Myles Zhang CC’19 and more than 2,000 of his classmates received financial aid from Columbia this year. We hope you enjoy learning more about one of the students who benefit from gifts to the Columbia College Fund.

What have you learned from your peers and fellow classmates? Through my peers and teachers, I have learned to listen and engage with others of different backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs. In a time when our nation is polarized and divided, politically, racially, and economically, attending Columbia teaches me the value of recognizing our differences, listening to each other, and arriving at a mutual understanding. I chose Columbia because of its location and academics. I remain at Columbia because of the people I discover here.

What book, article or artistic work has had the most influence on you? Why? The Nicomachean Ethics by Aristotle is a book on finding friendship and defining one’s life principles. It is a book that has guided my quest at Columbia to find friends and mentors who inspire me, who refresh me, and who push me to build my own community on campus. Through Aristotle and through my own self-reflections, I am learning to appreciate the value of Columbia’s community and the Core Curriculum.