

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
COLLEGE OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES NEWSLETTER  
WINTER 2018**

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I hope that this communication finds you well and that the New Year has brought you and yours happiness. I have had the privilege and enjoyment to write these notes for many years now. I hope that this tradition continues for a long time to come.

Certainly, the task of reporting the passing of fellow Alumni has been sad, but necessary. I had the pleasure of meeting many of these people through the many reunions the Alumni Association has sponsored throughout the years.

Recently, I learned of the passing of two old friends, Brian Dwarka, '75 and Fred Wilk, '73. Brian was a good friend and a frat brother. Fred and I worked together often in support of Student Government.

I miss them both!

Your Alumni Association stands ready to facilitate the continuation of your College friendships. The Class of '62 recently celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion in early September. The Classes of '73, '74, '75, and '76 are planning a Reunion in the spring of 2018. We look forward to helping you plan your reunions. **Challenge to the Classes of '67 and '68: Please contact me regarding your 50-year Reunions. The time for planning your celebrations is upon us.**

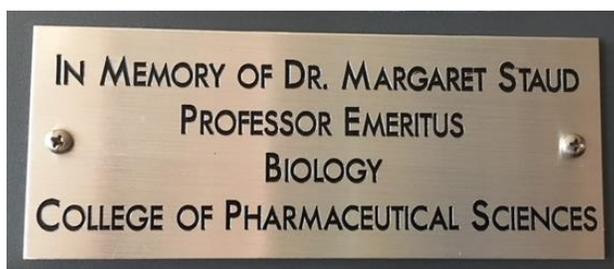
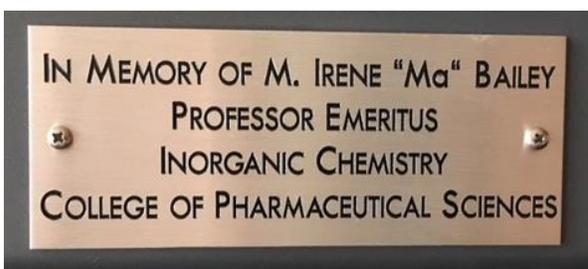
Hoping to see you soon,

Howie

[Howard.nadel@gmail.com](mailto:Howard.nadel@gmail.com)

## COMMEMORATIVE CHAIRS FUNDED

We are very pleased to report that our efforts to raise funds for the placement of two Commemorative Chairs, honoring Professors Margaret Staud and M. Irene “Ma” Bailey, have been successful. We thank our Alumni as well as an anonymous donor for their generosity. The chairs will be placed in the Rosenfield Auditorium at the Mailman School of Public Health.



This year, we will be raising funds to honor the last Deans of the College of Pharmaceutical Sciences. We intend to honor the late Joseph Kanig and Stephen Gross. We are seeking a total of \$10,000. No amount is too small. All contributions are tax deductible. One hundred percent of the proceeds will be used to support student scholarships.

You may make your check payable to “Trustees of Columbia University”, note “Pharmacy FPHL” in the memo line, and mail it to:

Office of Institutional Advancement,  
Mailman School of Public Health  
722 W. 168<sup>th</sup> Street – Box 2  
New York, NY 10032

You can also make a gift through Columbia’s secure online server at [www.mailman.columbia.edu/givenow](http://www.mailman.columbia.edu/givenow) , noting “Pharmacy FPHL in the notes, and selecting “Fund for Public Health Leadership”.

Thank you for your continued support.

## PHARMACY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

We are very pleased to report that Sarah Elizabeth Vititoe has received this year's Pharmacy Scholarship in the name of Joseph P. Tumelty. Sarah is an MPH candidate, who has already contributed greatly through a study called "The Role of Autophagy in Cancer" and through a companion study exploring cell lines harboring prostate, kidney, pancreas and liver cancers. Both studies seek to find drugs as well as combinations of drugs which are active against those cancers.

Great work, Sarah, in the best Columbia traditions!



Sarah Elizabeth Vititoe



## 40<sup>TH</sup> REUNION CELEBRATION



Classes of '73, '74, '75, and '76 are planning a 40th Reunion in the spring. The reunion will take place on a Sunday during the Fall of 2018. We will send you more information throughout the winter.

Work on the reunion is ongoing.

Co-chairs Jay Messeroff '76, Howard Nadel '74 and Ted Nappi '73 are looking for one or two people to chair the Class of '75. Classmates should contact Jay at [JMesseroff@aol.com](mailto:JMesseroff@aol.com) or Howie at [howard.nadel@gmail.com](mailto:howard.nadel@gmail.com) or Ted at [Theodorenappi@gmail.com](mailto:Theodorenappi@gmail.com). Please e-mail us to say hello and to tell us whether you are planning to join us. We are looking forward to a great time.

## **CLASS NEWS**

'57 Martin Eichman—daughter lives in NYC and his son, a pharmacist, lives in Mendham, NJ and works for Merck. Marty would love to hear from his friends and classmates. Please reach him at his e-mail address: [martyperinton@gmail.com](mailto:martyperinton@gmail.com).

'74 Ted Cohen—son, Howard, is teaching digital transformation and digital workplace enterprise at Columbia University. Howard works for the Chubb Corporation, where he is VP of Knowledge Management and Social Media.

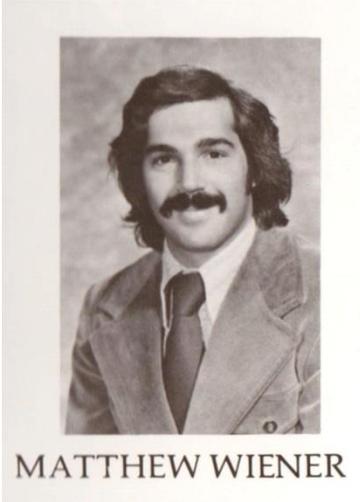
'75 Warren Drezen—daughter, Anna, is a writer for SNL (Saturday Night Live) and was recently nominated for an Emmy Award. **WOW!**

'76 Ralph Goldstein—recently moved to Palm Desert, California. He is enjoying a West Coast Lifestyle, but we don't know if has taken up surfing yet.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CLASS NOTES AND COLLEGE PHOTOS TO [howard.nadel@gmail.com](mailto:howard.nadel@gmail.com).

IF YOU HAVE FRIENDS WHO ARE NOT RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE HAVE THEM CONTACT ME AT [howard.nadel@gmail.com](mailto:howard.nadel@gmail.com).

## **MATTHEW WIENER (PHARMD '72, FACULTY '73 - '76)**



"He taught us what we wanted to learn" (APOTHEKAN '74)

Matt did not come from a 'pharmacy family". His father had worked in a drugstore when he was a kid and had suggested to Matt that Pharmacy might be a stable career. Accepting that advice Matt achieved his B.S. in Pharmacy from Brooklyn College of Pharmacy in 1969.

Driven to advance his education, Matt entered the MS/PhD program at Rutgers. He pursued that effort for 1 year until he learned that CUCPS had received accreditation as one of several U.S. colleges offering the Doctor of Pharmacy degree. This was literally a ground-breaking effort, helping to develop best practices and standards for future programs. There was a strong institutional pharmacy practice base in place, derived from the existing M.S. in Institutional Pharmaceutics program, involving the 3 major NYC teaching hospitals with Hospital Pharmacy residency programs - Mt. Sinai Hospital (Bernie Mehl), Montefiore Medical Center (Kurt Kleinmann) and Lenox Hill Hospital (Gil Simon). Matt was primarily assigned to Mt. Sinai, but also rotated to the other 2 facilities, providing a significantly enriched experience.

However, since clinical pharmacy was in its infancy, there was no clear pathway on how to accomplish this training, so initial efforts by CUCPS were somewhat makeshift. Didactic courses were provided by the

Columbia University School of Medicine and the School of Public Health (N.B., predating our present Mailman alumni affiliation by 30 years!). Direct patient care experiences were provided at the above facilities with their world-renowned medical staffs.

One clear early mission of the program was that the first PharmD graduates would help to advance the program by assisting in teaching the next generation of PharmD's as well as enhance the Clinical Pharmacy education and training for the B.S. students. To that end, Matt also took elective courses in Administration and Organization. Following his 1972 graduation, Matt, along with classmates Joe Romano and Joe Satkosky, accepted CUCPS faculty, responsible for Dispensing and clinical courses. Matt recalls that this was " a daunting prospect for new graduates with limited experience."

Matt describes the '73 - '76 years as "the best of times and the worst of times": further development of a new program, but with diminishing resources and the drama of the impending phase-out and closing of CUCPS; VietNam war demonstrations and pull-out; Watergate and the Nixon resignation; negative press about pharmacy costs driving the need for value-added clinical pharmacy services.

After CUCPS closed, in 1977 Matt opted to take his wife and 2 sons (Madeline, Adam, Joshua) to Colorado, seeking an optimal family environment versus the richer professional environment of NYC/East Coast. He spent 1 year at the University of Colorado College of Pharmacy, shuttling between the academic Boulder and clinical Denver sites). He then practiced at the National Jewish Hospital, initially as Pharmacist/Clinical Research Assistant for Respiratory Diseases (Asthma, COPD, TB, etc.), advancing to Clinical Pharmacist for Asthma/Allergy. From 1985 - 1987, he held the position of Allergy Research Center Manager.

Experiencing the difficulty in obtaining sufficient research subjects, in 1987 Matt founded Pharmatech, Inc., a Contract Research Organization (CRO) that essentially helps researchers, pharmaceutical and

biotechnology companies connect with patients needing advanced treatment options. Pharmatech has worked with many drugs, notably, Claritin®, Zyrtec® and Gleevec® (provides progression-free protection from leukemia for 20 years).

On a somber note, Matt experienced a significant spinal cord injury in 2009. He has recovered from a full paralysis to the ability to use a walker, but Matt prefers his wheelchair to zip along the 2 block distance from home to the Pharmatech offices daily. Google “Matthew Wiener Craig Hospital” for an 08/2015 KDVR TV news report/video of a Craig Hospital dedication ceremony of statue sculpted by wife Madeline and a YouTube video of inspirational comments delivered by Matt and Madeline.

Since Matt left the East Coast in 1977, he hasn’t had many opportunities to run into former classmates or follow the careers of former students. He humbly expressed a hope that some students benefitted in some way from his newly minted faculty inexperienced efforts. Addressing that hope, here are some testimonials:

“He taught us what we wanted to learn. He was honest in his approach and realistic in his objectives. He was a combination Scientist-Sociologist...we were taught what Pharmacy was and helped to decide what we wanted to be.

(APOTHEKAN '74 Class History)

“I liked him very much. Intelligent, engaging, helped to put complicated teachings into practical, relatable terms. Good sense of humor helped keep the stress level down. Very helpful in preparing us for the Board exams – ran extra classes; gave many practical, helpful problems on compounding. One of the best mentors we had.”

Anthony A. Pramberger, Jr. (BS Pharm '76)  
Vice Dean, Finance & Administration  
Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health

Matt Wiener – still showing us how it’s done

Ted Nappi, PharmD '76, BS Pharm '73, BS Health Sciences '72

Do you remember,

“Marks don't count but don't force my hand”

Eli Lilly Class Trip 1973?

Contact us with any recollection of your interactions with Matt, we'll share it with him or you can contact him through LinkedIn or the Pharmatech website.