September was filled with excitement as the students began classes and our team began workouts. We welcomed six first-years this year, all of which went through the New Student Orientation Program at Columbia. This weeklong orientation guides first-years through the acclimation process with extensive and thorough programming. From Bed, Bath, & Beyond excursions and tours of each New York City neighborhood to individual sessions with an academic advisor and bystander training, the orientation fully prepared the incoming students for life in college, at Columbia, and in New York City.

For almost a month, my staff and I have been able to work with our players on the court for two hours a week, and we have enjoyed every minute of it! All eleven returners from last season came back much improved. Not only are their skills more developed, but they also have a sharper focus, increased confidence, and a renewed commitment. They have set the tone for our six first-years, who have jumped right in and matched the returners’ tempo. This establishes a high-energy, competitive, and productive environment in practices.

The women’s basketball program is also preparing for a very special event in October. We are kicking off our new mentoring program - the Professional Enrichment Program (PEP) - which connects the current players with alumnae. The mission of PEP is to assist the mentees in preparing for and obtaining job opportunities, promote their professional growth and development, and build and maintain relationships between current and past players. My staff, the players, and I are all really looking forward to this wonderful opportunity!
MEET THE FIRST-YEARS

Riley Burke is from Jupiter, Florida, and intends to major in neuroscience, with a goal of becoming a doctor or clinical psychiatrist. Riley also has a strong interest in music performance and composition. While attending The Benjamin School in North Palm Beach, Riley led the basketball team in scoring all four years and was named a McDonald’s All-American nominee her senior season. She set the school record for points per game in a season at 25.3 and the single-game record with 40 points. Off the court, Riley was selected as a member of the National Honor Society and made the Head of the School List every year.

Jill Borreson is from Mountain City, Texas, and has a strong interest in Bio Mechanical Engineering. Jill was a four-year letter winner in basketball at Jack C. Hays High School in Buda, Texas. She was recognized as a first-team all-academic selection in her district, as well as a member of the all-state academic team. As a senior, Jill averaged a double double – 12 points and 10 rebounds – along with 2 blocks per game.

Alexa Guiliano is from Hackettstown, New Jersey, plans to major in political science at Columbia and eventually attend law school. Alexa was selected as a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society at Morris Catholic in Denville, NJ. Alexa was a four-year letter winner in basketball and led her team to three conference and sectional championships. During her senior season, she averaged 17.5 points, 2.4 rebounds, and 2 steals per game, while finishing her career with 1,342 points.

Kate Ryan is from Scotch Plains, New Jersey, and has interest in the business and economic fields. Kate was selected as a member of the National Honor Society and was on the Headmaster's List at Blair Academy in Blairstown, New Jersey. On the court, Kate served as a captain her junior and senior seasons, guiding Blair to back-to-back state championships. She averaged 12 points, four assists, and two steals per game as a senior.

Paige Tippet is from League City, Texas, and is considering a major in business. Paige was selected as a member of the National Honor Society and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Clear Springs High School. Paige led her basketball team to three undefeated district championships and was selected as a McDonald's All-American nominee in her senior season. Throughout her four years, Paige averaged 12 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, and 3.5 steals per game.

Camille Zimmerman is from Tempe, Arizona, and has interest in math, economics, statistics, and engineering. She was selected as a member of the National Honor Society while attending Tempe Preparatory Academy. On the court, Camille totaled 2,054 points, 1,047 rebounds, 425 steals, 301 assists, and 150 blocks in her career at Tempe Prep. She also set the Arizona single-game scoring record with 46 points in her senior year. Camille led her team to the 2012 Division IV State Championship and was twice voted the Arizona Basketball Coaches Association Player of the Year.
Global Citizen is the main initiative of the Global Poverty Project, an international education and advocacy organization. Its mission is to grow the number and effectiveness of Global Citizens to achieve the public, business, and political commitment and action to end extreme poverty by 2030. With an organized critical mass of individuals that are inspired and equipped to take meaningful action, Global Citizen hopes to change the policies and practices that contribute to keeping people in extreme poverty.

Over the past 30 years, the number of people living in extreme poverty has been cut in half. However, 1.2 billion people still live on less than $1.25 a day. Global Citizen is uniting a generation’s call for justice by bringing basic rights and opportunities to those 1.2 billion people. By coming together, the voices of change are amplified to teach and mobilize others. The group focuses on issues such as sanitation, hunger, sustainability, adolescents’ rights, and education.

On September 27, Global Citizens hosted a musical festival that brought 60,000 people to the Great Lawn in Central Park for the third year in a row. The festival lasted almost six hours and included speeches from charitable-foundation executives, heart-rending videos about those who suffer from poverty and its symptoms, and performances from musical superstars. Tickets to the festival were free and could be earned via internet activism. A combination of actions such as signing petitions, watching videos, posting “selfies,” and sending tweets garnered enough points for a ticket.

All of the performers – a line-up that included Jay Z and Beyoncé, Carrie Underwood, No Doubt, Alicia Keys, and the Roots – donated their services and sang songs with charitable and inspirational messages. Various celebrities in the New York area made an appearance to support the cause. Several world leaders also spoke to the crowd, including the American ambassador to the United Nations, Secretary General of the UN, and Ndaba Mandela, one of Nelson Mandela’s grandsons. Narendra Modi, prime minister of India, announced to the crowd his commitment to provide toilets to all Indian citizens by 2019. Additionally, World Bank’s President and Senior Director revealed their promise to spend $15 billion over the next 5 years to provide safe sanitation and water solutions to people in poverty. Recognizing that we live in a world that is inescapably connected, Global Citizens is fighting for equality, access, freedom, opportunity, justice, and health for all people.

Did You Know?

On Forbes’ list of the World’s 100 Most Powerful Women, 30 of the 100 women attended an Ivy League institution?
Judie Lomax  
Barnard College, ‘10

- Honorable Mention AP All-American  
- Ivy League Women’s Basketball Player of the Year  
- Two-time First Team All-Ivy League  
- Ivy League Player of the Week 10 Times in her career  
- Led NCAA Division 1 in rebounding average for consecutive seasons - the first player in NCAA history to accomplish this feat  
- Ranks 1st at Columbia in single season rebounding, steals, minutes played, and free-throws  
- Ranks in the top ten at Columbia in twelve other statistical categories

Where do you currently reside?
I currently reside in Baltimore, MD. After I graduated from Columbia, I spent a few years playing professional basketball in Europe. I seriously considered living there, but decided to come home to begin my pursuit of graduate studies in psychology.

Where do you work currently and what do you do there?
I am pursuing a Doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology at Loyola University of Maryland. I am currently in my 2nd year of a five-year program. After a year of intensive coursework, I was assigned my first clients in September. My current caseload consists of individual and couples therapy. Additionally, I have become very interested in how to integrate resilience and the role of athletics in the process. I have begun writing a literature review on resilience, which I hope will become a chapter in my dissertation.

What do you enjoy most about the career path you have chosen?
I really enjoy working with such a diverse group of people and learning the skills to help them reach their goals. I work with various populations including individuals, couples, groups, teams, and many others in a variety of ways to achieve their goals. I love the range of options that I am able to pursue, which include therapy, assessment, consultation, education, and many others.

What are your current interests, hobbies, and/or activities?
Since retiring from basketball, I have taken an intense interest in running. Ironic, I know. The very thing that I once considered punishment is what I love to do for fun now! I have completed three marathons and several half marathons. Of course I still love basketball and play frequently, but I have yet to flip the switch where I can play “for fun.” Believe it or not, there is such a thing as an intense pick up game.

What are your fondest memories of your years at Columbia?
My fondest memories at Columbia involve my interactions with my teammates and our journey together. My best friend, Danielle Browne, and I were frequently referred to as “Frick and Frack.” Most people inquired about the whereabouts of the other when they saw us alone around campus. Don’t worry - our friendship did not haste our competitive spirit. As a transfer student, I had to red shirt my first year, which meant I could only practice. We frequently battled in practice refusing to lose to the other. And thanks in large part to Kathleen Barry, Jazmin Fuller, and Caitlin Stachon, my team usually won the drill in practice. After my red shirt year was complete, Coach Nixon resolved this by frequently putting us on the same team where we were able to develop a unique chemistry.

There are many fond memories of our time spent together that include road trips, dinners, dance parties, and campus activities. One memory that sticks out during our ’08-’09 season was when we beat Harvard on their court. My last season, ’09-’10, we finished 18-10 overall, 9-5 in the Ivy League, with the first winning record since Columbia moved to Division I. We succeeded at making Columbia a threat. I will never forget the memories created with my teammates on and off the court.
SAVE THE DATE! October 29, 2014 marks the third annual Giving Day at Columbia University. Giving Day is a 24-hour, university-wide online fundraising initiative that incorporates all University schools and programs. Last year - in just 24 hours - Columbia University raised an incredible $7,827,636 for the university, with the contributions of 9,759 donors from 50 states and 53 countries. Athletics in particular, raised over $1.9 million between direct gifts and bonus money from the University match challenge. This year, Columbia Athletics is competing against other undergraduate and graduate schools to win $200,000 of incentive funds from the University. The more money the athletic department raises, the bigger percentage of the $200,000 we get! Additionally, within Columbia Athletics, women’s basketball is competing against the other sport programs for an additional $100,000 in incentive funds. This reward money is distributed based on dollars raised and number of donors, so the impact of your contribution is exponentially increased. We are calling on all alumnae, students, faculty, staff, and friends of women’s basketball… come together to change lives that change the world!

Thank you for being a member of the Columbia Women’s Basketball Family!