

UNIVERSITY LIFE

2022-2023

Annual Report



A | **STUDENTS** | **SCHOOLS** | **CAMPUSES**

 **COLUMBIA** | University Life

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	A Note from Dennis Mitchell	19	Communications
4	Our Mission, History, and Values	21	Welcoming Students and Connecting to Our Values
7	Student Life	23	Student Partnerships
9	Religious Life	27	Leading through Committee Partnerships
11	Community Impact	29	Student Affairs Network
13	The Center for Student Success and Intervention	31	Student Well-being
15	Gender-Based Misconduct Office	32	Meet the University Life Leadership Team
17	Administration & Finance	33	More University Life Programs, Services, and Resources

As I consider the work of our division over the past year, I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished.

University Life is a vital connector across all 17 of Columbia's undergraduate and graduate schools and central student-facing departments. Students are at the center of all that we do, and we strive to ensure that all students flourish during their time at Columbia and beyond.

This year, our **Student Life** team produced more than 70 events that were open to all Columbia students. They also played an essential role in welcoming students to Columbia, creating an inclusive community, and providing avenues for students to develop leadership skills.

Religious Life created warm and welcoming spaces for students from any faith tradition, or from no tradition, to nurture their spiritual identity.

Community Impact was squarely at the center of many University efforts to advance the public good. Its contribution is twofold: serving thousands of community members in Upper Manhattan and instilling in Columbia students a life-long devotion to service.

In its inaugural year, our **Center for Student Success and Intervention (CSSI)** has done exceptional work to support students experiencing challenges and to build the team and infrastructure needed to carry this work forward.

The **Gender-Based Misconduct Office** supported students, playing an essential role in educating our community about sexual respect and keeping our community safe.

Our **Communications** team spread the word about all that University Life has to offer and provided timely updates about University policy.

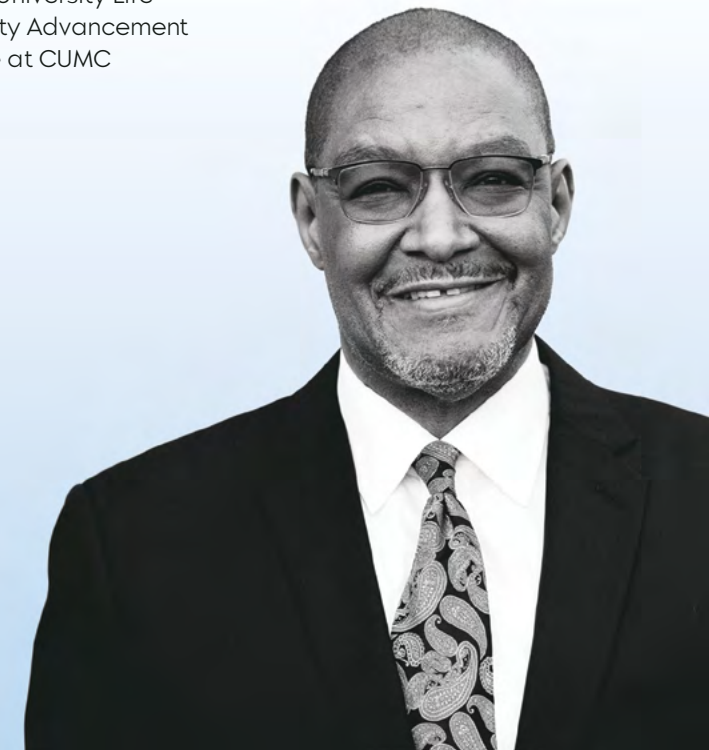
Our **Administration and Finance** team ensured that all of this ran smoothly – from managing our budget, to hiring the staff that makes our work possible, to planning division-wide events that brought us together.

We also supported and provided professional development to student-facing staff from across the University, through the **Student Affairs Network**.

I hope you'll dive deeper into some of University Life's accomplishments in the pages that follow. Please consider us a partner that you can turn to for all your work to enhance the student experience and create learning opportunities outside the classroom.

Dennis A. Mitchell, DDS, MPH (he/him/his)

Executive Vice President for University Life
Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement
Professor of Dental Medicine at CUMC



OUR MISSION

University Life is a central division focused on enhancing the student experience across Columbia's 17 schools and colleges. We serve as a student life hub for the University and are committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive campus culture where students can thrive in all dimensions of their lives. We focus on connecting students to each other, to the broader University and surrounding community, and to opportunities beyond their schools. We work to educate students about Columbia's values and policies and share essential and timely information with students from the University. Through our programs, services, and partnerships, we support students' educational enrichment during their time at Columbia.





OUR HISTORY

[University Life](#) was founded in Spring 2015 to serve as Columbia's central student affairs organization and to achieve the larger goal of enhancing the student experience across all schools and campuses. In its founding conception, students were envisioned to be critical partners in fostering a culture of sexual respect and in building an inclusive, supportive community for all Columbians. As the University Life division has grown over the past eight years, we have remained

steadfast in our commitment to the core values of sexual respect, inclusion & belonging, health & well-being, and community citizenship, while also expanding our services, events and opportunities. Through the addition of Religious Life and Community Impact and the creation of the Center for Student Success and Intervention, University Life has expanded its capacity to respond to student concerns and promote student leadership in unique and important ways.

OUR VALUES

All of our efforts advance the core values of the Columbia community:

- **Inclusion & belonging:** Working to ensure all students feel their full participation is welcomed, and that all students are treated as essential members of the University's diverse community.
- **Mental health & well-being:** Enhancing the student experience by supporting the success and growth of the whole person.
- **Sexual respect:** A commitment to communicating and acting with integrity and respect for others to promote a campus culture that upholds sexual respect and unequivocally rejects sexual harassment, sexual assault and other forms of gender-based misconduct or violence.
- **Community citizenship:** Empowering all students to recognize their role in creating positive change within our community.



STUDENT LIFE

The Student Life team designs and produces events and programs for all Columbia students. Student Life programs are designed to address one or more of University Life's core values. These values are amplified through student engagement in learning opportunities and community-building events and activities. The team also plays a key role in welcoming students to Columbia.

13K

New and first-year students reached through pre-orientation tutorials.

84

Students trained via our Campus Conversations program to facilitate conversations with peers on topics such as identity, societal norms and issues of national and international importance.

6K+

Students attended 70+ events hosted by the Student Life team throughout the year.

"An amazing event. Had so many fun elements that helped me to connect with different people."

-Student Life event attendee



The Student Life programs and initiatives are described in greater detail in subsequent sections of this report and include:

- [University Life Ambassadors](#)
- [Events Council](#)
- [Social Justice Mini-Grant program](#)
- [The Graduate Initiative for Inclusion and Engagement](#)
- [Campus Conversations Initiative](#)
- [Welcome Home Columbia](#)
- [The Community Citizenship Initiative](#)



All events and programs aim to support students' personal development through the attainment of the following learning goals:

Interpersonal Competence:

The ability to engage successfully with others and lead in a diverse and increasingly complex world. Through Student Life programs, students gain an understanding and appreciation of cultural and personal differences and learn how to engage in healthy and respectful relationships, recognize interdependence among people and communities and effectively and respectfully navigate conversation spaces with multiple, often differing perspectives.

Social Responsibility:

Students' engagement with the campus, local and global community, and the development of a sense of ethics and appreciation for inclusion & belonging. Student Life programs offer opportunities for students to understand the role and importance of engagement with the campus community; work to create safe, healthy, equitable, and thriving communities at Columbia and beyond; and acknowledge and constructively challenge their own biases.

Resiliency:

Learning in this area is essential to the development of self-efficacy and agency. Students demonstrate learning in this area by developing a positive sense of self; applying a decision-making framework; and employing skills to promote their own well-being, as well as that of their fellow community members.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

[Religious Life](#) provides leadership, resources, and programming to meet the need for spiritual well-being within our diverse University community. The office ensures that students, faculty, and staff from any faith tradition, or from no tradition, have access to groups and practices that allow for spiritual identity to be fully included and integrated with academic and social life at Columbia.

In partnership with 20 affiliated local faith leaders and over 50 religious student groups on campus, Religious Life provides spiritual counseling, supports religious services, and brings students together across faith traditions to learn from one another. The Columbia experience, within New York City, provides a rare and wonderful opportunity to gather individuals from many of the world's faith traditions around a common table. Weekly staff-led programs and student programming supported by Religious Life leverage this unique possibility for deep learning.

1,000+

Students engaged regularly with a specific religious community.

250+

Students participated in weekly multi-faith programming.

ALL 17

Columbia schools engaged with Religious Life programming in the past year.

"Multi-Faith Fellowship has been one of the highlights of my time at Columbia—an incredible combination of rich intellectual work with laughter, friendship, and great food! It is such a unique space of honesty, genuine engagement with each others' traditions, respect, and fun."

-Christine Piazza, CC'23

2022-2023 Highlights

This year, Religious Life expanded its slate of programming and offered an array of gatherings, including:

- Workshops focused on mindfulness, meditation, and the importance of meaning and purpose in our lives
- Weekly yoga, interfaith dinners, sacred music performances, and a variety of lunchtime book clubs provide experiences that bring together students to teach and learn across traditions
- 15 weekly religious services and myriad student club meetings which drew over 1,000 regular participants from every school at the University
- Twice-weekly sacred music performances often reaching hundreds of community members virtually, bringing intercultural and interfaith engagement beyond the gates of the Morningside campus

Maintaining essential aspects of the online presence that developed during the pandemic has extended the reach of Religious Life events to a group of University and community members who participate online.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Community Impact (CI) advances the public good by fostering a devotion to lifelong service among Columbia University students, staff, and faculty through meaningful volunteer opportunities. Each year, CI serves thousands of community members through more than 20 programs in the areas of Adult Education and Workforce Development, Emergency Services, Health Access, and Youth Achievement.

Community Impact is a Columbia University service-based organization dedicated to serving under-resourced people, primarily in the Morningside Heights, Harlem, and Washington Heights communities. Consistent with University Life's mission, Community Impact works to enhance the student volunteer and student employee experience within their programs.

2,000

People visit the Ford Hall Food Pantry each month.

700

Columbia student volunteers and student workers served with Community Impact this academic year.

1,000

Community members participated in adult education programs.



2022-2023 Highlights

This year, Community Impact had 11 active youth achievement programs, six active health & emergency food programs, and five active adult education programs. Community Impact also:

- Opened a new Adult Education Center
- Served over 800 young people through its youth achievement programs
- Welcomed a new student group, Community Market, which engages students in volunteering on a regular basis at the Ford Hall Food Pantry
- Received recognition for the outstanding service of its One-to-One Tutoring program for elementary and middle school students by Columbia's chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary
- Reinstated Spanish GED courses at the Manhattanville Community Center and had 130+ participants in its GED courses
- Provided support to recently arrived immigrants and refugees who now call New York home



"Volunteering with Community Impact's Artists Reaching Out brings me joy and I get to share that joy and art with others. It has also given me the opportunity to explore my passion for service and realize what I value the most."

-Deborah Moreno Ornelas, CC '23

Artists Reaching Out is a volunteer program that brings arts education to preschool through middle school students in the Morningside Heights and Harlem communities. This year, the program worked in all 16 classrooms at PS 125, five rooms at Graham Windham, and one at Regent Family Residence. Eighty-seven volunteers supported the program.

THE CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS AND INTERVENTION

The newly-established [Center for Student Success and Intervention \(CSSI\)](#) uses a holistic approach to student support work. To serve Columbia's students, CSSI collaborates with campus and community partners across the University to provide supportive measures for students experiencing challenges, including unmet basic needs and navigating the University conduct process.

50+

Trainings, presentations, and programs hosted for students, faculty and staff by CSSI this academic year.

1,250+

Participants in CSSI training and programs.

"It cannot be overstated how grateful I am for the tremendous partnership I have developed with the team at the Center for Student Success and Intervention. They have met each situation with creative thinking and expertise, which has allowed for both consistency and the space to be flexible to meet each student's needs. Their work ethic and the spirit in which they approach their work remains a constant source of inspiration to me."

-General Studies staff member





Center for
Student Success
and Intervention

Student Support

The Student Support team was established in October 2022, with the hiring of a Case Manager and Student Support Specialist. Taking a case management approach, the Student Support team established a workflow and tracking mechanism and worked with all 17 schools to gain referrals and garner trust. CSSI also partnered with The Food Pantry at Columbia, a student run organization, to further expand University support of The Food Pantry. In conjunction with the executive board, the Student Support Specialist worked to standardize operations, provide food to students in need, and re-establish a food pantry location at CUIMC. During the spring semester, a group of former foster youth convened to discuss the needs of the community and establish a relationship with CSSI.

Student Conduct

The Student Conduct team continued to develop and refine a student-centered approach for the conduct process by creating a liaison model, where a staff member works in collaboration with specific schools to meet needs and address behavioral concerns. CSSI also established a daily review of all incident reports, so reports can be triaged and followed up on in a timely manner.

Operations

This year, the CSSI Operations team worked to improve and customize Maxient, the software used across the University to track student cases. Community engagement also increased, as team members hosted and participated in events and launched a new website and brand that reflects the scope of CSSI's work.

GENDER-BASED MISCONDUCT OFFICE

The [Gender-Based Misconduct Office \(GBMO\)](#) consists of two parts: Case Management and Investigations. Case Management is dedicated to supporting students through the Gender-Based Misconduct and Title IX process. This team works to provide resources and academic accommodations, working with the Title IX Coordinator to resolve cases through alternative resolutions, such as administrative resolution, mediation, and restorative justice. The Investigative Team is made up of specially trained attorneys with years of legal experience in handling sexual assault cases, as well as domestic/dating violence and stalking cases.

During the 2022-23 academic year, GBMO focused on increasing collaboration between Case Managers and Title IX Investigators to holistically support students through resolution options, while balancing a complainant's agency, fairness to the accused, and ultimately ensuring the safety of the larger Columbia community. GBMO is committed to resolving reports, particularly investigations, in a timely and efficient manner consistent with the [University's Gender-Based Misconduct Policy](#).

2022-2023 was a planning year for University Life and GBMO, preparing for the department's move from University Life to the Provost Office in July 2023 as part of a broader University vision. A great deal of preparation and planning occurred to ensure a successful transition.

21

Trainings provided to the Columbia community by GBMO this academic year.

8-10

Hours each Case Manager spends per week meeting with students.



ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

The Administration & Finance team provides expert operational and financial support to University Life staff, students and stakeholders through meaningful relationship-building, creative problem-solving, and informed, responsive policy guidance. This work strengthens the entire division, allowing teams and individual staff members to focus on their core responsibilities of providing essential resources for the success and well-being of our students and community. The Administration & Finance team also promotes team bonding through events, strategic planning retreats, and facilitating participation in professional development opportunities.

1,000+

Financial transactions processed, reviewed and approved for the division.

158+

Hours of manual labor saved through automating data entry and reporting processes.

350+

Facilities tickets submitted, monitored and executed for the division.

"I would like to thank Earl Hall for understanding our situation and working with us to make it happen smoothly. The event was truly beautiful, and we hope to be able to host it again in the future."

-Cassandra Bartels, BC'23, Postcrypt Coffeehouse, Recognized Student Group



In its inaugural year, Administration & Finance made significant accomplishments across all four of its teams.

University Life Finance

The Finance team manages financial transactions and vendor relations, including invoices, reimbursements, internal transfers and revenue generation. This team also monitors the financial health of all University Life departments, including donor, gift and endowment terms, and ensures that the division is in compliance with University policy and federal/government regulations. This year, the Finance team helped secure new funding and began the process of developing new financial policies and guidelines for the division.

University Life Operations

This year, the Operations Team led several renovation projects and streamlined its operating processes across the division's spaces in Earl Hall, St. Paul's Chapel, Watson Hall, 3078 Broadway, Kent Hall and Philosophy Hall. The team also oversaw an intense process of establishing policies and creating an efficient and effective space/building management workflow.

University Life Human Resources

University Life Human Resources (HR) hired and onboarded over 30 new staff members and student workers, and worked diligently to establish an onboarding process that is both welcoming and informative. The team also identified professional development opportunities to develop and retain our division's talented professionals.

University Life Special Projects

The Special Projects team began efforts to produce the University's Student Well-Being Survey, which will launch during the 2023-2024 academic year. The team also identified and established processes to automate its data and analytics. These new approaches will allow the Administration & Finance team to increase efficiency and yield data-informed decisions across the division. Our internal team culture and employee growth opportunities are essential to building an effective, inclusive team. University Life provided team bonding through events (2022 Holiday Party, Central Team Building Day, strategic planning retreats) and by facilitating staff participation in professional development opportunities.

COMMUNICATIONS

The communications team supports the entire division by:

- Increasing student engagement in University Life events and programs
- Promoting University Life's values: sexual respect, inclusion & belonging, health & well-being, and community citizenship
- Educating students about Columbia's policies and sharing timely information about the University
- Informing students about opportunities at Columbia beyond their schools and programs to promote networking between schools
- Ensuring that students have resources in the wake of distressing events
- Lifting up student stories to showcase there is no singular Columbia experience and each student's journey is unique

2.3M

Views on University Life's Instagram, [@columbiaulife](https://www.instagram.com/columbiaulife).

33K

Students receive weekly events and opportunities emails and monthly well-being newsletters from University Life.

25

[Student Voices](#) blogs and social media profiles lifting up student stories.

Through the University Life website, emails, and social media, the communications team strives to meet students where they are and to center the student experience in all communications.

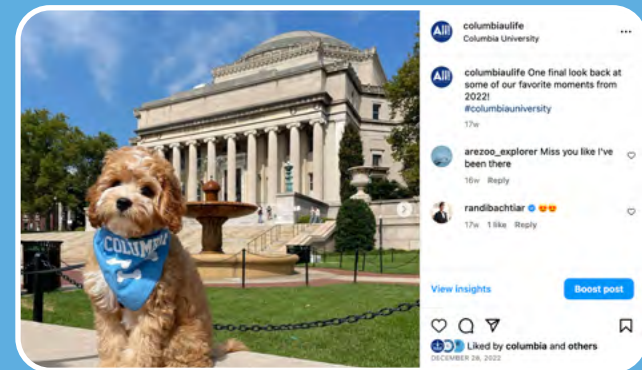


2022–2023 Highlights

In Fall 2022, University Life debuted a new visual brand—one that clarifies who University Life is and who we serve: all students across all schools and campuses. The communications team also reorganized the University Life website to make University resources more accessible and to showcase photos of students rather than campus buildings. A large number of students continuously reach out to share their photos, videos and memories on social media. This year, the University Life communications team also presented their work at the Columbia Student Affairs Network Conference (January 2023), to Columbia Communicators (February 2023), and at the NASPA Region II Conference at Pace University (June 2023).

"I've really seen the office grow from a communications standpoint... I feel like my student perspective has always been taken very seriously and is valued."

-Maya Castronovo, Student Worker, CC'23



WELCOMING NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS AND CONNECTING TO OUR VALUES

"The Community Citizenship Initiative made me reflect more on the types of communication I have experienced and heard from friends and has prompted me to want to stand up if I hear something that did not sound right."

-Student response to the Community Citizenship Initiative



The First Year Experience

University Life reached over 13,000 first-year students before they began their Columbia experience through our [pre-orientation tutorials](#): Welcome to Columbia and Sexual Assault Prevention. These tutorials introduce students to University Life's values and highlight key resources and opportunities for engagement across the University. We continue this work after students arrive on campus through events and the [Community Citizenship Initiative](#). This Initiative - a series of workshops, events, online learning opportunities, and resources - asks students to step into their part in creating an inclusive campus culture, as they deepen their understanding of Columbia's core values. The Community Citizenship Initiative has two components: sexual respect and inclusion & belonging. The Initiative is required of all new students, and returning students are always welcome to participate.

University Life participated in resource and club fairs during Fall and Spring orientations at three of the University's campuses: Morningside, Manhattanville, and CUIMC. At resource fairs, we engaged with over 2,000 students and introduced them to University Life's initiatives, events, and opportunities to get involved. At school orientations, University Life also presented about opportunities and resources available across the University.

Welcome Home Columbia

This [series of events](#), taking place at the beginning of each semester, aims to support new and returning students in creating a sense of belonging. This Fall, Welcome Home Columbia was attended by 1,710 students from across the University over two weeks and included a variety of events such as Low-Lapalooza: Silent Disco, Passport to Columbia, Affinity Spaces, Columbia Quest, Speed Friending, and many other events.

Students who attended Welcome Home Columbia events said:

Columbia Quest: *"I absolutely loved the interactivity it provided around the campus."*

Low-Lapalooza: Silent Disco: *"This was amazing! So much fun and great music! Please have [this event] again next year."*



STUDENT PARTNERSHIPS

University Life Events Council

[University Life Events Council](#) hosted 12 major events during the 2022-2023 academic year. This group of students plans events that aim to:

- Build community for all students across all schools and campuses
- Create opportunities for students to connect beyond their schools
- Promote core community values, University community traditions and the arts

Highlights include Low Lounge, Day of Service, Night at Butler, and a Rocky Horror Picture Show screening



University Life Ambassadors

[University Life Ambassadors](#) work to create an inclusive and welcoming campus environment. Ambassadors develop leadership and professional development skills through monthly trainings on topics such as navigating difficult conversations, strengths assessment, leading with authenticity, and more. This year, more than 100 students representing schools from across the University participated in the Ambassador program.

"Some of my closest and best friends have come from us being Ambassadors together."

-Shatize Pope, GS'23



Campus Conversations

This year, more than 80 students were trained to facilitate **Campus Conversations**, a dialogue-based initiative that builds community and connections through genuine and deep conversations. Campus Conversations offered undergraduate and graduate students a way to discuss identity, societal norms, and issues of national and international importance with their close peers, friends of friends, and others throughout the Columbia community.

"[I liked] the freedom/comfort of talking about ourselves, our identity, our different backgrounds, like being aware that we are different but respect each other."

-Campus Conversations participant



The Graduate Initiative for Inclusion and Engagement

The **Graduate Initiative** is part of Columbia's commitment to diversity and the success of all graduate and professional students. This initiative was designed with the needs of students from historically marginalized communities in mind, including BIPOC and first-generation students. Through events such as Faculty Roundtables, Success Workshops, and Graduate Hangouts, the Initiative aims to support students as they transition to Columbia and connect to one another, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community. This year, the Initiative partnered with offices and departments across the University to host 14 Graduate Initiative events with more than 1,400 students participating.

"I enjoyed the speakers and the personal connection that was made with faculty."

-Graduate Student on attending a Faculty Roundtable



Social Justice Mini-Grants

This year saw an expansion of the [Mini-Grant program](#), which supports student-driven projects that aim to address social injustices, including efforts to bring awareness to racial, economic, accessibility, educational, and other forms of inequality. This year, the program funded 12 projects led by 18 students. Projects included a podcast about identity through the lens of Black hair, the University's first Disability Affinity Graduation, webinars and a digital toolkit produced for Black Maternal Health Week, a research project exploring why voice assistant technology often does not understand accents and potential solutions, and more.

"Taking on this project allowed me to internalize the idea that there are no easy answers when it comes to racial justice advocacy."

-Social Justice Mini-Grant recipient

Community Impact Student Executive Board

Community Impact was founded in 1981 by two Columbia University students and, to this day, student leadership remains a vital part of its operations. **The Community Impact Student Executive Board** is highly collaborative and shares many responsibilities including creating and managing content, communications, training, and events across all Community Impact programs. This year, student executives created an orientation program which invites volunteers across Community Impact's programs to reflect on volunteerism, identity, and Columbia's role within the Upper Manhattan community.

Social Justice Mini-Grants photo by Diane Bondareff. Courtesy of Leslie A. Zukor, JRN'23, Mini-Grant Recipient

Student Navigators

Student Navigators from across the University partner with the Center for Student Success and Intervention (CSSI) to provide input about the student conduct process and to support their peers. Navigators answer procedural questions and serve as a point of contact for students navigating the conduct process. Navigators also act as a resource to engage and educate the University community about ethics, integrity, and community standards.

University Life Gatherings

Throughout the year, University Life hosts gatherings for different student communities to hear directly from them about their experience at Columbia, ways to collaborate and their thoughts on how to improve the student quality of life. In 2022-2023, University Life hosted 15 student community meetings with partners from the International Students and Scholars Office, Columbia Health and the Columbia Alumni Association.



The Food Pantry at Columbia Student Executive Board

The Food Pantry at Columbia is a student led and run organization established in Spring of 2017. The executive board is critical in managing operations, including food orders, deliveries, volunteers, social media, marketing and events. This year, CSSI began to offer direct support and supervision to this student organization, affirming and strengthening the University's institutional commitment to food access and student support. Together, CSSI and The Food Pantry Executive Board reopened the CUIMC location and increased The Food Pantry's effectiveness. The Executive Board is a vital resource connected to the pulse of the Columbia Community, guiding The Food Pantry's operations and outreach to students.

LEADING THROUGH COMMITTEE PARTNERSHIP

University Life gathers key stakeholders from across the University to tackle issues of concern to the community. University Life leads the following committees:

Diversity Officers Network

University Life, in partnership with the Office of Faculty Advancement, convenes a collaborative space for learning, problem-solving, and sharing of DEI resources and best practices. Network members partner across schools, departments, institutes, and administrative units to drive institutional change, further promoting equity and inclusion.

Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Committee

The Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Committee provides guidance to Public Safety on how to enhance their practices and policies and further foster an inclusive and equitable University community. The Committee meets with Public Safety representatives to discuss issues of importance to the Columbia community, and ensure all policies align with the University's commitments to safety and anti-racism.

Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault

The Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault advises the University President on issues related to the prevention of and response to gender-based misconduct, including sexual assault. The Committee works to continually evaluate policies and procedures, solicit feedback from the Columbia community, and partner with experts across the University with the goal of eliminating sexual assault and other forms of gender-based misconduct from our community.

University Committee to Address Bias

Comprised of student affairs, Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI), conduct, campus safety, and mental health and well-being professionals, the University Committee to Address Bias seeks to prevent bias incidents, while ensuring free speech and academic freedom is protected. The Committee also monitors trends in the campus climate and refers incidents of bias to the appropriate educational, disciplinary and campus safety offices.

University Life team members participate in and lend their expertise in University committees, including the:

Global Displacement Support Team

The Global Displacement Support Team (GDST) is composed of professionals across Columbia's campuses that represent various University resources. GDST reviews large-scale, sustained global crises when large populations of humans are displaced in order to put action steps in place to support Columbia students impacted.

Student Mental Health Working Group

The Student Mental Health Working Group (SMHWG) is a think-tank on critical mental health issues that monitors what students and student-facing staff experience, and shares best practices. SMHWG is a critical partner in designing the University's Well-being Survey and analyzing its data.

STUDENT AFFAIRS NETWORK

The Student Affairs Network (SAN) – founded and led by Joseph Defraigne Greenwell, Vice President for Student Affairs – brings together student-facing staff from across the University. The Student Affairs Network provides ongoing support and professional development to a community of over 900 student-facing staff across Columbia’s 17 schools and 23 central units, as well as its affiliate schools. The Student Affairs Network works to build community among student affairs professionals and promote equity, inclusion, and well-being in the workplace. By supporting the incredible professionals who are at the heart of the Columbia student experience, the Student Affairs Network helps to improve the University’s learning environment for all students.

900+

Staff supported by the
Student Affairs Network.

25

Events for staff hosted by
the Student Affairs Network
during the 2022-2023
academic year.



2022-2023 Highlights

This year, the Student Affairs Network:

- Established the Student Affairs Network Leadership Team, including the schools' 17 Deans of Students and 20 central department leads. The Leadership Team met monthly with a focus on strategic thinking based on the SAN mission, vision, and goals and national data and best practices.
- Brought together Columbia student affairs professionals for a half-day, hybrid conference in January 2023. More than 100 attendees learned from each other about a wide range of topics including leading with empathy, supporting multiracial students, student-centered communications, and financial well-being.
- Hosted the second annual State of Student Affairs with a focus on supporting students in distress and staff managing these complex situations.
- Revamped and relaunched a monthly newsletter sharing Network updates and events, staff spotlights, and well-being tips.
- Launched an official website, which serves as a resource hub for student affairs professionals.

"This was a great educational experience that provided useful tips, tools, and resources for future endeavors...and was a fantastic forum to meet colleagues and socialize."

**-2023 Columbia Student Affairs Network
Conference attendee**



STUDENT WELL-BEING

"I really appreciated [learning] about iGrad. It looks like a very useful tool, and I plan to take a lot of their courses."

-Financial Well-being Workshop attendee

University Life seeks to build community and support all students' holistic well-being. During the 2022-2023 academic year, we produced events, shared well-being tips and timely information in our student communications, and launched The Blue Folder.

Wellness Days

The [Wellness Days](#) Initiative hosted 12 events this year attended by more than 300 students, including study breaks, fitness classes, and financial well-being workshops. Events included outdoor Zumba, financial well-being workshops, opportunities to reflect on friendship, a month-long virtual step challenge, and Art After Five crafting events. Through these programs, students explored multiple dimensions of well-being: financial, intellectual, emotional, physical, relational. After a financial workshop, 80% of respondents agreed the event made them "feel cared about." Students also stated they were "excited to improve" and are "doing much better" after the workshop. Students shared that Art After Five events "did a lot for their mental health" and were "exactly what they needed."

The Blue Folder

This year, University Life launched [The Blue Folder](#), a new resource for faculty and staff seeking guidance on how best to respond to and support students in distress. The Blue Folder explains how to identify a student who may be struggling, centralizes key University and community contacts and resources, and shares how to connect a student to the appropriate support. Building on work with the Student Mental Health Working Group, this PDF and web page were developed in collaboration with Columbia Health, Student Health on Haven, Public Safety and other University partners.



MEET THE UNIVERSITY LIFE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Dennis A. Mitchell
(he/him)
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY LIFE
SENIOR VICE PROVOST, FACULTY ADVANCEMENT
PROFESSOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE AT CUMC



Joseph Defraigne Greenwell
(he/him)
VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENT AFFAIRS



Ixchel Rosal
(she/her)
SENIOR ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT,
STUDENT LIFE



Jesse Adamo Grimes
(she/her)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND
SPECIAL PROJECTS



Claudia Marin Andrade
(she/her)
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, CENTER FOR
STUDENT SUCCESS AND INTERVENTION



Ian Rottenberg
(he/him)
DEAN OF RELIGIOUS LIFE, DIRECTOR OF THE EARL
HALL AND ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN, RELIGIOUS LIFE



Olger C. Twyner, III
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY IMPACT



Colleen S. Walsh
(she/her)
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF TITLE IX INVESTIGATIONS,
GENDER-BASED MISCONDUCT OFFICE

MORE UNIVERSITY LIFE PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND RESOURCES

In addition to the programs and events shared here, the University Life team supported the student experience in many other ways. Among them:



Awakening Our Democracy

As a way to encourage conversation about justice issues at the forefront of the University's and the nation's consciousness, this series of events fosters dialogue through discussions with thought leaders, advocates, journalists and scholars. This year, we hosted events on the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision and pending litigation about Affirmative Action.

Bias Response

As part of our efforts to create as inclusive a community as possible, University Life works to address bias incidents within the Columbia community and minimizes the potential for future occurrences by providing those involved with opportunities to engage in education, advocacy, and conversation.

CU Engage

This initiative encourages students to step into their part of building the world they wish to live in by voting in elections, organizing friends and neighbors around an issue, writing to elected officials, or learning or debating a topic. This year, University Life focused on building partnerships and cultivating resources to strengthen this initiative in preparation for the 2024 election cycle.



You can learn more about this work and everything we do at universitylife.columbia.edu.

Want to get in touch? Email us at universitylife@columbia.edu.

Support for DACA and Undocumented Students

University Life serves as a central coordinating resource and hub to support Columbia students and scholars who are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and undocumented.

University Delegates

University Delegates support events and freedom of expression, including de-escalating any conflict at both planned and unplanned events and demonstrations. Trained annually by University Life, their presence at University gatherings affirms the right of community members to open debate. This year, delegates supported 47 events and demonstrations.

Why Pronouns Matter

University Life shares educational resources with the Columbia community about gender identity and expression, as well as how to show respect by addressing someone using their pronouns. This year, we supported a process to allow students to more easily share their pronouns with professors and classmates in Courseworks.



universitylife.columbia.edu

 [@ColumbiaUniversityLife](https://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaUniversityLife)  [@ColumbiaULife](https://www.instagram.com/ColumbiaULife)  [@ColumbiaUniversityLife](https://www.youtube.com/ColumbiaUniversityLife)

All!
STUDENTS
SCHOOLS
CAMPUSES
 COLUMBIA | University Life