The Office of University Life is Columbia's go-to hub for University-wide student life information and initiatives, providing leadership on important issues and creating opportunities for engagement and enjoyment for the University community.

**Summer 2017**

**Setting the Stage – A Pre-Arrival Welcome for Students with a Focus on Community Citizenship**

Every new Columbia student received a pre-orientation Welcome to Columbia tutorial from University Life and all 17 schools. This introduced new students to our community values, helpful resources including the University Life app, key policies and University Life programs to look forward to. We also added Essential Student Resources magnets to residential undergraduate and graduate student dorms and University apartments, with help from Campus Services.

**Orientation!**

Students got to know University Life, pick up swag and information and enjoy photos at school orientations and resource fairs on Morningside and Columbia University Medical Center campuses.

**Introducing: University Life Fellows**

The first cohort of University Life fellows began their year with the office, and dozens of additional students from across the University sign up weekly to get involved in events, opportunities and programs.

**Fall 2017**

**Faculty & Teaching Assistant Briefings**

In partnership with the Office of the Provost, University Life built and launched a comprehensive online briefing for all Columbia faculty, researchers and teaching assistants covering Title IX, mental health and other essential information and resources related to student concerns. Peer schools around the country are now interested in considering this as a model for their own efforts. Close collaboration with Provost, Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action, and General Counsel.

**Supporting DACA Students**

On the first day of the fall semester, the Trump administration announced its intention to rescind Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Within hours, EVP for University Life Suzanne Goldberg informed students, faculty and staff of Columbia’s unequivocal opposition to this plan and our unwavering dedication to inclusion, diversity and undocumented students.

University Life hosts resources for DACA students on a special web portal and has helped raise awareness of Columbia’s participation in lawsuits and legislation supporting DACA protections.

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I’m so glad to see this! I’ve been worrying about our students. It’s a huge relief to be part of the Columbia community.

Arts and Sciences Faculty Member
Campus Conversations

University Life continued its signature Campus Conversations, timely university-wide forums on pressing issues. In September, for example, students joined a discussion on the disturbing events in Charlottesville the past summer with professors of American History, Journalism, Law, Political Science and Sociology. Nearly 600 students, faculty and staff from all Columbia schools registered to attend.

Sexual Respect & Community Citizenship Initiative

In its fourth year, Columbia’s flagship sexual respect and gender-based misconduct prevention education for new students has now been a part of the first-year experience of every undergraduate student at Columbia and tens of thousands of graduate students. In 2017, students reported high levels of satisfaction with workshops, documentary film screenings and discussions, and online video and reflection options offered. University Life also produced a standing-room only event with CNN journalist Lisa Ling about sex education in the U.S. today, featuring a screening and a panel discussion with a Mailman faculty expert, a Columbia student athlete and a popular sex educator.

Convening Student-Facing Staff & Experts “In Session”

University Life introduced In Session – a professional development series for student life staff at Columbia. Approximately 300 student advisors and administrators participated in sessions that addressed student anxiety, support for student resilience and how to have difficult conversations.

A Consistent Voice for Free Speech on Campus

As controversial speakers, demonstrations and class disruptions churned on college campuses nationwide, University Life continued to elevate conversations at Columbia and serve as the University’s central educational resource for free speech issues on campus - through conversations, programs and implementation of the Rules of University Conduct.

October

University Life debuted our Freedom of Expression on Our Campus online portal with FAQ, university statements, and a guide to the Rules of University Conduct.

November

University Life hosted AWAKENING OUR DEMOCRACY: Free Speech on Campus. Nearly 500 students, faculty and staff registered to attend.

I’m very excited for this panel – much needed during this difficult time.
Kiana T.
Columbia College ’21

Thank you for openly expressing the University’s consternation regarding discriminatory ideas that have been perpetrated by groups engaging in activities around campus.
Luiz P., Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
Inclusion and Belonging

University Life worked to expand student-to-student engagement on meaningful inclusion and belonging through the Race, Ethnicity and Inclusion Task Force’s Campus Conversations training and guides. More than 40 graduate and undergraduate students from 10 schools volunteered to organize and facilitate discussions on identity, race and inclusion among students.

Really great initiative!! It should almost be a mandatory activity.
Julia S., School of Social Work

In February, the University Life Community Citizenship Film Series had a packed house for a free screening of Oscar winner Get Out, with an all-star discussion featuring faculty experts in film and journalism.

In March, In Conversation brought together renowned poet and author Claudia Rankine, documentarian Whitney Dow and MSNBC’s Joy Reid to discuss race and whiteness in America for another standing-room only discussion.

‘In Conversation’ is a place for all of us to come together to hear from some of the most compelling voices in and outside the University - to examine issues and perspectives, differences and possibilities for common ground.
Executive Vice President for University Life Suzanne Goldberg

University Life Events Council Launches & Quickly Builds Community, New Traditions

This new Council includes students from across Columbia. Their job: to build community and events for students University-wide. This year’s new traditions included a silent disco, a talent showcase in Miller Theatre, a film screening at the Lenfest Center in Manhattanville, and Low Lounge – a first of its kind event that transformed the Low Library Rotunda into a student hangout for relaxing and refueling during study days. Guests enjoyed student DJs, games, couches, a hot chocolate bar, yoga, a cappella performances and hourly raffles.

Low Lounge was a great end to the semester. Everyone seemed happy, and I felt a warm fuzziness that I haven’t felt since I got here. Please put on more events like this!
Julien R., Columbia College ’18
Columbia Student Well-Being Survey

University Life spearheaded a new **Columbia Student Well-Being Survey** in partnership with faculty experts at CUMC, the World Health Organization, and leaders of health and mental health services on the Morningside and CUMC campuses, launching a three-part study of campus life and climate, student mental health and gender-based misconduct. Thirty students from across Columbia volunteered as survey ambassadors, raising awareness in their schools and rallying around student wellness.

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**I had an amazing experience being a volunteer for the Columbia Well Being Survey. Attending pre-survey brainstorming meetings with students from across Columbia, hosting survey promotion tables were very rewarding and gave me the opportunity to meet and work with students from diverse social, cultural and educational backgrounds.**

Gautham H., SEAS (graduate student) ’19

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**Social and Digital Engagement**

University Life uses four social media platforms and two websites to regularly engage with and inform students, faculty and staff.

- **University Life Website**
  - universitylife.columbia.edu
  - 53,000 unique visitors
  - 137,000 page views

- **Sexual Respect Website**
  - sexualrespect.columbia.edu
  - 34,000 unique visitors
  - 157,000 page views

- **Social Media**
  - Followed by a total of **4,300 users**
  - 50% growth year-to-year*
  - *since Fall 2015 launch

- **Get the COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIFE APP**