

University Life

Looking Back

ON THE 2021-2022
ACADEMIC YEAR

The past academic year presented the entire Columbia community with a series of challenges—and opportunities—as we navigated the second year of COVID-19, and the campuses’ reopenings. While the ongoing pandemic has remained a part of the landscape, in Fall 2021, University Life embraced Columbia’s return to an in-person community by providing students with a diverse array of events, programming, and opportunities to connect.

*Below is a retrospective with some highlights
of our work over this past
academic year.*

University Life

University Life was created to enhance the student experience at Columbia University. Working in collaboration with students, faculty, and staff, University Life improves the student experience by strengthening resources, creating spaces for important conversations and building community outside of the classroom.

COLUMBIA | University Life

Our efforts all connect to core values for the Columbia community:

- **Inclusion and belonging**
- **Health and well-being**
- **Sexual respect**
- **Community citizenship**

University Life

Inclusion and Belonging Affinity Space



Who We Are: 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 an inclusive campus culture where students can thrive in all dimensions of their lives.

What We Do: In University Life, we focus on connecting students to each other, to the broader University and surrounding community, and to opportunities beyond their schools.

How We Do It: Through our programs, services, and partnerships, we support students' educational enrichment during their time at Columbia. We work to educate students about Columbia's values and policies and share essential and timely information from the University with students.

WELCOME HOME COLUMBIA

2021

Fall 2021 marked an opportunity to reconnect, strengthen, and rebuild as a community, as Columbia's campuses reopened. In partnership with the Office of the President and many other central and school-based partners, University Life organized **Welcome Home Columbia**, a suite of events designed to welcome students at all 17 schools back to Columbia's campuses.

- **Columbia Welcome:** Nearly 3,000 students took part in 14 community-building events, culminating in a University Life celebratory tradition, Lowlapalooza.
- **CU Reflects:** The Office of Religious Life, in partnership with schools and offices across the University, hosted CU Reflects, a series of events and activities focused on remembrance and reflection. Nearly 200 Columbia students participated by reflecting on what they had experienced, considering the present moment, and looking toward the future.
- **Columbia Quest:** In September 2021, nearly 700 Columbia students took the opportunity to connect with each other on this two-day Scavenger Hunt while exploring the University's incredible resources, and learning about our campuses.



Columbia Quest



Columbia Quest





Lowlapalooza

Community Citizenship Initiative

University Life created the **Community Citizenship Initiative** as a collaboration among students, faculty, and administrators to create a stronger, safer, and better-connected campus community. With these goals in mind, University Life has designed a set of tools and resources for students to learn not only how they can take part in this process, but feel empowered to create positive change within our community. These learning materials are broken down into two components: Sexual Respect and Inclusion and Belonging.

Both ask Columbia's students what it means to them to be part of this community, and offer needed skills to be part of creating an inclusive and safe campus culture.



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COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE


Take the Initiative!
Get started: bit.ly/ColumbiaCCI2021
September 27 through November 5, 2021

The Community Citizenship Initiative creates a stronger, safer, and better connected campus community. Everyone is encouraged to take part, and students new to their school are required to participate.



WAYS TO PARTICIPATE


- Workshops
- Videos
- Documentaries
- Independent projects
- Resources for healing and resilience

The Community Citizenship Initiative is a collaboration among Columbia students, faculty and administrators.



Scan for more info

  @ColumbiaUniversityLife

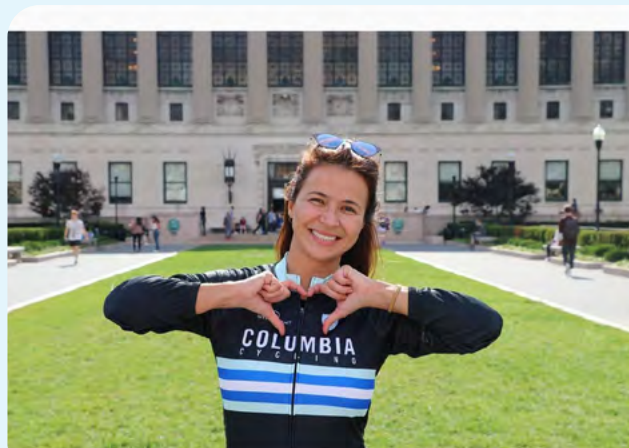
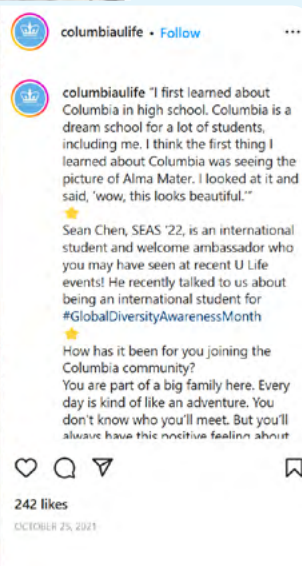
 @ColumbiaULife

#ColumbiaULife

University Life Ambassadors

Ambassadors are students who contribute ideas, engage with other student leaders, consult with University Life staff, promote events, and more. They also have opportunities to share their voice, perspectives or experiences on timely topics for University Life's communications channels.

The 2021-2022 cohort of University Life Ambassadors assembled in Fall 2021 to learn about University Life and different service options and selected a focus area for the year from the following options: Columbia Welcome, Wellness, Sexual Respect, and/or Inclusion and Belonging.



Community Building Events

in Partnership with University Life Events Council

Columbia's Student Life team focuses on events and programs that build community among students. They do so in close partnership with the **University Life Events Council**, a group of students who volunteer each year to co-design events that energize the community and create opportunities to connect students across Columbia. Council members seek to:

- Create opportunities for students to connect beyond their schools through student engagement, leadership and programming
- Produce events that run the gamut from film, well-being, and inclusion and belonging to University Life's traditional 'end of term' celebrations such as **Low Lounge** and **Night at Butler**



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FEATURING: ESCAPE ROOMS, CRAFTS, DOG THERAPY, GIVEAWAYS, AND MORE!

THE UNIVERSITY LIFE EVENTS COUNCIL PRESENTS

NIGHT AT BUTLER

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022
6-8 PM | BUTLER LIBRARY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALICE! HEALTH PROMOTION

JOIN US FOR A MARVELOUS NIGHT BEFORE FINALS!

FREE TO ALL COLUMBIA STUDENTS

SCAN HERE
BIT.LV/NIGHTATBUTLER



Antiracism Initiatives

Student-focused efforts are one of several facets of Columbia's ongoing work to fulfill our commitment to antiracism; students' experiences at Columbia can shape them to be advocates for justice and equity as they prepare for their professional and personal journeys far beyond their time here.

There are numerous efforts across the institution, both centrally and within Columbia's 17 schools, to promote and enhance inclusion and belonging, furthering the University's commitments to be antiracist.



RACIAL JUSTICE MINI GRANTS:

2021-2022 was the second academic year for this program, which funds student-driven projects focused on educating students, broadening the conversation on antiracism, and strengthening our campus culture of inclusion and belonging. To date, 20 grantees have produced podcasts, workshops, panels, and more on topics including racial justice in STEM, reproductive justice, and colorism. The project is funded through a partnership with University Life and the Institute for Religious, Culture and Public Life.



THE INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

This past year, University Life collaborated with key central and school-based partners to stand up the Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Committee, an important focus area for antiracism at Columbia. Following President Bollinger's January 2022 launch, the Advisory Committee, which includes students, faculty and staff from across the University began meeting this February. Through monthly meetings with Public Safety representatives, the Advisory Committee is working through recommendations to support safety while prioritizing inclusion and belonging on Columbia's campuses.

Inclusion and Belonging Programming and Initiatives:

University Life brings together students from all schools to share, learn and communicate across differences to foster a more inclusive campus culture. Among some of the many programs from this past year:

- **Affinity Spaces:** Offered through Columbia Welcome in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, University Life offered affinity spaces for students who identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), as well as groups for first-generation and LGBTQ+ students.
- **The Graduate Initiative for Inclusion and Engagement** includes dedicated round-tables, workshops and mentorship opportunities with Black, Latinx, Asian/Asian American, international, and first-generation faculty.
- **Campus Conversations:** Events that give students across the University a chance to engage in meaningful, peer-facilitated dialogue about identity and inclusion, enhancing students' abilities to communicate across differences.



Affinity Spaces



Faculty Roundtable



Paint Night Graduate Initiative

Signature Events

University Life produces free signature events for all Columbia students on timely issues, including events focused on racial justice, health and well-being, leadership and more.



Future Present - April 20, 2022 Event

University Life presents COLUMBIA | University Life

LINKED FATES, LINKED FUTURES?

Re-envisioning African American & Asian American Relations

African Americans and Asian Americans are often pitted against one another, and their relations framed as conflictual. Join us for an important conversation in which we move beyond racial tropes to discuss the complexity of Black-Asian relations in the context of the new culture war on affirmative action and the rise of anti-Asian hate.

Moderator: **Vishakha N. Desai**
Senior Advisor for Global Affairs, Office of the President

Discussants: **Jennifer Lee**
Julien Chenoweth Professor of Social Sciences, Department of Sociology, Columbia University

Discussant: **Kendall Thomas**
Seth Professor of Law, Columbia Law School

Wednesday 10/20 • 3:30 to 5 PM ET • Visit: bit.ly/LinkedFatesEvent to Register

#ColumbiaLife • @ColumbiaUniversity • @ColumbiaUniversityLife

Linked Fates, Linked Futures?
Sept. 20, 2021

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LISTENING TO YOUR ANXIETY

A KEYNOTE TALK

Dr. Anne Marie Albano
Professor of Medical Psychology (in Psychiatry) at Columbia

What if we saw our anxiety as a teacher, rather than an obstacle? As we experience changes, how can we identify and harness all of our feelings—including anxiety and stress—to stay focused on the big picture, and better connect to what matters most to us? Dr. Anne Marie Albano will focus on helping you build your resiliency, and leave you with actionable tools to transform your anxiety into guidance and meaning.

TUESDAY MARCH 8, 2022 • 3:30-5 PM ET

COLUMBIA | SIPA
School of International and Public Affairs

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Listening to Your Anxiety Keynote
March 8, 2022

COLUMBIA | University Life | Columbia World Projects

CITIZEN-LEADERS : A CONVERSATION WITH THE OBAMA FOUNDATION SCHOLARS

Join Columbia's Obama Foundation Scholars for an in-person discussion about active citizenship and the power to effect change in our communities.

Reception to follow including light refreshments

Moderated by **Danish A. Mitchell** Executive Vice President for University Life

March 23, 2022, 2:30-3:45 PM
Jerome Greene Annex, Wein Hall Courtyard

Co-sponsored by Columbia World Projects

Learn more and register: <https://bit.ly/cobascholars22>

A Conversation with the
Obama Foundation Scholars
March 23, 2022

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A WAKENING — DEMOCRACY

FUTURE PRESENT

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND ADVANCING EQUITY IN A DIGITAL WORLD

While the past decades have ushered in some of the greatest technological advances in human history, the pandemic has sharpened our focus on the ways in which our lives increasingly take place in new democracies. It need not end there. The power of experts will become some of the most challenging battles in our digital democracy. Artificial intelligence (AI), the rise of social media, and the ways in which our choices shape impact the world around us. How can we harness our digital tools to meaningfully build stronger and more equitable relationships and communities online and off?

MODERATOR:
Roach Hayes *Executive Vice President for University Life*

PANELISTS:

- James Greene**
Dean, SIPA
Columbia University
- Sandra Moriy**
Dean, SIPA
Columbia University
- Malika Dewash-Carl**
Senior Advisor for University Life
Columbia University
- Francesca Tene**
Associate Professor of Law
Columbia University

WED. APRIL 20TH
3:30 - 5 PM ET / LOW LIBRARY, FACULTY ROOM 207

Register Here: bit.ly/futurepresent22

#ColumbiaLife • @ColumbiaUniversity • @ColumbiaUniversityLife

Future Present: Building Community and
Advancing Equity in a Digital World
April 20, 2022

Additional University Life Programs and Initiatives:

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

- **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.
- **Bias Response:** As part of our efforts to create as inclusive a community as possible, when bias incidents occur at Columbia University Life works to address them and minimize the potential for future occurrences by providing an opportunity for those involved to engage in education, advocacy and conversation.
- **Student Affairs Network:** University Life leads the Student Affairs Network, a University-wide initiative focused on professional and community development for over 800 student-facing staff across Columbia's 17 schools and central units. These professionals are at the forefront of providing care and support to our students; this initiative aims to provide the same support for student-facing staff at Columbia. In the past year, the Network convened partners for professional development conferences, workshops, training, and a tailored orientation to Columbia.
- **Welcome to Columbia:** As part of our efforts to orient incoming Columbia students to important University policies, resources and opportunities, University Life provides the tutorials Welcome to Columbia, and Sexual Assault Prevention, required for every student who is new to a degree program. Both convey values that are foundational to membership in the Columbia University community and provide skills and resources to help students thrive.

*You can learn more about
this work, and everything we do at*

universitylife.columbia.edu