Dear Colleagues,

Greetings. As we welcome new colleagues and students during a challenging time in the nation and world, the Office of University Life continues to focus on strengthening the University community, and we invite you to join us.

Our campus conversation series, which brings together students, faculty and staff from across the University to address pressing issues throughout the year, begins with Understanding Charlottesville: White Nationalism and American Society – Past, Present and Future, on Sept. 19 at 5:30 pm. Check the Columbia University Life app or our website for more information.

We also convene University-wide task forces on race, ethnicity and inclusion at Columbia, and on gender-based misconduct prevention, as well as working groups on other significant student life issues. The involvement of new students and faculty is essential to the success of these groups. Please let me know if you might like to join.

University Life is here for you, too, as an always-available information hub and resource on cross-school student life questions and concerns. And in case you missed it, here’s Columbia's response to the federal government’s rescinding Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program that has provided protection from deportation and work authorization for some of our undocumented students and so many others nationwide.

As President Bollinger said at Convocation for new undergraduates, while this is a portentous moment in the world, fraught with basic challenges to the values that brought many of us to Columbia, it is also precisely the right moment to be part of this extraordinary intellectual community.

With this in mind, here’s to a thought-provoking and inspiring year ahead.

Sincerely,

Suzanne B. Goldberg
Executive Vice President for University Life
Herbert and Doris Wechsler Clinical Professor of Law