**Heyman Center Friends Colloquium**

**Fall 2019**

**Higher Education in the United States**

**Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?**

**Roger Lehecka ‘67C**

**Dean of Students Columbia College 1979-98**

Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.

American higher education seems to be at a moment of crisis for many reasons: its financial model may not work; demographic trends threaten to drive many colleges out of business; a growing number of other countries have a higher percentage of their population graduating from college than the United States does; there is no consensus about the purpose of higher education; and a diminishing percentage of the society trusts what goes on in colleges and universities. The goal of this colloquium is to help all of us to understand, through reading **and discussion**, more about how we got to this point, what is really happening in higher education, especially selective private colleges (often different from what we learn in the media), and what all that means for Columbia College. We can expect vigorous debates about goals and values even as we gain a more accurate understanding of what really happens in our colleges.

Syllabus

September 19 *An overview of American higher education.* Reading: Andrew Delbanco, College: What It Was, Is and Should Be

October 3 *Who goes to selective colleges today and how has that changed in the last century?* Reading: Jerome Karabel, The Chosen, chapters emailed to those enrolled

October 17 *Money.* Reading: Robert Archibald and David Feldman, Why Does College Cost So Much? chapters to be emailed to those enrolled

October 31 *Admissions issues today—race, class, athletics, privilege—what qualifies as scandalous?* Reading: Mitchell Stevens, Creating a Class and timely articles about recent court cases and the current admissions scandal to be assigned by October 3.

November 14 *What really happens on campus—sex, drugs and free speech—and what colleges can do in loco parentis.* Reading: Jonathan Zimmerman, Campus Politics

December 5 *Columbia College—What do previous discussions tell us about our college and its future?* Reading: timely articles available electronically to be chosen by October 17

December 12 Makeup if needed