From a one-room classroom with one professor and eight students, today's Columbia has grown to become the quintessential great urban university. Dive in.
Watching over Low Plaza is Alma Mater, a bronze sculpture by Daniel Chester French, famous for his statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. Alma Mater is also the subject of many Columbia legends, including that the first student in every new class to find the hidden owl on the statue will be the class valedictorian.

Want to know where this is on campus? You can find all the places shown in photographs throughout this book on the campus map on the inside front cover. Just look for the location code on each photo.
Call it blue sky thinking, a bolt of blue inspiration, or rhapsody in blue. Everything you need to realize your personal, professional, and doing-good-in-the-world ambitions is here.

Learning from today’s iconic thinkers and leaders not just in books but in person. Living in a city driven by the smartest, newest ideas. Adding your personality, friendship, and inspiration to one of the most diverse and interesting student bodies on any campus. Reveling in “Roar, Lion, Roar!” traditions and spirit both grand and quirky.

Earning lifetime intellectual confidence through a legendary Core Curriculum. Thriving in an engineering curriculum that fosters an interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial approach to solving the world’s grand challenges. Joining dozens of clubs, finding that small handful of interests that will be true passions now and throughout your life.

Having the freedom to reach for any goal on a campus, in a city, in a community where shaping society, culture, and the world happens every day. **Dive into the Columbia Blue.**
Blue View: Part I
A gift from Columbia President Seth Low in honor of his father and patterned loosely on Rome’s Pantheon, Low Library has the largest all-granite dome in the United States. No longer a library, Low now houses the Visitors Center and the Office of the President; its impressive rotunda is used for campus events.
Alfred Lerner Hall is Columbia’s student center. Lerner is home to the Center for Student Advising and Undergraduate Student Life offices including Multicultural Affairs, as well as student group advising and the Office of Financial Aid and Educational Financing. It also includes student lounges, two dining venues, a black box theater, 7,000 undergraduate mailboxes, two computer labs, offices for student organizations, and numerous event spaces, including a 1,100-seat auditorium and a 400-seat cinema.
Butler Library is the centerpiece of the Columbia University Libraries, one of the ten largest academic library systems in the nation. Housing close to one-third of the Libraries’ on-site collections, Butler Library includes nearly 1,000,000 rare books and 26 million manuscripts, and the world-famous Oral History Research Office and collection. Several books and screenplays have been written here, including Nobel Prize-winning novelist Orhan Pamuk’s *The Black Book* and alumnus Dan Futterman’s Oscar-nominated script for the film *Capote*. 
Exponential Education
Every aspect of the Columbia experience opens doors to an ever-deeper set of opportunities. Each of these beginnings is the tip of the iceberg, the first domino, the catalyst in an education with unending exponential power that builds throughout a Columbian’s life. **Call it Columbia to the power of infinity.**

**Take Literature Humanities** first semester with 20 students from all over the country and the world.

**Move into your residence hall room in John Jay with views of campus and midtown Manhattan.**

**Major in Computer Science with a minor in Visual Arts.**

**Pitch your idea for a brand-new company at Columbia Engineering’s Fast Pitch competition.**

**Take part in C0OP’s pre-orientation bike tour, where after a four-day trip through the Hudson Valley, you ride over the George Washington Bridge with 49 new friends.**

**Delve into virtue, justice, suffering, evil, friendship, family, loss, and power through some of the greatest works of literature of all time.**

**Be part of a community where, as one student said, “Everyone is capable of saying something that will blow your mind with insights.”**

**Impact community clients locally and around the world with your senior design project.**

**Open the door to a steady stream of opportunities: research with a Nobel Laureate, perform on Broadway, question Warren Buffett and Bill Gates at a campus lecture, tour the Guggenheim, and eventually find your dream job through connections you make here.**

**Use the internship experience you gain with a start-up created by a Columbia alum to start your own venture in your hometown.**

**Expand the way you see the world in ways that will impact every other class you take as well as your career and life.**

**Be befriended, challenged, and supported by fellow Columbians for the next four years and join a Columbia Alumni network of more than 300,000.**

**Cheer on friends running the NYC Marathon, visit the MoMA after class, study in Central Park, eat chicken and rice from a street vendor — call New York City home.**

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Described as one of the great urban spaces in America, Low Plaza was built to resemble a Greek amphitheater. Fittingly, it’s ideal for outdoor concerts, fairs, and staged performances like the King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe’s annual productions.

Going to Columbia gives you a kind of dual citizenship — you are a Columbian and a New Yorker. Each in itself is a life changer. The combination? Unequaled.
In 1754 Columbia University was founded as King’s College by royal charter of King George II of England. It is the oldest institution of higher learning in the state of New York and the fifth oldest in the United States.

Undergraduate Programs

6,000 undergraduates; one of the most diverse student bodies in the country.

About 100 Programs of Study, from Earth and Environmental Engineering to Creative Writing to Urban Studies.

60+ majors in the humanities and social sciences.

22 majors in all branches of the biological, natural, and physical sciences.

50+ engineering majors and minors.

Columbia students can choose from more than 150 study abroad programs.

12+ conservatory-caliber arts majors and programs.

Almost 400 research opportunities reserved for Columbia Engineering undergraduates through the Student Research Involvement Program.

More than 80% of undergraduate classes have fewer than 20 students.

6 to 1 ratio of students to faculty.

3 to 1 ratio of students to faculty in the physical sciences.

60,000+ undergraduate alumni network.

82 Nobel Prize winners are Columbia alumni, faculty, or former faculty. More Nobel Laureates have graduated from or taught at Columbia than any other university in the Ivy League.

146 faculty in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which studies and sets the nation’s direction of research in science and technology policy, global security, social policy, and the humanities. Its founders include Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington.

18 members of the National Academy of Engineering.

54 members of the National Academy of Sciences.
“Columbia has broadened my intellectual horizons, exposed me to the most diverse and unique individuals and communities, challenged me to step out of my comfort zone, and ultimately introduced me to an incredible world of opportunities that surpass any expectation I could have ever had.”

PATRICIA K.,
La Paz, Bolivia; Financial Economics and Political Science

More than 1,200 US patents issued across research areas over the past 20 years.

100 new start-ups founded by Columbia students, alumni, and faculty.

More than 200 research institutes and centers, including a wide range of world-class laboratories.

500 clubs and organizations. From the Columbia University Society of Hip-Hop to America Reads, from the Alpine Racing Team to the King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe, from the Scientists and Engineers for a Better Society to the Journal of Politics & Society, from the Chicano Caucus to Bach Society — you’ll find not one club per interest area but dozens with as much vibrancy and diversity as our students.

13 Graduate and Professional Schools
- College of Dental Medicine
- College of Physicians and Surgeons
- Columbia Business School
- Columbia Journalism School
- Columbia Law School
- Mailman School of Public Health
- School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
- School of the Arts
- School of Arts and Sciences
- School of Engineering and Applied Science
- School of International and Public Affairs
- School of Nursing
- School of Social Work

60+ a cappella, comedy, dance, film, music, and theatre clubs and organizations.

31 NCAA Division I teams, 40+ club and 40+ intramural sports.

First gay-rights advocacy group on any college campus.

First African American advocacy group on a multiracial campus.

First college literary magazine.

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- School of International and Public Affairs
- School of Nursing
- School of Social Work

4 Affiliate Institutions
- Barnard College
- Jewish Theological Seminary
- Teachers College
- Union Theological Seminary
Columbia as 
Engine of Innovation

A map of the labs, lecture halls, and landmarks where ideas and inventions from anthropology to FM radio began.

**Watson Laboratory**
Computer history was made here: the first true computer, first supercomputer, first personal computer.

**Miller Theatre**
The legacy of alumni Rodgers and Hammerstein, who changed the face of American musical theatre starting with Columbia’s Varsity Show, continues here.

**Furnald Hall**
Internationally influential Spanish poet and dramatist Federico García Lorca lived here.

**The Earth Institute**
Jeffrey Sachs, author of the groundbreaking text The End of Poverty, who is widely considered to be the leading international economic adviser of his generation, directs the Earth Institute.

**Harold Clayton Urey** did the Nobel-winning research here that led to his discovery of deuterium.

**Mathematics Hall**
This former home of the Engineering School once featured a full-size steam locomotive inside in honor of such early Columbia Engineering greats as steam power pioneer John Stevens (1768).

**Hamilton Hall**
Lionel Trilling, one of the most public of the twentieth century’s public intellectuals, wrote The Liberal Imagination (1950) while he was a professor here.

**Havemeyer Hall**
The newest building on campus, certified LEED Gold, is an interdisciplinary science and engineering building that is home to labs and classrooms, a library and a café.

**Northwest Corner Building**

Columbia as Engine of Innovation

A map of the labs, lecture halls, and landmarks where ideas and inventions from anthropology to FM radio began.
Where the uranium atom was first split in the US is a National Historic Landmark.

Horst Störmer, who shared the Nobel in physics for discovering “a new form of quantum fluid,” is a member of Columbia’s physics department, which makes its home here, and applied physics department.

Nobelist Isidor Rabi’s discovery here of nuclear magnetic resonance led to the laser and MRI.

Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate in Economics, helped create a new branch of economics here.


Professor James Im’s process for developing high-quality silicon film began here and is playing a crucial role in developing the latest generation of flat-screens for a wide array of electronic devices.

Eric Kandel shared a Nobel for research that transformed the understanding of memory and learning.

Wallace Smith Broecker, “Grandfather of Climate Science,” coined global warming in his definitive ocean research.

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Working in Professor Pupin’s basement lab, Edwin Armstrong invented FM radio.

John Dewey, arguably America’s greatest philosopher, who was responsible for changing the way educators think about education, taught here for 25 years.

Nobel Laureate, professor, and economist Robert Mundell — known as the father of the theory of optimum currency areas — teaches here.

Edmund S. Phelps — winner of the Nobel in Economics for his work putting “people as we know them” back into economic models — teaches here.

Mozart’s famous librettist, Lorenzo Da Ponte, was the first professor of Italian Literature at Columbia.

Wallace Smith Broecker, “Grandfather of Climate Science,” coined global warming in his definitive ocean research.

William Ewing helped establish global earthquake monitoring and the theory of plate tectonics.

Thomas Hunt Morgan’s fruit fly experiments here earned a Nobel and launched modern genetics.

Margaret Mead revolutionized the study of anthropology here.

Eric Kandel shared a Nobel for research that transformed the understanding of memory and learning.

Nobel Laureate Richard Axel mapped the genes that govern the sense of smell.

Mudd Hall

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

Columbia Medical Center
Columbia as Culture of Connection

Columbia is an in-person kind of place—a crossroads of connections where there is no distance at all between those on their way to living lives of impact and influence and those already doing so. Here are just some of the people who recently visited campus and connected with students.

Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor speaks on civil rights in an “Age of Terrorism” at Columbia Law School.

CNN anchor Anderson Cooper speaks to students at a School of Journalism talk.

President Barack Obama ’83CC speaks on campus at the ServiceNation Presidential Forum in Roone Arledge Auditorium.

Founder and Convener of the Global Peace Initiative of Women Dena Merriam speaks to students as part of the Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program speaker series.

President of Bolivia Evo Morales speaks at the World Leaders Forum.

President of the Republic of Chile Michelle Bachelet speaks at the World Leaders Forum.

President Bill Clinton speaks on World AIDS Day at a symposium sponsored by Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health.

U.S. Trust division executive for the Northeast and Metro New York markets and one of Forbes’ “100 Most Powerful Women in the World” Lisa Carnoy ’89CC speaks at the annual John Jay Awards Dinner.

Former United Nations Secretary-General, Nobelist, and Columbia professor Kofi Annan speaks at the annual World Leaders Forum, which also features the President of Argentina, the President of Serbia, and the Prime Minister of Nepal.

Global health access advocate and anthropologist Paul Farmer speaks at the Earth Institute.

Mercedes De Luca ’79EAS, entrepreneur and Vice President and General Manager of e-commerce at Sears, speaks at a Society of Women Engineers campus event.

Warren Buffett and Bill Gates appear together in a special hour-long community forum filmed by CNBC for global broadcast.

Science educator Bill Nye speaks about nuclear energy issues and changing climates as part of a panel hosted by the Columbia University Coalition for Sustainable Development.
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivers a keynote address on criminal justice reform at an annual policy forum run by former New York City mayor and current professor of professional practice David Dinkins.

Panel discussing electric cars includes Doherty Senior Scholar in the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and adjunct professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences Roger Anderson and chief executive of Fisker Automotive Tony Posawatz; moderated by Kathleen Deveny of Newsweek magazine.

Armen A. Avanessians ’83SEAS, global head of quantitative, rules-based and indexing businesses at Goldman Sachs, speaks at Columbia Engineering Class Day.

Best-selling novelist Erica Jong talks to students about writing as part of the Columbia Undergraduate Scholars Program speaker series.

Actor and activist Anna Deavere Smith talks about her play, Let Me Down Easy.


At a forum on creative writing, acclaimed British novelist Zadie Smith discusses contemporary challenges of authors and storytellers.

You

Ilion Joseph ’96SEAS, ’05SEAS, from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and Harry Warren ’94GSAS, from the Naval Research Laboratory, present talks at the Plasma Physics Colloquium.

President and CEO of Viacom International Media Networks and former president of MTV Networks International Robert Bakish ’85SEAS speaks on “Creativity Commerce and Countries: A GLOCAL Model” at Columbia Engineering.

Widely recognized as one of the “Fathers of the Internet,” Leonard Kleinrock lectures on “A Brief History of the Internet and Its Dynamic Future” at Columbia Engineering’s Department of Computer Science.

New York Times op-ed columnist and former chief restaurant critic Frank Bruni, Top Chef Masters host Kelly Choi, and restaurant entrepreneur Keith Goggin, all Columbia Journalism School alumni, talk about food journalism.

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Columbia as Living Laboratory

The world’s city, home to major institutions in innovation, culture, media, science, education, health, politics, finance, and technology. Our New York is a neighborhood, a classroom, a leader, a community, a testing ground, a cultural wonderland, a source of inspiration, a home, a friend, an indispensable resource.

Have lunch with alums at Chelsea Market to learn about their social media and tech incubator.

Eat the best cannolis in the city at the Feast of San Gennaro in Little Italy.

Climb to top of the Brooklyn Bridge to test its wires with your Civil Engineering class.

Explore the five boroughs of NYC on bicycle for your NYC history class.

Intern in the global investment research division of Goldman Sachs on Wall Street.

Work with New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to design new playgrounds throughout the city.

Lead a team designing a green roof for a synagogue in Brooklyn.

Help write scripts while interning at MTV in Times Square.

Meet with a client running for office as part of your internship at a political consulting and strategy firm.

See Medea at the Japan Society with your Literature Humanities seminar classmates and professor.

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See Medea at the Japan Society with your Literature Humanities seminar classmates and professor.
See the New York Philharmonic play at Lincoln Center for Music Humanities and visit the Frick Collection for Art Humanities.

Attend TEDxColumbia SIPA Engineering conference featuring experts in technology and the intersection of other fields.

Work with physician scientists to conduct research at the Neurological ICU at Columbia’s Medical Center.

Conduct research at the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx.

Get an internship at the United Nations working with the UN Development Programme on energy issues.

Teach math and physics to elementary school students through Columbia’s Double Discovery Center.

Jam with fellow Columbians at Smoke Jazz & Supper Club on Broadway near campus.

Every language, every dream, every possibility.
Columbia as Global Reach

Dozens of campus initiatives bring the world to Columbia. Several hundred study abroad opportunities and research projects take our students and faculty around the globe.

Here’s what makes us global:

- An international student body (more than 150 countries represented)
- A cosmopolitan faculty
- Our World Leaders Forum
- The Earth Institute
- Global Core requirement
- One of the most comprehensive area-studies programs in the United States
- Study abroad on 5 continents, in regions from Asia to North Africa and the Middle East to the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands, as well as at sea
- Partnerships with communities, governments, and institutions around the world
- Global research for all majors, including hands-on engineering and social entrepreneurship
- We not only bring global leaders to campus, we educate them — graduates who are heads of state, policy makers, and forces for good in countries around the world.

Columbia gives students a home in the most global city in the world — where the world comes to you and you go to the world.
World Leaders Forum
Approximately 20 World Leaders Forum events per year bring remarkable leaders to campus for lively, uninhibited dialogue. A few past participants include Presidents Bill Clinton, Mohammad Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan, Benigno Aquino III of the Philippines, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee, and the Dalai Lama.

Study Abroad
Columbia students can choose from more than 150 programs in more than 100 cities around the globe. Approximately one-third of Columbia undergraduates study abroad for a semester or a year. This does not include summer programs, fellowships, and global field studies that are part of classes or research projects.

Countries Represented by Students
With more than 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students from over 150 countries and places of origin, Columbia ranks as one of the top US colleges and universities in international enrollment.

Global Centers
Columbia has an ever-growing network of research centers located in cities around the world, including Mumbai, India; Paris, France; Beijing, China; Amman, Jordan; Nairobi, Kenya; Santiago, Chile; Istanbul, Turkey; and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Columbia as the Start of Great Things

Just a few of the Columbians whose time here allowed them to make their mark, make history, and make the world better.

**Arts & Letters**
- Isaac Asimov, writer, scientist
- Emanuel Ax, Grammy-winning classical pianist
- Chris Baio, Rostam Batmanglij, Ezra Koenig, Chris Tomson, members of indie rock band Vampire Weekend

**Academics & Theorists**
- Jacques Barzun, historian
- Joseph Campbell, scholar of mythology
- John Dewey, philosopher, educator
- Milton Friedman, economist
- Ellen V. Futter, President of the American Museum of Natural History
- Jane Jacobs, urban theorist
- Edward Kasner, mathematician who coined the term googol
- Anthony W. Marx, President & CEO of New York Public Library, former President of Amherst College
- William Schuman, former President of Juilliard School of Music, first President of Lincoln Center
- Judith Shapiro, former President of Barnard College, professor of anthropology
- Howard Zinn, historian

**Business & Entrepreneurism**
- Warren Buffett, investor
- Ursula Burns, Xerox CEO
- William Campbell, Intuit CEO
- Philippe Dauman, Chairman of Viacom
- James P. Gorman, Morgan Stanley CEO
- John Kluge, entrepreneur
- Kai-Fu Lee, founder and CEO of Innovation Works and former founding President of Google China
- Randy Lerner, former Cleveland Browns owner, CEO of MBNA Bank
- Robert J. Stevens, former Lockheed Martin CEO
- S. Robson Walton, Chairman of Wal-Mart Board of Directors

**International Leaders**
- Giuliano Amato, Italy
- Nahas Angula, Namibia
- Hans Blix, UN weapons inspector
- Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Brazil
- Gaston Eyskens, Belgium
- José Ramos-Horta, East Timor
- Thomas Hendrik Ilves, Estonia
- V. K. Wellington Koo, China
- Li Lu, leader of the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989
- Benjamin Mkapa, Tanzania
- Mary Robinson, Ireland
- Pikey ka Isaka Seme, founder of the African National Congress
- Chung Un-chan, South Korea

**Media & Publishing**
- Daniel Alarcón, writer
- Roone Arledge Jr., sports broadcasting pioneer, former Chairman of ABC News
- Marcus Brauchli, Managing Partner, North Base Media and former Executive Editor of The Washington Post
- Jamal Dajani, producer

**Politics & Advocacy**
- Bella Abzug, Congresswoman, leader of the women’s movement
- Madeleine Albright, first female Secretary of State
- Shirley Chisholm, first African American woman elected to Congress
- Eric Garcetti, mayor of Los Angeles

**Science & Technology**
- James F. Albaugh, Boeing Commercial Airplanes former President and CEO
- Edwin Armstrong, inventor of FM radio
- Richard Axel, Nobel Prize for Medicine

**Sports**
- Lou Gehrig, baseball Hall of Famer
- Vitas Gerulaitis, tennis champion

**International Leaders**
- David Paterson, former Governor of New York
- Paul Robeson, civil and human rights activist, writer
- Faye Wattleton, former President of the Center for the Advancement of Women
- Dwight D. Eisenhower
- Barack Obama
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Theodore Roosevelt
- Peter DiMaggio, lead engineer for construction on U.S. Embassies in Moscow, Berlin, and Baghdad
- Amelie Earhart, aviator
- Joseph Engelberger, founder of modern robotics
- Stephen Jay Gould, paleontologist, evolutionary biologist
- Herman Hollerith, founder of IBM
- Gregory H. Johnson, Air Force Colonel (Ret.), NASA astronaut
- Michael Massimino, engineer and former NASA shuttle astronaut
- Robert Millikan, Nobel physicist
- Harvey Seeley Mudd, engineer, founder of Harvey Mudd College
- William Barclay Parsons, chief engineer of the first line of the NYC subway
- Michael Pupin, inventor of the Pupil coil
- Eugene H. Trinh, first Vietnamese-American astronaut in Space

**Business & Entrepreneurism**
- Steve Jobs, founder of Apple
- Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon
- Marcellus Wiley, former NFL player

**International Leaders**
- Xi Jinping, President of China
- V. K. Wellington Koo, China
- Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Estonia

**Politics & Advocacy**
- Shirley Chisholm, first African American woman elected to Congress
- Madeleine Albright, first female Secretary of State
- Mia Love, Republican Congresswoman from Utah

**Science & Technology**
- Richard Feynman, Nobel Prize for Physics
- Charles Townes, inventor of the maser
- Vera Rubin, astronomer

**Sports**
- Serena Williams, tennis champion
- Michael Phelps, Olympic gold medalist
- Alex Morgan, Olympic gold medalist
Barack Obama '83CC
44th President of the United States

Edwin Armstrong '1913SEAS
Inventor of FM radio

Jenji Kohan '91CC
Emmy-winning television writer, producer and director

Toomas Hendrik Ilves '72CC
President of Estonia

Ruth Bader Ginsburg '59Law
Supreme Court Justice

Eric Holder Jr. '73CC
Former US Attorney General

Herman Hollerith 1890SEAS
Founder of IBM

Maggie Gyllenhaal '98CC
Oscar nominee

Michael Massimino '84SEAS
NASA shuttle astronaut

Richard Rodgers '23CC and Oscar Hammerstein II '16CC
Composer and lyricist

Cristina Teuscher '00CC
Olympic gold-medal swimmer

V. K. Wellington Koo 1908CC
Diplomat, former acting premier of the Republic of China

5 Founding Fathers of the United States.

34 Presidents and Prime Ministers.

9 Supreme Court Justices.

90+ Pulitzer Prize Winners.
Columbia Days
The Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and Columbia alum Herman Wouk ’34CC once said Columbia is a place of “doubled magic,” where “the best things of all human history and thought [are] inside the rectangle” on the Columbia campus and “the best things of the moment [are] outside the rectangle of Columbia” in the City of New York. Students here experience that doubled magic on a daily basis. On the next few pages, some of them share highlights from a day in their lives on campus and in the city.

Students flock to the Low Plaza steps — to sunbathe, socialize, and study — making it, in the words of a leading architect, a true “urban beach.”

Our students are part of an unparalleled mix of Ivy League university and world-class city. Clockwise:

- **Mike L.** An Industrial Engineering major from Illinois who recently started his day at the local farmer’s market and spent the evening designing a temporary pop-up space for an art society in midtown Manhattan.

- **Sarah S.** An English major from Pennsylvania and a film and television actress who recently arranged the press junket she was doing for a movie so she wouldn’t miss her favorite literature class.

- **Jonathan R.** A Mechanical Engineering major from New Jersey who does lab work on supersonic flow in the morning and heads to his internship at Atlantic Records in the afternoon.

- **Donia A.** An Economics major from Egypt whose day recently started with a class on global economics and ended with one on ethnography, with a Vogue internship in between.
Time to Discover
Amanda O.

Hometown: Garden City, NY
Columbia College
Major: Biochemistry

9:00 am
Wake up and head to Dodge Fitness Center for a workout.

11:00 am
Next stop: Cornish Lab in the Northwest Corner Building to check data from previous day’s experiment on D-amino acid tRNA pairing effects in the ribosome. Progressing on an independent project started last summer in preparation for first author publication.

1:00 pm
Ribosome team weekly meeting with Professor Virginia Cornish and Professor Ruben Gonzalez for an update on the project.

2:40 pm
Molecular Biology with Professor Ron Prywes; excited to finally be covering the translational machinery in class.

4:00 pm
Off to MoMA to see the new Warhol exhibit with a friend.

9:00 am
Wake up and head to Dodge Fitness Center for a workout.

10:15 am
Walk over to Hamilton Deli to get my usual egg and cheese and an iced coffee for breakfast; chitchat with Steve the owner for a few minutes.

10:00 pm
Quick cookie and tea break with suitemates.

10:30 pm
Reading Descartes’s Meditations on First Philosophy for a paper I’m working on.

6:00 pm
Time for a class called “Ignorance,” with Professor Stuart Firestein, chair of the Department of Biology. (It’s anything but: he invites professors to speak on ideas they wonder about and question in their own fields.) Guest lecturer this week is Professor Eitan Grinspun of Columbia’s Department of Computer Science, who talks about his Hollywood animation work. He provided some breakthrough techniques for Disney on Tangled and worked on visual effects for Peter Jackson’s The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey.

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Columbia Community Outreach meeting to plan the university’s largest annual day of service (approximately 1,000 volunteers). I am the co-coordinator.
Paris-Bound Engineer
Sidney P.

Hometown: Tully, NY
Columbia Engineering
Major: Biomedical Engineering

8:07 am
Head out for my morning run through Riverside Park. The breeze off the Hudson is especially nice.

10:30 am
I’m off to Contemporary Civilization. We’re discussing Rousseau’s conception of the amour propre and how it pertains to human inequality and the social contract.

12:45 pm
I grab a quick lunch (mandarin orange and chicken salad with soup du jour) at Ferris Booth Commons and bump into a couple of friends before running off to....

1:00 pm
...my meeting with my adviser. I’ll be conducting biomedical research in Paris this summer and I want to make sure that all of my travel documents are squared away.

2:10 pm
My favorite class of the day: Introduction to Electrical Engineering. Today, Professor David Vallancourt discusses how the Sallen-Key Bessel filters we have been learning about can be used in anything from electric guitars to electrocardiograms.

5:00 pm
Board meeting for Engineers Without Borders. This year, I’m serving as the president of EWB on campus. From vibrational analysis of grain processors in Soroti, Uganda, to water distribution systems in Bizdad, Morocco, we have a lot to discuss.

9:30 pm
Grab a quick bite to eat at JJ’s Place before heading to Engineering Student Council meeting. Tonight, we’re discussing a resolution to reorganize club finances and restrict extraneous expenditures.

10:00 pm
I relax for a bit in my room by editing papers for the Journal of Global Health.

11:45 pm
I make my way down to one of the residence hall lounges to play a few tunes on the piano before heading to bed. The music of Chopin and Ravel makes for a soothing conclusion to a day well spent.
Afternoon and Evening Acts

Emily N.
Hometown: Ridley Park, PA
Columbia College
Major: English and Drama and Theater Arts

5:00 pm
Tony Award-winning musical Fun Home on Broadway, including talkback with Varsity Show alum Jeanine Tesori.

1:00 pm
Hop the train to Brooklyn for my internship at TADA! I assist in staging a musical written and performed by first through fifth graders. Today we’re teaching the choreography to Little Shop of Horrors.

7:55 pm
Arrive at rehearsal for the Varsity Show. We’re doing a song about the new Ferris Booth Commons dining hall, but don’t tell anyone! Varsity Show has a century-plus tradition of secrecy!

11:30 pm
Curl up with my copy of Ulysses and finish my reading for tomorrow’s class.

A Programmer Decodes Her Day

Kesi N.
Hometown: Russellville, KY
Columbia Engineering
Major: Computer Science

6:00 am
Wake up and walk to Levien Gym for volleyball practice. I meet my team in the locker room where we blast Missy Elliott while getting dressed. We are excited to play our Ivy League rivals this weekend.

12:00 pm
Faculty House lunch with my Mandarin class.

1:30 pm
Skype with my manager at Boeing. I am working as an intern in California for the summer and we discuss my software project. I will be working with a team that develops survival radios for Air Force pilots who encounter emergencies.

2:00 pm
Java course. Next assignment: programming the card game blackjack.

7:00 pm
Attend the National Society of Black Engineers board meeting. I am the Professional Relations chair this year.
Times Square, a.k.a. New York’s famous Theater District, cuts a swath through midtown Manhattan between Sixth and Eighth Avenues from east to west, and West 40th and West 53rd Streets from south to north. A bonus benefit of being a Columbia student is free and hugely discounted tickets, as low as $5, to major Broadway shows.
An urban wonder and historic treasure just a few blocks from campus — Central Park is 843 acres and 2.5 miles of paths for strolling, running, and biking, as well as gardens, green lawns, and playing fields. It is also home to Shakespeare in the Park and its very own zoo.
Sustainable Entrepreneur’s Aria Alexis H.
Hometown: Seattle, WA
Columbia College
Major: Earth and Environmental Sciences

2:30 pm
Head to the Teachers College library for a meeting with the research head for my research assistant position at the Earth Institute.

11:00 pm
Skype call with the board members of Aware Mobile App, the start-up I helped expand and am doing business development for. The app provides a directory of campus resources and uses real-time crowdsourced data to promote campus safety.

Educational Change One Day at a Time Terrell W.
Hometown: Baltimore, MD
Columbia College
Major: Ethnicity and Race Studies

8:00 am
Dodge Fitness Center with my friend to get in a morning workout — Columbia’s Strength Training PE class made me realize that I love to lift weights.

9:30 am
Meet with the Environmental Science thesis coordinator — I’m thinking of writing my senior thesis on gender and sustainable development, specifically regarding impact investing.

5:30 pm
Home to cook dinner for my suite. I live in the Community Health House. We’re a Special Interest Community, and we do communal meals every night, made in our full kitchen in the Columbia residence halls.

8:00 pm
Dinner at Ferris Booth Commons with friends followed by Notes and Keys (co-ed a cappella group) rehearsal.

8:00 am
Prepare for student teaching with my sixth grade class at P.S. 333. My research interests are very tied to education so I’m hoping that my certification helps me be a more effective graduate researcher.

9:00 am
Teach lesson on using powerful figurative language for poetry writing unit.

11:00 am
Head to work study job with the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

1:00 pm
To the Intercultural Resource Center, where I live, to catch up with friends.

2:30 pm
Head to the Teachers College library for a meeting with the research head for my research assistant position at the Earth Institute.

8:00 pm
Down to the Metropolitan Opera for Carmen with my Music Hum class.
An Engineer’s Masterly Plan
Mary B.

Hometown: Beaverton, OR
Columbia Engineering
Major: Operations Research

10:08 am
Wake up and shower ... take my time getting ready for class over my morning cup of coffee.

1:00 pm
After CC class, head to the world-famous waffle truck Wafels and Dinges, which is parked on 113th and Broadway almost every Monday. Enjoy a bacon and syrup waffle and lounge with my best friend on the steps of Low Library while talking about what upcoming concerts we want to see in the city.

2:00 pm
Have a quick meeting with my career counselor in the Center for Career Education. This summer I’m participating in the Columbia Experience Overseas program and will be interning in Singapore. We talk about what to expect and make sure that my passport and visa are all in place.

3:15–5 pm
I intern in SoHo at a start-up consulting firm, working on projects with a division of the United Nations. The best part about SoHo is people watching!

5:30 pm
Back up to campus, grab a quick dinner at Ferris Booth Commons before my next class.

6:10 pm
Go to my Intro to Accounting and Finance class, where we learn about the causes and implications of the financial crisis of 2008.

9:00 pm
At the Bacchanal meeting, the club that hosts the big campus-wide concert in the springtime, we discuss the artist we want to bring to campus this year. In the past we’ve had Kanye West, Vampire Weekend, Macklemore, and Of Montreal playing right on the steps of Low Library. Epic.

11:00 pm
Head to Hamilton Hall for Contemporary Civilization. We have a very interesting discussion about contemporary revolutions in relation to the readings we did by Robespierre about the French revolution.

9:30 pm
Run to the Engineering Student Council meeting. I am the president of the Council this year. During tonight’s meeting we pass a resolution about dining halls on campus.

10:45 pm
Head back to my suite in Hartley Hall, where fresh brownies are waiting for me. (One of my suitemates loves to bake!)

11:00 pm
Study break/Skype date with Mom (it’s only 9:00 pm at home in Oregon).
An Economist’s Playlist  
Nathan C.  
Hometown: Hillsborough, CA  
Columbia College  
Major: Economics/Juilliard Exchange

4:00 am  
Head over to Schermerhorn for my Global Economy course with Professor Sunil Gulati, who is also president of the US Soccer Federation; Professor Jeffrey Sachs is guest lecturing on the economic implications of climate change.

10:00 am  
Attend a Native American Council meeting to discuss plans for the annual Columbia Pow Wow.

11:00 am  
Attend my History of the U.S.-Mexican Border class, where we discuss how the horse impacted the Comanche empire and its influence along the border.

4:00 pm  
I walk to Joseph Massad’s senior seminar class, Culture in the Modern Arab World. Today we discuss the music of Umm Kulthum and her legendary status throughout the Arab world while also considering the role music played in recent political events in Egypt.

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Head over to Schermerhorn for my Global Economy course with Professor Sunil Gulati, who is also president of the US Soccer Federation; Professor Jeffrey Sachs is guest lecturing on the economic implications of climate change.

1:30 pm  
As a participant in the Columbia-Juilliard Exchange, I take a short subway ride to Lincoln Center on a weekly basis (backpacking my cello over the turnstile) for a lesson with my cello teacher Richard Aaron.

6:00 pm  
Run to my Music Humanities class in Dodge Hall. This week we are focusing on Handel’s Messiah. My professor is hilarious and entertaining in the way she makes Music Humanities fun and interesting for everyone in the class.

4:00 pm  
Head to Prentis Hall on 125th Street for my Recorded Sound class with Terrence Pender. It’s an innovative class that teaches me how to produce my own music in a professional studio space.

9:00 pm  
Attend a Native American Council meeting to discuss plans for the annual Columbia Pow Wow.

12:30 pm  
Descend the staircase of JJ’s Place for some late-night wings and fries. I also help myself to the self-serve Jamba Juice bar.

12:15 am  
Bury myself in my Financial Econ problem set in Schapiro Lounge with my best friends.

Around the World in a Few Hours  
Destiny S.  
Hometown: Idabel, OK  
Columbia College  
Major: Middle Eastern and Asian Languages and Cultures

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12:15 am  
Bury myself in my Financial Econ problem set in Schapiro Lounge with my best friends.
A quick subway ride from campus is Lincoln Center, the world’s leading performing arts center and home to a dozen world-renowned groups, schools, and organizations: the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the Film Society of Lincoln Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Juilliard School, Lincoln Center Theater, The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet, New York City Opera, New York Philharmonic, the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, and the School of American Ballet.

It’s commonplace for Core professors to incorporate class trips to relevant Lincoln Center performances into their seminars.
Editor’s Agenda

Colin S.

Hometown: Greenwich, CT
Columbia College
Major: Political Science

10:00 am
Wake up and shower. Finish a discussion post for my Urban Studies seminar the following day.

11:00 am

12:30 pm
Return to campus and get lunch with my friend Akhil, a Financial Engineering major. We reminisce about the summer we spent together in Scotland as part of an internship program through Columbia’s Center for Career Education.

4:00 pm
Stop by Hamilton Hall to photograph the Chair of the first-year Core class Literature Humanities, as part of a story for the magazine Columbia College Today.

5:30 pm
Go to the Rotunda in Low Library for a lecture event with the former Treasury Secretary. I was invited to attend the lecture through Professor Sunil Gulati’s Global Economy class that I took last spring.

6:30 pm
Stop by Lerner Hall, the campus student center, to print out class readings and to pick up a package, consisting of a hiking pack for my upcoming spring break trip to Panama with my floormates.

7:00 pm
Grab a quick dinner at Chipotle with the Art Director for the Spectator’s weekly magazine The Eye.

9:00 pm
Hold my weekly staff meeting at the Spectator where we continue planning for the Spectator’s upcoming fund-raising dinner featuring Arianna Huffington of The Huffington Post as our guest speaker.

7:30 pm
Attend a Columbia College Young Alumni meeting as the senior representative to the committee’s executive board. We discuss fun events in the city and networking sessions for seniors and recent graduates.
4
Common Core, Uncommon Education
Columbia University’s Core is the nation’s oldest and most renowned Core program — and it defines our graduates. All undergraduates participate in either the Columbia College Core or the Engineering Core. **Ask Columbians about the value of their Columbia education and the Core is likely the first thing they will mention.** They will tell you how the Core has given them an exceptional advantage at every turn.
Interdisciplinary & Innovative
The Core began with a single course called Contemporary Civilization that is still a cornerstone of the program. Today the Core also includes Frontiers of Science; Literature, Art, and Music Humanities; University Writing; and Global Core and language requirements. Immersing students in multiple disciplines so they can make connections across the world of ideas is a key part of the Core’s power. The Core prepares students to engage their majors with a capacity to think within and beyond a specific discipline, providing them with a breadth of knowledge that promotes innovative thinking.

Challenge & Community
Rather than general education requirements, you take a single set of courses in small, discussion-based seminars. All students encounter the same texts and issues at the same time so the critical dialogue takes place not only in the classroom but all over campus. Students challenge their thinking and deepen their insights together at every turn. The Core becomes a common base of knowledge that allows for greater depth of discussion in all classes throughout a student’s four years.

Timeless & Defining
The habits of mind developed in the Core cultivate a critical and creative intellectual capacity that graduates call on long after college, in the pursuit and fulfillment of meaningful lives. Whether you meet a graduate from last year or fifty years ago, he or she will have wrestled with many of the same enduring books and themes — the same ideas next year’s first-year Columbians will tackle. For almost 100 years, the Core’s purpose has been to build a timeless basis for intellectual flexibility and confidence that defines every Columbia graduate.

Foundation & Freedom
Students who are drawn to Columbia have an interdisciplinary way of approaching their entire lives. They find the Core an incredible intellectual foundation but it also exposes them to different fields, varying points of view, and disparate visions, freeing them from intellectual silos. They get to forge their own paths and make the impact they want.

Here’s what makes the program unique.

Dog-eared, flagged, and highlighted — you’ll read the books and study the art, music, societies, and scientific discoveries that define human history as much as they shape the world today.

A few of the authors, ideas, and texts that will become part of what you know through the Core. Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince; Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Basic Political Writings; Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations; Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex; David Hume, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding; Immanuel Kant, Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals; Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman; Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America; Charles Darwin, On the Origin of Species and The Descent of Man; Friedrich Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals; W. E. B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk; Virginia Woolf, To the Lighthouse; Homer, The Iliad; Euripides, Bacchae; Virgil, The Aeneid; Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment; Dante, Inferno; Toni Morrison, Song of Solomon; Sappho’s Lyrics.
A Few Core Books
Columbia College Core Curriculum

Through a variety of disciplines, the Core asks students to grapple with radically different ways of looking at the world, exploring enduring themes such as virtue, justice, suffering, evil, friendship, family, loss, guilt, pride, loyalty, storytelling, power, representation, time, space, gender, and sexuality in works by authors as varied as Homer, Jane Austen, Frederick Douglass, and Fyodor Dostoevsky.

- **Literature Humanities**
- **University Writing**
- **Frontiers of Science**
- **Contemporary Civilization**
- **Art Humanities**
- **Music Humanities**
- **Science Requirement**
- **Global Core Requirement**
- **Foreign Language Requirement**
- **Physical Education Requirement**

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**Hannah P.**
Weston, MA
Earth and Environmental Science

“I think sometimes people don’t understand that even though the Core is a specific set of courses, it **enhances the freedom you have to try out different areas**. I have friends who wanted to be English or history majors who became science majors after taking Frontiers of Science. I have another friend who thought she wanted premed but now she’s a philosophy major because she took Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization. The Core fosters a lot of different sparks.”

---

**Alex M.**
New Orleans, LA
Mathematics

“I knew I wanted to major in math and physics when I came here. I was very excited about the Core alongside the ability to do a very serious science major. I was really into the idea of this thought-out way of becoming well-rounded instead of just me randomly choosing classes.”

---

**Joe P.**
Pelham, NY
Political Science

“It’s not a uniform experience where everyone learns to think exactly alike. **You’re expected to be an individual, to have your own ideas, your own questions.**”

---

**Anna Rose B.**
New York City, NY
English

“Our professor always says, ‘There is no one right answer.’ And then he asks questions to which you desperately want to know the answer. So we spend a lot of time in class — and out of class — helping each other. He’s adamant about not indoctrinating us, so he helps us develop our own theories.”

---

**Melissa H.**
Aurora, IL
Film Studies

“You’re talking about essential texts and groundbreaking ideas. When you’ve got this kind of diversity, you’ll always get into debates; you’ll always see things from different perspectives, especially when you’re part of a community where **everyone is capable of saying something that will blow your mind.**”

---

**David C.**
Edison, NJ
Economics and Political Science

“The Core is one of the reasons I applied to Columbia. I’m taking courses outside my major — in art and music, literature and philosophy and science — and that helps me think in more complicated ways about my major. I’m not the person I was when I started the Core. I’ve changed the way I think, the way I write, the way I see the world. And I did it on my terms.”

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Regardless of their major our students can study the arts through the Core as well as take abundant courses in the visual arts, music, theatre, film and dance. In a city known for its arts and culture, the arts are also a significant part of extracurricular life.
The Core + So Much More
One First-Year Student’s Schedule

Core classes make up approximately one-third of your schedule at Columbia, leaving time each year — even your first — to explore other areas or start coursework in your desired major.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Sun 25</th>
<th>Mon 26</th>
<th>Tue 27</th>
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Nathalie B.
Hometown: Charlottesville, VA
Columbia College
Major: History and Political Science
The Engineering Core includes roughly half the Columbia College Core classes, science and math courses, and a first-year, hands-on design course.

### Min Y.
**Singapore**  
**Industrial Engineering and Operations Research**  
“Most engineers just don’t have the opportunity to debate these really important topics like what is justice? What does personal happiness mean? You have to defend your ideas to your classmates, who may have interpreted the text in ways completely different than you did. You learn how to understand where they’re coming from, so you really diversify the way you think about things. Then you can apply that to your engineering. I feel like I’m leaps and bounds ahead of other engineers because of the Core.”

### Diogo I.
**Bellerose, NY**  
**Mechanical Engineering**  
“The Art of Engineering, which you take your first year, is why I really fell in love with Columbia Engineering. The concept of the class is perfect — an introductory engineering course that includes a semester-long group project where you work on a real engineering problem.”

(The Art of Engineering is an introduction to all nine engineering departments and fundamental engineering principles. This happens through a series of lectures, demonstrations, and guest speakers.)

### Megan A.
**Ann Arbor, MI**  
**Biomedical Engineering**  
“I think the Core is such a great way to incorporate Columbia College and Columbia Engineering students right off the bat. I’m taking University Writing right now. I am improving my writing, which is so important because especially nowadays, engineers need to know how to write. I’m also in a classroom with students who aren’t just in engineering but are majoring in politics and languages and dance and art. You see all these different ideas butting up against each other. I just think it’s awesome.”

### Mike S.
**Cincinnati, OH**  
**Civil Engineering and Minor in Architecture**  
“I’ve talked to people at companies in the field. They want to hire people who are more than just robots. They want people who can see the big picture, who can do the high-level technical work and put it in a broader context. A Columbia education is built for that kind of person.”

### Vikas A.
**Seattle, WA**  
**Computer Science and Industrial Engineering and Operations Research**  
“As a tap dancer, it was really exciting for me to take Music Humanities as part of the Engineering Core because I could learn about the different interpretations of rhythm, phrasing, and groove in various cultures, and apply that to my craft.”

A cornerstone of the Columbia Engineering Core is The Art of Engineering, which is taken during the first year. A key part of the course is a small-group project in which students work to find solutions to real engineering problems. Write new firmware to hack an HP 20b calculator. Design and operate the “Smart Grid.” Use applied physics and math to explore electric guitar design. “Build” New York City in Civil Engineering. Combine computer engineering, chemical engineering, and economics to develop renewable energy sources for automobiles.
## Engineering Core + So Much More
### One First-Year Student’s Schedule

Engineering and liberal arts core classes make up approximately half of your schedule over your four years at Columbia, leaving time each year — even your first — to explore electives, minor in a liberal arts area, or start coursework in your desired major.

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### Courses (Columbia College Core)

- **History of the Modern Middle East**
- **Physics II: Thermodynamics, Electricity, and Magnetism**
- **Introduction to Applied Mathematics**
- **Work in Columbia Laboratory for Unconventional Electronics**

### Courses (Columbia Engineering Core)

- **Calculus IV**
- **The Art of Engineering**
- **Discussion: History of the Modern Middle East**

### Research Project

- **Allison D.**
  - **Hometown:** Potomac, MD
  - **Columbia Engineering**
  - **Major:** Electrical Engineering
Giants Among Us
At Columbia you’re part of knowledge in the making — yours and the world’s. The beauty of being on this campus is that today’s thought leaders, genius innovators, and literary lions want to teach. These giants in their fields, who keep open office hours and teach and mentor undergraduates, have a way of inspiring their students to take their own giant steps.

Faculty in all disciplines teach on the Morningside Heights campus. 80% of Columbia courses have fewer than 20 students, and nearly all are taught by professors rather than teaching assistants. A great rapport can be struck between students and teachers, who often get to know their students well. Those connections can last throughout the undergraduate years and well beyond.
“Columbia faculty and researchers lead the most cutting-edge ventures in environmental and sustainable development, and our students are integral to this work.”
Farah Griffin
Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African-American Studies; former Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies

Undergraduate Courses
Literature Humanities (Core); African-American Literature Survey I and II; Remapping the Black South; Recent undergraduate adviser for thesis titled “Nonwhite Women as Transformational Agents in Disney Animated Films.”

The author of several books, Professor Griffin writes and speaks extensively on American and African American literature, music, history, and politics.

“I love working with undergraduates — helping them discover their talents and capacity for intellectual growth. I love sharing my enthusiasm about the study of literature and music with them. I learn so much from my students. It enhances my own reading, research, and writing.”
Professor Gulati, a popular lecturer in the field of international economics, is the president of the US Soccer Federation and has been instrumental in developing the world’s biggest game in the United States.

“IT GET TO BELIEVE IN AND LIVE THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH 28 TIMES EVERY SEMESTER. SEEING THE WORLD AS WE SAW IT WHEN WE WERE IN COLLEGE IS A FANTASY FOR MOST PEOPLE. BEING A FACULTY MEMBER AT A PLACE LIKE COLUMBIA ALLOWS ME TO LIVE THAT FANTASY EVERY DAY.”

Sunil Gulati
Lecturer
Department of Economics

Undergraduate Courses
Global Economy; Principles of Economics; Sports Economics

Klaus Lackner
Ewing and J. Lamar Worzel Professor of Geophysics, Earth and Environmental Engineering; Director of Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy, The Earth Institute

Professor Lackner is developing a revolutionary device — modeled on tree leaves — that reduces carbon dioxide in the air. He is a pioneer in the clean use of fossil fuels and other solutions to climate change.

“It is great to work with undergraduates because they can look at new ideas without preconceived notions. They can challenge you, and force you to get things right because you really have to explain it well and can’t resort to shortcuts.”

Undergraduate Courses
Alternative Energy Resources; Energy, Minerals, and Material Systems
James Schamus
Professor
School of the Arts
Film

Undergraduate Courses
Film Theory I; Seeing Narrative

Golden Globe winner and Oscar nominee James Schamus is both practitioner and academic. He teaches film history and theory and is the former CEO of Focus Features. He has collaborated as screenwriter and producer with director Ang Lee on eleven films, including Brokeback Mountain.

“In the laboratory and as a mentor it is great fun to provide students with access to some of the most exciting research at the cutting edge of cosmology and to help them see that they have things to contribute even as beginning undergraduates.”

Amber Miller
Dean of Science for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Professor of Physics

Undergraduate Mentor
Supervises undergraduate researchers working on cosmology experiments and on a variety of related technology development projects.

“Columbia undergraduates aren’t afraid to ask the big questions. They want to know ‘why’ as well as ‘what.’ And those are the kinds of questions that are best answered through discussion, so it’s always a challenge being in a classroom with them.”

Professor Miller leads Columbia’s Experimental Cosmology group, which is capturing snapshots of microwaves emitted just after the Big Bang. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and was chief science adviser to the NYPD Counterterrorism Bureau.
“I enjoy having undergraduates in my research lab. They come with a fresh pair of eyes, great enthusiasm, and an intense curiosity. Through the questions they ask, they make us think twice about what we do. Since they are unbiased about research, they are also more inclined to think out of the box.”
“My own research has been very significantly influenced by the Core and teaching undergraduates here. I am editing a new book series for Oxford University Press. The idea of including interdisciplinary reflections in the series developed straight out of my work in the Core with students and fellow faculty.”
Professor Vunjak-Novakovic is director of Columbia’s Laboratory for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering. She focuses on regenerative medicine and technologies that save and improve lives — her lab has successfully grown replacement bones and heart muscle from human stem cells.

“I gain a lot from working with undergraduates — mentoring some of our greatest talent to discover what they want to do in science. Undergraduates are also often the most creative in their ideas — knowing less, they are braver.”

Martin Chalfie
William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Biological Sciences; former chair of the Department of Biological Sciences; shared 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Undergraduate Courses
Biological Research Skills; Genetics

The Nobel Prize was awarded to Professor Chalfie for the introduction of green fluorescent protein (GFP) as a biological marker. GFP has become one of the essential research tools in the biological and biomedical sciences.

“The very best undergraduates, and Columbia has many of these students, are just fun to work with. They are eager to learn and get excited about the material, whether in class or the lab. Sharing the excitement of discovery is one of the great joys of doing research, and introducing undergraduates to this excitement is very rewarding. I also enjoy watching students become independent.”

Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic
Mikati Foundation Professor of Biomedical Engineering; Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Medical Sciences (in Medicine); Director, Laboratory for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering; Co-director, Craniofacial Regeneration Center; member, National Academy of Engineering

Undergraduate Courses
Biological Transport & Rate Process; Projects in Biomedical Engineering

Professor Vunjak-Novakovic is director of Columbia’s Laboratory for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering. She focuses on regenerative medicine and technologies that save and improve lives — her lab has successfully grown replacement bones and heart muscle from human stem cells.

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High-Impact and Hands-On: Science and Engineering Research
In labs, in partnerships with New York City, and in global fieldwork — research at Columbia is about solving huge problems like climate change and hunger, as well as investigating enduring mysteries like the origin of the universe. It’s about impacting the world with new technologies, new social media, new ways of looking at the human body, and new animation techniques. Getting involved in research here is no Ivory Tower exercise. It’s faculty and students actively working wonders.

Professor of Biology Brent Stockwell’s lab, where his team is discovering novel cell death pathways involved in cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.

During a recent spring break, Earth and Environmental Science Professor and Lamont-Doherty researcher Nicholas Christie-Blick led his students on an eight-day expedition to investigate the dynamic processes that formed Death Valley.

Research

Robotics

Social Change

Sustainability
Chemistry Professor Virginia W. Cornish ’91CC supervises undergraduate research each year. Her specialty is the interface of chemistry and biology, bringing together modern methods in synthetic chemistry and DNA technology to expand the synthetic capabilities of living cells.
“My students don’t sit on the sidelines. They expect to do critical work in the world. They want to do the real work of science and engineering. And we deliver.”

PATRICIA CULLIGAN, 
Professor of Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics
Science and Engineering Research: Opportunities Abound

There are labs at Columbia doing cutting-edge research in nearly every subfield of every discipline. Not only are there plenty of research opportunities on the Morningside Heights campus, but the many satellite campuses and affiliates of Columbia make it virtually impossible to not find the right lab. Along with the Medical Center, there are the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, the NASA Goddard Institute, and Nevis Physics Laboratories, to name just a few.

Sheldon K.
Toronto, Canada
Chemical Physics, Premed
“Since the beginning of my sophomore year, I have been working at Professor Kenneth Eisenthal’s lab in the Chemistry Department. The work we do focuses on studying the properties of metal nanoparticles with powerful femtosecond lasers. These lasers are so powerful that they can actually remove electrons from air! **Even as an undergrad, I have been able to contribute significantly, even submitting a publication recently as the second author.**”

Sarah G.
Dallas, TX
Biomedical Engineering
“For my senior design project, my team and I have been developing an iPad app to help children with autism better recognize emotions. **As part of the project we have been collaborating closely with the New York Psychiatric Institute and Franklin Lakes Middle School.** Franklin Lakes has a very comprehensive autism program. They have been kind enough to allow us to visit and meet their students, as well as allow their students the opportunity to try out our app.”

John R.
Mukilteo, WA
Astrophysics
“I am currently working on my senior thesis with Professor Jules Halpern on gamma-ray bursts (GRBs). GRBs are jets of gamma-ray photons emanating from supernovas in the death of massive stars and are among the most energetic phenomena in the universe. **The hope is to try to understand the physical processes that produced these high-energy photons and the nature of the medium around the collapsing star.**”

Danielle B.
Woodbridge, CT
Environmental Biology
“I was drawn to Environmental Biology because of **the amazing research opportunities available through the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology.** The department is associated with the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC) through the Earth Institute. CERC is a research consortium that connects Columbia University, the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Botanical Garden, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the EcoHealth Alliance.”
Professor of Physics Amber Miller researches the origin of the universe by observing the cosmic microwave background from the Big Bang. She leads Columbia’s E and B Experiment (EBEX), which consists of a 6,000-pound balloon-borne telescope launched into the stratosphere over Antarctica to capture snapshots of the light emitted by the hot plasma leftover from the Big Bang. EBEX complements two of Miller’s other projects, QUIET (the Q U Imaging Experiment), a telescope in northern Chile, and the Sunyaev-Zel’dovich Array, telescopes based in Owens Valley, California, and shown in the photo above.

Science & Engineering Library in the Northwest Corner interdisciplinary science and engineering building. The “NoCo” Building includes the state-of-the-art library and labs as well as a lecture hall and café.
Columbia College
From understanding the forces of globalization to grasping life through the prism of a gene or a molecule, to expressing human yearning through the arts — in all of the areas calling out for intellectual attention at the highest levels, Columbia assembles strengths unique among the very best universities.

**Columbia College is the epitome of having your cake and eating it, too — all the benefits of a premier liberal arts college and all the reach of one of the most exciting research universities in the world.**

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**A renowned college of arts and sciences, distinguished by a singular, intensive Core Curriculum.** Close contact with prizewinning, path-breaking faculty.

**More than 80 areas of study from creative writing to sustainable development to astrophysics.**

**Classes and joint programs with Columbia's prestigious graduate and professional schools, including law, business, medicine, arts, journalism, and international and public affairs, as well as other institutions like The Juilliard School.**

**Typical class size 10–19.**

**Classes taught in 50 foreign languages each year.**

**Students can easily access advisement and mentoring to help them apply for national and international fellowships like the Goldwater, Marshall, Rhodes, and Fulbright programs.**

**Hundreds of research opportunities fueled by huge resources (major grants, top faculty mentors, premier facilities, and partnerships with other NYC and global research institutions). Students often publish in top journals and present at conferences worldwide.**
Areas of Study

A Few Examples of Research Fellowships and Programs

**Areas of Study**

- African-American Studies
- American Studies
- Ancient Studies
- Anthropology
- Applied Mathematics
- Archaeology
- Architecture
- Art History
- Art History and Visual Arts
- Astronomy
- Astrophysics
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Biophysics
- Business Management
- Chemical Physics
- Chemistry
- Classical Studies
- Classics
- Comparative Literature and Society
- Computer Science
- Computer Science-Mathematics
- Creative Writing
- Dance
- Drama and Theatre Arts
- Earth Science
- East Asian Studies
- Ecology and Evolution
- Economics
- Economics-Mathematics
- Economics-Philosophy
- Economics-Political Science
- Economics-Statistics
- Education Studies
- English
- Environmental Biology
- Environmental Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Ethnicity and Race Studies
- Evolutionary Biology of the Human Species
- Film and Media Studies
- Financial Economics
- French
- French and Francophone Studies
- German Literature and Cultural History
- Hispanic Studies
- History
- History and Theory of Architecture
- Human Rights
- Information Science
- Italian Cultural Studies
- Italian Literature
- Jazz Studies
- Jewish Studies
- Latin American and Caribbean Studies
- Linguistics
- Mathematics
- Mathematics-Statistics
- Medicine, Literature, and Society
- Medieval and Renaissance Studies
- Middle East, South Asian, and African Studies
- Modern Greek Studies
- Music
- Neuroscience and Behavior
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Political Science-Statistics
- Portuguese Studies
- Psychology
- Regional Studies-East/Central Europe
- Religion
- Russian Language and Culture
- Russian Literature
- Russian Literature and Culture
- Slavic Literature and Culture
- Slavic Studies
- Sociology
- Statistics
- Sustainable Development
- Urban Studies
- Urban Teaching
- Visual Arts
- Women's and Gender Studies
- Yiddish Studies

**Preprofessional and Joint Degree Programs**

- Premedical, Dental, and Law Programs
- The Combined Plan Program with Columbia Engineering — earn both a BA at Columbia College and BS at Columbia Engineering in five years.
- International Affairs Five-Year Program — earn BA and MIA degrees in five years at Columbia College and Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs and Public Administration.
- Public Policy and Administration Five-Year Program — earn BA and MPA degrees in five years at Columbia College and Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs and Public Administration.
- Law — the AILE (Accelerated Interdisciplinary Legal Education) — earn BA and JD degrees in six years at Columbia College and Columbia School of Law.
- Juilliard Joint Program — earn a BA at Columbia College and an MM from Juilliard in five years or six years depending on area of study. Through the Juilliard Exchange Program, Columbia students also can be invited to cross-register for weekly instrumental, composition, and vocal instruction with the Juilliard faculty.

**A Few Examples of Research Fellowships and Programs**

- **Biology and Biomedical Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships**
- **Political Science and History Edwin Robbins Summer Research Fellowships**
- **East Asian Studies Weatherhead Undergraduate Training Grants**
- **English Richmond B. Williams Traveling Fellowships**
- **Music The Rapaport Prize**
- **All Fields John W. Kluge Research Fellowships**
With the entire first-year class encountering the same texts at the same time, it’s not unusual to see students poring over the same books in residence hall lounges and cafés — various groups weighing in on each other’s conversations.
Fearless, Forward-Thinking Graduates
Becoming a fearless, forward-looking global citizen, thinker, change agent, and leader is what a Columbia education is all about, as alumni like those below will tell you.

Rhodes Scholar
“I came as a first-year from the state of Montana, broadly interested in a liberal arts education and pre-law, and left four years later a Rhodes Scholar. After my first year, I got an internship in the United States Senate working on military and defense issues. I also worked part-time from Columbia managing a state Attorney General’s race in Montana. Later I became a delegate to the Democratic National Convention and one of two interns in the country working on health care reform at the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance. In the fall of my senior year, I learned I had been awarded both the Marshall Scholarship and the Rhodes Scholarship. I felt very lucky, though I really have the dedicated work of the Fellowships Office and Columbia faculty to thank.”
Raphael Graybill
’10CC
Affiliated Fellow with the Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale Law School

Marshall Scholar
“Many of the most exciting opportunities offered to me at Columbia were entirely unexpected. As a sophomore, I took a class on colonial India to fulfill a Core requirement. I loved the class, and from there I became interested in colonial and postcolonial literature and history. I began taking Hindi and Urdu classes and, in the spring of my junior year, I studied abroad in Hyderabad, India. Last summer, I went to Dublin on a fellowship from the Columbia English Department, where I researched the influence of Indian philosophy on the Irish poet W. B. Yeats — research that I incorporated into my senior English thesis and positioned me so well for a Marshall Scholarship.”
Anna Feuer
’11CC
Research Assistant for the Council on Foreign Relations

Global Banker
“I graduated from Columbia College with a major in American Studies. Since graduation, I have earned my MBA from Harvard Business School and have worked in investment banking. Today, I work with clients and colleagues around the globe, from Tokyo to London, São Paulo to Hong Kong. My courses at Columbia changed my life. My favorite course was Contemporary Civilization. Nothing has ever challenged me like that course. My Columbia classmates were (and still are) the most brilliant, opinionated, articulate, provocative folks I know.”
Lisa Carnoy
’89CC
U.S. Trust division executive for the Northeast and Metro New York markets, Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Passionate Playwrights
“The guidance Columbia offered us helped us find the courage and confidence to go forward and chase our dreams. Columbia will ask a lot of you, but in doing so, the school goes out of its way to provide you with every opportunity to find the answers. Most important, Columbia will surprise you by showing you a completely new way to think and feel about the world we live in.... We have seen our biggest dreams come true with Next to Normal, a piece that demanded from us the utmost passion, dedication, and risk; all of these things we learned at Columbia, the place that truly laid the foundation for our lives as working artists.”
Tom Kitt ’96CC and Brian Yorkey ’93CC
Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winners for Next to Normal
One of a handful of top universities in the world with leading thinkers in engineering as well as every discipline and department. An unparalleled breadth of majors and minors, professional-level courses, hands-on design projects, research and internships in New York City and around the world, and Columbia’s legendary Core Curriculum — it’s a package you can’t find anywhere other than Columbia Engineering.

The nation’s third-oldest engineering school.

The top university in the country for revenue produced by patents held by faculty.

A university that has more Nobel Prize winners associated with it than any other university in the Ivy League.

Global Study and Internships: international experience geared to engineers and summer internships around the country through our Science, Technology, Engineering Program (STEP).

Entrepreneurial spirit: a minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, venture competitions for new ideas, collaboration with the Columbia Business School, and an entrepreneurship residential community.

Student Research Involvement Program (SRIP): an imperative to involve undergraduates in major research unites all engineering departments. Undergraduates are part of research teams in labs and institutes across campus and in the city.

Opportunities for classes, joint programs, and research in partnership with Columbia’s other world-class professional and graduate schools.

The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science occupies a cluster of buildings on the north end of campus. The cluster includes the Schapiro Center for Engineering and Physical Science Research (shared with the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences), the Seeley Wintersmith Mudd building, the Computer Science building, and the Engineering Terrace. Among the state-of-the-art facilities for engineers and scientists is also the Northwest Corner Building — an interdisciplinary science and engineering teaching and laboratory complex that includes one of the world’s largest science library collections.
Created with both education and interaction in mind, the Botwinick Multimedia Learning Lab is an innovative facility for computer-aided design with 50 state-of-the-art workstations, a full set of professional-grade engineering software tools, and a collaborative learning environment to help students engage in real-world interactions with community clients, Columbia Engineering faculty, and professional practitioners.
Alumni Engineered to Lead
Columbia Engineers gain a deep understanding of engineering solutions as well as the world itself. They become leaders of their generation no matter what fields they ultimately choose.

Community Pacesetter
“At Columbia, I majored in computer science. I did undergraduate research with the Center for Computational Learning Systems and the Cardiac Biomechanics Group. But the beauty of Columbia was that it also allowed me to do more than engineering, which actually makes me a better engineer. I was a member of the editorial board of the Columbia Spectator, an officer in a fraternity, designed the electronics system for a student-built race car, was a teaching assistant for two master’s-level computer science courses, and mentored an elementary school student in the Harlem Robotics program.”
Chase Hensel
‘10SEAS
Cofounder & CEO, Welkin Health

Cardiovascular Pioneer
“As a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, I work with embryonic stem cell-derived heart cells to investigate how we can mediate repair in the heart. The practical applications of my work are all in the near future, where I hope we can make some significant contributions to the already large body of knowledge of cell therapy for cardiovascular diseases. As an undergraduate, I was given the opportunity to do a lot of independent work in designing and carrying out experiments, writing research papers, and traveling to conferences and meeting other researchers. Now that I have earned my PhD, I am continuing the work that initially attracted me to biomedical engineering.”
Amandine Godier-Furnémont
‘09SEAS
Biomedical Engineer

Space Explorer
“Columbia not only provided me with an outstanding education, but also with a sense that I could accomplish whatever I set out to do in life. I could have never dreamed how fulfilling my life would be and how much I would enjoy my career. But I did know that deciding on Columbia would be a terrific start to whatever might lie ahead. I believe that every opportunity I have had in my career was built on the strong foundation that Columbia provided. I have had the good fortune to have flown on two space shuttle missions, and on each of them I paid tribute to Columbia. On my first spaceflight in March 2002, I flew a Columbia Engineering flag on board space shuttle Columbia. That flag is now on display at the Engineering school.”
Michael Massimino
‘84SEAS
Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Engineering and former NASA Shuttle Astronaut

Financial Interdisciplinarian
“Coming out of high school, I didn’t want to be set apart as an engineer. I wanted to work with people from different backgrounds, and I wanted to contribute to the community. I majored in operations research and minored in economics and technological entrepreneurship. Today, I work for JPMorgan analyzing complex systems, working with people in every department across the bank, and staying aware of what’s happening in the world — not just in finance. It’s the perfect job coming out of Columbia Engineering. Columbia Engineering lets you apply your passion, your skills, in the real world. You become a social innovator and a technical entrepreneur.”
Stephanie Hwang
‘10SEAS
Associate, JPMorgan
The undergraduate mechanical engineering laboratories occupy approximately 6,000 square feet of floor space with basic instrumentation, as well as state-of-the-art equipment. The Computer-Aided Design Lab has software tools for design, CAD, FEM, and CFD. The Mechatronics Laboratory gives students the opportunity for hands-on experience with microcomputer-embedded control of electromechanical systems.

The Carleton Strength of Materials Laboratory, home to one of the country’s largest centrifuges, tests corrosion monitoring for the main cable of suspension bridges such as the Brooklyn Bridge, a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark and one of our city’s hundreds of bridges.
Community, Columbia Style
It starts with the people. **Columbia is a place of great friendships, a place where connecting is a way of life.** Being surrounded by so many incredible people all in one spot makes the global and the grand human and personal.
Columbia guarantees housing for all four years and about 95% of our students live on campus. Columbia is its own village within Manhattan. More than a place to live, Columbia is a vibrant residential community.

Student photographers Angela R. and Bennett H., in collaboration with Ryan B., a student programmer, independently developed the 99 Columbians multimedia project. The goal was to “bring together people that make up Columbia’s uniquely diverse student body.”
Communities Within Communities

Residence hall life, small classes, research and project teams, clubs and causes — the campus events that bring everyone out exploring the city together create communities within communities. Your circles of community begin on our classic campus, and extend to the intimate, friendly neighborhood that surrounds us, on to the world-class city we are part of, and into the world itself.

Columbia's neighborhood is Morningside Heights, which stretches from 106th to 125th Streets and is bordered by Central Park, Morningside Park, and Riverside Park.

Rich in both American and Columbian history and teeming with the energy of Columbia undergraduates, Morningside Heights is a charming residential enclave that is at once bustling and intimate.

Many undergraduate professors live in the surrounding neighborhood, making Columbia their home, too.

We share the neighborhood with several other colleges — Barnard College, Manhattan School of Music, Union and Jewish Theological Seminaries, and Bank Street College of Education — creating our own brand of New York City college town.

6,000 undergraduates share this beautiful place to live, study, play, work, research, and relax.
Our City

The Columbia University subway stop links you to every other corner of the city.

New York is a city of neighborhoods — accessible and magnificent all at the same time.

There may be no easier way to move to New York than to be a Columbian with a ready-made coveted place to live; a fantastic circle of friends; an intellectual, civically engaged, nurturing community; automatic ties to a vast cultural and professional network; and transportation to the entire city steps away from campus.

The World

Columbia is a microcosm of the world and so is New York. As a student here you truly become a citizen of the world — with friends and connections on campus, in the city, and around the globe.

You gain the knowledge and skills of an unparalleled education. You gain an independence and a confidence from living in New York that no other city can provide.

You’re prepared to be at home anywhere in the world — stay in New York, move to London or Dubai, San Francisco or Washington, DC. And you will already have a network of Columbia alumni when you get there.

At Columbia your community is the world.
Our Neighborhood, Our City
“What surprised me was how one family of students can own a part of New York. All day, all night, you’ll see friends and professors walking down Broadway. When you pull into the subway station at 116th and Broadway, the sign says Columbia, the walls are light blue, and you get off and think, ‘This stop is mine.’”

LIZ V., Scarsdale, NY; English and Art History
Traditionally collegiate, Morningside Heights is a vibrant intellectual community. Students visit professors who live in nearby apartments for informal office hours, drop in at 24-hour eateries, and feel the bohemian buzz of the neighborhood that once drew Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, and Langston Hughes.
Home, Not Just Home Base

When you’re completely engrossed in conversation with your new floormates as you look out over the city lit up by a million lights ... When you’re sitting next to an amazing alum at one of the frequent residence hall dinners ... When you’re having hot chocolate with suitemates while you help them pick out Halloween costumes ... When you bump into a professor you had last term who wants to know all about what you’re up to — at times like these you will suddenly realize that Columbia is more home than home base and the people around you are more family than just friends.

“Fifty years from now, this is the kind of thing we’ll remember: sitting in the hallway with a bunch of friends, talking about books until two in the morning.”

TOM S., Benicia, CA; History

When you ask Columbia students where they like to spend their time, you’ll discover the true strength of our vibrant residential community. There are countless locations around campus that make our students’ college experience uniquely Columbian ... spaces where Columbia students find and build their community, where they gather to relax, create, share, and connect.
Students are free to make endless choices about how involved they want to be in residential life, knowing that Columbia has a strong network to support them. That network begins with first-year residential life teams who focus on helping students be successful in their transition to Columbia, become familiar with the Morningside Heights community, and experience what the greater community of New York City has to offer. From roommates and floormates to Resident Advisers, professors and their families, deans and even alumni, many friends, mentors, and advisers make up a Columbia family on campus. Each residence hall has a team of RAs on nearly every floor and a Community Adviser and professional staff to create programs, plan events, and provide opportunities for students to be involved in life on campus.
Five First-Year Residence Halls at the Heart of Campus

Housing is guaranteed at Columbia and nearly 100% of our students choose to live on campus all four years. One of the reasons housing here is so appealing is the depth of variety and flexibility in living options. From traditional corridor and suite-style residence halls right at the center of everything to apartment buildings, townhouses, duplexes, and classic New York brownstones in the Columbia neighborhood. In their first year, students share a quintessential campus residence experience. Returning students have the added selection of housing that feels “off campus” without losing any connection to a rich and fulfilling community on campus. The balance between the city and the campus is a personal decision — one you can explore and change throughout your education.

Carman Hall

Recently renovated corridor-style double rooms — all first-year students with mixed- and single-sex floor options.

John Jay Hall

Corridor-style building with singles and doubles for first-year students. Features John Jay Dining Hall on ground floor, JJ’s Place on basement level, Columbia Health Medical Services located on 3rd and 4th floors, and great views of either downtown Manhattan or Columbia’s campus.

“My first-year experience in John Jay shaped my Columbia experience. It seemed every door was open each night with eager, bright people ready to make the most of college and NYC. I have 11th floor pride.”

“Carman was the perfect hall for me my first year at Columbia. It was extremely social; everyone was always in the hallways and lounges talking, watching TV, or just hanging out.”
As a first-year student, your home away from home begins in one of five different first-year residence hall communities — each with different styles and features. Beyond a built-in network of friends, mentors, and support, you have a beautiful place to live in one of the most exciting cities in the world. After your first year, your choices are even more varied, including the option of applying to Special Interest Communities. These unique residences — Jazz House, Wellness House, Writers House, and several more — give sophomores, juniors, and seniors a concentrated way to explore and immerse themselves in one of their passions, presenting opportunities for students to connect with relevant faculty, administrators, alumni, and community leaders.

**Special Interest Communities**
- Application Development Initiative
- Casa Latin@
- Columbia Pre-Health
- Community Health House
- Creative Commons
- GreenBorough
- Jazz House
- Manhattan House
- Metta House
- Pan-African
- Potluck House
- Q House
- Students for Substance Free Space
- Wellness House
- Writers House

Recently renovated corridor-style with single and double rooms for first-years and sophomores. Close proximity to Lerner Hall and Butler Library and great campus views.

**Furnald Hall**

“The quality of the facilities and rooms in Furnald is top-notch; it feels more like a hotel than a hall. Also, living with sophomores on my hall was very helpful when I needed advice on what classes to take or which restaurants in the city are the best. Having a single was great as a first-year.”

Recently renovated corridor-style and large suite-style rooms. Along with Hartley Hall, home to the Living-Learning Center.

**Wallach Hall**

“Living with upperclassmen in Wallach helped me a great deal as a first-year. It can be quiet in Wallach, which creates a great study environment. But if you’re feeling social, all you have to do is walk out of your room and bother your neighbors.”

Recently renovated large duplex suites with singles and doubles for first-years and sophomores. Home of the Living-Learning Center.

**Hartley Hall**

“Hartley was a great place to spend my first year at Columbia. Living in such a comfortable setting with upperclassmen really helped me learn the ins and outs of Columbia, and it was great to be so close to the action on campus.”
True Blue Traditions
From the moment you enter the 116th Street gates singing “Roar, Lion, Roar” on the first night of orientation, you’re part of Columbia Blue — a body of traditions stretching back centuries yet reinvented and made new with each class. **Unique to Columbia, our traditions are shaped by our history, our city, and the diversity of students who come here from all over the world.**

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**Varsity Show, Opening Night**

“When I stepped out of the theater to grab some food I saw a thousand students spiraling up the Lerner ramps, waiting to go inside, all obviously taking a break from studying for finals. I thought of how unique this tradition was: Columbia’s big end-of-the-year bang was a musical in which the whole school comes together to poke fun at ourselves. I thought about how I had been running around the city all day, looking for the most specialized lighting equipment or set dressing. I thought about how incredibly talented everyone was that I had the good fortune to work with. More than anything, what made that moment so Columbia was the combination of tradition and freshness. It was the 116th time the students had assembled, but we were still presenting this new show.”  

WILL H., San Jose, CA; Math and English

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The Varsity Show, an entirely student-run production, has been produced for more than a century. The Varsity Show helped launch the creative genius of Rodgers and Hammerstein as well as Brian Yorkey and Tom Kitt.
Battle of the Bands
Every spring, student bands compete in a Battle of the Bands. The Columbia alumni who formed Vampire Weekend first played at a Columbia Engineering Battle of the Bands. Winning bands go on to perform at the Bacchanal spring concert, opening for headliners like Kanye West, Common, Outkast, and Big Sean.

COÖP, CUE, and ISOP
During the week prior to Orientation, first-year Columbia College and Columbia Engineering students can choose to participate in one of our three pre-orientation programs — the Columbia Outdoor Orientation Program (COÖP — pronounced “coh-op”), the Columbia Urban Experience (CUE), and the International Student Orientation Program (ISOP). COÖP is designed to help build connections with other first-year and current students through a four-day outdoor camping experience led by experienced student guides and mentors. Through CUE, first-year students have enjoyed poetry slams, desserts at local cafés, visits to museums, rooftop movies, jazz concerts, and more. ISOP combines informational events, exciting city outings, and tight-knit mentoring with program leaders to help international students comfortably transition into the Columbia University community.
World Leaders Forum
The World Leaders Forum is a year-round event series featuring lively discourse with heads of state, influential policy makers, renowned scholars, and thought leaders from around the world. Topics range from global health to sustainable development to diplomacy and governance. A few of the many remarkable past participants are European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, Liberian peace activist Leymah Gbowee, Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

President’s Annual Fun Run
Cohosted by Columbia Intercollegiate Athletics and Physical Education, the president’s 5K fun run draws students, faculty, and staff every fall. Starting on College Walk (116th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam), the course proceeds through Riverside Park along the Hudson River down to 96th Street with the finish line at the 116 Street promenade overlook.

King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe
The King’s Crown Troupe’s brand of Shakespeare has been called “nomadic” — the outdoor productions take place at different locations around campus. But the troupe likes to say its brand of Shakespeare is “too big for the stage.” All productions are free and cast every student who auditions.
**Live at Lerner**
A mainstay of campus life, this events series includes concerts, meals, and amusements. From indie bands to stand-up comedy, ice-skating excursions to cookie decorating, there is something for everyone and it’s always free.

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**Holi — The Hindu Festival of Colors**
Every spring, Columbia’s Hindu Students Organization (HSO) hosts a Holi celebration. Holi, also called the Festival of Colors, is a Hindu holiday marking the end of winter and the beginning of spring. People traditionally celebrate by throwing colored powder at each other. HSO brought 1500 pounds of paint to the most recent festival in which students of all faiths participated.
Tree Lighting and Yule Log Ceremony

Just before finals week in early December, meet at the Sundial for hot chocolate and a cappella music just before the illumination of the trees along College Walk. Immediately following the College Walk festivities is one of Columbia’s oldest traditions — the lighting of the Yule Log. The ceremony predates the American Revolutionary War. A troop of students dressed as Continental Army soldiers carry the log from the Sundial to John Jay Hall lounge, where readings, songs, and toasts celebrate the warmth and spirit of the season.
Snowball Fight on Low Steps
First snowfall brings a sort of magic with it. An irrepressible playfulness erupts across campus, and somehow word gets out: it’s time to bundle up and gather on Low Plaza. Allegiances are formed and broken, skirmishes lead to battles, and suddenly it’s a free-for-all of flying snowballs. All under the watchful eye of Alma Mater.

Glass House Rocks
On a Thursday night in February, Lerner Hall — one of the main hubs on campus and featuring a multistory floor-to-ceiling window design — transforms to the site of Glass House Rocks. Glass House Rocks is a student-organized party attracting more than 2,000 students. Columbia’s undergraduate student councils coordinate with free food and drinks and dance and music groups perform on the building’s distinctive ramps. In addition to watching the performances, students have had the opportunity to participate in improv sketches, play laser tag and whack-a-mole, pose for a red-carpet photo shoot, and tumble in a moon bounce house.
Club Life
As one alumna said, “Columbians expect to be involved.” You will meet other students like you — students who want to make an impact in their community, continue a familiar passion, or discover a new one. Clubs here are some of the most interesting, rewarding, close-knit, and fun micro communities you’ll ever be part of. Here are just a few of more than 500 student-run clubs and organizations, with new ones being created every year.

Academic
Barnard Columbia Architecture Society
Chandler Society for Undergraduate Chemistry
Columbia-Barnard Economics Society
Columbia Linguistics Society
Columbia Neuroscience Society
Columbia New Poetry
Columbia University Environmental Biology Society
Political Science Students Association (PSSA)
Society of Physics Students
Undergraduate History Council

Academic Competition
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
Mock Trial Team
Model Congress
Parliamentary Debate Team
Quiz Bowl
Society of Automotive Engineers

A Cappella
Bacchantae
Clefhangers
Gospel Choir
Jubilation!
Kingsmen
Metrotones
Nonsequitur
Notes and Keys
Sharp
S’madar
Uptown Vocal

Cultural
Acción Boricua
African Students Association
Ahimsa
Armenian Club
Asian American Alliance
Asian Pacific American Awareness Month
Black History Month
Black Organization of Soul Sisters
Black Students Organization
Caribbean Students Association
Celebration of Black Womanhood Week
Chicano Caucus
Chinese Students Club
Club Bangla
Club Zamana
Columbia Iranian Students Association
Columbia Japan Society
Columbia por Colombia
Cuban and American Students Association
French Cultural Society
Germanic Cultural Society
Grupo Quisqueyano
Haitian Students Association
Hapa Club
Helias
Hong Kong Students and Scholars Society
Korean Students Association
Latino Heritage Month
Liga Filipina
Malama Hawai’i
Multicultural International Student Association
Native American Council
Native American Heritage Month
Organization of Pakistani Students
Polish Student Society
Russian International Association
Singapore Students Association
Southeast Asian League
Student Organization of Latins
Taiwanese American Students Association
Thai Student Association
Turath: The Arab Students Organization at Columbia University
Turkish Students Association
Ukrainian Students Society
United Students of Color Council
Vietnamese Students Association
Yiddish Club

Dance
Columbia Ballet Collaborative
Columbia Ballroom Dance Team
Columbia Tango
Columbia University Dance Team
Columbia University Raas
Columbia University Venom Step Team
Columbia University Swing
cuBHANGRA
Ho-Heup Drum Troupe
Lion Dance
Onyx
Orchesis
Raw Elementz
Sabor
Taal

Gender & Sexuality
Athena Pre-Law Society
Break the Silence
Columbia Queer Alliance
Everyone Allied Against Homophobia
Gayava
GendeRevolution & Queer Peers and Allies
iQ
Proud Colors
Q House
Queer Awareness Month
Smart Women Lead Society of Women Engineers
Take Back the Night
V-Day
Women in Politics
Women in Science at Columbia
Women’s History Month
Women’s International Business Council

Greek Life
Alpha Chi Omega Sorority
Alpha Delta Phi Society
Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity
Alpha Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Alpha Omicron Phi Sorority
Alpha Phi Fraternity
Beta Theta Pi Fraternity
Delta Gamma Sorority
Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Gamma Phi Beta Sorority
InterFraternity Council
InterGreek Council
Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority
Kappa Delta Rho Fraternity
Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority
Lambda Phi Epsilon Fraternity
Lambda Pi Chi Sorority
Multicultural Greek Council
Omega Phi Beta Sorority
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
Panhellenic Association
Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity
Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity
Pi Delta Psi Fraternity
Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Pi Lambda Upsilon Fraternity
Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity
Sigma Chi Fraternity
Sigma Delta Tau Sorority
Sigma Iota Alpha Sorority
Sigma Lambda Beta Sorority
Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority
Sigma Nu Fraternity
Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
St. Anthony Hall

Film & Visual Arts
Artist Society
Columbia University Film Productions
Columbia University National Undergraduate Film Festival
Columbia University Photography Society
Columbia University Television
Ferris Reel Film Society
Postcrypt Art Gallery
Society for the Advancement of Underrepresented Filmmakers
Media & Publications
4x4 Literary Magazine
African Diasporic Literary Society
The Birch (Eastern European and Eurasian Studies)
The Blue and White
Columbia Daily Spectator
Columbia Journal of Literary Criticism (CJLC)
Columbia Political Review (CPR)
The Columbia Review (Literary Magazine)
Columbia Science Review (CSR)
Columbia Undergraduate Law Review
Columbia Undergraduate Journal of History
Columbia Undergraduate Science Journal (CUSJ)
The Columbian (Yearbook)
Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development
The Current (journal of Jewish Studies)
The Federalist Paper
The Gadfly Magazine (Philosophy)
Helvidius: Journal of Politics & Society
Jester of Columbia University
The Proxy Magazine
Tablet
Tectonic (Architecture)
WBAR Radio
WKCR-FM

Music
Bach Society
Barnard-Columbia Chorus and Chamber Choir
Bluegrass Band
Chamber Music Ensembles
Collegium Musicum
Columbia Classical Performers
Columbia Concerts
Columbia Middle Eastern Music Ensemble
Columbia New Music
Columbia University Glee Club
Columbia University Marching Band
Columbia University Orchestra
Columbia University Society of Hip-Hop
Columbia University Wind Ensemble
CU Guitar Ensemble
CU Records
Flute Choir
Japanese Gagaku Ensemble
Klezmer Band
Latin American Ensemble
Louis Armstrong Jazz Performance Program Ensembles
Morningside Opera
Postcrypt Coffeehouse Sounds of China

Preprofessional
American Institute of Chemical Engineers
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Association for Computing Machinery
Barnard-Columbia Undergraduate Public Health Society

Biomedical Engineering Society
Charles Drew Premedical Society
Columbia-China Law and Business Association
Columbia Data Science Society
Columbia Pre-Law Society
Columbia University Application Development Initiative
Columbia Women’s Business Society
CU American Medical Students Association
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
Multicultural Business Association
National Society of Black Engineers
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

Service
Advocacy Coalition
Afterhours Tutoring
America Reads
Artists Reaching Out
Asian Youth Program
Barnard-Columbia Design for America
Barnard-Columbia Mentor Program
Best Buddies
Big SIBS
Blue Key Society
Columbia Adaptive Sports Organization
Columbia Community Outreach
Columbia Engineers Without Borders
Columbia University Dance Marathon
Columbia University Global Brigades
Columbia Urban Experience
Community Lunch
Columbia Youth Adventurers
Community Youth
CUsmile
Emergency Food Pantry/The Clothes Closet
Golden Key International Honour Society
Habitat for Humanity
Health Education Awareness League
Heights-to-Heights Tutoring
Hispanic Scholarship Fund
Chapter at Columbia
J.E.E.P. Asian Youth Program
J.E.E.P. Big Sibs
J.E.E.P. College Road
J.E.E.P. Computer Training
J.E.E.P. ESL Classes
J.E.E.P. GED/ABE Classes
J.E.E.P. Heights to Heights
J.E.E.P. Job Road
Kraft Food Pantry
Let’s Get Ready!
Mentoring Youth in NYC
One to One Tutoring
Peace by PEACE
Project for the Homeless
Project Sunshine Harlem Hospital
Project Tutors
Relay for Life
Student Help for the Aging
The Toddler Learning Center
Student Enterprises
Columbia Bartending Agency and School of Mixology
Columbia Organization of Rising Entrepreneurs
Columbia University Tutoring and Translating Agency (CUTTA)
Inside New York guide

Student Initiatives
(student-led programs in conjunction with administrative support)
Academic Success Programs
Columbia Mentoring Initiative (CMI)
Columbia University Scholars Program Alliance
Committee on Global Core Committee on Instruction
Committee on the Core Community Principles Initiative
Days of Dialogue
Double Discovery Students Organization
Freedom School
Gay Health Advocacy Project (GHAP)
Global Recruitment Committee
Go Ask Alice!
Intercultural Resource Center (IRC)
Multicultural Recruitment Committee
Office of Multicultural Affairs Advisory Board

Student Government
Activities Board at Columbia Columbia College Student Council
Community Impact Engineering Student Council InterGreek Council
Multicultural Greek Council Interschool Governing Board
Student Governing Board

Respecting Ourselves and Others Through Education (ROOTEd)
SisterCircle
Students of Color Leadership Retreat (SOCLR)
Undergraduate Recruitment Committee

Theatre
Black Theater Ensemble Chowdah Sketch Comedy
Columbia Classical Performers Columbia Musical Theatre Society
Columbia Players Columbia University Performing Arts League
Fruit Paunch Improv Troupe Hillel Theatre Arts Group
King’s Crown Shakespeare Troupe LateNite Theatre
NOMADS Varsity Show

Activities Day, held on College Walk each fall, features hundreds of student clubs and organizations welcoming new members.
Lion Pride

Whether you are a varsity athlete or an avid sports fan, Columbia has a proud history of achievement. An original member of the Ivy League, Columbia offers 31 NCAA Division I varsity sports, and 40+ club and 40+ intramural sports. From Ivy League Championships to several Olympians and Olympic medalists, Columbia has an exceptional program and tradition for serious players or any athlete or fan with a fierce love of the game.

Men's Varsity Sports
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Fencing
- Football
- Golf
- Rowing: Heavyweight
- Rowing: Lightweight
- Soccer
- Squash
- Swimming & Diving
- Tennis
- Track & Field: Indoor
- Track & Field: Outdoor
- Volleyball

Women's Varsity Sports
- Archery
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Fencing
- Field Hockey
- Golf
- Lacrosse
- Rowing
- Soccer
- Softball

Club Sports
- Aikido
- Archery
- Badminton
- Ballroom Dance
- Bowling
- Brazilian Ju Jitsu
- Capoeira
- Cheerleading
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Figure Skating
- Go Ju Ryu Karate
- Hiking
- Hockey (Men)
- Hockey (Women)
- Kayaking
- Kendo
- Lacrosse (Men)
- Masters Swim
- Moy Yee Kung Fu
- Racquetball
- Road Runners
- Rock Climbing
- Rugby (Men)
- Rugby (Women)

Squash
- Swimming & Diving

Tennis
- Track & Field: Indoor
- Track & Field: Outdoor
- Volleyball

Sailing
- Shotokan Karate
- Ski Racing
- Squash (Men)
- Squash (Women)
- Swing Dance
- Table Tennis
- Tae Kwon Do
- Tennis
- Triathlon
- Ultimate Frisbee (Men)
- Ultimate Frisbee (Women)
- Volleyball (Men)
- Volleyball (Women)
- Water Polo (Men)

Intramural Teams
(Co-ed, Men’s, and Women’s teams and tournaments in several of the following sports)
- Basketball
- Dodgeball
- Floor Hockey
- Football
- Indoor Soccer
- Kickball
- Outdoor Soccer
- Racquetball
- Squash
- Volleyball

“I love Friday nights in February when the campus is serene, but you walk into Levien Gymnasium for a basketball game, and there’s suddenly the blaring noises of referee whistles, the band playing, and the packed house yelling.”

JIM P., Coppell, TX; American Studies
From a 150+ year tradition of rowing excellence on the Hudson to our baseball team's recent repeat appearances in the NCAA Division I Baseball Tournament, the Columbia Lions have a rich history of competitive spirit. At no time of the year is that spirit more in evidence than Homecoming in the fall and Basketball Mania in the winter. Homecoming begins with a gourmet barbecue buffet lunch under the Big Tent and a carnival followed by the Lions facing longtime Ivy League rivals. Basketball Mania, a packed rally, kicks off basketball season.
Blue View: Part II
Located on the banks of the Harlem and Hudson Rivers, Lawrence A. Wien Stadium was featured in *Sports Illustrated* as one of the most beautiful places in the country to watch a football game. The stadium is part of the Baker Athletics Complex, home to Columbia’s football, baseball, track and field, crew, tennis, lacrosse, field hockey, softball, and soccer teams.
Where else but in a city that never sleeps will you find not only 24-hour libraries for night owls but also a 24-hour improv show each spring by the campus improv troupe Fruit Paunch?
Built in 1904 and designated a New York City landmark in 1966, St. Paul’s Chapel is nondenominational and provides a beautiful space for hundreds of events each year. Here one of our many student orchestras practices for an upcoming concert.
Columbia at a Glance

Enrollment
There are approximately 4,500 students in Columbia College and 1,500 students in Columbia Engineering. More than half of all students self-identified at the time they applied as Asian, African American, Latino/a, or Native American; students come from all 50 states as well as Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, and dozens of countries.

Admission
Admission to Columbia is most selective. Please consult our website for selection criteria and the secondary school preparation we recommend. Fifty percent of students admitted to Columbia score between a 2160 and a 2330 on the SAT (32–35 on the ACT). Please consult the website for details on our testing policy, including planned policy changes addressing the redesigned SAT for students applying after 2016. More than 90 percent of admitted students were in the top 10 percent of their high school class (in schools that provided a class rank).

Columbia utilizes the Common Application and requires the Columbia Writing Supplement to the Common Application. Visit http://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/ for more information.

Financial Aid
Admission to Columbia is need-blind for candidates who are US citizens and permanent residents and persons granted a refugee visa by the United States, meaning that we will consider your application without regard to your financial need. A significant amount of financial aid is available for foreign students, but financial need is taken into consideration at the time of admission.

Financial aid is need-based, and Columbia meets 100 percent of the demonstrated need of all applicants admitted as first-years or transfers pursuing their first degree for all four years of study. Some highlights of our financial aid program include:

- **No Loans**: Our need-based aid is in the form of grants and student work only. Loans are not a component of Columbia financial aid packages.

- **No Parent Contribution**: For students coming from families who receive income less than $60,000 per year (with typical assets), parents are not expected to contribute to the cost of Columbia.

- **Reduced Parent Contribution**: Students coming from families who make between $60,000 and $100,000 (with typical assets) have a significantly reduced parent contribution.

- **Additional Funding**: To support students pursuing study abroad, research, internships, and community service projects, Columbia offers the opportunity to apply for additional funding and exemptions from academic year and summer work expectations. Even families who make more than $100,000 may qualify for significant need-based aid.


Cost of Attending
Estimated costs for the 2015–2016 academic year: tuition and fees, $53,000; room and board, $12,860; books and personal expenses, $3,224; orientation and transcript fee (for first year only), $523. Total cost: $69,607.

Information Sessions and Campus Tours
Information sessions with members of the admissions staff give you an opportunity to ask about the Columbia experience — the curriculum, residential life, extracurricular activities, advising, financial aid, New York City, admission requirements, and other topics. The campus tour that immediately follows is conducted by a current undergraduate student. The information session and tour last about an hour each.

In addition to tours offering information about both Columbia College and Columbia Engineering, we offer specific science tours and Engineering tours on Fridays. Tours and information sessions begin in the Visitors Center, 213 Low Memorial Library. We do not offer information sessions and tours on University holidays. For a listing of specific sessions, tours, reservations, and exceptions, please visit http://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/visit before making travel arrangements.

Request Information
To join our mailing list, visit http://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/. You will receive information and publications, including invitations to upcoming campus programs and information sessions around the world.

Statement of Non-Discrimination
Columbia University is committed to providing a learning environment free from unlawful discrimination and harassment and to fostering a nurturing and vibrant community founded upon the fundamental dignity and worth of all of its members. Columbia University does not discriminate against any person in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other University-administered programs or permit the harassment of any student or applicant on the basis of race, color, sex, gender (including gender identity and expression), pregnancy, religion, creed, marital status, partnership status, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, military status, or any other legally protected status.

Looking out from Butler Library onto College Walk and Low Plaza.

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