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### Columbia Chronicle (12/07/2020)

Columbia College Chicago

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# THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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# The Chronicle's semester in review

» KENDALL POLIDORI  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

IN AUGUST WHEN the Chronicle management team was preparing for staff training week, the idea of the fall semester coming to an end felt so out of reach. Since the beginning of the pandemic, time—which is always constant and reliable—has felt unpredictable. Before, I always felt as though I was looking ahead, planning weeks or even months in advance. Now, I find it hard to think just a few hours forward.

I have come to expect the unexpected—to roll with each day as it comes. This, as someone who finds comfort in routine and planning, was hard to acclimate to. In a way, I am grateful that the pandemic has pushed me out of my strict daily habits.

I had become too familiar with what I was doing, and I now realize that I was not growing or learning—everything was just stagnant.

While everyone can relate to these changes on some level, the Chronicle as a publication was also forced to step out of its comfortable nook and adapt in ways we never thought would be possible.

Mari Devereaux and I took on our roles as co-editors-in-chief in June with big ambitions and ideas—and not the slightest clue as to how the semester would actually pan out.

But with just a few weeks left until the semester ends, looking back at the Chronicle's work reveals we have accomplished much of what we hoped to do.

Even before we were hired as co-EICs, we worked together to create a pitch for a college media project through the Poynter Institute, a nonprofit journalism school and research organization.

Our pitch included ways in which we wanted to improve and develop our reporting at the Chronicle: to hold the college responsible for living up to its liberal reputation and adhering to its own rhetoric on diversity, equity and inclusion; to report on issues of bigotry that cause tension when people from different backgrounds come together for education in a creative, urban environment; and to engage with our audience directly for feed-

back and story ideas. Although we were not chosen to go forward with the actual Poynter project, we put it upon ourselves to pursue our pitch in our own way—while also adapting to a fully remote work environment.

In the past few months, the Chronicle has made an effort to: hold the college accountable in instances of [ransomware attacks](#) and [web monitoring](#), report on the college's [response to mass civil unrest](#) and the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), follow the college's [part-time faculty union](#), cover a student [tuition petition](#) and [protest](#), inform readers about the college's [Title IX procedures](#), unwrap its [financial struggles](#) and even help drive the [installation of touch-free sinks](#) in campus buildings.

The Chronicle has also conscientiously involved its audience in every aspect of what we do as a publication. From crowd sourcing in daily newsletters and Instagram stories to conducting polls on social media and encouraging story tips, the Chronicle strives to report on and cover stories that are important to those who are reading them.

And in the midst of various changes due to the pandemic, the Chronicle has served as a key source of information for many.

As the semester nears its end, I am tired but immensely proud of the work the Chronicle has done to continuously question information and those in power while seeking transparency.

The ways in which the publication has adapted will only improve in the upcoming months, and I know I speak on behalf of the entire staff when I ask you, our readers, to continue questioning and pushing us to be better in our work.

*Take a look at Columbia's dubious year in our 2020 wrap-up on pages 4-5.*

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Views expressed in this publication are those of the writer and are not the opinions of The Columbia Chronicle, Columbia's Communication Department or Columbia College Chicago. Letters to the editor must include full name, year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their job title. Alumni should include year of graduation, or attendance, and major. Other readers should note their city of residence and occupation or employer, if related to the letter's subject matter.

All letters are edited for grammar and may be cut due to a limit of space.

The Columbia Chronicle holds the right to limit any one person's submissions to three per semester.



# 'It makes me feel wanted': Campus group gives Black women a place to be themselves

» DYANA DANIELS  
STAFF REPORTER

WHEN DELANEY FISHER transferred to another high school a few years ago, she thought she would have a better experience.

But in a school of 3,000 students in the south suburbs, Fisher noticed she was only one of about eight Black students, and she would go on to experience racist behavior she had never been exposed to before.

By the time she attended Columbia, the freshman film and television major was happy to have a space on campus to make Black women feel welcome and part of a community.

Soul Sisters, a new organization at the college, was created by sophomore film and television major Leah Tolliver after she struggled her freshman year in her personal life and did not find school services that connected or related to her issues.

"I felt it was important to establish a sense of community for Black women on Columbia's campus," Tolliver said. "So instead of waiting for someone to make that happen ... I decided to make it official, and create an actual student organization for it."

Tolliver noticed that other institutions her friends were attending and the college where her mother works had support groups and communities for Black women.

"I feel, especially with everything that's going on in the world now, this is something that we need," said Tolliver. "If you even think about the Breonna Taylor case, this is a very trying time for Black people and Black women specifically. I felt it was time Columbia had that community."

While Columbia has had similar groups in the past, Tolliver said her main priority is ensuring members of Soul Sisters have a base to remain connected with after they graduate.

"I want this to be something that continues to grow and continues to thrive within the community," Tolliver said.

When Tolliver first made a post on the now-defunct ColumbiaChi App, she did not have any expectations but soon received a large response from Black women on campus interested in learning more about the organization. Two days after she made the post, Tolliver said she was contacted by nearly 30 women who wanted to get involved.

Tolliver said those interested in Soul Sisters wanted to "dive right in" and get started on events and workshops, but they had to reconsider meeting in person because of the pandemic.

This semester, meetings have been held over Zoom, and everything is mostly virtual at the moment to make sure everyone is staying safe. The organization has plans to create future workshops on topics of mental health, female empowerment and the importance of being an independent Black woman.

Jordan Dawson, a freshman creative writing major, first heard about Soul Sisters through a friend on Snapchat and wanted to join because she had not heard about any other organizations that offered the communal interaction that Soul Sisters does.

"It makes me feel wanted because it was hard to find a community," Dawson said.

Dawson said she was used to "being the odd one out" in high school, as one of the only Black girls in the classroom.

"It is hard to find a community now because it seems like they're trying to separate everyone in a way," Dawson said.

"Every institution should have a place where everyone feels welcome. I know as a Black [person] and [as] Black women, we always feel left out. I've always felt like that my whole life."

Similarly, Karena Blue, a junior graphic design major, joined the organization to have a space to turn to that is designated for Black women, and to have "something like a safe haven" to connect with members that may have similar interests and receive advice.

"I know it can be hard relating to other people who do not necessarily understand what you are going through," Blue said.

Before transferring to Columbia, Blue was part of a similar organization called Sisters when she attended the University of Illinois at Chicago. She said the organization hosted events that ranged from teaching Black women how to take care of their hair to education on breast cancer.

"I remember when I was just starting out, I didn't really have anyone to talk about it with," Blue said. "When you have a dialogue with people who look like you, it is more productive."

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LEAH TOLLIVER (FRONT LEFT), A SOPHOMORE FILM AND TELEVISION MAJOR, CREATED THE SOUL SISTERS GROUP TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY FOR BLACK WOMEN ON COLUMBIA'S CAMPUS. SHE HOPES TO CEMENT THEIR GROUP AS A PERMANENT FIXTURE OF COLUMBIA, EVEN AFTER SHE GRADUATES.

» KAYLIE SLACK/CHRONICLE



# A YEAR FOR THE BOOKS: THE CH

» KENDALL POLIDORI  
» MARI DEVEREAUX  
CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

AS JOURNALISTS, it is our job to document history as it happens, and this year has been one for the books. With 2020 coming to an end, we are reflecting on its defining moments and events as covered by the Chronicle—our own living record of life during this time.

## COLUMBIA'S RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC:

The COVID-19 Pandemic has defined 2020 for what it is—a timeless loop of changes and uncertainty that redefined college life as we knew it. Since the initial [closure of campus buildings](#) in March, the [cancellation of commencement](#) and sending [dorm residents](#) home, Columbia has made adjustments and created protocols necessary to survive a historic pandemic.

During the summer, college administrators grappled with how to move forward with class [instruction](#), on-campus [housing](#) and the [installation](#) of new devices, including Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation (UVGI) units and updated HVAC systems, in order to comply with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

Due to pandemic-induced [financial shortcomings](#), the college grappled with how to appease struggling students and parents, ultimately deciding to [keep tuition the same](#) as the semester prior rather than increasing costs by 2% as had been previously planned.

In addition to adapting to a combination of remote, hybrid and some in-person [classes](#), the college used

a [pass/fail](#) grading system during the spring semester for students to utilize as a way to ease some of their academic burden.

## HOW CREATIVES HAVE ADAPTED TO THE VIRTUAL WORLD:

Following nationwide changes due to the pandemic, both Columbia and the community of creatives at large were forced to acclimate to the closures and changes. In April and May the Chronicle wrote about how students and faculty persevered with ebullience, holding [dance classes](#) over Zoom, shipping [sewing machines](#) to those working on fashion projects, creating [virtual theatre](#) performances, recording [music ensembles](#) remotely and taking [photo courses](#) without facilities or physical resources.

Manifest, the college's cherished end-of-semester tradition, and [commencement](#) were both transferred online in a schoolwide [livestream](#). Instead of parents and grandparents proudly watching graduates complete their college education in The Auditorium Theatre, they huddled around computer screens. For some, it was their first introduction to something called Zoom. The [Dance Center](#), along with other spaces such as the library and [photo](#) and [audio studios](#), all found other ways to remain useful resources for students in a remote setting.

Chicago-based [drag queens](#) turned their bedrooms into sets for elaborately-lit music videos, and musicians began holding [virtual concerts](#) while [stand-up comedians](#) also performed for faces on screens. In the midst of quarantine, millennials and Gen-Z



PRESIDENT AND CEO KWANG-WU KIM AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST MARCELLA DAVID ADDRESS PANDEMIC CONCERNS.

youth coped with their stress using [memes](#) and [Animal Crossing](#) as outlets.

While the transition was not easy, artists used their ingenuity and talents to find ways to continue pursuing their passions.

## WHEN EVERYTHING STOOD STILL:

Normal life for everyone took a major blow in 2020. During the week of March 15, more than 3 million people filed for [unemployment benefits](#), causing many to worry about a COVID-19 related recession. [Small businesses](#) and [restaurants](#) struggled to stay afloat, while [food pantries](#), [grocery stores](#) and [animal shelters](#) came up with innovative ways to maintain safety in providing essential services.

Many tenants—including Colum-

bia students—found it [hard to pay rent](#) due to stay-at-home orders and a lack of work, in spite of Chicago's COVID-19 Housing Assistance Grant Program and Gov. J.B. Pritzker's executive order banning evictions through June.

The "[Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act](#)" was used to assist higher education institutions and students, and some small businesses were able to take advantage of [government loans](#) to avoid shutting down.

Not only were millions confronted by job insecurity, but hospitals across the country became overcrowded, putting [healthcare workers](#) and their families at risk. [Nursing homes](#) in particular became hot spots for the spread of the virus.



THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC, NUMEROUS STAFF MEMBERS HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT COVID-19'S DEVASTATING IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES.



» JEN CHAVEZ/CHRONICLE

» MENGSHIN LIN/CHRONICLE

» JUSTIN ANDERSON/CHRONICLE



# CHRONICLE LOOKS BACK ON 2020

People—including the entire Columbia community of students, faculty and staff—had to make difficult decisions about when and how to see loved ones, navigating [quarantining](#), [testing](#), [social distancing](#) and [mask wearing](#).

## CHICAGOANS TAKE TO THE STREETS TO PROTEST INJUSTICE:

After the [killing of George Floyd](#) in May by police, the nation found itself reckoning with [systemic racism](#), calls to [defund the police](#) and spurts of activism. Chicago and Columbia's [campus](#) in particular saw months of [protests](#) and [demonstrations](#), including ones demanding justice for other Black lives lost to police brutality such as [Breonna Taylor](#). President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim directly [addressed the unrest](#), noting the importance of coming together as a community at Columbia and supporting one another.

Like many in the U.S., Columbia [students felt](#) the exhaustion, anxiety and hurt that came with the roll out of these protests, some peaceful and others not. Although each experience varied, students were often quick and eager to address major issues important to them and their [communities](#).

Although in the works for a few years, the college also announced new [anti-racist initiatives](#) in order to “guide and challenge the Columbia community on the pathway to becoming an anti-racist institution.” These are initiatives the college will continue to develop and move forward with in

the upcoming year.

## RANSOMWARE ATTACK AND CYBERSECURITY ISSUES:

In moving most classes and some campus work to a remote environment, the college became the victim of a [ransomware attack](#) in June, causing some of Columbia's online platforms to be compromised. Concern among some faculty and staff members ensued because there was no clear [communication](#) as to what data was initially [compromised](#). [Experts](#) noted the college should have shared information sooner.

Following the attack, the college partnered with the cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike to monitor all systems, including “alerting, blocking, and containment capabilities against malicious behavior.” It also rolled out the use of Duo security, a two-factor authentication and endpoint security platform, for college employees.

Despite efforts to protect personal information and adapt to remote settings, employees of the college have had to download another piece of software—[GlobalProtect](#), a web browser based virtual private network service that runs on a device to protect sensitive networks—in order to log work hours and access other essential employee information.

## THE TENSE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION:

In addition to the stressors of the pandemic and civil unrest, the U.S. presidential election was one of [great anticipation](#).

The months leading up to Election



» ZAC CLINGENPEL/CHRONICLE

OVER THE SUMMER, CHRONICLE REPORTERS AND PHOTOJOURNALISTS WENT OUT TO COVER THE REACTIONS OF VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS AND CITIES FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD.

Day were packed with stories about the security of [mail-in voting](#), presidential and vice presidential [debates](#) attracting historic television audiences, creative voting [initiatives](#), first-hand [stories from voters](#) and students [going the distance](#) to cast their ballots.

Results of the election were drawn out over four days, until Democratic nominee Joe Biden was declared the [46th U.S. president-elect](#), and Kamala Harris as the first Black, South Asian and female vice president-elect. In Chicago, [celebrations](#) ensued in various neighborhoods across the city, and Columbia faculty and students shared their [thoughts about the results](#).

## COLUMBIA STUDENTS AND ALUMS FIND SUCCESS:

Despite the chaos and strife of this year, one that represents loss and hardships for so many, Chronicle writers have found Columbia students and alumni managing to make the most of the uncertainty.

Current Columbia students have proved to be as tenacious as ever, with junior acting major Myah Seay launching her own [makeup brand](#) over the summer, students in the “Retail Competition” course [making it to the semi-finals](#) of the National Retail Federation Student Challenge, as well as Echo and Chronicle staff members earning [national recognition](#) and awards for their hard work.

From [Andrea Salcedo](#), a Columbia and Chronicle alum who recently

scored a job at the Washington Post, to WGN's newest anchor [Ray Cortopassi](#), to Christian Cook, who [wrote her first novel](#), to the filmmaker database [Black In Film](#) created by Ramone Hulet, Columbia graduates have also kept busy during the pandemic. [Urwa Zubair](#), a 2019 alum, recently applied for and received an O-1 visa to stay in the U.S. and continue making films.

**THIS YEAR HAS** not been easy, but it has been one of learning and growth. Like everyone else during this time, the Chronicle has rolled with the punches, finding new ways to report on and deliver stories. Though the paper suspended its print edition, it continued biweekly e-editions including the graphics, design and overall creativity our readers have come to expect. Instead of being huddled together around screens late on Friday nights in the office, reporters and editors have been perched over laptops, navigating InDesign and Slack from home. At a time when connection and community is more important than ever, the Chronicle will continue to adapt and serve as a key source of information. In a few weeks, we'll be back at it again. Hopefully in 2021 there will be more stories of uplift and rejuvenation, and the year will be that shot in the arm that we all deserve and need.

CHRONICLE@COLUM.EDU



» GIANELLA GOAN/CHRONICLE



# Columbia alum Andrea Salcedo continues to 'aim high' at the Washington Post

» PAIGE BARNES  
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT EDITOR

IT WAS A five-day rush of pure adrenaline during her first week at the Washington Post for Columbia and Chronicle alum Andrea Salcedo. Not only was she adjusting her sleep schedule, but she was also gearing up for an influx of news in the waning days of the 2020 presidential campaign.

One of the first stories she worked on fell through at the last minute, Salcedo said. The interviews had been conducted, but the visuals and a comment from the other side had flopped.

With six hours left in the night, Salcedo said she pushed through on a new article making sure all of the finishing touches were finalized, like the headline, captions and article description.

Now, Salcedo said she is finally getting a chance to sleep.

Salcedo, a 2018 multimedia journalism graduate with a concentration in news and features, joined the Washington Post as a staff reporter for the Morning Mix in late October, less than two weeks before the election.

Her shift starts at 10 p.m., so she works through the night for the news to be ready between 6 and 7 a.m., she said. Salcedo is working remotely from Washington, D.C.

"For the first week I was definitely operating on adrenaline, and I didn't feel as tired," she said. "This week, after election week and after marking my second week anniversary there, that's when I'm like, 'I'm going to sleep probably for like 10 hours.'"

This, however, is exactly what Salcedo said she wants to do every day. Or, in her case, every night. Salcedo said she enjoys editors giving her feedback regularly and working with a strong team of reporters while telling stories that make an impact.

Before joining the Washington Post, Salcedo completed her master's degree at Columbia University's Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism in May 2019 and went on to complete a one-year metro desk reporting fellowship with The New York Times, which began in July 2019.

"I was like, 'It'd be great if I could get this, but what are the chances that I'm

going to get this?'" Salcedo said of the fellowship. "It's going to be a very competitive application process. I just figured, let's give it a chance."

A few months later, Salcedo said she received a call from one of the editors at The New York Times metro desk summoning her for an interview the next day. She went in for the interview and was told she would receive a follow-up.

The next call she received was an offer to start the fellowship.

"I said, 'Of course. Yes,' pinching myself. I still couldn't believe it," Salcedo said.

Salcedo has always been ambitious, which drove her to apply to the Chronicle as a freshman, she said. But, Salcedo said she got rejected twice before being hired as a staff reporter at the campus desk.

She said Chris Richert, former general manager of the Chronicle, offered her the job, after interviews with the stu-

dent management team, because of her persistence and determination to work.

Salcedo remembers the long production nights that sometimes went until 1 a.m., but said she had a lot of fun and gained invaluable experience.

"I was working on six hours of sleep ... I remember thinking, 'Is this what journalists do after the college paper ... just sleep six hours?' But it's been my best [job] I've ever had so far," she said, reflecting on her time at the Chronicle.

Salcedo said she thanks adjunct faculty members Sam Roe and John O'Neill along with Elio Leturia, an associate professor, who all teach in the Communication Department, for making a positive impact on her.

Roe's "Investigative Reporting" class was really intriguing to her because no other professor had her look through police incidents, death records and nursing home violations before, she said.

His class and mentorship influenced

her to apply to Columbia University, she said, and he helped her with essays and getting letters of recommendation.

"He always said, 'Aim high, Salcedo. Aim high,'" she said. "He also pushed me not to stress so much because I can stress a lot sometimes ... about where am I going to go, where my career is going."

Salcedo said O'Neill—a deputy metro editor at the Chicago Sun-Times—interviewed her for an internship at the newspaper. This led to the opportunity to cover metro news. And Leturia always made sure Salcedo knew her "seat at the table was always earned and well deserved," she said.

"Aim high, but in the beginning, be willing to perhaps not have that prestigious internship that is your end goal ..." Salcedo said. "Don't feel like because you're in those positions at the moment ... you're stuck. It's temporary."



» VICKI LEI/CHRONICLE

# Columbia semi-finalist NRF teams show the Student Challenge is about much more than winning

» LAUREN LEAZENBY  
NEWS EDITOR

**FOR THE FIRST** five weeks of the fall semester, senior fashion studies major Amaiya Sims spent all day in class on Fridays and Saturdays. But the intense start to her semester was about more than completing assignments for a grade—Sims said her experience developing a pitch and business plan for a national competition was akin to having a job in the industry.

Sims and her classmates in the “Retail Competition” course spent five weeks working in teams developing pitches for the National Retail Federation Foundation Student Challenge, and two of the teams, including Sims’, have advanced to the semifinal round.

The members of the winning team will each earn a \$6,000 scholarship.

“It was an experience that I’ve never really had before,” Sims said. “Of course, you work on group projects throughout high school and college, but I feel like what’s different about this is that it makes you feel like you’re working at a job.”

In the NRF Foundation Student Challenge, teams from member schools compete with pitches to retail giants like Nordstrom, Target and the television network HSN.

Sims said each team developed a product and a business plan, envisioning their group as a small start-up company. They picked a retailer in which they would launch their product, then researched financial trends and consumer behavior to create a cohesive pitch with a video.

Sims’ team chose HSN. Their pitched product line idea—though still under wraps—includes exercise equipment with a “twist.”

Sims, who is also an entrepreneurship minor, said the experience was a great opportunity to collaborate with students from various departments including fashion, graphic design and marketing.

“[The professors] really try to comprise a team of people from different competencies, backgrounds [and] majors and create a well-rounded group to put forth the best case possible,” Sims said. “Even if you don’t make it to the competition and the final round, the most rewarding piece for me was being able to network, making connections and providing me with skills that I will be able to use in the real world.”

Laly Viveros, a senior cinema arts and



» VICKI LE/CHRONICLE

science major, said she credits the strength of her team to a similar blend of disciplines.

Viveros said throughout the course she worked with students with backgrounds in fashion merchandising and animation to create a pitch for Target that focuses on the current roller skating trend.

The NRF Foundation Student Challenge was just that—a challenge, Viveros said.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the students had to work together remotely for most of the five weeks. Even so, they were able to create deliverables that pushed them to the next round of the competition.

“As a student, you don’t really get to have an experience like this right off the bat, so it’s something that I’m excited to put on my resume or talk about in job interviews,” Viveros said.

Of the five teams in the course, work from just two can be submitted to the challenge. Associate professor in the Fashion Studies Department Dana Connell said while this year’s decision was tough, all of the teams receive the benefit of feedback from industry professionals.

“Unfortunately, the rules are we can only send two teams,” Connell said. “If you do a good job, if you work hard—just like in so many other of your hands-on, applied classes at Columbia where you’re building your body of work—this is yet another piece ... you can put in your portfolio.”

Historically, Columbia teams have done well in the challenge, Connell said. In 2018, students took home first- and second-place wins, as reported by the Chronicle.

Currently, both the Target and HSN teams are working to revise their pitches ahead of a video conference with the challenge’s judges in early December.

From there, the judges—who are industry executives—will choose three semifinalist teams to move onto the finals.

Associate professor and associate chair of the Communication Department Peg Murphy co-taught the “Retail Competition” course.

The competition simulates what it is like to work in the industry, Murphy said, and Columbia students often succeed because they go above and beyond.

“They’re willing to do that extra work,” Murphy said. “Like it does in the real world, you don’t just turn it in once for a grade and it’s over. It lives, it breathes, the client gives input, things change and that’s life. So, it’s good professional practice.”

Murphy also said it is a good opportunity for students to make connections outside of their bubble.

“For the students, this teaches them ... you need everybody,” Murphy said. “You need people that can run the numbers, you need people that can shoot beautiful and make beautiful things [and] you need people that can do the consumer insight work and the strategy work. So, Columbia, I always say, is at our best when we’re together.”

In addition to Sims and Viveros, semifinalists included Eryn Jones, Alfred Pell and Loren Parker on the Target team, as well as Ben Sill, Brittany Wilson and Kristen Kirschbaum on the HSN team.

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# Chicago photographers celebrate family caregivers across the city

AS A PART OF NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH IN NOVEMBER, AARP CHICAGO'S "PORTRAITS OF CARE" PHOTO MURAL PROJECT CELEBRATES CAREGIVERS AND THEIR PATIENTS ACROSS SIX CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS. PHOTOS OF MOTHERS, DAUGHTERS AND NEIGHBORS FROM BRONZEVILLE TAKEN BY COLUMBIA STUDENT VASHON JORDAN JR. REPRESENT PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF HOME CARE AIDES.

» MATEUSZ JANIK  
STAFF REPORTER

**KRIS TAYLOR, PORTRAIT** photographer and development and marketing manager at the Beverly Arts Center, said being a caretaker requires love.

Having taken care of her late mother who died of ovarian cancer in 2015, Taylor said shooting portraits of caregivers was a way for her to honor and show appreciation to those who may not feel recognized or appreciated in the community.

"Being a caregiver [takes] dedication," Taylor said. "Even if you're working or taking care of kids and then you have another person to take care of, sometimes it will take a toll on you, but you do it because this is [someone] that you either love or you're passionate about."

According to the AARP, there are an estimated 1.5 million caregivers in Illinois, ranging from family members to neighbors, who provide daily care and support to older adults in their community.

As part of National Family Caregivers Month in November, Taylor and five other neighborhood photographers—including one Columbia student—worked with

AARP Chicago and community partners to photograph caregivers and older adults in their communities.

Unveiled on Nov. 13, the photo mural project titled "Portraits of Care" celebrates family caregivers across six neighborhoods, including Beverly, Bronzeville, Chinatown, Lakeview, Little Village and Uptown.

Taylor said she met with a range of caregivers from Beverly—two different daughters who take care of their mothers; a certified nursing assistant from Smith Village Senior Living Community; two wives—one of which is Taylor's aunt, Gwendolyn—who look after their husbands; and a neighbor duo, Kelly and Tim.

"[Caregivers] are absolutely critical when it comes to caring for older adults, and a lot of times it can really be a thankless job," said Monika Wnuk, portrait photographer and associate state director of communications for AARP Illinois. "This was really our way to say thank you from us [and] their communities for the work they're doing on a daily basis."

In photographing caregivers from Lakeview, Wnuk said she worked with the Chinese Mutual Aid Association—a com-

munity-based social services agency helping low-income immigrant and refugee communities—to connect with older Laotian and Cambodian refugees being cared for by their children or grandchildren.

Wnuk said home care aides usually become like a member of the family because they spend much of their time with the older adults they care for and provide another level of comfort.

"I think this project also made me learn more about caregivers and their relationships with their clients," said Linghua Qi, a Chicago-based multimedia journalist. "It made me reflect on my relationship with my parents as they are growing older. One day they will be like those people who I photographed, and they may need to be taken care of."

Qi, who photographed caregivers from Uptown, said she saw the project as an important opportunity to bring attention to caregivers and the older adults they take care of and also as a way to shine a light on immigrants growing old in a country in which they weren't born.

Connected with people from the Chinese Mutual Aid Association, Qi said she talked primarily with older Chinese immigrants

who came to this country nearly 30 years ago and caregivers who help these individuals in other ways like practicing English or taking strolls outside with them.

After publishing his new photo book, "[Chicago Protests: A Joyful Revolution](#)," senior television major Vashon Jordan Jr. said the mural project was an opportunity for him to show love and raise awareness for the elderly and caregivers who are at risk of contracting the coronavirus.

Photographing mothers, daughters and neighbors from Bronzeville, Jordan said it was a great experience to be around a different project and individuals since he photographed protests over the summer.

"Even if you don't want to wear the mask, or [think] it's okay because you're healthy or you think you're fine—wear your mask, social distance and practice all of the proper protocols," Jordan said. "One of the messages we're trying to convey to people is [to] do it for others."

"Portraits of Care" will be up for display in each neighborhood until the end of the year. To find the location of a portrait series nearby, [click here](#).

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Anne Munion

Anastasia Staten

Keisha Howard

# ‘Extremely Online’ virtual panel discusses diversity, equity and inclusion in video games

» ISAIAH COLBERT  
STAFF REPORTER

THE VIDEO GAME industry is like a giant sandbox where imagination is as endless as grains of sand. Behind every great sandcastle, there is a need for the right tools to bridge the gap between a person’s imagination and making it a reality.

[Chicago Ideas](#), a nonprofit organization focusing on inspiring action through accessible content, collaborated with Red Bull in the virtual panel “Extremely Online: A Conversation About the World of Gaming” on Nov. 19 that touched on topics including careers in the industry and issues of diversity and inclusion.

The panel was moderated by Keisha Howard, founder of [Sugar Gamers](#), a Chicago technology advocacy organization. Howard was joined by [Twitch live-streamer](#) and Red Bull esports athlete Anne Munion and Anastasia Staten, the executive director of [Entertainment Software Association Foundation](#)—an organization focused on educating and building opportunities for future video game creators.

In 2014, Munion quit her day job as a graphic designer to begin her livestream-

ing career. Although it was easy for her to get started, she said making a career out of livestreaming is not “a quick rocket to success.”

“It’s like photography; everyone has a phone that has a camera but that doesn’t make you a professional photographer,” Munion said during the panel. “You can’t just do that and now you’re a National Geographic photographer. It has to be a labor of love, and it is a marathon.”

Streaming utilizes fundamental skills, such as understanding new forms of technology, building relationships with companies and multitasking between gameplay and interacting with the chat, she said.

Munion said there are misconceptions about the longevity of and skills developed from livestreaming because the career’s mainstream exposure on talk shows make it look like a hobby rather than a serious profession.

“It’s not like streaming is my only skill now, and after I decide to stop streaming, I just become a puddle on the ground,” she said.

Although a career path in gaming has become more accessible, unethical practices of [sexual misconduct](#) and [game de-](#)

[velopment crunch](#)—when people are expected to work extra hours to meet a video game’s launch deadline—have influenced the culture of video games, as reported by Bloomberg on July 21 and Sept. 30, 2020.

Howard said it is important for companies who aim to be sustainable and authentic to also be held accountable for ethical industry practices.

“[Companies] know that these consumers are diverse,” Howard said. “So have that reflected in every aspect of their internal company culture.”

In the panel, Staten said the biggest change she has seen in video games is the demand for more immersive entertainment from an expanding demographic of gamers—a demand she said has been reinforced by the pandemic.

“By giving voice, access and opportunity to the underrepresented, [video games] provide pathways for [creators] to push back against narratives that undermine fairness and essentially disrupt inequity,” she said.

Staten said a positive side effect of the pandemic was being able to introduce new audiences to gaming.

This expanding demographic of gamers of various ages, with differing modes and

mediums of play, will further increase the population’s desire for more immersive entertainment, according to the [2020 Essential Facts About the Video Game Industry](#).

In turn, this then creates jobs for the Entertainment Software Association Foundation’s more than 400 alums and 26 scholars who will soon enter the field to officially make those games, she said.

Staten said video games can play a big role in raising awareness, creating paths of understanding and reconciliation and presenting solutions to issues of equity and systemic racism.

An example of this can be seen in Link from “The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild” and Ellie from “The Last of Us Part II,” she said, by representing androgynous and lesbian main characters in popular games.

“It’s a long road that requires us to all be a part of the solution and dedicated to making that road as short as possible,” Staten said. “We all need to see others in the path ahead of us as a way of creating our own power and in our own voice.”

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# While waiting for a COVID-19 vaccine, old traumas with the healthcare system resurface in the Black community

» ERIN THRELKELD  
COPY EDITOR

IN 2006, PATRICIA Render thought her sick daughter, Lacie, was in good hands when her aunt took the child to the emergency room.

However, the Champaign County resident said she was horrified to learn her daughter—who was in middle school at the time—had an allergic reaction to the sulfur-based medicine she was prescribed and that the doctor treating her was no longer licensed due to malpractice in a neighboring town. Fortunately, Lacie, now 26, recovered.

Render's story is not unique. [According to a poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation and The Undeclared](#), some in the Black community are skeptical of medical care due to ongoing negligence and deliberate mistreatment at the hands of doctors and the health care system in general.

This skepticism is especially apparent as the country nears the release of a COVID-19 vaccine, which is anticipated to be ready as soon as next month, according to the [Wall Street Journal](#).

According to a September 2020 [Pew Research Center study](#), only 32% of Black Americans indicated they would get a COVID-19 vaccine when one became available, in comparison to 52% of white Americans.

Render, a former hospital worker who sanitized surgical tools, said she would not take a COVID-19 vaccine unless it was proven to be 100% effective because she believes a vaccine could possibly do more harm than good.

Despite once receiving a pneumonia vaccine, Render said she still contracted the infection three times afterward.

Render said because there is a history of discrimination against Black people in health care, she does not believe a vaccine will be intended to help her as a Black woman.

In Harriet A. Washington's book, "Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present," she states the relationship between Black Americans and the medical establishment has been historically antagonistic.

From enslaved people being punished with beatings as a "cure" for their illnesses, to using sterile enslaved women as live test subjects, Black people have been mistreated by medical professionals countless times.

For some members of the Black community, contracting COVID-19 only affirmed their lack of faith in doctors' responses to Black pain.

Brittany Hogan, a 32-year-old filmmaker and a member of Mezcla Media, a collective of more than 500 women and non-binary filmmakers of color in Chicago, said when she contracted COVID-19 in April, her doctor dismissed her symptoms as pneumonia and sent her home.

"It started with body aches and extreme fatigue. Then, it was chills and I had a fever and shortness of breath," Hogan said. "I contacted someone from my doctor's office and told them the symptoms. When I mentioned that my mom had pneumonia a few weeks prior, they automatically assumed it was pneumonia."

Hogan said she was prescribed medicine for pneumonia, which only made her feel worse, and eventually wound up in the emergency room as her symptoms increased and she needed an

oxygen mask. However, this only presented more challenges for Hogan.

"The doctor was like, 'You have COVID, there's nothing we can do,'" Hogan said. "In so many words he basically told me I wasn't sick enough to stay in the hospital or receive treatment."

Hogan said she felt neglected and had to demand treatment when her throat closed to the point where she could not swallow a pill.

Because of her experience, Hogan said she will not volunteer for a vaccine when it is available because she fears being tricked into a secret experiment and believes large pharmacy companies only want to make money.

Throughout history, Black people have been used for scientific and medical research to their own detriment.

Enslaved people were not given the rights and agency of American citizens despite many being born here, said Melanie Chambliss, assistant professor in the Humanities, History and Social Sciences Department.

Chambliss said prior to the 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, there were no explicit requirements that Black people be counted as citizens. Without defined citizenship, enslaved African Americans did not have the right to informed consent, which entitles people to be given accurate information about the procedures performed on their bodies.

In the 1800s, Dr. James Marion Sims, often called the father of modern gynecology, operated on Black women's reproductive systems without anesthetics because he believed they did not feel pain, according to [Disability Studies Quarterly](#).

Similar mistreatment continued into the 20th century. In 1951, doctors took a biopsy of cancerous cells from Henrietta Lacks, a Black woman, without her consent.

Although her cells were successfully used to create a polio vaccine and study the effects of toxins, drugs, hormones and viruses, Lacks died soon after of cervical cancer. Following this, her family did not receive compensation or proper information about how Lacks' cells had been used.

The U.S. Public Health Service Study at Tuskegee, which lasted from 1932 to 1972, involved hundreds of Black men who had syphilis, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The participants were tricked into believing they were receiving free medical care, but were actually just observed for

a study of untreated syphilis. The men were not given penicillin once it became a viable cure, and dozens died as a result.

Kim Dulaney, the director of Education and Programs at DuSable Museum of African American History, said this history lingers in health care workers' present attitude toward Black patients because the medical system was not created with Black patients in mind.

"[There is] this whole idea that Black bodies are less valuable, so therefore are more readily accepted as this test pool," Dulaney said. "We have to look at the proceedings of people treating people of African descendants like slaves—that undergirds the initial fear."

David Ansell, senior vice president for Community Health Equity and Engagement at Rush University Medical Center, said the Tuskegee study and Lacks' case involved deception and that these studies without informed consent were meant to benefit white Americans.

These examples of malpractice are far from forgotten by the Black community, according to Ansell's experience with Black patients who are apprehensive about vaccines for COVID-19 or the annual flu shot. Ansell said some of his patients fear that receiving the vaccine will give them an active virus.

[According to the CDC](#), Black people are 2.6 times more likely to contract COVID-19, 4.7 times more likely to be hospitalized due to the disease and 2.1 times more likely to die from it in comparison to white people. These statistics are attributed to disparities in socioeconomic status, lack of access to health care, and to Black Americans more likely to work essential jobs that increase the likelihood of exposure.

As people are directed to stay at home and social distance, staying in small living quarters with multiple generations of a family can make the virus nearly unavoidable for some in the Black community, as reported Oct. 7 by [The New York Times](#).

Ansell said COVID-19 is seated in preexisting social fault lines and there is still lingering fear about the health care system.

"Folks are mistrustful of vaccines for many reasons: general mistrust of healthcare, mistrust of government [and a] lack of understanding of how a vaccine works," Ansell said.

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» JENNIFER CHAVEZ/CHRONICLE





7. THIS YEAR ZOOLIGHTS IS A TICKETED EVENT TO REDUCE CAPACITY AND PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING. ARROWS HAVE BEEN PAINTED ON WALKWAYS TO ENSURE SAFE TRAFFIC FLOW. » KAYLIE SLACK/CHRONICLE

8. WILLIS TOWER, 233 S. WACKER DRIVE, GETS INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH ITS RED AND GREEN ANTENNAS ILLUMINATING THE NIGHT SKY FOR ALL TO SEE. » ABBY MCFARLAND/CHRONICLE

9. ILLUMINIGHT LIGHTING IS CONTRACTED ANNUALLY TO INSTALL THE LINCOLN PARK ZOO'S ZOOLIGHTS. EACH YEAR, 2.5 MILLION LIGHTS ARE USED AND THE EXPERIENCE INCLUDES 100 DISPLAYS AND LIGHTS THAT WRAP 200 TREES. » KAYLIE SLACK/CHRONICLE

10. OUTSIDE OF THE SOUTH ENTRANCE OF THE CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER, 78 E. WASHINGTON ST., A WREATH ADORNED WITH A LARGE RED BOW HANGS ABOVE THE STEPS. » ABBY MCFARLAND/CHRONICLE



# A very pandemic holiday

» CAMILLA FORTE  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Due to the ongoing pandemic and a recent surge in COVID-19 cases, seasonal festivities will have to adapt to a new reality. As local businesses and citywide celebrations shift to accommodate the necessary guidelines—here is what the holidays look like across Chicago in 2020.

1. HARRY CARLSON, A JUNIOR MUSIC MAJOR, LIVES NEXT TO IVY'S CHRISTMAS TREES AT 1013 W. ROSCOE ST. AND CAN SEE THE TREE FARM DIRECTLY FROM HIS WINDOW. » MENGSHIN LIN/CHRONICLE

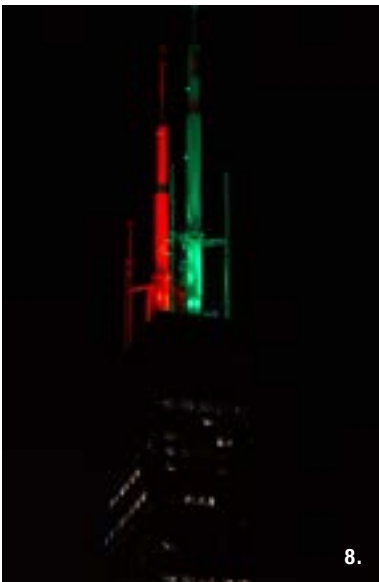
2. OUTSIDE OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO, BOTH OF THE ICONIC LIONS WEAR WREATHS AROUND THEIR NECKS, SIGNALING THE BEGINNING OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON. » ABBY MCFARLAND/CHRONICLE

3. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO IN-PERSON TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY DUE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS, THE 45-FOOT-TALL TREE STILL SHINES IN MILLENNIUM PARK. THIS YEAR WOULD HAVE MARKED THE 107TH ANNUAL TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY. » ABBY MCFARLAND/CHRONICLE

4. A DECORATIVE SANTA CLAUS FOLLOWS THE MANDATORY MASK MANDATE AT A HOME DEPOT IN CHICAGO'S LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD. » MENGSHIN LIN/CHRONICLE

5. FAUSTO BUSTAMANTE, FROM CHICAGO'S MIDWAY NEIGHBORHOOD, HAS BEEN WORKING WITH IVY'S CHRISTMAS TREES FOR THREE SEASONS. » MENGSHIN LIN/CHRONICLE

6. SHOPS ON NORTH HALSTED STREET IN CHICAGO'S LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD PREPARE FOR HOLIDAY SALES ON DEC. 3. » MENGSHIN LIN/CHRONICLE





## DEAR JOE AND KAMALA: THE CHRONICLE'S WISH LIST TO THE PRESIDENT- AND VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

» EDITORIAL BOARD

This December, the Chronicle has a wish list, but it isn't for any holiday presents. What we need are regulations and leadership from the Biden-Harris administration that the Trump-Pence administration failed to provide.

On Dec. 14, the Electoral College meets to vote on the president and vice president of the U.S., which are projected to be President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. The Chronicle [endorsed Biden in an Oct. 30 editorial](#), and while we touched on some of his laudable qualities, we hope

he and Harris continue to learn from the American people and mold their policies to fit the needs of this country.

Biden says he will be a president for all Americans. But we worry that in trying to make himself approachable to everyone, he is staying closer to the middle of the political spectrum and away from progressive ideals like "Medicare for All" and banning environmentally harmful practices like fracking.

On issues like climate change, Biden made campaign pledges that look promising—at least compared to an administration that pulled the country out of the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change's Paris Agreement. But we seek concrete policies leading toward environmental sustainability.

Ensuring a 100% clean energy economy and net-zero emissions by 2050—as [Biden's Clean Energy Revolution](#) calls for—is a great sentiment, but we want strict regulations that offer incentives for greener practices and have consequences for large corporations that pollute.

The Chronicle did not endorse moderates who seek only to appease the masses. We endorsed the candidates for president and vice president who advocate for change in marginalized communities like Flint, Michigan, and Harlan, Kentucky, where they plan to stand up against corporations polluting drinking water.

We also need Biden and Harris to mitigate further damage from the COVID-19 pandemic. National restrictions, which have been scarce under the current administration, are desperately needed to quell the spread of the virus.

But we want to remind Biden's new pandemic task force to keep its eye on the little details: What counts as outdoor dining? Which businesses are essential? Will people receive stimulus checks in 2021, even if they are dependents over 18 years of age?

We are demanding national mask regulations in every public space and that COVID-19 vaccines are affordable and readily available. The country needs to enforce mandatory mask-wearing policies that each person must follow

or face consequences, and it needs to heal with the help of modern medicine.

The Chronicle would also like to see the new administration:

—Set limits on the amount of loan interest college students can accrue.

—Begin the reform of the criminal justice system by weeding out law enforcement candidates with cognitive or discriminatory biases, as well as the decriminalization of marijuana and the expungement of criminal records for possession.

—Separate church from state and discontinue allowing legislative decisions based solely on religious values.

—Liberate and acknowledge people sterilized against their will, as well as those who are locked in ICE centers.

All of this is to say, we do not want an administration that is simply "not the Trump-Pence administration." We want one that will propel the country forward. We do not want Biden and Harris to only right the wrongs caused by current leaders; we want them to be proactive in setting regulations and creating policies that will nurture a stronger nation.

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» GIANELLA GOAN/CHRONICLE

## TOP 5 NEW SEMESTER RESOLUTIONS

» ISAIAH COLBERT  
STAFF REPORTER



### 1 Set time boundaries

I struggled managing work, school and taking time for self care without burning out. Next semester I hope to rectify that by setting clear boundaries with what I can manage within a single day.

### 2 Eat healthier

Unhealthy eating habits became a byproduct of being stuck at home with a cruddy time management schedule.

### 3 Separate work space from leisure

My bed doubled as my workstation and where I lay my head. The time between blinking away sleep and the start of Zoom classes would happen mere seconds between each other.

### 4 Respect the sleep schedule

This semester I was a night owl who would stay up as late as it took to get the work done. Next semester, if the work I'm doing cannot be done in the next 30 minutes, I will leave it for the next day.

### 5 Reward myself

The days bled into each other this semester where I felt like a rat on a wheel. I want to break up the monotony of the work week by setting aside time to reward myself by watching a show or listening to a podcast on one day within the week so I can feel a sense of accomplishment.

» VICKI LEI  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER



### 1 Become a plant owner

I love plants, but have no green thumb. I want to know more about plants and observe plants around me.

### 2 Get back into a workout routine

I've had to take a break from exercise because I get stuck with overtime at work and school projects that need to get finished. Now, I need to incorporate more physical activity into my normal day. Being creative with exercise in the winter months can also help me get back into a workout routine.

### 3 Start volunteering

Even though I don't have time to volunteer consistently, I want to volunteer at least once a month or every few months.

### 4 Automate my savings

This is a good way to make small changes to my spending habits that will improve the way I spend less and save more money.

### 5 Clean up my digital clutter

I always wanted to clear out some unnecessary digital clutter, including photos, documents and folders on my phone and computer.

» PAIGE BARNES  
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT EDITOR



### 1 Say "no" to more things

I've always been a "yes" person, but it's been taking a toll on my sleep which then takes a toll on how I am able to work and do school work. I don't like disappointing people, but you can't pour from an empty glass.

### 2 Finish my blue knitted scarf

I have been working on this scarf for about two and a half years now.

### 3 Unsubscribe from email newsletters I never read

I love emails, but I get too many. And when that icon on my phone reads, "66 unread emails," it makes me anxious, so I need to hit "unsubscribe." Half of them I delete before opening anyway.

### 4 Actually eat real meals and drink more water

Part of this is because I'm on the "college diet" but also because I don't have to time to cook an actual meal. I'll invest in a cook book this year.

### 5 Stop apologizing so much

I have to be better at practicing what I preach. It's a habit of mine to apologize for things that aren't my fault or couldn't be prevented. Instead of being "sorry," be thankful that the person waited up for you or be thankful that the person shared their feelings with you.



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