2016 CAA Alumni Medalists

Jeffrey L. Bleustein ’62SEAS, ’65GSAS retired from Harley-Davidson, Inc. in 2005 as the CEO and Chairman of the Board following a thirty-year career with the company. After his studies, he spent a year in England on a NATO-sponsored postdoctoral fellowship and then five years teaching engineering and applied science at Yale University, rising to the rank of associate professor. Looking for challenges beyond academia, he joined AMF and in 1975 moved to the Harley-Davidson Motor Company (then a subsidiary of AMF) as vice president of Engineering. In 1981, he joined a dozen other Harley-Davidson executives in orchestrating a leveraged buyout of the company from AMF. In 1985, Harley-Davidson returned to public ownership as an independent company. Jeffrey went on to executive roles in many different areas of the company: parts and accessories, apparel, licensing, international sales, information systems, and manufacturing. He became Harley-Davidson’s president and chief operating officer in 1993 and CEO in 1997; the chairman role was added in 1998. During his tenure, he led the company to its position as number one in global sales of heavyweight motorcycles. Throughout the years since his graduation from Columbia, Jeffrey has returned to the campus many times to share his knowledge and experiences with Columbia faculty and students—most notably as the 2006 SEAS Class Day speaker. In 2002, he received the Columbia Engineering Alumni Association’s Egleston Medal for Distinguished Engineering Achievement. In 2013, he and his wife, Brenda, endowed a new professorship at SEAS to support their belief that “faculty who are gifted enough to inspire students are the lifeblood of a great university.”

Elaine Schlozman Chapnick ’61BC ’62MA U of Penn was Deputy Managing Director of Communications at the American Lung Association. During her career, she was also Director of Special Projects at Newsweek Broadcasting, Executive Director of the New York Council on Children’s Television, co-founder of Elcar Video, and English teacher at Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua, NY. After graduate school, instead of returning to her hometown of Kansas City, MO, she came back to New York and over the years became enthusiastically involved in a range of Barnard alumnae activities. She served for two terms on the Barnard Board of Trustees, where she was chair of the Student Life Committee. She was president of the Alumnae Committee on Annual Giving, served on the Alumnae Council, deliberated on the Barnard Medals Committee, and was part of Project Continuum. She has worked on all her class reunions, was her class Fund Chair, and is currently her class president.
Thomas Campbell Jackson ’98PH is a private investor, and a producer in film and theatre. Thomas’s first experience with Columbia was as a high school student in the University’s Science Honors Program. Some years later, he graduated from Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health with an MPH in Health Policy and Management. After graduating, he was appointed Director of the City of New York’s Employee Health Benefits Program, which provides health coverage for all municipal employees and retirees, and dependents. Since his time in the mayor’s office, he has been active in health policy, health economics, and insurance with a variety of think tanks and businesses. Thomas is a longtime member of the Board of the Mailman School’s Alumni Association, where he helped to reinvigorate fundraising for the Fund for Public Health Leadership, and has served as its president. Since 2009, he has simultaneously served on the Mailman School’s Board of Overseers. He has been active with the University in a variety of other ways, including donating specialized microscopy equipment for use by Mailman’s Department of Environmental Health Sciences. Thomas was part of the Columbia Alumni Association’s multi-year 2017 Strategic Planning Task Force. He has also been a member of the Columbia Presbyterian Health Sciences Advisory Council. He has produced a number of documentary and feature films about science and other topics, including several on health related issues. His wife, Penny, is a graduate of Barnard and Teacher’s College and supports a program in creative writing in Barnard’s English Department.

Seokho Lee ’88BUS went into investment banking at Shinhan Investment Corporation, where he contributed to globalizing Korea’s capital market through numerous IPO and M&A deals. Since 2000, Seokho has established and managed his own hedge fund, Veritas Capital, where he approaches the market with value investing methods and balances his portfolio with hidden gems in the stock market. As Korea’s economy expanded tremendously over the years, yearly enrollment of new Korean students at Columbia Business School has expanded from a few in 1980s to currently over twenty. In this process, Seokho has dedicated much of his time and effort for the past 13 years to enhance Columbia Business School’s alumni network. Some of his notable contributions include organizing Chazen Field trip tours in which both Business School professors and around 40 students visit Korea every March to explore business opportunities, arranging career sessions where leading industry figures are invited to provide recruiting guidance to Columbia Business School graduates, and holding regular networking events for Columbia Business School alums in Korea. In addition to his endeavors for the Business School, Seokho has also put a great deal of energy into serving the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) as vice chairman. He is a talented musician and plays violin for a Columbia alumni band.
Sharon Liebowitz ’91GSAPP is CEO and co-founder of Meritam, a low cost software based investment advisor, designed specifically for nonprofit reserves and endowments. Prior to Meritam, Sharon was in investment management and technology at JPMorgan, UBS, and Deutsche Bank. Sharon is a registered architect, earned an MArch from Columbia, and a BA degree with honors from Harvard University. Sharon is the past President of the Columbia GSAPP Alumni Association and was instrumental in its planning and launch in 2009-10. She has served on the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) Board since 2011 and participated in the CAA’s Strategic Planning Committee, Nominating Committee, and Volunteer Development Committee. Sharon chaired the Planning Committee for the Columbia Alumni Leaders Weekend in October 2014. She currently serves as a University Senator, and co-chairs the University Senate Alumni Relations committee. Sharon is honored to have worked with so many outstanding alumni, students, staff, and faculty at Columbia.

Paul J. Maddon ’81CC, ’88PS, ’88GSAS is a biotechnology entrepreneur and investor who serves as vice chairman of Progenics Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a publicly traded biopharmaceutical company that develops and commercializes new medicines in the areas of gastroenterology, oncology, and infectious diseases. He founded Progenics in 1986 while an MD-PhD student at Columbia and has served as chairman, chief executive officer, and chief science officer until retiring in June 2012. Paul is a molecular virologist and immunologist who has made seminal contributions to our understanding of HIV entry and infection. He has also received several honors, including Columbia College’s John Jay Award. Paul is the chairman of the College’s Science Advisory Committee and founded the College’s Summer Research Fellowship program at CUMC. Paul is a member of the advisory committee of Columbia’s Science Honors Program and the Board of Advisors of Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC). He is a director of the Columbia Alumni Association and Columbia’s College of Physicians and Surgeons (P&S) Alumni Association, and a member of the Wu Family China Center for Health Initiatives Board of Overseers. Paul is an advisor to the Global Health Program at P&S and Columbia’s varsity squash program, and is a mentor to numerous Columbia students. He graduated summa cum laude from the College with a BA in biochemistry and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Paul received an MD from P&S and a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biophysics from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Paul was elected to serve as a Senate-consulted Trustee of Columbia University in 2008. He resides with his children in Scarsdale, NY.
Rita Diana Pietropinto-Kitt ’93CC, ’96SOA is the chair of the Drama Department at Marymount School of New York. She is also an adjunct professor in the Barnard Theater Department, where she teaches undergraduate acting classes. As an actress, Rita has performed on Broadway, off Broadway, regionally, and in television and film. Rita received a BA in political science from Columbia College in 1993 and served as her senior class president, and participated in the Varsity Show as an actress and producer for 4 years. She also received an MFA in Acting from Columbia School of the Arts in 1996. She serves as a vice chair on the Board of the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) and is the Chair of the CAA Arts Access Committee. She is a vice president on the Columbia College Alumni Association and serves on the Board of Columbia College Women. She has served as a class agent for the past 20 years. Her husband, Tom Kitt, (’96CC) is a Pulitzer, Tony, and Emmy winning Composer. She resides in New York City with her husband and three children.

Phyllis Fang Savage ’93JRN is a journalist, investor, and former banker. She heads up Columbia Alumni Association of India’s Bangalore chapter, a club she started in 2009. She is on the CAA Board and is a member of the Associations and Club Committee and International Clubs Subcommittee. Over the years she has served as host to many visiting Columbians including various deans and senior faculty. Most recently, she was responsible for planning and hosting the Journalism School’s Dean Steve Coll’s trip to India in 2016. Phyllis is also engaged with ARC, serving as co-chair for India South and the Journalism School, helping administer the writing test and fundraising. She is a member of the Strategic Outreach Committee for the South Asia Global Center, and a judge for this year’s Columbia Venture Competition. She is also a partner with Social Venture Partners (SVP), a network of engaged philanthropists attempting to address complex social issues through venture philanthropy. Phyllis has worked as a correspondent for CNBC Asia, based out of Hong Kong, and Reuters Television, and occasionally freelances for Forbes Magazine. Prior to that, she worked with National Westminster Bank in New York. A native of Taipei, Taiwan, Phyllis has been living in Bangalore for the past nine years with her husband and four children.
Richard M. Space, Jr. ’05GS is currently a vice president, Investment Banking at Morgan Stanley. Richard grew up in Queens, NY and, following high school, enlisted in the U.S. Marines. After a four-year enlistment, Richard returned to NYC where he worked full time at the UN while attending school full time. As a student, he served on the General Studies Student Council, was a member of Columbia's Rugby Football Club, and helped to co-found the Military Veterans of Columbia student group. As an alumnus, Richard helped to co-found the GS Recent Alumni Leadership Committee (predecessor to the General Studies Alumni Association), serving as one of its first two co-chairs. He has also volunteered with CAA’s Young Alumni Leadership Group and, along with several notable veteran Columbia alumni and administration help, co-founded Columbia Veterans Inc. He enjoys being a mentor, advising students, promoting alumni engagement, and giving back.

Mozelle W. Thompson ’76CC, ’80SIPA, ’81LAW is CEO of Thompson Strategic Consulting where he provides innovative legal, policy, and business advice to such companies as Facebook, where he was among the company's earliest advisors, as well as Samsung, Disney, Path, Loyal3, and Atigeo. He has had distinguished public and private sector careers, and his groundbreaking work has made him an international leader and trusted adviser to presidents, heads of state, governments, and corporations. Mozelle served as a Commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission and Deputy Assistant Secretary at the US Treasury. He also served as Chairman of the OECD Committee on Consumer Policy where he produced the first international standards for e-Commerce. In 2008, Commissioner Thompson served as team leader of the economics and finance cluster on the Obama/Biden Transition Team, where he led the review of the US Securities and Exchange Commission. Mozelle graduated from Columbia College and the Law School and was an International Fellow at SIPA. He also holds a MPA degree from Princeton. He has taught at several universities and has received numerous awards in recognition of his work, including the Distinguished Service Award by the UC Berkeley School of Law and its Center for Law and Technology. A recipient of the Columbia College John Jay Award for Distinguished Professional Achievement in 2014 and the Black Alumni Council Heritage award, he has also been a strategic chair and member of several CAA Committees: Alumni Services and Outreach, Volunteer Development Committee, Strategic Planning Committee. Beyond his work for the CAA, Mozelle has founded several mentoring organizations and has mentored many Columbians. He served on the Board of the Columbia College Alumni Association and is presently a member of the Columbia College Board of Visitors. He also serves on his reunion committees at both the College and Law School, as well as the Dean’s Technology Advisory Committee at SIPA.