Welcome
Message from
Lee C. Bollinger

The Columbia Global Centers are thriving, with ten centers across four continents, and more to come. The mission of our Centers is to serve as the University’s physical and intellectual presence around the world — they facilitate and curate faculty work, provide educational opportunities for students, and connect us with people and ideas shaping our global society.

Lee C. Bollinger
President of Columbia University

Message from
Wafaa El-Sadr

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is with a heavy heart that I welcome you to the 2022 Annual Report of Columbia Global Centers | Santiago. As many of you may know, our center lost its beloved Director, Karen Poniachik, in October 2022. Karen was a dedicated and inspiring leader who played a pivotal role in building the center’s reputation and impact in Chile and the region.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic and the loss of Karen, we remained committed to our mission of facilitating collaboration and knowledge-sharing across borders. Through our events and programs, we continued to bring together scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and civil society leaders to explore some of the most pressing issues facing the region and the world.

In the past year, we focused on topics such as education, history, politics, economics, social rights, urban regeneration, and post-disaster reconstruction, among others. We also continued to strengthen our relationships with academic and research institutions in Chile and throughout the region.

As you will see in this report, our achievements would not have been possible without the support and dedication of our partners, staff, and the Columbia University community. We are grateful for their continued commitment to our mission and their contributions to our programs and initiatives.

We invite you to read this report to learn more about our activities and impact in 2022. We hope that you will find it informative and inspiring, and that it will encourage you to engage with us in our mission to create a more just, prosperous, and sustainable world in honor of Karen’s legacy.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Wafaa El-Sadr
Executive Vice President for Columbia Global
Karen Poniachik, the founding director of Columbia Global Centers | Santiago, passed away on October 12, 2022, leaving behind a remarkable legacy, one that encompasses the highest echelons of Chile’s political, corporate, and academic landscape. But she was so much more than that. She was a trailblazer in many ways, an advocate for women’s empowerment, and a connector of people and talents.

After graduating as a journalist from Universidad Católica, Karen moved to New York to pursue a Master of International Affairs at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). That decision was the beginning of her relationship both with New York City and with Columbia University. After graduating from SIPA in 1990, she decided to remain in the city, where for five years she worked as a political analyst and a foreign correspondent for Chilean media such as Canal 13 and Cosas magazine. In 1995 she was named Director of Business Programs at the Council of the Americas. By the end of the decade she was contacted by Ricardo Lagos, by then an aspiring presidential candidate in Chile. She introduced him to relevant business leaders in New York, and played a key role in Lagos’ win of the Chilean presidential election in 2000.

During Lagos’ presidency, Karen was the Executive Vice President of Chile’s Foreign Investment Committee (2000-2006), and when in January 2006 Michelle Bachelet was elected as the first female President in Chilean history, she appointed Karen as Minister of Mining, becoming the first woman to ever hold the position in the country (2006-2008), also leading the Ministry of Energy between 2006 and 2007. In 2008, she was appointed Chile’s representative to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), where she successfully led the negotiations for Chile’s 2010 accession to the organization. In 2009 she was named director of Chile Transparente, the Chilean chapter of Transparency International.

In 2011, Columbia University contacted her to be the Santiago Center’s founding director. Since that moment, she worked tirelessly to bring Columbia to Chile while ensuring that her country’s boundless opportunities and expertise brought richness to the work by Columbia faculty and students.

In addition to leading the Santiago Center, Karen was a member of the Chilean Chapter of Women Corporate Directors, the International Women’s Forum, and of the Instituto de Directores de Chile, while also serving on the advisory boards of Chilemujeres and Global Americans. In July 2022 Chilean President Gabriel Boric appointed her as a representative of Chile in the Business Advisory Council of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC), which provides APEC leaders with the perspectives, recommendations, and action plans of the private sector.

At the peak of her career, Karen set her sights on a profoundly personal goal, and became the proud mother of Ana, born in 2009. Karen left this world better than she found it, and now it falls on us to honor her life by continuing to do what she did so well, keeping her legacy and memory alive.
Our publications
Columbia University and Chile: Over 100 Years of History

Over the years, recipients of various National Awards, the leaders of the Chilean suffragist movement, Chile’s first Nobel laureate, renowned engineers and doctors who have promoted life-changing public policies, leading astronomers, and Chile’s very own “antipoet” have left their imprint both at Columbia and in Chile. With that focus in mind, the Santiago Center produced and published a book that delves into how this intellectual exchange has developed for over a century, reinforcing how invaluable the co-creation of knowledge across national borders can be. After over a year of researching, compiling, writing and editing, the book was presented on campus in September 2022 and locally in December at an event held at the residence of the US Ambassador to Chile, Bernadette Meehan.

Recuerdos, anécdotas e historias (1900-2022).
Estudiantes chilenos en Columbia
(Memories, anecdotes and stories (1900-2022). Chilean students at Columbia)

From renowned educators the likes of Amanda Labarca, Irma Salas, Corina Vargas, and Erika Himmel, to artists such as Nemesio Antúnez, journalists like Delia Vergara and Daniel Matamala, along with dozens of other scientists, anthropologists, economists, sociologists, lawyers, entrepreneurs, architects, historians, engineers, writers, public servants, filmmakers, and political scientists, there are over 500 Chileans that have graduated from Columbia University. In commemoration of its tenth anniversary, in December 2022 the Santiago Center published a “memory album” that portrays the stories and pictures of more than 200 Chileans that over the last century have studied at Columbia and how their experiences at the University and living in New York shaped their lives both personally and academically. The book was presented during the end of year alumni reunion and gifted to all of those who collaborated in the project.

No huiré de la lluvia
(I Won’t Flee from the Rain)

The Santiago Center commissioned renowned Chilean writer Carla Guelfenbein to travel to Columbia University, get to know the school, its emblematic sites, and talk with those who study, teach or live around Morningside Heights, in order to write a series of stories based on her research. The result was a novel entitled No huiré de la lluvia (I Won’t Flee From the Rain) published by de Santiago Center and launched in March 2022 alongside the Municipality of Maipú, one of the largest boroughs in the country. The event was attended by Mayor Tomás Vodanovic, Maipú residents, the Santiago Center team, and the two guests of honor, Guelfenbein and fellow writer, Carmen Gloria López, who engaged in a conversation about the creative process of the book, which delves into the complex relationship between a daughter and her mother living in New York, who disappears without a trace.
In 2022 we talked about...
The New Cohort of Chileans Going to CBS

A record of 31 new Chilean students will attend Columbia Business School (CBS) during 2023. Nineteen will begin studying in January, while the remaining twelve will start in August. As a way of welcoming them, the board of the CBS Alumni Club of Chile hosted an event in November, which allowed for the incoming students to get to know each other and to receive advice from alumni regarding finances, housing, and life in New York.

National Security and Foreign Investment

When does foreign direct investment (FDI) pose a risk to a country? How is the US screening process? At the beginning of the year, the Santiago Center, the Chilean-American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham Chile), and the US Embassy in Chile hosted an event to discuss this and other matters. The webinar was chaired by Paula Estévez (SEAS’06), CEO of AmCham Chile, and among the panelists were Kellen Ray, Policy Advisor at the US Department of the Treasury’s Office of Investment Security, and Ana Novik (SI’99), Head of the Investment Division at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Colonia Dignidad and the Preservation of Memory

Founded in 1961, Colonia Dignidad (Dignity Colony) was a German sect-like settlement in Chile led by Nazi preacher Paul Schäfer which committed crimes against its inhabitants as well as opponents of the Pinochet dictatorship. In November, the professor of Latin American history at the Freie Universität Berlin, Stefan Rinke, visited Columbia to speak about “Colonia Dignidad - A Chilean-German Oral History Archive,” a project financed by the German Federal Foreign Office, conducted during 2019 and 2022 by a team of researchers led by Rinke, in cooperation with Universidad Alberto Hurtado and Universidad Católica del Maule in Chile. Rinke explained that the archive is an audiovisual repository of interviews with former members of the cult, past political prisoners of the dictatorship, and relatives of those who were murdered there. He also stressed that the aim of the project is to promote scientific research and political education so that those crimes can never occur again.

In February, then Chilean President Sebastián Piñera appointed Stephany Griffith-Jones, Financial Markets Director at Columbia’s Initiative for Policy Dialogue, as the new member of the board for the country’s Central Bank.

Stephany Griffith-Jones’ Appointment to the Board of Chile’s Central Bank

In February, then Chilean President Sebastián Piñera appointed Stephany Griffith-Jones, Financial Markets Director at Columbia’s Initiative for Policy Dialogue, as the new member of the board for the country’s Central Bank.
Social Rights from a Gender Perspective

In commemoration of International Women’s Day, on March 8 the Santiago Center, in partnership with the Red de Polítólogas (Network of Female Political Scientists) and Columbia’s Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) hosted a webinar to review the progress that Latin America has seen regarding social rights and economic autonomy, among other issues, as well as the challenges that still persist throughout the region. The event was chaired by Claudia Heiss (GSAS’03), Professor and Head of the Political Science Program at Universidad de Chile’s School of Government.

The Chilean Economic Scenario

At the beginning of March a group of economists came together to analyze the economic challenges that incoming President Gabriel Boric’s government would face in implementing the proposed social reform agenda. The panel was organized by the Santiago Center, Columbia’s Latin American Business Association (LABA), ILAS, and the Columbia Business School Chile Alumni Association, and was chaired by Karen Poniachik, director of the Santiago Center.

Sebastián Salas (GSAPP’22), Research Fellow at Columbia ILAS, in partnership with the Santiago Center, ILAS, Universidad Católica’s (UC) Institute of Urban and Territorial Studies, and UC’s Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CEDEUS) organized a seminar entitled “Paths Towards Urban Regeneration in Chile.” During the event, which took place on September 7 at UC’s School of Architecture, participants reviewed mechanisms and opportunities for the regeneration of urban areas in the country and analyzed experiences implemented in cities like New York and Medellín. A second conference, focused on the role of local governments in the regeneration of neighborhoods, took place in November with the mayors of the municipalities of Puente Alto and Lo Barnechea as panelists.
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On campus
The afternoon of September 22, nearly 400 students and faculty filled the rotunda of Low Memorial Library to hear Chilean President Gabriel Boric speak at Columbia’s World Leaders Forum. The conference, entitled “The New Chilean Politics and its Regional Implications,” was opened by Wafaa El-Sadr, EVP for Columbia Global and moderated by ILAS director, Vicky Murilllo. During the conference, Boric spoke about his beginnings in politics, his years as a student leader, how the experience shaped his worldview, and Chilean and Latin American politics, as well as the ongoing constitutional debate in Chile, after which he engaged in conversation with the students who lined up to ask him questions.

“President Gabriel Boric Speaks at the World Leaders Forum

There are leaders that seem to understand democracy as a tactic. We have to be committed to democracy, which means that losing is a possibility, and also that you must listen to the people that don’t necessarily agree with you.”

“At Columbia we take very seriously our mission to engage with the world, beyond the academy, and address the greatest challenges that face our society. Initiatives like the World Leaders Forum, Columbia World Projects and the Global Centers are evidence of our commitment to this promise in action.”

Wafaa El-Saadr, EVP for Columbia Global

“We can’t forget that the social crisis of 2019 was ignited because people failed to see what politicians were saying on television about the country, reflected in their everyday lives.”

“If you’re not able to doubt, to question what you’re doing, you become a fanatic, and we’ve seen what happens when fanatics come to power. To be in politics, you need to learn to compromise and to be humble, because when you’re in power, you get dizzy.”
Academics from Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez University Visit Columbia SEAS to Strengthen Relationship

Four academics from Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez’s (UAI) School of Engineering and Science traveled to New York in May to spend a full week meeting with peers at Columbia’s School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS). Among them were Soulaymane Kachani, Columbia’s Senior Vice Provost, as well as Cliff Stein and Sharon Sputz from SEAS’s Data Science Institute. Data Science surfaced as a relevant topic for future collaborations between both institutions.

Irina Karamanos Discusses Politics and Latin American Feminism with SIPA Students

On September 23, the Coordinator of the Sociocultural Area of the Chilean Presidency, Irina Karamanos, visited Columbia to attend “Dialogue on Feminism, Politics and Institutional Transformation,” an event organized by two SIPA student organizations: Women in Leadership and the Latin American Student Association (LASA). There, about 50 students gathered with Karamanos to discuss gender, politics, the feminist movement in Chile and Latin America, institutional transformations, and the challenges of her current role as First Lady of Chile (from which she stepped down in December 2022).

Chile's Finance Minister Mario Marcel Speaks at SIPA

Chilean Minister of Finance Mario Marcel visited Columbia in July to speak at the conference “Chile at Crossroads: Finding its Path to Inclusive Development,” during which he spoke about the government’s planned social programs and the tax reform proposed to fund them. The event was moderated by Gray Newman, professor at Columbia’s School of International of Public Affairs (SIPA), and chaired by Mauricio Cárdenas, director of SIPA’s MPA in Global Leadership, and was co-sponsored by the Santiago Center, NGO InBest, the CBS Alumni Club of Chile, the MPA in Global Leadership, and the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS).

Chile and the New Latin American Left

While in New York to receive the Cabot Prize, Daniel Matamala and ILAS director Vicky Murillo gathered to talk about the “New Left” in Latin America, the experience of Chile’s social crisis of 2019, the resulting constituent process, and how the election of a government led by a new generation of left-wing politicians impacts the region. The event, entitled “The New Latin American Left: Chile in Comparative Perspective,” was organized by the Santiago Center and ILAS. (see page 28).
Daniel Matamala Receives Cabot Prize 2022

In July, Daniel Matamala (JN’12), senior anchor at national television station Chilevisión and weekly columnist for newspaper La Tercera, was announced as one of the four recipients of the 2022 Maria Moors Cabot Prize, the oldest international award in the field of journalism. Presented yearly by the Trustees of Columbia University on recommendation of the Journalism School and the Maria Moors Cabot Jury, the prize recognizes journalists and news organizations who contribute to upholding the freedom of press and inter-American understanding and relations. During the award ceremony held in October, Matamala was acknowledged by Columbia President Lee Bollinger as an innovator in investigative journalism, who through the prism of economics, reports on the relationship between money, politics, and war, publishing meaningful stories that go to the root of injustice. During his acceptance speech, Matamala said: "When we think about the many parallels of today’s crisis of democracy and the rise of fascism one century ago, we should remember that that was a time of crisis for journalism too. [...] Viva la prensa libre, viva el periodismo independiente, viva Chile.”

Chilean Construction Chamber Visits Columbia on Commercial Mission

Twenty-nine representatives and members of the Chilean Chamber of Construction (CChC) traveled to New York in September to get an inside look at the US residential income market. While there, they visited Columbia University, where they met MBA students José Ignacio Amenábar, José Miguel Benavides and Diego Echeverría, who provided the group with a campus tour of the Morningside and Manhattanville campuses of Columbia University and organized a talk with CBS Real Estate professor Brian Lancaster. The visit was organized by CChC, the Santiago Center and the group of Chilean students.

Santiago Center Launches History Book at Teachers College

Since the first Chilean students that went to Columbia University during the early 1900s studied at Teachers College, that was the venue chosen by the Santiago Center to present its book “Columbia University and Chile: Over 100 Years of History.” During the talk, which took place on September 22 at Russell Hall, Carla Magri, member of the Santiago Center and chief editor of the book, Barnard professor of History, Nara Milanich, and Chilean Ambassador to the US, Juan Gabriel Valdés, commented on the publication.
05 Columbia in Chile
A Week with Richard Peña in Santiago

For a week in August, Columbia School of the Arts professor of Film Studies Richard Peña visited Chile to take part in several programs organized by the Santiago Center in partnership with Universidad Católica (UC), Chilean film editor Andrea Chignoli (MFA’07), and the Jewish Museum of Chile. These included a film cycle entitled “Anonymous Women of US Cinema,” a seminar on camera movement that was attended by over 30 film students from different Chilean universities, and the screening of and subsequent conversation on the 1932 Yiddish classic “Uncle Moses.”

Joe Stiglitz in Chile: “We Pay a Big Price for Inequality”

Joe Stiglitz, University Professor at Columbia and winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Economics, visited Chile in late October to take part in a series of conferences. The first one, entitled “The Lack of Resilience of the Neoliberal Model,” took place at think tank Espacio Público, where Stiglitz participated in a panel with prominent Chilean economists. During the event, Stiglitz said that inequality leads to weaker democracies and less political stability and stated that an alternative of better economic growth would be “progressive capitalism,” which seeks to improve the economic results of neoliberalism based on a reinvigorated social democracy, and the generation of a new social contract between the market, the state, and civil society.

Climate School Professor Talks about Rethinking Disaster Readiness

At the end of April, Jeff Schlegelmilch, director of Columbia Climate School’s National Center for Disaster Preparedness, discussed how the public can be better prepared to respond to possible catastrophe. During the event, organized by the Santiago Center and Chile’s Institute for Disaster Resilience (Itrend), he covered possible threats in five different areas: climate change, critical infrastructure, cyberthreats, nuclear conflict and biotreats. While in Chile, Schlegelmilch also met with a number of experts and organizations that focus on disaster recovery, including with leaders at the Interior Ministry’s National Emergency Office (ONEM), hazard monitoring centers for tsunamis at the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Chilean Navy (SHOA), the seismology center at Universidad de Chile, the Center for Climate Science and Resilience (CR2), and a number of business leaders. Further, he led a technical workshop with fellow professionals at Itrend.
Law School Holds Info Sessions for Potential Students in Santiago

Megan Heatherly, Assistant Director of Admissions at Columbia Law School’s Office of Graduate Degree Programs, visited Chile in November to hold information sessions for lawyers interested in Columbia’s LLM programs. Columbia Law School alumni Karen Werner (LAW’17) and Diego Navarrete (LAW’18) spoke to prospective students about their experiences while at Columbia and offered tips and recommendations about the curriculum, housing, and work opportunities after the LLM degree, among other topics.

Columbia Undergrad Researches Venezuelan Migration in Chile

Undergraduate Astrid Liden, majoring in Latin American & Caribbean Studies and Political Science, came to Chile in July and spent two months performing field research on her thesis which looks to address how the Chilean migration policy interacts with the family unit from Venezuela, and how the state either facilitates or prevents family migration and reunification. Liden, who is a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellow and would go on to be named a Rhodes Scholar, also interned at the Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes (SJM), a position that the Santiago Center helped to arrange for her.

TC Professor in Chile to Work in Advanced Math Education Programs

Nick Wasserman, Associate Professor of Mathematics Education at Teachers College (TC), spent three weeks in Chile during June, working with fellow faculty at Universidad Católica (UC) and Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV) in connecting the advanced mathematics of abstract algebra and real analysis with the school curriculum of secondary teacher education programs. During his visit, sponsored by UC, PUCV, the Fulbright Program and the Santiago Center, Wasserman held meetings with professors’ working groups and led workshops with college professors that teach Mathematics Education, as well as researchers and graduate students in mathematics learning.

Professor Emeritus of Slavic Studies Visits Santiago Center

In February, the Santiago Center received a visit from Boris Gasparov, Professor Emeritus of Slavic Studies, who was in Chile to research the beginning of the philosophy of Romanticism at the turn of the 19th century.

Word for Word: An International Literary Exchange

Columbia Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing graduates Kai-Lilly Karpman and Zoe Engels visited Chile in August to present their works, as well as those of their fellow translators and writers from Chile’s Universidad Diego Portales (UDP) who participated in the Word for Word workshop in 2020-2022. Under the literary translation workshop, US students are paired with writers from different countries for their works to be mutually translated. In Chile the program has taken place since 2018, led by professor Rodrigo Rojas, a Chilean poet, journalist and translator at the UDP’s School of Creative Literature.

High Demand for MBA Information Sessions in Santiago

Nicole Newham, Assistant Director of Admissions at Columbia Business School (CBS), visited Chile in August to offer prospective students information regarding the CBS application process and MBA program. The event, organized by the Santiago Center and the CBS Alumni Club of Chile, and sponsored by Banco Bci, was oversubscribed due to high demand. Two members of the CBS Alumni Club, Giancarlo Solari (CBS’21) and Alexander Sideman (CBS’17), spoke of their experiences while studying at Columbia and living in New York.
Columbia-Chile History Book Launched at US Ambassador’s Residence

Dignitaries, government officials, academics, Columbia alumni and other friends of the Santiago Center gathered in December at the US Ambassador’s residence for the local launch of its book “Columbia University and Chile: Over 100 Years of History” and to pay tribute to the Santiago Center’s Director, Karen Poniachik. Ambassador Bernadette Meehan recognized the nearly 200 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Chile, which have led to multiple agreements and collaborations in various fields, including education, which has given rise to a robust relationship between Chile and Columbia University, as covered in the book.
Student & alumni engagement
Global Virtual Internships

For three years, Columbia Global Centers around the world have offered global virtual internships to Columbia students throughout their partner networks. Despite travel restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, students could find rewarding opportunities as interns. During 2022 the Santiago Center was responsible for placing 24 students in Global Virtual Internship Programs. Among them were:

**Pablo Drake**, an Astrophysics and History double major at Columbia College, worked with Universidad San Sebastián researching the coverage of US media of the 1973 coup in Chile and the subsequent 17 years of military rule.

**Alison Hog**, a Barnard College undergrad, worked in the studies and research department of the Transparency Council of Chile.

**MacKenzie Isaac** (TC’22), Master’s in Health Education from Teachers College, worked at Universidad Mayor’s CISS Lab of Aging and Social Epidemiology performing research for a review paper focused on how to inclusively measure employment quality across lines of gender, age, and socioeconomic status.

**Xi Wang**, a Master’s student in Statistics at Columbia’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS), worked with Universidad Mayor’s CISS on the analysis of community property accumulation and transmission in rural families.

**Elektra Papathanasiou-Goldstein**, who is studying a Dual BA program between Columbia and Sciences Po, worked with Universidad San Sebastián’s History department in researching the 1998 arrest of Pinochet in London and its global significance through the perspective of the US public.

**Ovais Shah**, student of the MSc in Applied Analytics at Columbia’s School of Professional Studies (SPS), participated in two internships: He worked as a digital coach for postgraduate and graduate students at Universidad de Talca’s American Academy of Science and Technology, and collaborated with the Forestry, Sustainability and Soil Science department at Universidad de Concepción, where he explored how innovative product management approaches can be applied to the forestry sector to produce sustainable products.

**Haotian Wu**, a Data Science graduate student at Mailman School of Public Health’s Department of Biostatistics, helped Chilean NGO Conecta Mayor, which promotes the social integration of elderly people, to identify the impact of the foundation’s programs which employ technology to engage senior citizens.

**Diego Plaza**, an undergrad at Columbia College studying English and Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology, worked with Universidad Diego Portales’ School of Communication and Letters on a project related to computational literary analysis of Chilean poetry.

**Chenlei Zhu**, an Applied Analytics student at SPS, worked as a data analyst intern at Conecta Mayor, shaping raw data into clear visualization for evaluating campaign effectiveness.
Mailman Students in Chile
for CISS Practicum
on Global Health

Six graduate students from the Mailman School of Public Health came to Chile to perform their global practicums with Universidad Mayor’s Research Center on Society and Health (CISS).

**Amit Paul** looked into “Loneliness and kinlessness (those without a spouse or children) of older adults at the end of life.”

**Marissa Favet** researched “Latin-American politics in a post-COVID scenario and the role of political platforms.”

**Sydney Fontalvo** focused on “The mediation effect of alcohol use on the association between retiring and mental health among older adults: A cross-country analysis.”

**Deirdre Gilmore** studied “Content analysis of the Chilean national drug strategy.”

**Francesca McLaren** looked into “Between Santiago and Tijuana: Comparing symptoms and the consequences of depression among Haitian migrants living in Chile and Mexico.”

**Claudia Michaels’** research focus was “Health consequences of public policy reforms across countries: Historical antecedents and current developments.”
Stories of a Chilean in New York

In January, four Columbia alumni - journalist Muriel Alarcón (JN’20), Momento Constituyente CEO Rodrigo Mayorga (TC’20), Universidad Católica School of Business professor Marcos Singer (SEAS’96), and historian Ximena Vial (GSAS’16) - presented in a webinar to reminisce of their times while living and studying in New York. This was within the context of the launch of the fourth book in the series “Relatos de un Chileno en Nueva York” (Stories of a Chilean in New York), written by Mayorga, which narrates the adventures of Roberto Romero and his life in NY as a student at Columbia University.

Visit to Latin America’s First Electric Bus Depot

In April, the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) of Chile organized a private tour of the first electric bus depot in Latin America. The depot was financed and built by Italian electric company Enel and is operated by MetBus, one of the concessionaires of Santiago’s public transit system Red Metropolitana de Movilidad. According to Gabriel Guggisberg (SIPA’18), who led the tour, the depot is considered highly innovative as it involves an electric company and a bus operator, something that is not commonly seen.

New Columbia Business School Alumni Chile Board

The Columbia Business School (CBS) Alumni Club of Chile elected its new board members: president Alex Sideman (CBS’17), Director of Development at Asset AGF; Juan José Silva (CBS’19), Vice President of Corporate Development at Quiñenco; Evelyn Von Bischoffhausen (CBS’18), General Partner at Kayyak Ventures; Flor Dell’Acqua (CBS’16), Diversity & Inclusion Specialist at McKinsey; Fernando Concha (CBS’18), Director, Head of LatAm at Luma Financial Technologies; and Giancarlo Solari (CBS’21), Vice President of Investment Banking at Asset Chile.
Naisa Gormaz (TC’14), board member of CAA Chile, attended the Columbia Alumni Leaders Experience, which took place in New York during the weekend of September 30 and October 1. During this annual conference, Columbia’s top alumni leaders and volunteers gather to exchange best practices, advice, and ideas.
In conjunction with CAA in Peru, the Santiago Center hosted an Alumni Networking Event in October for more than 40 alumni. Cristóbal Perdomo (CBS’02), co-founder and general partner of the Mexican venture capital firm Wollef, was invited as a special guest. CAA Peru president Carol Updegrave (GSAPP’87) highlighted the rich blend of Columbia alumni in Peru, uniting and building connections between GSAPP, Law, GSAS, CBS, SPS, SIPA, SEAS, and Journalism, in the club’s largest turn out yet.
CBS Alumni Chile’s Year-End Event

The CBS Alumni Club of Chile held its end of the year social event mid-November, during which club president, Alex Sideman (CBS’17) outlined initiatives the board could address in 2023: looking for sponsorship to finance events and other initiatives, improve engagement at events, leverage online platforms for event development, creation of a website and strengthening online ties between alumni, and producing an alumni newsletter.

CAA Chile Outstanding Alumnus Award

CAA Chile recognized the lawyer and professor Alfredo Etcheberry (LAW’55) with its Outstanding Alumnus Award 2022. Etcheberry, who has been a university professor since 1956, and continues to practice law at the age of 91, has had an extensive and varied professional and academic life, contributing to Chilean society from a diversity of areas, both as a public servant and in the private sector.
The award was presented during the CAA’s year-end celebration, during which the Santiago Center presented the “memory album” it had published, portraying the stories and pictures of more than 200 Chileans that have studied at Columbia. The book was gifted to all of those who collaborated in the project.
Our community
The best of social media

In 2022 we welcomed 2000 new members to our social media community.

Click on each icon to keep in touch throughout 2023!
Advisory Board

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Rodrigo Carrasco (GSAS’13):
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Georges De Bourguignon (MBA/SIPA’17):
Chief Investment Officer, Asset Administradora General de Fondos
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Partner, Carey Law Firm
Claudia Heiss (GSAS’03):
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Andrea Insunza (JN’13):
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Katherine Lama (SIPA’16):
Advisor at the Office of the Secretary General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Pamela Lopez (TC’11):
Cultural Management Consultant
Daniel Matamala (JN’12):
News Anchor at Chilevisión and Columnist at La Tercera
Peter Morse:
Chief of Staff to the Vice Chairman, Banco de Chile
Gabriel Prudencio (SIPA’19):
Senior Development Manager LATAM, Mainstream Renewable Power
Joseph Ramos (GSAS’88):
Economist
Marcos Singer (SEAS’96):
Director MBA-UC, Universidad Católica
Juan Somavia (SIPA’98):
Manager of External Affairs and Government Relations, Copper, Anglo American
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