million series A round. We’re looking for amazing folks to join our team. Our AI tutor is democratizing STEM education. Our goal is to elevate humanity by helping more students succeed in STEM. If interested, please reach out!”

Audrey Slover checks in from India: “Namaste from New Delhi! After arriving at the height of Covid-19 in 2020 on diplomatic assignment for the U.S. Department of State, my husband, John, and I are finally settling in and love living in India. So far our travels have been limited due to our kids not yet being vaccinated, but we are enjoying the culture and history of this amazing place and are doing all we can so that our work keeps contributing to the United States’s influencing the world for good overseas. If anyone is coming through town, please let us know. We’d love to see you!”

Sivan Kinberg GSAS’15 is an assistant professor of pediatrics and the director of the Pediatric Intestinal Rehabilitation Center at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC). She leads a multidisciplinary team in caring for children with short bowel syndrome and intestinal failure. Sivan also holds a joint appointment as an assistant professor of biomedical informatics at CUIMC and was recently appointed program director of the Clinical Informatics Fellowship Program.

Rachel Neugarten lives in Ithaca, N.Y., and is working on her Ph.D. at Cornell. She happily reports that Ithaca is, as the T-shirts claim, “Gorges,” with lots of opportunities to hike and visit waterfalls.

That’s all for this issue. Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share about trips you might take, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates via either the email at the top of the column or Class Notes submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

Sallie Touma
sallie@salliemathstutor.com

Hi, Class of 2005. I hope that you saw an email from me this past fall asking for Class Notes! If not, please send your email to the Alumni Office (college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info) so you get it next time!

It is so nice to feel like our city is opening up with the lights of Broadway back on! A highlight of the fall for me was being able to see a Broadway show. I hope you enjoyed a festive holiday season reuniting with family near and far!

Unfortunately, I did not get any replies for this issue, so I hope to receive some updates from you by email or through the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Happy New Year!

2006

Andrew Stinger
andrew.stinger@gmail.com

I recently had the privilege of catching up with friend and Lit Hum classmate Colleen Myers ’07 during her visit to San Francisco, and while some things hadn’t changed much for us (having one beer too many while watching a close game for the Boston Red Sox together), it was a lovely opportunity to reflect on how much has changed — and is changing — for the better in recent months. With that in mind, here are some lovely updates from our CC’06 classmates!

Radha Ram writes: “Raj and I are overjoyed to welcome Meera June Sahoo, born September 13, to the world. We are well, and enjoying being a family of three!”

Libby Peters and her wife, Sarah Stevenson, welcomed their second child, James Edward (“Jed”), last July. Both moms, as well as big sister Findley, are over the moon with the latest addition to the family. They look forward to making a family trip from Philadelphia to Morningside Heights in the near future.

Annie Tracy Samuel, assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, has had her book, *The Unfinished History of the Iran-Iraq War: Faith, Firepower, and Iran’s Revolutionary Guards*, published. It provides an internal view of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps by examining the history of the war as recorded in a massive volume of Persian language publications produced by the IRGC’s top members and units.

Virginia Milner celebrated the debut of *Kindle Vella*, a new reading experience for serialized stories.

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Congratulations!



1 SARAH MORRILL



2

AUDREY PARIS PHOTO



3



4



5

ELAINA MORTALI

ALLISON WILLIAMS



6

JEAN BRIMCOMBE



7

KYLEE YEE



8

1. Celebrating the September 25 marriage of Heather Hwalek '10 and Taylor Washburn LAW'07 at Camp Fernwood Grove in Harrison, Maine, were (left to right) Chuck Roberts '12, Dennis Martin '10, the bride, Ben Arterburn GSAS'12 and the groom.

2. Eyvana Bengochea '16 and Ziyad Al Rasheed-Wright GSAS'15 (center) married on July 8 at the Villa et Jardins Ephrussi de Rothschild in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, France, joined by (left to right) Theresa Babendreier '16; Kristina Ann-Marie Flemming '16; Eylisabeth Bengochea; the couple's son, Tariq; Louwla Wright; Juliana Remark '17; and Lindsey Remark '17.

3. Michael Lew married Elizabeth Chu '12 (seated center, first row) at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel on September 4. Among the celebrants were (far left, standing, bottom to top) Kevin Huang '11, Lisa Lian '12, Wen Liu '12 and Kipp Johnson; (far right, standing, bottom to top) Raina Chandiramani SEAS'12, Sam Bhimani, Zachary Ali '11 and Andrew Nguyen '12; (seated, second row, left to right) Avik Batra and Shalini Thareja '12; (seated, third row, left to right) Ruchika Sangani SEAS'12 and Alana Tung '12; and (seated, fourth row) David Stein.

4. From left, Sarah Hardie '18, Abigail Sharkey '18, Jeramiah Wegner GS'19 and Nick Matos GS'18 celebrating Sharkey and Wegner's wedding in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on July 11.

5. Jessica Goldberg (Dartmouth '03) and Neil Turitz '93 were married by Rabbi Seth Wax '03 on October 10 in New Ashford, Mass.

6. Jackson Allen Giuricich '14 and Maria Giménez Cavallo '14, who met at the Columbia University French Cultural Society, were married on October 23 in Montmartre, Paris.

7. Katie Chung '13 and Jason Sun '12 wed on July 2 at The Mansion at Natirar in Far Hills, N.J.

8. Eric Hirsch '09 married Lauren Hock in Chicago on May 30. Joining were (left to right) Billy Goldstein '09, Kris Alspach '09, Lauren Rennée '09, Amy Z. Cohen BC'76, Harriet Cohen BC'52, the groom, the bride, Jacob Hirsch '18 and Gabriel Stine GSAS'24.

9. Catherine Woo '08, DM'15 and Sam Polan DM'14 were married on October 2 at Casa La Siesta in Cadiz, Spain. Celebrating were (left to right) Kimberly Shao, Zach Buchwald, Amy Dinh, Don Damico, Ciji Rich Jeffies '08, the groom, the bride, James Middleton III, Rachael Gargano '08, Michael Polan, Tener Huang DM'13, PH'13 and Nick Singhal.



RADKA HORVATH

As principal product manager for Kindle Direct Publishing, Virginia led what is one of Amazon's biggest launches in the books category from ideation to launch.

And finally, **Andrew Liebowitz** shares that he took up piano during the pandemic. Additionally, after watching *The Chair* on Netflix, he reached out to Professor Edward Mendelson to let him know how his "Modern British Literature" class was valuable and important to him in 2004, and continues to influence how he reads fiction to this day.

Send me your news, too! Use the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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Manhattan's Manhattanville until the 1950s and is often, but shouldn't be, confused with Manhattan College in the Bronx.)"

Simeon Siegel shares, "We had a girl, Moriah Pearl, giving her brothers the sister they've been asking for."

It is so great to hear about all the wonderful things you are all doing. Please continue sharing updates! Email me at the address at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes submission form, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2008

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Lauren Agubuzu (née Angius) and **Ogo Agubuzu** welcomed their first child, Charlotte Olivia, into the world on August 30, 2021. By way of background, Lauren and Ogo were married in Walnut Creek, Calif., on August 20, 2016. Columbians in attendance were Ben Nwachukwu '08, Eve Torres '08 and Marissa Fuentes (née Garcia) '08. Lauren is a senior engineer at Google. Ogo is a physician at Palo Alto Medical Foundation."

Rachel Claire Weidenbaum and her husband, Ian Lowe, welcomed their baby, Sadie Ruth Lowe, home in September after a month in the amazing NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center NICU. They are thrilled she has made a full recovery!

Chenni Xu writes: "I was married on October 3 in Wainscott, N.Y., to Chad Bennett Cohen. We were wed in an interfaith ceremony in a micro wedding (family members only) by Rabbi Daniel N. Geffen of Temple Adas Israel in Sag Harbor, which was followed by a mini-moon in Paris. We look forward to properly celebrating with friends in the spring with our friends gathering. I work in fintech communications and welcome alumni reachouts."

Carmen Jo "CJ" Rejda-Ponce keeps busy in Houston with her husband, two Yorkie furbabies and legal career. CJ works a dual docket of employment litigation and civil rights defense for governmental entities and law enforcement agencies.

Send CCT your news for a future column! Please use the email at the top of the column, or the Class Notes

2007

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9-12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

David D. Chait
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

I hope everyone is doing well, and thanks so much to everyone who shared updates.

Helam Gebremariam and **Subash Iyer** write: "On August 6, we welcomed a daughter, Samai Meena Iyer-Gebremariam. Big brother Anand is absolutely overjoyed and settling well into his new role!"

Eric Bondarsky shares, "In autumn I co-coached my son Isaac's U8 soccer team with David Baruch '13. With an assist from Jacob Baruch, Isaac had a goal in the season opener to cap a 5-0 victory. Go green gorillas!"

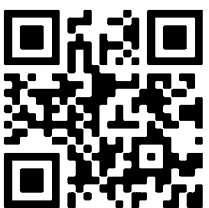
John Shekitka TC'20 writes, "After only seven and a half years, I earned a Ph.D. in social studies education from Teachers College. In addition, I was appointed to be assistant professor at Manhattanville College in Westchester County, where I have been an instructor since 2018. (Fun fact: Manhattanville College was located in



INTERVIEW COLUMBIA APPLICANTS

Join the Alumni Representative Committee and interview students who have applied to Columbia College. It's quick, easy and fun, and you'll have the opportunity to share your experience with students interested in learning more about Columbia while helping Undergraduate Admissions by sharing your insights.

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webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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Best wishes for the New Year.

2009

Shira Burton
shira.burton@gmail.com

Hello, classmates! **Shira Burton** here. After college, I attended law school at NYU. Since 2014, I've been an assistant public defender in my hometown of Minneapolis. My husband, Jonas, and I currently spend most of our time trying to keep up with our son, Ira, born in June 2020. In the meager free time that remains, I have been knitting, and studying Swedish. I love keeping up with my Columbia friends, so I thought I'd give the ol' CCT staff a break and volunteer to be your class correspondent. Members of the Class of 2009 are doing amazing things out there, so I hope to be able to share many exciting things with you in the future. I've been lucky to hear from several of you already.

fellow at the Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia at NYU.

Benny Shaffer moved back to his hometown of Pittsburgh after many years living between Boston and Shanghai. He is planning to open a community art space and residency program this year. In recent months he's enjoyed hosting CC'09 friends for large meals and Rust Belt nostalgia tours.

Meanwhile, after spending the last four years in the forests of southern Germany, **Anna Vlasits** (née Corke) recently moved back to the United States. She is living, working and riding her German cargo bike in the Chicago area with her husband, Justin Vlasits '11, her two sons and her mother.

tiffany dockery recently started as a director of product at Etsy. She's building a team focused on building visual discovery experiences from the ground up. She also recently purchased a home in the historic Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn. After having survived the *Hunger Games*-like experience of buying a home in NYC, tiffany says she is excited to have a space to gather and welcome blood and chosen family.

Ashraya Gupta checks in from the wilds of Maine, where she is studying at the Salt Institute for

environmental justice and, most recently, the environmental politics of adaptation and migration. I have a book coming out in March, *Acts of Growth: Development and the Politics of Abundance in Peru* (bit.ly/3HE14Uf). The book, which looks at extraction, climate change and development in Peru, has some of its beginnings in my Columbia thesis and study abroad experiences."

Eric recently married Lauren Hock in Chicago (see "Just Married!").

We want to hear about what you are up to, as well! Send me your news using email at the top of the column, or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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2010

Billy Organek
william.a.organek@gmail.com

Hi Class of 2010! I'm excited to share some updates from classmates.

Alana Sivin is running for New York State Senate in District 26, which includes lower Manhattan and the Brooklyn waterfront. She elaborates: "As a former public defender, I would be the only public defender in the New York State Senate and am running to bring real criminal legal reform to Albany. I've been endorsed by leaders such as Sphyr Teachout, Janos Marton, Eliza Orlins and Marti Allen-Cummings. Check out sivin4statesenate.com."

Asher Grodman relayed that he is living his "dream come true, for sure," as he is currently starring as Trevor in the new CBS comedy *Ghosts*, recently rated the number 1 most-watched new comedy this season, according to *Variety*. The show's first season is filming in Montreal. Check out the trailer and the show: cbs.com/shows/ghosts.

Good luck to Alana and Asher!

The past 18 months have shown me how precious it is when we can choose how to live, who to love and what to do, knowing that this freedom can be unexpectedly fleeting. I hope each of you takes time to enjoy special moments and can reconnect with those you cherish (including your CC'10 classmates).

It is so great to hear about all the wonderful things you are all doing. Please continue sharing these updates with the rest of the class! Email me at the address at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes submission form, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
nurielm@gmail.com
sean.udell@gmail.com

Hope you had happy holidays, Twenty Eleven! We hope that the season was merry, bright and Covid-19-free. Your bicoastal class correspondents continue to be well. **Nuriel Moghavem** remains in his hometown of Los Angeles, where he is training as a fellow in multiple sclerosis and neuroimmunology, and recently married Stephanie Muscat. **Sean Udell** remains in his father's hometown of Philadelphia, where is now more than halfway through his psychiatry residency. Sean does have some additional news this time: He's (finally) married! After a two-year (Covid) engagement, Sean married Jonathan Jenkins in Sean's hometown of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on New Year's Eve at the historic Bonnet House Museum and Gardens. Following the wedding weekend, the newlyweds escaped to Eleuthera Island for their hideaway honeymoon.

Other classmates recently wed as well. **Ana Bobadilla Bermudez** married Juan Bermudez in the Dominican Republic a week before the country went into a Covid state of emergency and curfew. The couple moved to Santiago, proceeded to have a pandemic baby and have started jobs in the local banking system. The curfew and state of emergency lasted more than 450 days, but thankfully ended at the time of submitting these Class Notes (and they hope it remains in the past by the time these notes are published). Ana says she is looking forward to an in-person reunion with many classmates!

Forrest Anderson PS'17 and **Katherine Kolombatovich** also tied the knot, on August 28 at Troutbeck in Amenia, N.Y. Family and friends, including a slew of rowdy Columbia alums, joined for

Asher Grodman '10 is currently starring in the new CBS comedy Ghosts, recently rated the number 1 most-watched new comedy this season.

Joanna Smolenski earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from the CUNY Graduate Center last year and moved to Los Angeles to begin a fellowship in clinical ethics at UCLA Health.

Another classmate made a big move in the opposite direction: After a year of sunshine in San Diego, **Josh Mathew** is clerking for a judge in Brooklyn and living in Clinton Hill. He looks forward to catching up!

Sasha de Vogel GSAS'13 is also back in Brooklyn after earning a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan. Sasha's research is about the politics of protest in Russia and other authoritarian regimes. She is a post-doctoral

Documentary Studies following 10 years as a high school science teacher in NYC public schools. She reports that quitting your job after a decade is weird but OK, and she looks forward to finally getting a taste of the gig economy. By the way, if you're missing campus fave the Kitchen Cabinet, you can listen to Ashraya's new project Groupwork's album at groupworkmusic.bandcamp.com.

Finally, **Eric Hirsch** writes, "I'm in my fifth year as an assistant professor of environmental studies in the Department of Earth and Environment at Franklin & Marshall College, where I teach and do research on issues of climate change, sustainability issues,

the celebration, which culminated in a truly epic dance party reminiscent of the good ol' EC days. During the next year and a half, Forrest and Katie will split their time between New York and San Francisco, where Forrest will complete his fellowship year in orthopedic surgery and sports medicine at Stanford and Katie will continue her work as a producer at Apple.

Another newlywed, **Sejal Patel**, was married to Deepan Patel in September. In addition to their marriage, Sejal enjoyed many other transitions: (finally) graduating from a glaucoma fellowship at Columbia Ophthalmology last July and starting his first “real” job in private practice at Metro Eye Care in Paramus, N.J. While it was bittersweet to leave NYC, Sejal and Deepan say they are happily settling into their married life in the suburbs!

Jessica L. Johnson breaks this weddings-and-babies-heavy Class Notes column with her adventurous update: She is back at it in Istanbul, subconsciously chasing James Baldwin's ghost all over the world! Taking it a step further, she is scheming to move to Paris with David J. Amado '10 early this year, planning a 15-year friendship anniversary phenomenon, if you will. In other dream-realizing news, Jessica has recently begun sending her zine, *sezenekler | geri*, out into the world. Drop a line at @j.l.mixwelle on IG if you'd like to witness a Black woman processing her love life and coming to life in another hemisphere. And learn a little Turkish. And enjoy some mixed media!

Sam Laskey sent this update just in time to make it into this issue: “As part of the lead creative team at Bootleg Universe, Sam Laskey is working on the kind of insane, juvenile, ultra-

where she advises a wide range of healthcare clients, including providers, payers and investors. She says she is grateful for her time at Columbia, particularly the history department, the diversity and her friends.

We, too, are grateful for this class, and for everyone's Class Notes contributions. Keep them coming!

2012

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Sarah Chai
sarahbchai@gmail.com

Class of 2012, thanks for sharing your updates.

Natasha Avanesians SIPA'17 is the communications director for the Partnership for New York City. She previously was chief of staff at the Long Island Rail Road and on the Bloomberg 2020 presidential campaign. She graduated from SIPA with a focus in urban policy. Natasha and her husband live in New York City and look forward to connecting ahead of the 10-year reunion!

After four years in Hong Kong, **Paul Hsiao** has moved back to the United States. He is in New York and is an economist for Boston Consulting Group. You can also find

him on the squash courts. As of the time of this submission, Paul had recently won his first tournament.

Exciting news from **Rebecca Kwee**: “I'm one of the nominees for the 2021 Pushcart Prize for short fiction. The reason I'm sharing is I started publishing my writing amidst the pandemic, and am navigating becoming a ‘writer’ mid-career (I am in the education and social impact world). I started the Columbia University Club of Singapore's first writing group, and would love to connect with alumni who are exploring this path, as well as to learn from their experience: rebeccakwee@gmail.com.”

Ian Scheffler wrote from New York: “I recently met up with Jared Rosenfeld '13 and Lidia Jean Kott BC'13 to explore the New York Botanical Garden and nosh on the finest pastas of Arthur Avenue. We ran into **Georges Compagnon** and Adrienne Peñaloza BC'12, who had the same itinerary, just offset by an hour.

“For the past four years, I've been teaching English (and now computers) at a small public arts school in the Bronx. Two of my former students recently started *Journals of Color*, the borough's first and only (so far as we know) independent literary magazine for teens of color.

“If you're still in the Big Apple and we haven't seen each other in 10 years, feel free to reach out! Always happy to go for a nostalgic jog in Riverside Park or grab a pastry at the Hungarian.”

Rebecca Kwee '12 is a nominee for the 2021 Pushcart Prize for short fiction; she started publishing her writing amidst the pandemic.

Adding another alumni-in-law to our ranks, **Princess Francois** married Andy Estevez at Transfiguration Roman Catholic Church in Williamsburg on September 5. Like a true royal, her matrimony was grandly featured in *The New York Times* (nyti.ms/3qwl1kq)! The couple met in 2017 on Coffee Meets Bagel, and it's been lox of love ever since.

Where there are weddings, there are babies, we suppose. **Shira Schindel** and Ron Gejman '10 welcomed their first child into the world on July 14! Adi Elena Gejman was born at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston via cesarean section, and she is busy smiling at her loving parents at all ungodly hours of the night (and day). **Zila Reyes Acosta-Grimes** LAW'15 and **Brian Grimes** recently welcomed their second son into the world! Tomas was born on October 7 at New York Presbyterian-Columbia University Medical Center, clocking in at 6 pounds, 11 ounces, with a length of 19 3/4 inches. Zila adds that Tomasito is — unsurprisingly — a little clone of Brian, who has very dominant genes, apparently.

violent projects his Columbia professors told him not to pursue. Sam recently attended the Canneseries TV festival in the absurdly beautiful city of Cannes for the premiere of *The Guardians of Justice*, a mixed-media superhero miniseries he wrote and produced. You can watch it next year on Netflix. (Please, just press play over and over and over again. Sam doesn't care if you like it, but he needs big viewership numbers in order to get season two and buy a house.) Additionally, he is writing and producing an adaptation of *Far Cry 3: Blood Dragon* titled *Captain Laserhawk*, also for Netflix, and several other major video game adaptations he can't talk about yet.”

Finally, **Ivette Sanchez** offered to share a more longitudinal life update, which we are always thrilled to receive.

For those of you who have never sent one in or have been a stranger for some time, we invite your longitudinal updates as well!

Ivette graduated from NYU Law in 2017 and lives on Long Island. She is a rising fifth-year associate in the health care group of Ropes & Gray,



PHOTO (RIGHT): LEE GLICKLICH



At left: Ravi Bhalla '13 and Allison Heimann '13 at their CC graduation, and at right: attending the wedding of Andrew Glicklich '14 and Gabrielle Fromer BC'14 on June 26, 2020. Bhalla and Heimann are now engaged!



At left: Roniquee Marksman '14 and Damaris Giha '14 in Brooklyn; middle: Hannah Ellison '14 and Giha at La Sagrada Familia, Barcelona; and at right: Marksman and Ellison in Milwaukee.

Shalini Thareja sent a note from Florida: "Our 1402 EC suite recently finished celebrating the weddings of **Elizabeth Chu** to Michael Lew and **Raina Chandiramani SEAS'12** to Sam Bhimani. We had our first reunion in Manhattan and then traveled to Clearwater, Fla., for the second wedding two weeks later. It was a blast to get our whole crew together after so long. Congratulations to the newlyweds!"

See the nearby photo from Elizabeth and Michael's wedding!

It's always great to learn what classmates are up to and to hear of classmates meeting up with one another. Wishing everyone a peaceful winter season, and hope to hear from more folks soon.

2013

Tala Akhavan
talaakhavan@gmail.com

The Class of 2013 has been making the most of the pandemic, taking advantage of remote work to spend time with family and pursue new careers. During the last few months, my husband, Andrew Wood '14, and I have been raising our now-toddler, Mila, and Cocker Spaniel, Apollo, in Santa Monica. Last summer, I was brought in as COO of Pietra, a tech company focused on democratizing and digitizing e-commerce and supply chain for the creator economy.

In early 2021, **Michael Laracunte** and his brother, Tyler, were selected as one of 30 teams from 3,000-plus applicants to participate in a startup competition. After three months, six rounds of cuts and a final pitch in front of 20 investors, they won and started their company, ESporter, which curates "rec league" experiences for gamers looking to improve, find a community and compete for cash prizes. When participants join one of

ESporter's "Splits" they get access to four weeks of coaching from professionals, a community to learn from and practice with, and a ticket to a cash prize tournament. The brothers are starting with just one game to prove the concept but have plans to expand into several other games soon. In Michael's words, "It's kind of a rec league, kind of a Master-Class, kind of a tournament but all fun, unique and engaging."

If you want to check in with Michael, don't hesitate to reach out: team@esporter.win!

Dan Margulies completed his rabbinical ordination in 2017, and after a few years in the Bronx as a synagogue rabbi, he and his wife, Ilana (NYU '13), have relocated to Washington, D.C., for Ilana's surgical residency at Georgetown. Dan teaches Judaic subjects (Hebrew Bible and Talmud) at one of the local Jewish high schools. They recently welcomed their second daughter and love living near their extended families.

Ben Basche and his wife, Talya, had their second boy, Noah, in May 2021. He joins their first son, Samuel (3), and Ben's stepsons, Jonah (8) and twins Rafael and Gabrie (6). They live in a suburb of Johannesburg, where Ben has been PM on AI/recommendations engines for three years at MultiChoice Group, Africa's main pay-TV/streaming video on-demand company. During the last few months, Ben decided to pivot his career to cryptocurrencies. The co-founder of Rainbow.me — an Ethereum wallet based in NYC — reached out to him on Twitter about working with them. Coincidentally, two days later, a friend sent him his first NFT (of a fat Penguin). At that point, Ben was hooked. He began in a consulting capacity and joined full-time as the 12th employee at Rainbow, working on product, strategy and business development.

Katherine Howitt is pursuing a Ph.D. in linguistics at the University of Maryland and recently got engaged to Evan Casper-Futterman. In her program, Katherine is a Flagship Fellow and is studying child language acquisition. Last July, the couple completed a through hike of the John Muir Trail, which was more than 210 miles, and summited Mount Whitney.

Woo Chang Chung is a quantum physicist at ColdQuanta, which works to build the world's first commercial quantum computer based on trapped neutral atoms.

Caroline Neff (née Lisankie) and her husband, Jack, welcomed their first child, John, in March 2021.

Allison Heimann LAW'16 and **Ravi Bhalla** are engaged! Allison and Ravi met in a philosophy class and became close friends at Columbia, but did not start dating until five years after graduation. Now, they live in Tribeca and are getting married next year. Allison is an attorney in the Tax-Exempt Organizations Group at Morgan Lewis. Ravi, also an attorney, is a commercial litigator at Susman Godfrey.

See the nearby photo!

Arielle Kogut recently joined the venture capital industry as a partner at Tribe Capital, where she is focused on fundraising and deal sourcing. She moved to Florida last year and splits her time between New York and Miami.

Send me your news! Use the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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2014

Rebecca Fattell
rsf2121@columbia.edu

Damaris Giha, **Hannah Ellison** and **Roniquee Marksman** have been able to see each other, but all three have yet to be together in the same place at the same time! (see the nearby collage). Damaris recently quit her corporate job to pursue full-time musicianship. Hannah teaches bilingual kindergarten classes in Milwaukee. Roniquee

recently graduated from a social work program in Chicago and is back in Brooklyn pursuing school-based positions. They hope others are doing well!

After meeting during NSOP in 2010, **Namrata Gumaste** and **Ram Narayan SEAS'14** married last summer, surrounded by their Columbia friends.

Congratulations to **Shaun Abreu**, the newest representative for District 7 on New York City's City Council! Shaun will be sworn in in January with a stated focus on food and housing insecurity, educational opportunity, better infrastructure and crime.

Congratulations from your CC'14 classmates!

As always, please feel to reach out to me directly with your updates!

2015

Kareem Carryl
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2015! No news to share this time, but don't be shy about sending me some! Your classmates want to hear about all of the cool things you are up to! Use the email above or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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2016

Lily Liu-Krason
liliukrason@gmail.com

Hey 2016. Every time I write this note to you, I can't help but think how time has flown. I recently caught up with **Sonya Li**, **Angel Wang** and **Julie Anne Hoffman** in Black Canyon in Utah. See the nearby photo!

Angel and Julie recently sent updates but here's one from Sonya: "Hi Columbia. It's been quite an adventure since graduating! After working for four years in NYC/Boston at a life sciences consultancy, I moved to Oakland, Calif., to join a healthcare data startup. In September, I began a fellowship at

an early-stage venture fund to learn about seed investing in healthcare. I left NYC in April 2021 and drove across the country, visiting 11 National Parks along the way. Remote work has been a blessing, as I've since hiked remarkable trails in Utah, Texas, Colorado and California. I've marveled at arches carved impossibly into pre-historic sandstone, watched golden aspen trees glow against the backdrop of snow-capped mountains. In a world of uncertainty and strife, nature has kept me grounded. I feel lucky to have shared some of these adventures with **Lily Liu-Krason** and **Angel Wang**. So while my career and location have changed, my college friendships remain a constant!"

From **Charles Sanky**: "Hey 2016! Hope y'all are staying positive and testing negative these days. I've had the privilege of working on health system design and health equity across New York City hospitals, especially the past couple of years with the Covid-19 pandemic. I'm an ER doc at Mount Sinai Hospital, Beth Israel Hospital and Elmhurst Hospital. I've found a passion for creative solutions to population health, ensuring that we take care of everyone, especially those who typically slip through the cracks due to systemic injustice and oppression. In my spare time, I still do a lot of running, swimming and music. Miss y'all and hope to see you around!"

See the below photo, taken at Homecoming on October 16!

From **Eyvana Bengochea** LAW'19: "Columbia is where I met my best friends, where I met my husband, Ziad Al Rasheed-Wright GSAS'15, and where I watched my son spend the first two years of his life, so when it came time to plan my wedding I knew I wanted to incorporate my gratitude and love for Columbia as much as possible! I made Columbia Blue the 'official' accent color for the wedding, featuring it in the bridesmaids' dresses, floral arrangements including my bridal bouquet, stationery and even my son's 'page boy' outfit. I incorporated the Columbia crown in our wedding logo and included it on the invitations and throughout the day. By far my favorite Columbia elements, though, were a gold relief of Butler Library on our cake (we included tiny reliefs of the places most significant to us, and Butler Library was definitely one of those key places!) and the drawing of Low Library on our table cards, with the top table named '116th Street, Columbia University.'

Given that most of my friends who attended were from the College, it was even more special and fitting to get to celebrate together with these elements that reminded us of Columbia, even thousands of miles away in France!"

See "Just Married!"

That's all for now ... Have you been having adventures with classmates? Please let me know!



GREG MOSS

From left, Angel Wang '16, Julie Anne Hoffman '16, Lily Liu-Krason '16 and Sonya Li '16 hiked the Black Canyon in Moab, Utah, on October 9.

2017

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Karisma Price's debut collection of poetry, *I'm Always so Serious*, has recently been acquired and will be published in 2023.

Alfred E. Tsai joined the American Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan and has been director of government and public affairs since October. He previously served as executive officer in the Department of International Affairs of Taiwan's Kuomintang (Chinese Nationalist Party). Alfred earned a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin in May 2021 and is pursuing an M.B.A. at The Johns Hopkins Carey Business School by way of online classes.

Bianca Guerrero continues to lead a coalition that won a \$2.1 billion excluded workers fund for New Yorkers who were ineligible for unemployment and federal Covid-19 benefits. The state program opened for applications on August 1, and due to overwhelming demand closed on October 8. The coalition is now gearing up to fight for an additional \$3 billion for the program, plus permanent solutions to ensure these workers are never excluded again.

Outside of work, Bianca has been learning to sew, taking screen printing classes, going to concerts and reconnecting with friends.

Elliot Xu, with Grant Mullins '16, is a part of the founding team for a hedge fund in San Francisco.

As always, please feel free to share Class Notes with me either via email or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. We all love hearing about the exciting stories, updates and accomplishments in your lives!

2018

Alexander Birkel and **Maleeha Chida**
ab4065@columbia.edu
mnc2122@columbia.edu

Noah Zgrablich is a second-year law student at USC Gould and will work for Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton. He will be in the firm's New York City location this summer, in the corporate department working on mergers and acquisitions, private equity, capital markets and real estate.

Briley Lewis will soon finish her thesis proposal and advance to Ph.D. candidacy, one step closer to a Ph.D. in astronomy! Briley recently won the American Physical Society's History of Physics essay contest, writing about the life of astronomer Carolyn Shoemaker, who discovered the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet that crashed into Jupiter in the 1990s.

Callahan Mayer writes, "Upon leaving the city, I bought an old farmhouse, off a dirt road, outside a small rural town, in one of the poorest counties in Wisconsin. I absolutely love it here. I've even met two alumni and many NYC transplants! I worked in Child Protective Services and now work in a hospital, supporting and facilitating groups for psychiatric patients. I have a



Left to right, Richin Kabra '16, Charles Sanky '16, Andrew Liu '17 and Saaket Pradhan '16 met up at Homecoming on October 16.

newfound admiration for truck drivers, farmers, parents and neighbors. I am more understanding of people with conservative, traditional and religious values. I have never felt worldlier than I do now — in this landlocked little town.”

Bindu Bansinath is a writing fellow at The Cut, a lifestyle and culture website for women, as of November 15.

Send in news about your adventures! Use the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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2019

Tj Aspen Givens and Emily Gruber
tag2149@columbia.edu
emilyannegruber@gmail.com

Hi Class of 2019! We hope that you enjoy the following updates from our class and had a fantastic fall, full of pumpkin patches, apple-picking and spending well-deserved time with loved ones. Send your updates along to us for a future issue!

Houston Brown took a short break from academia to pursue traveling. He has since started law school at Cornell. The knowledge that he gained at Columbia has been

invaluable to law school, he says. It has been great for him to get out of the city and attend an institution in a college town. Nonetheless, he is looking forward to returning to the city, and possibly Columbia.

Tj Aspen Givens recently received admittance to and began a six-month digital marketing intensive course at the Business School to further her career and executive education in marketing, communications and digital at M&T Bank.

Krys Molina was recognized as an honoree of the *Hispanic Executive* magazine 30 Under 30 class. This honor concretized her success at Pfizer during the company’s vaccine creation; she was chosen to help build the engine that powered the dashboards the executive leadership team used to make decisions throughout the pandemic. Krys also co-led Pfizer’s Global 2021 Latino Summit in October, where she interviewed Pfizer’s CEO, Albert Bourla, on the topic of “Diversity as Business Imperative.”

Brent Morden recently celebrated the run of his new rock musical, *Infernal*, which played four live shows at NYC’s Flea Theater in October. Brent says he is grateful to his many Columbia friends who came out to support him. He continued to grow his work as a teacher, music director and singer this past fall. In September, Brent began directing chorus classes at Hunter College Elementary School through Every Voice Choirs, where he is the program manager, and was gearing up his



Left to right, Connor Moore '19, Eleanor Pressman '19 and Nick Rio '19 at their annual Fourth of July backpacking trip in Yosemite National Park.

voice for Christmas caroling season. Follow Brent at @extramordernary for more.

Eleanor Pressman, Connor Moore and Nick Rio “all moved to California after graduating, and we enjoy getting to see each other lots, especially last summer when we completed several backpacking trips in the Sierras! See the nearby photo of us on top of Yosemite Falls last Fourth of July!”

Michael Wheatley and Jack Treval were married on July 31 in Washington, D.C. Ariana Agrios '18 officiated. Michael and Jack are now happily living in Seattle with their two cats.

Stephen Cone (emails above) or submit them through the Class Notes submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2021

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–12

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Mario A. Garcia Jr.
mag2329@columbia.edu

Hey Class of 2021! My name is **Mario Garcia**, and I’m your class correspondent! If there’s anything our virtual graduation year showed us, it’s that connecting with each other despite massive location differences is a key part of what makes our Columbia community so special. Feel free to use this column to share with our fellow Lions what you’re up to! What are you doing this year? Have you finally answered the dreaded “What comes after graduation?” question? What’s new in your life — weddings, career moves, recently moved? I’d love to hear from all of y’all, either by email or through the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

And if you see an old friend or a potential new connection through Class Notes, reach out! Continue that conversation and keep the Columbia community thriving. Looking forward to seeing you all very soon!

2020

Stephen Cone and Kyra Ann Dawkins
jsc2247@columbia.edu
kad2196@columbia.edu

Jane Poss finished an M.Sc. at the University of Oxford last September and has moved back to the United States.

Janiya Clemmons is playing professional basketball in Dijon, France, and says she loves the small town and is definitely taking advantage of its amazing pastries.

Alessandra Allen is at the Iowa Writers’ Workshop studying poetry.

Thank you to those who submitted notes, and we look forward to hearing from more of you in the spring! We truly love hearing from you. Please send your Class Notes to either **Kyra Dawkins** and/or



Showing their Lions spirit at Homecoming on October 16 were Yanlin Wu '18 (left) and Yanette Rosario '18.

obituaries

1942

Immanuel Lichtenstein, engineer, Oneonta, N.Y., on June 12, 2021. Following his B.A. in civil and mechanical engineering, Lichtenstein earned a B.S. in industrial engineering from SEAS in 1943. A veteran of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he helped to build airfields in the Arctic and to rebuild airfields in Germany after WWII. Following his military service, Lichtenstein earned an M.S. in industrial engineering from Stevens Tech in 1954. His career and interests were far ranging, including corporate work for Avco and Phelps Dodge Corp. in California, gold and silver mining in Nevada and Idaho as the founder and president of Agricola Metals, tree planting in Chad, and inventing and patenting Laminite, a treatment for corrugated cardboard that made it resistant to fire and vermin. He continued to head Agricola Metals until his death. Lichtenstein loved to ski, hike and sail and continued to do so into his 90s, and enjoyed memorizing and reciting the works of A.E. Housman, George Bernard Shaw, John Keats and William Shakespeare. He sat for many years on SEAS's Board of Visitors and was presented a Columbia Alumni Medal in 1997. Lichtenstein is survived by his wife of 67 years, Nancy Rabi Lichtenstein LAW'52; daughters, Alice Bercovitz (James) and Elizabeth Torak (Thomas); two grandchildren; and brother, Michael '48 (Peggy).



Jerome K. Percus '47

teacher and scientist, Percus was in his 63rd year as a professor of mathematics and physics at NYU when he died. His internationally recognized contributions ranged from pioneering research in statistical mechanics and combinatorics to his later work in mathematical biology and genome analysis. He was an inspirational advisor to more than 70 Ph.D. candidates and a mentor to innumerable others, many of whom became lifelong friends. Percus was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Mathematical Society and American Physical Society, and was presented the Pregel Award in Chemical Physics from the New York Academy of Sciences, and the Pattern Recognition Society Medal, and the Hildebrand Award in Physical Chemistry from the American Chemical Society. His most frequent collaborator in his more than 300 publications was his wife, mathematical statistician Ora E. Percus GSAS'65, who predeceased him. Percus is survived by his sons, Orin and Allon; and three granddaughters.

1947

Jerome K. Percus, professor, New York City, on March 7, 2021. After entering with the Class of 1947 and graduating from SEAS in 1947 with a B.S. in electrical engineering, Percus earned an M.A. in mathematics in 1948 and a Ph.D. in physics in 1954, both from GSAS. An outstanding

in the late 1990s to be closer to two of their three sons and a number of cherished grandchildren, as well as the mountains he loved. Kassel was a volunteer host at Stowe Mountain Resort until two years before his death. His wife died five months after he did. Kassel is survived by his sons, David (Magda), John (Julie) and Peter (Carol); nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

1953

Stephen G. Reich, insurance agent, Winter Springs, Fla., on June 25, 2021. Born on January 25, 1931, in Mount Vernon, N.Y., Reich played varsity baseball and football for the Lions, served in the Marine Corps as a 1st lieutenant and returned to Columbia to earn an M.B.A. in 1958. He moved to Orlando in 1959 and worked for Home Life Insurance for more than 35 years. Reich also was an administrator for the Central Florida Baseball League, a summer league for college players, and coached his sons in the sport. He was an avid tennis player, golfer and equestrian; enjoyed spending time at his ranch in Springdale, Mont.; and was a longtime member of the Interlachen Country Club in Winter Park, Fla. Reich is survived by his wife of 63 years, Shyla; sons, Robert and John (Shayna); and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Landscape Beautification Fund at the Congregation of Reform Judaism in Orlando (crjorlando.org).

1955

Thomas M. "Miller" Evans, physician, Cincinnati, on July 13, 2021. Evans was a student leader and member of Sigma Chi, earned an M.D. at Cincinnati and served in the Navy as first lieutenant medical corps and aboard the *U.S.S. Thomas Jefferson*. Following his internship and residency in ob/gyn, he practiced privately in Cincinnati until his retirement. Evans is remembered for his sense of humor; generous spirit; love of sports, gardening and family; and for the thousands of babies he helped bring into the world. He

was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Geraldine "Jere" Schadt; and is survived by his sons, Scott (Trudi) and Bradley (Tess); daughter, Megan Daniels (James); eight grandchildren; brother, William (Virginia); and sisters, Marilyn Evans Baer and Elisabeth Evans Niswonger.

Norman Goldstein, dermatologist, New York City, on January 5, 2021. Born in Brooklyn, Goldstein earned an M.D. from SUNY Downstate in 1959. He was chief of dermatology in the Army and afterward in the Honolulu Medical Group, conducting clinical investigations on topical sunscreen agents. In 1972, the American Academy of Dermatology recognized his research and his development of the first sunscreen for skin cancer prevention with its Original Research and Prevention of Skin Cancers Award. Goldstein developed and published the first photographic techniques for early detection of skin cancers and was the first to use laser treatment for Kaposi's sarcoma lesions. He published more than 200 medical articles, book chapters and editorial columns and wrote *The Skin You Live In* (1978), a self-help text. Goldstein established the first UV meter, which began UV index reporting on television weather reports. In 2005, he became the first dermatologist to receive a Laureate award from the American College of Physicians, and in 2009, the American Medical Association commended him for 50 years of practice. Goldstein was a senior faculty member at the Mount Sinai Hospital and School of Medicine in NYC in addition to running his private practice.

1956

Frederic H. Brooks, businessman and entrepreneur, Greenwich, Conn., on May 28, 2021. Born on November 26, 1934, in NYC, Brooks graduated from Horace Mann and briefly attended the Law School before deciding to make his way in business. While at Columbia, his sister, Barbara, introduced him to Jane Peyser BC'58, who became his wife of 65 years. After working at Merrill Lynch, Brooks created several entrepreneurial

Submit an Obituary

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enterprises, including SportsVision, which owned the closed-circuit television rights to championship boxing matches and promoted famous fights such as Muhammad Ali's heavy-weight championship bouts against Sonny Liston; MacGregor Products, one of the top sporting goods manufacturers in the United States; and Riddell, the country's leading football helmet manufacturer. Through his work, he pursued his passion for travel and was recruited to join an initiative under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, which aimed to increase business investment throughout Central America and the Caribbean. Brooks and his wife visited more than 100 countries together and built a collection of Tang Dynasty art, much of which was donated to the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Conn. In addition to his wife, Brooks is survived by his sons, Rick and Mark; daughter, Kate; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

1958

William Reichel, physician, Timonium, Md., on May 14, 2021. Reichel, who graduated from P&S in 1961, was board certified in internal medicine and family medicine with chief interests in geriatrics and medical ethics. After his residency in internal medicine at Stanford, he spent four years at the Gerontology Research Center of the NIH. He moved to Franklin Square Hospital in Baltimore in 1970 and founded and directed the family medicine residency 1972–88. Reichel then spent nine years at Tufts, where he founded a family medicine residency and coordinated other residencies, and at Brown, where he provided international consultation for new family medicine residencies in



William Reichel '58

countries including Spain, Russia and Jordan. He was active as an affiliated scholar at Georgetown's Center for Clinical Bioethics and spent 13 years on the Board of Directors of the American Geriatrics Society, including time as its president. Reichel is survived by his wife, Helen, whom he met while she was working at Columbia; son, Rob; daughter, Andrea; and five grandchildren.

Robert W. Sandall, sales executive, Colorado Springs, Colo., on July 7, 2021. Sandall was a loving family man and role model who raised his three daughters in the knowledge that women could do anything they set their hearts and minds to. He was predeceased in 2019 by his wife, Anne; and is survived by his daughters Beth Holcombe, Kristin Chappell and Diane.

William A. Schwartz, businessman, New York City, on July 9, 2021. Born and raised in Brooklyn, Schwartz graduated from Poly Prep and was a member of the swim team and Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He was president of Blackstone Co., an East Brunswick, N.J.-based distributor of building materials. Schwartz's numerous civic and charitable involvements included service as president and board chair of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation, president of the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County, captain of the South Aberdeen Emergency Medical Service, trustee of the Kaufman Music Center and governor of the Mannes School of Music. Schwartz is survived by his wife of 60 years, Janet; sons David '86 (Hannah) and Marc '87, LAW'90 (Margot '87); and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the America-Israel Cultural Foundation (aicf.org).

1960

Stephen C. Scheiber, psychiatrist and educator, Glenview, Ill., on June 20, 2020. Born in 1938, Scheiber grew up in White Plains, N.Y., and graduated from the Putney School in Vermont. A pre-med student, he also enthusiastically pursued his interest in history and was a devoted member of the St. Paul's Chapel choir. After earning an M.D. from SUNY Buffalo, Scheiber interned at the Mary Fletcher Hospital in Burlington,

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College Today also has learned of the following deaths. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information.

- 1943 **Frank Herman**, research physicist, Menlo Park, Calif., on August 11, 2021.
Albert A. Sharke, engineer, Arden, N.C., on July 16, 2021.
- 1946 **James A. Manning**, pediatric cardiologist, Rochester, N.Y., on July 5, 2021.
- 1949 **Frank T. Thomas**, ophthalmologist, Madison, Conn., on October 5, 2021.
- 1951 **Kenneth L. Schick**, physics professor, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., on September 16, 2021.
- 1952 **Trowbridge H. Ford**, professor, New Haven, Conn., on July 26, 2021.
Neil J. Henry, sales executive, Mendham, N.J., on August 5, 2021.
- 1953 **Kenneth Nordley Skoug Jr.**, Foreign Service officer, Harleysville, Pa., on December 5, 2021.
- 1955 **Theodore Ditchek**, radiologist, Phoenix, on August 26, 2021.
William H. Epstein, attorney, New York City and Sag Harbor, N.Y., on November 13, 2021.
Herbert S. Rubinowitz, neurologist, Phoenix, on August 22, 2021.
- 1956 **Frederick C. Baldwin**, photographer, Houston, on December 15, 2021.
Elias Schwartz, pediatric hematologist, Philadelphia, on July 17, 2021.
- 1958 **Howard J. Orlin**, accountant, New York City, N.Y., on October 18, 2021.
- 1959 **Eric G. Jakobsson**, science professor, Urbana, Ill., on October 28, 2021.
- 1960 **Laurence M. Chelmow**, engineer, Canton, Mass., on September 29, 2021.
- 1962 **Charles F. "Sandy" Darlington III**, attorney, South Casco, Maine, on October 12, 2021.
- 1966 **Michael H. Friedman**, professor, Winston-Salem, N.C., on May 27, 2021.
David S. Weissbrodt, law professor, Minneapolis, on November 11, 2021.
- 1967 **Mark W. Steinhoff**, history professor, Lynchburg, Va., on September 19, 2021.
- 1970 **Carl W. Chorba**, automobile executive, North Venice, Fla., on August 27, 2021.
- 1974 **Brian R. Phillips**, attorney, Bangkok, on September 13, 2021.

Vt., and served for two years in the U.S. Public Health Service with the National Institutes of Health and with the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone. He completed a psychiatry residency at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y., and was

appointed in 1970 to the medical faculty at Arizona, the start of a distinguished academic career. Scheiber became executive secretary of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in 1986 and remained in that position (and later as the board's

executive VP) for more than 20 years. Concurrently he was an adjunct professor of psychiatry at Northwestern and clinical professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Scheiber is survived by his wife, MaryAnn; son, Martin; daughters, Lisa Haith (Chris) and Laura Harris (Matthew); three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; sister, Carol Vachowiak (Norman); and brother, Harry '55 (Jane). Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia College Fund (college.givenow.columbia.edu).

1961

Arnold J. Goldberg, chemical engineer, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., on September 22, 2021. Goldberg earned a B.S. from SEAS in 1962 and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, both in chemical engineering. After a varied career, he retired as president of AIG Loss Control Services. Goldberg was predeceased by his wife, Linda, and is survived by his children, Robin and

Diana '89. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Palm Beach County (hpbccf.org).

Eric D. Rosenfeld, attorney, Millbrook, N.Y., on August 24, 2021. After graduating from Harvard Law, Rosenfeld practiced corporate and real estate law with Rosenfeld, Fischbein, Bernstein & Tannenhaus for more than 40 years. After moving to the Hudson Valley in 1979, he pursued an entrepreneurial passion for deals and land conservation as a founding member of the Dutchess Land Conservancy. Rosenfeld also was at various times a member of The University Club of New York, The Explorers Club, Harvard Club, Mashomack Preserve, Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club, The Fusiliers, Tamarack Preserve and Squadron A Association in addition to being a founding member of Millbrook Polo, where he exercised his passion for riding. He also had a lifelong interest in history, particularly military history. Rosenfeld is survived by his wife of 36 years, Diane "Dede"; and son,

Timothy. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dutchess Land Conservancy (dutchessland.org).

1962

Charles F. "Lucky" Bowers Jr., attorney, Edgeworth, Pa., on September 19, 2020. Bowers was a member of Beta Theta Pi and was active with the Columbia Alumni Association. After graduating cum laude from the Law School in 1965, he returned to New Brighton, Pa., where he grew up, to practice law with noted trial attorney James B. Ceris. In 1991, he formed a partnership with his son, Charles F. Bowers III, and James J. Ross, which grew to include Kenneth G. Fawcett and continued for more than 23 years until Ross became a judge. Sherri Hurst joined the firm shortly thereafter and Bowers practiced with his partners in Bowers, Fawcett & Hurst until his passing. A skilled civil and criminal litigator, he was proud of having served more than

50 years as the borough solicitor for his hometown. In 2019 the Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association presented him its Champion of Justice award. Bowers was predeceased by his wife, Janice, and brother, R. Lance Bowers, and is survived by his son, Charles F. III (Aileen); daughters, Julie Adams (Chris) and Jill Gray; and one grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to the Beaver County Bar Association (bcba-pa.org).

Harry J. Quayle, science teacher, Steuben, Maine, on September 29, 2020. Born on Christmas Eve, 1940, in Brooklyn, Quayle taught science for seven years at Poly Prep Country Day School in Brooklyn and then for more than 30 years at Randolph (N.J.) H.S. He enjoyed being outdoors and took his family on many vacations to the National Parks; weekend hikes in the mountains of New Jersey and in Acadia National Park; kayak and motorboat adventures; biking trips; and tide pooling along the rocky coast of Maine look-

Peter L. Zimroth '63, New York Attorney Dedicated to Public Service

Peter L. Zimroth '63 was a lifelong New Yorker and an attorney who worked for the betterment of his city. As NYC's chief legal officer, he drafted a public campaign financing law that became a model for other municipalities, and as a court-appointed monitor he oversaw reforms in the NYPD's controversial stop-and-frisk policy without a consequent increase in crime.

Zimroth, who was a partner with the firm of Arnold & Porter for 25 years and a founding director of the Center on Civil Justice at NYU Law, died on November 7, 2021. The Center on the Administration of Criminal Law at NYU Law has been renamed in his honor.

"Peter was a brilliant lawyer dedicated to public service and to this institution, as well as a beloved colleague and friend," said NYU Law Dean Trevor Morrison. "His legacy will endure through both the work he did during his lifetime and the ongoing mission of the center named in his honor."

Zimroth, who was married to actress Estelle Parsons, served as New York City's chief legal officer under Mayor Ed Koch 1987–89, during which time he fought bias against women, who frequently were denied admittance to private clubs. He also was instrumental in the creation of the city's voluntary system of public campaign financing, a model that was adopted by many other local governments.

Later in his career, Zimroth was appointed by Judge Shira A. Scheindlin of the Federal District Court in New York to oversee reforms in the NYPD's stop-question-and-frisk crime-control strategy. The stops were found to disproportionately single out Black and Hispanic New Yorkers, which Scheindlin called a "policy of indirect racial profiling." While she elected not to halt the tactic, she chose Zimroth to monitor racial disparities in the number of stops as well as reforms in the department's training and procedures. He served in that role 2013–20.

"He was a superb lawyer and wonderful colleague for whom intellectual honesty always informed his advocacy positions," Richard D. Emery, a prominent civil liberties lawyer, told *The New York Times*. "He was fair, balanced and superbly articulate for his causes."

Zimroth was born on January 11, 1943, and raised in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. He recalled watching Jackie Robinson, the first Black baseball player in the major leagues, on TV with his grandfather, who urged him to fight injustice wherever he found it. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln H.S. at 16 and attended Yale Law, where he was editor of *The Yale Law Journal* before graduating in 1966.

Zimroth clerked for Judge David L. Bazelon of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and for U.S. Associate Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas. He taught at NYU Law, served as an assistant federal prosecutor in Manhattan and as chief assistant to longtime Manhattan district attorney Robert M. Morgenthau before joining Arnold & Porter in 1990.



"I've been a prosecutor, a defense lawyer, a teacher; I've been an administrator," he told the *Times* in 1987. "And I really feel very strongly about using the law as an instrument for social good. That's why I became a lawyer."

In addition to his wife, whom he married in 1983, Zimroth is survived by his son, Abraham; stepdaughters, Martha Gehman and Abbie Britton; sister, Alice Kelly; four grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

— Alex Sachare '71

Phil Schaap '73, Noted Jazz Historian, Programmer and Educator



Philip V. "Phil" Schaap '73 walked into the WKCR studios during his freshman year and never left. During the next half-century, he became synonymous with jazz at the radio station, in New York City and beyond.

"He knows more about us than we know about ourselves," jazz drummer and bebop pioneer Max Roach said of Schaap in a 2001 article in *The New York Times*. David Remnick, editor of *The New Yorker*, wrote in a 2008 profile of Schaap, "In the capital of jazz, he is its most passionate and voluble fan."

Schaap, who was renowned for his encyclopedic memory and passion for bebop saxophonist Charlie Parker, died on September 7, 2021. The historian and longtime radio

host was recognized as a Jazz Master by the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) earlier in 2021; during the course of his career he was awarded six Grammys, as a producer and for liner notes.

Born on April 6, 1951, Schaap grew up steeped in jazz. His father, Wally '37, was a translator for French jazz scholars, and his mother, Marjorie, was a librarian and a classically trained pianist; they lived in Hollis, Queens, the so-called bedroom community of jazz. As Schaap told *CCT* in the Fall 2020 feature "Radio Days," "The pioneers of jazz were still alive then, and I had known them from literally infancy."

Schaap was instrumental in growing WKCR from a student radio station into a celebrated jazz destination. Recalling a staff meeting in fall 1970, Schaap said, "It became clear that we could create something, on our own initiative, that would be broadcast to New York City and the metropolitan region. We decided to pursue alternative programming — we were going to present culture, primarily music, that had no commercial following; music that we thought needed to be heard."

His two longest-running shows, *Bird Flight* and *Traditions in Swing*, had been on the air since 1981. Along the way, he helped

to establish many of the station's signature offerings, including music marathons that dedicated 24 hours or more to the oeuvre of a single artist, as well as live performances and musician interviews.

"Phil was so many things: a tireless evangelist for jazz and its artists, a virtuoso in all areas of radio broadcasting and the recording arts, a teacher, a historian, a meticulous craftsman, an obsessive in the extreme," recalled Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80, WKCR's jazz director 1969–70, who assured Schaap he would get airtime to play the music he loved. "His contributions at WKCR are legendary, not only as a program host, but also as a fundraiser, producer, engineer, archivist, mentor and beacon of integrity who was the very soul of the station for half a century, all of it pro bono."

A self-described "jazz activist," Schaap managed The Countsmen, featuring members of Count Basie's Orchestra, 1972–91. He also programmed live music for The West End and was a curator for Jazz at Lincoln Center, where he created the educational program Swing University. He taught at Columbia, Princeton, Rutgers, the Manhattan School of Music, Juilliard and Jazz at Lincoln Center, and was an audio restoration specialist.

"Phil Schaap was a person of deep integrity, conviction and purpose," renowned trumpeter and jazz educator Wynton Marsalis said in the *New Yorker* profile, "and that purpose was to spread the gospel of jazz."

"Phil's contribution to the world's understanding of the music known as jazz must never be undervalued," said Sharif Abdus-Salaam '74, who worked with Schaap at WKCR and became a lifelong friend. "He worked tirelessly and unselfishly to share with those who would listen, the knowledge he gleaned from research and interviews with many of the masters of our beloved art form. He constantly reminded me that the work to increase jazz awareness and appreciation must continue."

Last spring, Schaap received the A.B. Spellman NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship for Jazz Advocacy, which annually goes to a figure whose contribution occurs off the bandstand. In an NEA interview, Schaap discussed his work of building audiences: "There's a lot to teach, but all jazz education is performance oriented. Well, who's going to train the listeners? I've spent a lifetime trying. I'm trying to create an audience for the musicians. That's my job. ... I teach listening."

Schaap is survived by his partner of 17 years, Susan Shaffer.

— Alex Sachare '71

ing for marine creatures. Quayle led a lifetime of service through faith, starting with Bay Ridge Baptist Church in Brooklyn before moving on to First Baptist Church of Newton, N.J., and finally First Baptist Church of Cherryfield, Maine. He was a deacon, Sunday School teacher, handyman, fill-in preacher, treasurer, usher and emergency organist. He taught himself Hebrew because he wanted to read the Bible as it was originally written, and he brought Bibles with him everywhere to hand out. Quayle is survived by his wife of 57 years, Joanne; sons, Matt and Dan; daughters-in-law, Betty Quick and Patty; four grandchildren; and sister, Lory Lockerbie (Bruce). Memorial contributions may be made to the Gideons (sendtheword.

org); First Baptist Church of Cherryfield, Maine (facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Cherryfield-Maine-427258604284349); World Vision International (worldvision.org); or Samaritan's Purse (samaritanpurse.org).

1963

Samuel C. Fromowitz, diplomat, Yountville, Calif., on April 7, 2021. Born on June 10, 1942, in the Bronx, Fromowitz studied history and politics and began his diplomatic career at 21 in Washington, D.C. He held posts in Paris (1965–66), Toronto (1966–68), Belgrade (1969–71), Moscow (1974–76) and Athens (1980–83). Fromowitz lived in

Arlington, Va., between assignments and was awarded a congressional fellowship, working for Rep. John Joseph Cavanaugh III (D-Neb.) and Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.). He was the U.S. consul general in Vancouver 1986–90, during which time he was presented the Meritorious Honor Award for best-managed post. Fromowitz returned to Athens in 1990 and retired from the Foreign Service in 1995. He lived in Vancouver for three years before moving to Yountville, where he volunteered with Meals on Wheels and the Napa Red Cross and was a founding board member of Pathway House, a residential assistance program for military personnel with PTSD. Fromowitz is survived by his wife of nearly 57 years, Joan (née McGraw);

sons, David and Daniel (Stacey); daughter, Rachel Martin (Michael); and four grandchildren.

1965

James T. "Boo" Boosales, businessman, Palm Harbor, Fla., on August 25, 2021. Born on April 18, 1943, Boosales grew up in Chicago and graduated from Niles H.S., where he excelled in both academics and athletics. He played freshman football at Columbia and made many lifelong friendships with his brothers at Beta Theta Pi fraternity. Boosales had a long career in business, mostly in the toy industry, working for Parker Brothers, Lionel Trains and Fisher-Price. He also worked in the

golf industry with Foot-Joy, and was the company's president in the 1980s. His final career stop was as chief financial officer of SRI/Surgical Express in the 1990s; he took an early retirement in 2002. During retirement, Boosales was an active member of Innisbrook, enjoying his time on the golf course and in the clubhouse. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Bonny; daughter, Catherine; and son, David.

Robert W. Gunn, psychotherapist, Virginia Beach, on March 12, 2021. Born on October 11, 1943, in Cairo, Ill., Gunn earned an M.Div. and a Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary and a D.Min. from Andover Newton Theological School, now part of Yale Divinity. Dunn was a psychotherapist in New York City for the majority of his life before moving to Virginia Beach, as he contemplated retirement and wanted to be closer to his family. He was a pianist and avid scuba diver who loved to travel and try new things. Gunn is survived by his sister, Jeanne Akins; daughters, Allison Gunn (Mark Ostevik) and Lara Wiggins (Mario); and four grandchildren.

1969

Stuart H. Scott, environmentalist, Honolulu, on July 15, 2021. Scott grew up in New York City and majored in mathematics and computer science. He taught middle school, toured the United States as a minstrel and street performer and was a stockbroker for Merrill Lynch before earning an M.S. in computer and information science from Florida. Scott worked for IBM and settled in Hawaii, where he honed his IT skills while teaching philosophy, critical thinking and statistics. After watching Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* in 2006, he became deeply involved with Gore's Climate Project and devoted the remainder of his life to communicating the urgent severity of our current growth economic systems' impact on Earth's climate and habitability. Scott was known for his visibility at UN-sponsored climate negotiations known as Conferences of Parties, or COPs. In 2018, he brought Greta Thunberg and her father, Svante, to COP-24 in Poland, from which Thunberg's message to world leaders

marked her as a spokesperson for youth and future generations. Scott founded ClimateMatters.TV, ScientistsWarning.TV, FacingFuture.TV, the United Planet Faith & Science Initiative and the Circle of Elders of Ecological Economics. He is survived by his sons, Sean and Joshua; sister, Diana; and brother, David.

1974

Christian P. Hansen, software testing professional, London, on September 3, 2021. Born in Salem, Mass., and raised in nearby Marblehead, Hansen majored in Latin and Greek. After working in New York for 21 years, he moved to Chicago in 1991 and San Francisco two years later. In 1994 he moved to London, where he worked for 15 years, retiring as a software testing professional in 2009. Hansen was active as a lay member of the Church of England; he was Sacristan of St Matthews at the Elephant parish for 23 years and was also lay chair of the deanery and a member of various committees in Southwark Diocese. Hansen became a Freemason in 2005, then was made Master of Goliath Lodge and received London Grand Rank in 2019. He became a joining member of Philanthropic Lodge in Marblehead and a founding member of his University Lodge, Columbia 1139, in New York. Hansen is survived by his husband, Tan Wai-Liang; brother, Harold (Beth Feran); and sister, Ruth. Memorial contributions may be made to any medical charity, especially those relating to ALS or diabetes.

1976

Michael S. Billig, anthropology professor, Lancaster, Pa., on February 17, 2021. Born in Rockaway, Queens, Billig majored in anthropology and earned an M.A. from GSAS in 1979 and a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1987. He was a professor of anthropology at Franklin & Marshall for 35 years and in 2006 was presented the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. F&M's highest teaching honor. Billig authored more than 20 articles and reviews as well as the book *Barons, Brokers, and Buyers: The Institutions and Cultures of Philippine Sugar* (2003), and was an expert on the

economic anthropology of cultures transitioning to capitalism. He was a devotee of opera, folk music, race-walking and fishing, and a member of the Alumni Representative Committee. Billig is survived by his wife, Heidi Wolf; sisters, Ronda and Melinda; daughters, Shira Keith (David) and Monica; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Museum of Natural History (amnh.org), the Metropolitan Opera (metopera.org) or the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society (lls.org).

1979

Martin J. Dunn, attorney and politician, Holyoke, Mass., on September 11, 2020. Born and raised in Holyoke, Dunn was captain of the basketball team and quarterback for the football team at Holyoke H.S., and then attended Northfield Mount Herman School in Gill, Mass. He continued to play football at Columbia, and went on to earn a J.D. from Suffolk University Law. Dunn returned to his beloved Holyoke to practice law and served on the Board of Aldermen before being elected mayor in 1987. After two terms, he served as a Massachusetts state senator before serving as attorney for the State Senate. Dunn was a partner in the law firm of Dunn & Wilson in Holyoke at the time of his death. He was a member of myriad civic organizations and boards and enjoyed participating in many events during Holyoke's St. Patrick's Day weekend, including running the Annual St. Patrick's Day Road Race. He was particularly proud of having completed five marathons, including Boston and Chicago. Dunn is survived by his wife of 34 years, Kathleen Destromp. Memorial contributions may be made to the Greater Holyoke YMCA (holyokeymca.org) or to the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship Fund, AOH Division, Holyoke, PO Box 6535, Holyoke, MA 01041-6535.

1985

Graham S. Haber, photographer and videographer, New York City, on June 12, 2021. Born in London on February 21, 1963, Haber grew up in Boston and traveled extensively with his parents and two brothers,



Graham S. Haber '85

which inspired a lifelong enjoyment of travel and discovery. After attending the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif., he moved back to New York in 1989 and was the principal at Graham Haber Photography until 2010, when he became senior photographer for The Morgan Library & Museum; he worked there until his death. Haber is survived by his wife, Anastasia; daughter, Zola; and twin sons, Miles and Lucas.

1987

Christopher N. Lasch, law professor, Evergreen, Colo., on June 13, 2021. A 1996 graduate of Yale Law, Lasch dedicated his life and career to helping others as a public defender, a civil rights lawyer and a clinical law professor. He taught as a research scholar and Cover Fellow at the Yale Law clinic, as a visiting clinical professor at Suffolk Law and finally as a professor at Denver University Sturm College of Law. Lasch is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Stovall; son, Rain Ellis; daughter, Grace Perry Noe; mother, Nell; brother, Robert; sisters, Kate Loomis and Elizabeth Lasch-Quinn; and one grandchild.

1991

David W. Kaiser, environmental activist, New York City, on July 15, 2020. Born on July 27, 1969, in Cambridge, Mass., Kaiser was a scion of the Rockefeller family whose work as president of the Rockefeller Family Fund included promoting employment opportunities for women and advancing citizen participation in government.

Richard M. Froehlich '85, LAW'88, Affordable Housing Advocate

Richard M. Froehlich '85, LAW'88, who dedicated his career to ensuring that New Yorkers had affordable housing, died on September 24, 2021. He most recently was first executive VP and chief operating officer for the New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC).

In 2015, when he received a Public Service Award at the New York Housing Conference, Froehlich recalled, "I went to school [in New York] in the '80s, and it was an interesting time; the city was changing ... I might have woken up when I was writing a piece for the Columbia newspaper (*Spectator*). I saw people who might be homeless, people who were having challenges. That was important to me, to see that and to think about how I might be able to make a contribution."

Following law school, Froehlich was of counsel at O'Melveny & Meyers, where he was involved in numerous multi-family housing transactions representing equity investors, lenders, credit enhancers and issuers in bond-financed transactions. He joined the HDC as general counsel in 2003 and eventually directed the corporation's bond finance and operating activities.

Froehlich was a primary coordinator of HDC's award-winning preservation efforts, which led to the continued affordability of more than 140,000 units of low- and middle-income housing in New York City. He was a leader in designing and implementing HDC's participation in Mayor Bill de Blasio's Housing New York plan to build and preserve 300,000 units of affordable housing.

"Rich is incredibly creative," Vicky Been, former commissioner of the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development and now a law professor at NYU, said in 2015. "Whatever the problem, Rich could see a way to solve that problem that none of the rest of us had ever thought of. He's just really good at spinning straw into gold."

In 2014 Froehlich became a member of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, a self-regulatory organization created under the Federal Securities Act Amendments of 1975 to regulate the municipal finance industry, serving a four-year term. He also was elected to the board of the National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies in 2014 and was its president.

"His ability to manage complex negotiations while keeping the interest of the city at heart will be a lasting legacy," said Shola Olatoye, former chair and CEO of the NYC Housing Authority and now director of housing and community development in Oakland, Calif.

Froehlich brought his knowledge of public and affordable housing finance into the classroom as an adjunct associate professor at GSAPP, where he taught courses on affordable housing finance and public finance.

"Building the next generation of people to work in the affordable housing industry is the greatest challenge for all of us," said Been. "Rich put incredible time and effort into mentoring people to try to fill that next generation of leadership."

Froehlich had a passion for the arts and particularly for music, and was a member of the Stonewall Chorale since 1991. He was honored in 2019 for his long tenure with the Chorale.

Froehlich was predeceased by his husband, Dr. Joseph DiVito, and is survived by his siblings and in-laws: Steven and Linda Froehlich, Charles and Gail Froehlich, Alan and Jodi



Cohn, Jo Ann Cohn, Shari and Martin Cohn-Simmen, Vivien and Tom Barcia, Barry and Deborah Cohn, Jennifer and Colin Marsh and Thomas DeVito.

Memorial contributions may be made to New Destiny, an organization aiding survivors of domestic violence (newdestinyhousing.org); the Stonewall Chorale (stonewallchorale.org); or the SUNY Downstate Joseph DiVito M.D. Scholarship and Education Fund (downstate.edu/giving/scholarships/memorial-donations.html).

— Alex Sachare '71

He was the great-great-grandson of John D. Rockefeller, who founded Standard Oil in the 19th century and became the world's richest person. In 2016, the family fund announced that it would divest from ExxonMobil for what Kaiser called the company's "morally reprehensible conduct" regarding its ignoring the potential harmful effects of climate change, setting off a prolonged legal battle and war of words among family members. Kaiser is survived by his mother, Neva R. Goodwin; wife, Rosemary Corbett; and two daughters.

1993

Dennis M. Lafferty, financial executive, Brielle, N.J., on August 11, 2021. Born and raised in Buffalo, where he excelled at track and football, Lafferty played three years of varsity football for the Lions.

After earning an M.B.A. from the Business School in 2001, he had a notable career on Wall Street, where he was well known within the distressed credit community. He led trading teams at Deutsche Bank and Goldman Sachs, but said his biggest success was his family. Lafferty met his wife of 13 years, Ellen (née Winkler), in the elevator at work and often said, "By the time we got to the first floor, we knew." They were married the following year and lived in Manhattan and Brooklyn, with weekends and summers at the Jersey Shore, in Manasquan, before settling in Brielle. An avid Buffalo Bills fan, Lafferty was forever proud of his hometown. He is survived by his wife; daughters, Audrey and Emily; sons, Liam and Ben; father, Raymond (Kyle); mother, Mary Cone (Jim); brother, Edward; and sisters, Katie Tonsoline and Riane. Memorial donations may be made

to Compassionate Care ALS (ccals.org/in_memory_of/dennis-lafferty) or ALS Research at the Healey Center for ALS at Mass General (tackleALS.com/team/change-als).

Michael J. Sardo, intelligence analyst, Silver Spring, Md., on July 2, 2021. Sardo played baseball, football and basketball at Bethpage H.S. on Long Island but focused on football for the Lions, switching from quarterback to wide receiver and earning All-Ivy honorable mention in 1991 and 1992. As a senior he caught 13 passes against Cornell — at the time a school record — and a game-winning 40-yard TD against Brown, and ranked fifth in receptions in Division 1-AA. He finished his career with 124 receptions to rank sixth in Columbia history and participated in the 1993 Japan Bowl all-star game. Sardo enrolled in the biochemistry Ph.D. program at

North Carolina, where he specialized in cancer research, but while in graduate school, he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. A lengthy, difficult recovery period ended with his having lost the ability to walk, and his College sweetheart and future wife, Kathleen Johnson '93, became his full-time caregiver. Sardo earned an M.A. from North Carolina and his science background guided his longtime work as an FBI intelligence analyst. He applied his passion for sports to coaching his sons, Darrion and Sedric, in youth baseball, and when he wasn't on the sidelines, he was on the field or at the gym, attending their basketball and soccer games. In addition to his wife and sons, Sardo is survived by his father, John; mother, Barbara; and sister, Katherine. Memorial contributions may be made to bccbaseball.com/post/in-memory-of-mike-sardo.

— Alex Sachare '71



TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT: The 2021 Tree Lighting was held on December 2.

MICHAEL EDMONSON '20



GET THE STORY AT
college.columbia.edu/cct

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO START A TRADITION?

On long winter nights, the twinkling, light-wrapped trees on College Walk are a comfort in the dark. But did you know that the Tree Lighting Ceremony — a night of food, music and activities counting down to the first moment of illumination — is one of Columbia's newer traditions, only beginning in 1998?



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Core to Commencement is the Columbia College campaign for students and the faculty who teach them. In the last six years, more than 45,000 alumni, parents, students and friends have made possible new and expanded opportunities that are preparing students to change the world.

With six months to go, our goal is within reach, **but we can only get there with your support.**

Whether you believe in financial aid, extraordinary professors, the enduring Core Curriculum, student well-being, real-world experiences that prepare students for life, or all of these areas, show your support by joining us in this final stretch.

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

THANK YOU TO OUR LOYAL DONORS

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