In the beginning of December, our team took a trip to Tempe, AZ, to play in the Arizona State University Classic. This gave our team the opportunity to play some very good competition, including a game against the top 20 ranked Sun Devils. Although we did not come away with the victory, our players learned a lot from the game and grew as a team. One of the best parts about the road trip was the time that our players got to spend together outside of basketball and school. We had an exciting team bowling competition and spent an evening at both Kayla Patton’s and Camille Zimmerman’s homes. Both houses were festive and cozy, and the dinners were delicious. However, it was most fun to share stories and laughs with the extended Columbia Women’s Basketball Family. We are very grateful for all the support we have received from engaged families, loyal Alumnae, and enthused fans!

Columbia students receive almost a month break from the time they complete fall semester final exams to the first day of spring semester classes. This allows the students to take a brief pause from their academics and devote time to other areas of their lives, including professional development and basketball. Our players were also able to go home for several days and celebrate the holidays with their family and friends. Now we are all back on campus, rejuvenated and ready to finish our non-conference season strong. We wish all of you an abundance of peace, happiness, and love in 2016!
Weekly Honors — Congrats, Lions!

First-year Emily Surloff earned two consecutive Rookie of the Week honors in the month of December. The first came on December 14, after she averaged 11 points, 7 rebounds, 2.5 assists, and 1.5 steals in two games. The Lions beat Binghamton by 6 points and lost a heartbreaker by 1 point to Rhode Island. Surloff set her personal bests with 8 rebounds and 3 steals in the URI game. The following week, Surloff put up 14 points, 4 rebounds, and 2 assists in a 10 point win against LIU-Brooklyn. She shot 5-9 from the floor and 4-6 from downtown in the win.

Sophomore Camille Zimmerman was named the Ivy League Co-Player of the Week after her performance against LIU-Brooklyn. Shooting 73% (11-15) from the floor, she scored 27 points and collected 9 rebounds. With her second Player of the Week honor this season, Zimmerman becomes the first Lion to accomplish such a feat since Judie Lomax earned six in 2009-10.

Sign Up Now To Join Women's Basketball On Their Tour Of Italy In May

This May, the Columbia women’s basketball team will be heading overseas for an 11-day journey across Italy, and you are invited to join them! The Lions and their supporters will be abroad from May 21 to May 31 - making stops in Lake Como, Venice, Florence, and Rome. Between playing three games against foreign competition, the players will get a culturally rich and historic tour of Italy. Some of the unique experiences that the trip includes are a boat tour of Lake Como, a tour of the historic city of Venice, the opportunity to climb the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and walking tours of the Colosseum and the Vatican. For all the information on the trip, including how to sign up, click here. The deadline to sign up for the trip is February 1, 2016.
2015 In Review

Columbia women’s basketball welcomes 2016, but also looks back on many of the memories and events that happened this past year. We said goodbye to several difference makers including actress Maureen O'Hara, baseball legend Yogi Berra, sportscaster Stuart Scott, Harlem Globetrotter Meadowlark Lemon, and the inspiring 19-year-old basketball player, Lauren Hill. We also welcomed the births of Princess Charlotte of Cambridge, Saint West, Silas Randall Timberlake, and Ryan Curry.

Playing on January 12 in the inaugural College Football Playoff championship, Ohio State upset Oregon 42 to 20. Additionally, it was announced in January that the US economy added 252,000 jobs and the unemployment rate dropped from 5.8 to 5.6 percent, allowing 2014 to be the best year for job growth since 1999.

In February, the New England Patriots beat the Seattle Seahawks in the Superbowl, which led to the “Deflategate” scandal in which the Patriots were allegedly involved in tampering with footballs used in the game. The blue and black/white and gold dress became a viral phenomenon as more than 10 million tweets mentioned the dress in the first week after the image surfaced. Also in February, Birdman won four Oscars - including best picture.

On March 20, a total solar eclipse could be seen all over the world. Also in March, as a response to the 2014 fatal shooting of Michael Brown, the US Department of Justice released a report unveiling the discrimination against African Americans by the Ferguson Police Department.

In April, Hillary Clinton announced her second bid for Presidency. Additionally, a cellphone video that captured the arrest of Freddie Gray was released and caused riots in Baltimore and national protests. Gray died later this month after suffering from several injuries, including his spinal cord being severed.

Released in theaters in May, Pitch Perfect 2 and became the highest-grossing music comedy film of all time. On May 15, the Boston Marathon bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, was sentenced to death. The 2013 Boston Marathon bombing is deemed the worst act of terrorism to take place in the U.S. since the September 11, 2001 attacks.

On June 26, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality. The United States crowned several champions including the Golden State Warriors, Chicago Blackhawks, and American Pharoah. Also in June, a young white male opened fire at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Nine people were killed in the shooting, including Rev. Clementa Pinckney, the church’s pastor and a state senator.

The world came together in July to watch the Women’s World Cup, and the U.S. women’s soccer team celebrated after defeating Japan in the final 5-2. Carli Lloyd’s 3 goals in the opening 16 minutes of the game marks the fastest hat trick in tournament history. On July 10, the Confederate flag was removed from statehouse grounds in South Carolina.

In August, Fox hosted the first Republican 2016 presidential debate with the ten leading candidates. On August 21, two women made history by becoming the first women to graduate from the U.S. Army Ranger School.

September brought Pope Francis to the United States for the first time. Also, one of 2015’s most popular hashtags was developed, #IStandWithAhmed. This was in response to 14 year-old Ahmed Mohamed’s arrest in Irving, Texas, for bringing a homemade clock to school that his teacher mistook for a bomb.

U.S. officials announced that troops would be sent to Syria to assist the rebel forces fighting ISIS on the ground in October. Also, Democrats held their first Presidential debate.

In November, ISIS launched three coordinated attacks in Paris killing 129 people and injuring hundreds more. French president, Francois Hollande, called the attacks “an act of war.” Additionally, protestors successfully closed streets in Chicago after a video was released of the fatal shooting of 17 year-old Laquan McDonald by a Chicago police officer. Also in November, the Kansas City Royals won the World Series, Adele released her record-breaking album 25, and Kobe Bryant announced his retirement.

Finally, last month, Mark Zuckerberg and his wife pledged to donate $45 billion, 99% of their Facebook shares, to charitable organizations. Additionally in December, the Pentagon announced that all combat roles would be open to women in the military.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Inaugural Basketball Insiders Event
January 14 at 6:30pm

Come visit with the women’s and men’s basketball staffs, Columbia alumni, and friends of the program at the first-ever Basketball Insiders Event! Columbia Athletics is offering an exclusive opportunity to interact with and hear directly from head coaches Sheila Roux and Kyle Smith as they recap the non-conference season and share insights about the upcoming, highly-anticipated Ivy League season. The event will be at Bernheim and Schwartz on 114th Street and Broadway from 6:30-8:30pm. Tickets are only $20 and include drinks, food, and an exciting evening of basketball talk. Click here to get your ticket online while space is still available!

Family Festival for Faculty & Staff
January 16 at 3:00pm

Join Columbia Athletics for the annual Faculty/Staff Festival, a FREE pre-game event for faculty, staff, and their families! The festival will take place in the University (Blue) Gymnasium, at the Dodge Fitness Center prior to the basketball doubleheader against Cornell. Enjoy food and beverages, games for children, and appearances from the cheerleaders, dance team, band, and Roar-ee. Attendees can purchase tickets to the basketball games immediately following the festival. Tickets are just $12 in advance and $15 on game day, and include both contests! To get tickets in advance, visit the Athletics Ticket office on the 4th floor of the Dodge Fitness Center prior to game day.

3:00-4:15pm Faculty/Staff Festival
4:30pm Women's Basketball vs. Cornell
7:00pm Men's Basketball vs. Cornell

Alumnae Weekend
January 29 and 30

Please join us in welcoming back our Women's Basketball Alumnae at the end of the month! The Lions will tip off the special weekend with a 7:00pm Friday night contest in Levien Gymnasium against Dartmouth. Saturday will feature an opportunity for all former players to relive their glory days! Alumnae will compete against each other at 11:30am in Levien, with fellow former lions coaching and cheering. Afterwards, the alumnae and players will spend time together at the team’s pre-game meal. The weekend culminates Saturday evening with a 6:00pm tip-off between Columbia and Harvard. Alumnae, RSVP HERE!

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