



Sophomore Career Connections

Linking the Liberal Arts to the World of Work

January 20–22, 2017

Vassar

About Sophomore Career Connections

Vassar's Career Development Office (CDO) and Office of Alumnae/i Affairs and Development are delighted to welcome you to Vassar's third annual *Sophomore Career Connections*, a program of networking and professional self-discovery.

Vassar's Sophomore Career Connections is designed to introduce second-year students to the vast array of career options available to liberal arts graduates. Drawing on the expertise of one of Vassar's very best career resources—our alumnae/i and parent mentors—we hope to help students complement their liberal arts education with industry-specific knowledge, tap into the extensive Vassar network, and focus on their professional development in a supportive environment. Making these connections will serve sophomores well as they begin to consider not only summer internship options, but also life beyond Vassar.

We extend our sincere thanks to the nearly 60 alumnae/i and parents who have generously offered their time to mentor over 200 students and lead 16 industry-specific career clusters over the course of the weekend. It is our hope that the mentors will also enjoy this opportunity to impart their advice and expertise, and make new connections of their own.

Sophomore Career Connections is made possible by the generous support of Carol Ostrow '77 P'09 P'15 and Michael Graff P '09 P'15.



Sophomore Career Connections is planned and organized by the offices of Career Development and Alumnae/i Engagement at Vassar College.

Our Keynote

Launching and Building a Successful and *Meaningful* Career



JIM CITRIN '81
Leader, Spencer Stuart CEO Practice

Getting your career launched is hyper competitive for college graduates today. The challenges can be even greater for graduates of liberal arts schools. But don't despair—there are a series of principles you can adopt and concrete actions you can take to position yourself to get a good job, and create your own unique path to a successful and meaningful career.

Jim Citrin leads Spencer Stuart's North American CEO Practice and serves on the firm's board of directors. During his 23-year tenure, he has completed over 600 CEO, board director, and top executive searches for leading media, technology, communications, consumer and private equity-backed companies, and nonprofit institutions.

An expert on leadership and CEO succession, he has published seven books, including *The Career Playbook: Essential Advice for Today's Aspiring Young Professional* and worldwide bestseller *You're in Charge—Now What?* Citrin is also a LinkedIn Influencer with over 600,000 followers.

Citrin graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar College and served as a board trustee for 12 years. Additionally, he was a charter trustee at Wesleyan University and is on the boards of the International Tennis Hall of Fame and Cancer Research Institute. He received his MBA from Harvard Business School, graduating with distinction.

Program Schedule

Friday, January 20

1:00 – 3:00pm	ACDC Lobby	Student Registration <i>Check-in once for the entire program.</i>
3:30 – 5:30pm	ACDC East	Student Orientation & Introduction to Networking <i>Facilitated by the CDO staff.</i>
4:00 – 6:30pm	Alumnae House Lobby	Mentor Registration <i>Check-in once for the entire program.</i>
6:00 – 7:30pm	ACDC East	Student Dinner & SCC Success Story Panel <i>Previous participants will share their advice and tips for how to get the most out of SCC. Featuring Lucy Balcezak '17, Fernando Braga '17, Kayla Lightner '18, Matthew McCardwell '17, Connor McIlwain '18, and Kremena Mestanova '18.</i>
6:30 – 7:00pm	Alumnae House Living Room	Welcome Reception for Mentors <i>An opportunity for Vassar alumnae/i and parents to network with one another.</i>
7:00 – 9:00pm	Alumnae House Dining Room	Dinner and Mentor Orientation <i>Facilitated by Willa Vincitore '92, Michael Jones, and Kary McIlwain P'18.</i>

Saturday, January 21

8:30 – 9:30 am	ACDC East	Breakfast and Keynote Launching and Building a Successful and Meaningful Career <i>Featuring Jim Citrin '81.</i> LinkedIn Headshots <i>A professional photographer will be on hand to take LinkedIn headshots throughout the day.</i>
9:45 – 11:00 am	Rockefeller Hall	Career Cluster Session I
11:15 am – 12:30pm	Rockefeller Hall	Career Cluster Session II
12:45 – 2:00pm	ACDC East and West	Program Luncheon with Table Topic Discussions <i>Students will have the opportunity to dine with mentors and connect over a shared interest. A variety of table topics will be offered, including (but not limited to) the following: The Student-Athlete Experience, Business School, Law School, Medical School, Entrepreneurship, Translating the Liberal Arts Experience, Interview Horror Stories, and International Students in the U.S. Workplace.</i> LinkedIn Headshots

2:15 – 3:30pm	Rockefeller Hall	Career Cluster Session III
3:30 – 5:00pm		Free Time
5:00 – 6:00pm	2nd Floor ACDC	Mentor and Student Networking Reception & Business Card Exchange LinkedIn Headshots <i>During this reception, students will have the opportunity to practice their networking skills with mentors in a supportive environment.</i>
6:00 – 7:00pm	ACDC East	Mentor and Student Dinner <i>Mentors and students are encouraged to continue conversations and networking.</i>
7:15 pm	Alumnae House Living Room	Mentor Reception <i>Network and unwind with the other mentors while reflecting on the day's events.</i>

Sunday, January 22

9:00 – 10:30 am	ACDC East	Mentor and Student Breakfast with Career Clusters <i>Students are encouraged to eat breakfast with mentors in the career cluster that most interests them. Make some final connections and gain further advice before the program concludes.</i>
10:30 – 11:30 am	ACDC East	Linking the Liberal Arts to the World of Work Panel <i>Alumnae/i from a wide variety of majors will share how their Vassar experience has benefited them in the workplace. Featuring Charles Kim '92, Christopher Kimm '91, Paula Krasny, '85, Natalie Nixon '91, Gleny Ramirez '03, and Eli Stein '12.</i>
11:30 am	ACDC East	Program Conclusion and Raffle Giveaways <i>Mars/M&M product giveaways have been generously donated by Pamela Mars Wright '82.</i>

While the program formally concludes on Sunday, additional programming will be offered for all students on Tuesday, January 24, and throughout the semester (see next page for details).

Check careers.vassar.edu/news/calendar for the latest career-related events.

Program Schedule continues

Tuesday, January 24

12:00 – 1:00pm	College Center MPR	Workshop: Résumés and Cover Letters <i>Preparing to apply to jobs and/or internships? Both will require that you submit a résumé and cover letter as part of your application. Come learn what to do (and what not to do) when writing résumés and cover letters so that your documents will stand out from everyone else!</i>
1:00 – 2:00pm	College Center MPR	Workshop: Jumpstart Your Internship Search <i>Get an overview of all the resources available to help you land an excellent summer internship and develop your action plan.</i>
2:00 – 3:00pm	College Center MPR	Workshop: Tapping into the Hidden Job Market <i>More than 70 percent of jobs/internships are unadvertised and only accessible through networking. It's never too early to build your career connections. Strategies for identifying, contacting, and following up with your network (in person and online) will be covered in this workshop.</i>
3:00 – 4:00pm	College Center MPR	Workshop: How to Handle the Five Most Terrifying Interview Questions <i>When going into an interview, it's important to know what questions to expect and how to approach them. Preparation is key! Come learn about the five most terrifying (and common) interview questions asked by employers and how to prepare for them!</i>
4:00 – 5:00pm	College Center MPR	Walk-in Résumé and Cover Letter Reviews <i>CDO staff will be on hand to provide on-the-spot résumé and cover letter reviews. Bring hard copies or your laptop!</i>

Wednesday, January 25

5:00 – 6:00pm	Aula	Vassar-Connected Summer Experiences That Make a Difference <i>Program directors and past program participants will give a brief overview of some Vassar-funded summer programs and opportunities, including Ford, URSI, Burnam, Tananbaum, the Internship Grant Fund, and many more! Sponsored by the Office for Fellowships and Pre-Health Advising.</i>
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Career Cluster Locations

Each career cluster will take place three times on Saturday, January 21. As indicated on the program schedule, the individual sessions start at 9:45am, 11:15am, and 2:15pm on Saturday. All sessions will take place in Rockefeller Hall, and each career cluster will be held in the same room for all three sessions.

See the following index for room assignments:

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Room in Rockefeller Hall</i>
Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations	104
Arts Administration	Political Science Lounge - 109
Business/Entrepreneurship	101
Education	304
Entertainment/Media	210
Environment/Sustainability	308
Financial Services	212
Government/Public Service	203
Health/Medicine	307
Information Technology/Computing	201
International Affairs/Global Careers	310
Law/Legal Services	112
Nonprofit/Social Justice	312
Visual/Performing Arts	Mathematics Lounge - 305
Scientific Research	300
Writing/Publishing	301

Mentors by Industry—Career Cluster Index

Although many of our alumnae/i and parent mentors work in fields, professions, and organizations that span more than one industry, we have assigned each mentor to a primary career cluster. The table below matches our 16 designated career clusters with the 3–5 mentor representatives who will lead these sessions.

Our mentors represent some of the available paths in a given industry. While the career path that interests you most may not be represented, our mentors are nevertheless eager to discuss your options and interests!

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Mentor</i>	<i>Position Title and Employer</i>
Advertising/Marketing/ Public Relations	Justin Hergianto '04	Senior Marketing Director, Digital & Print, ESPN
	Andrea Disario Marcusa '76	Communications and Marketing Consultant, Andrea Disario Communications
	Kary McIlwain P'18	Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
	Eli Stein '12	Assistant Campaign Manager, Ad Council
Arts Administration	Seth Armitage '98	Vice President, Senior Specialist, Head of Research, Sotheby's
	Stephanie Goldberg '14	Assistant, Hall of Fame at Lincoln Center , Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
	Carol Ostrow '77 P'09 P'15	Producing Director, The Flea Theater
Business/ Entrepreneurship	Nicky Barber '95	Corporate Controller, Invuity Inc.
	Imara Jones '16	Operations Manager, Love Emme
	Gleny M. Ramírez '03	Senior Legal Analyst, Jennison Associates LLC
Education	Nana Effah '09	Director of School Operations, Achievement First University Prep High School
	Maximilian Familian '09	Associate Director of Planning, New York City Department of Education
	Margo Kinneberg '11	Director, Policy and Advocacy, Leadership for Educational Equity
	Natalie Nixon '91	Associate Professor, Philadelphia University

Entertainment/ Media	Mariya Abdulkaf '15	Social Media Manager, Video, The Verge — Vox Media
	Sharon Davidson Chang '84 P'19	Vice-President, Talent Agent, Non-Scripted Television, William Morris Endeavor (WME) - IMG
	Prudence Fenton '75	Executive Producer of Cinematic Reality, Magic Leap
Environment/ Sustainability	Karen Clopton '80	Chief Administrative Law Judge, California Public Utilities Commission
	Laura Starr P'19	Partner, Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners
	Dave Tobias '83 P'16	Director, Land Acquisition Program, NYC Department of Environmental Protection
Financial Services	Christopher Blume P'19	Managing Director, Goldman Sachs
	Michael Graff P'09 '15	Managing Director, Warburg Pincus
	Ashley Rey '09	Associate Vice President - Investments, Rey Financial Group of Wells Fargo Advisors
	Contessa Mwedzi '13	Investment Research Analyst, International Monetary Fund
Government/ Public Service	Seth Bynum '15	Analyst, Benenson Strategy Group
	Olga "Jordan" Hynes '11	Professional Staff Member, United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
	Danny Kadishson '09	Director of Economic Development, NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs
	Neile Miller '79	Founder and CEO, Ultra High Materials, LLC

Career Cluster Index continues

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Mentor</i>	<i>Position Title and Employer</i>
Health/Medicine	Richard Gleiner '74	Adult Psychotherapist, Self-Employed
	Nicole Krenitsky '11	MD/MBA Candidate, Yale Schools of Medicine and Management
	Juliet M. Nevins, MD MPA '91	Medical Director, Aetna, Attending Physician, NYU Lutheran Medical Center
	Eve E. Slater, MD '67	Professor of Clinical Medicine, Columbia University
Information Technology/ Computing	Dan Herron '92	Principal Lead Software Engineer, Microsoft
	Christopher Kimm '91	Vice President, Sales Engineering, Verizon Wireless
International Affairs/ Global Careers	Amber Footman '13	Program Analyst, U.S. State Department, Kenjya-Trusant Group
	Peter Korzenik '82	Founder & President, Give Back Global
	Aleya Romero '15	Staff Officer, U.S. Department of Defense
	Tasha Gill '95	Humanitarian Advisor, U.S. Mission to United Nations/USAID
Law/Legal Services	Brian Farkas '10	Attorney, Goetz Fitzpatrick LLP
	Eamon Joyce '99	Partner, Supreme Court and Appellate Practice Group, Sidley Austin LLP
	Paula Jill Krasny '85	Partner, Culhane Meadows PLLC
	Tracy Poole '82	Assistant General Counsel, Johnson & Johnson

Nonprofit/Social Justice	Tamsin Chen '15	Research Analyst, ImpactMatters
	Jaime-Alexis Fowler '04	Deputy Director, Common Sense News
	John McIlwain P'18	Vice President for Advancement, Aspire
	Abby Nathanson '14	Director of Program Development, Grace Episcopal Church
Scientific Research	Delaney Fischer '15	Research Technician, Weill Cornell Medicine
	Judy Grinspan '74 P'09	Professor of Neurology, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
	Werner Lutze S'79	Senior Scientist, Catholic University of America
	Hassan Sakhtah '10	Research Scientist, True Synthesis
Visual and Performing Arts	Rachel Hovnanian P'17	Artist, Rachel Lee Hovnanian
	Nicole Wood '12	Producer / Voice Actor, Independent Films / <i>Pokémon: XY</i>
Writing/Publishing	Sarah Begley '12	Staff Writer, <i>TIME</i> magazine
	David Black '81	President, David Black Literary Agency
	Charles Kim '92	Associate Publisher, Museum of Modern Art

Students will find a personalized career cluster schedule in their SCC folder. Cluster assignments are final. Please attend the clusters indicated on your personalized schedule, at the designated times.

Student Raffles

Students will have an opportunity to win a variety of prizes, including industry book picks, "internship search survival kits," and Mars/M&M product giveaways (generously donated by Pamela Mars Wright '82). Students must be present to win!

Mentors

Bios and Advice

Mariya Abdulkaf '15

Social Media Manager, Video, The Verge-Vox Media
New York, New York
Major at Vassar: International Studies



Mariya Abdulkaf runs social video analytics at The Verge at Vox Media. After developing and implementing a strategy for video publishing, distribution, and growth at Mashable, The Verge recruited Abdulkaf to scale its Facebook

video program, optimize videos for discovery and sharing, grow its YouTube audience, and pull analytics to inform video strategy. She also runs The Verge's experimental video platforms. Her job is part engagement editor, part producer. Abdulkaf previously worked as an investigative journalist, editor, showrunner, project manager, marketing strategist, and production coordinator. While she has had various jobs and roles (many at the same time!), working at The Verge has been one of her most enriching career experiences because of the amazing and talented team she gets to work with every day. Vox Media as a whole is an incredible place to work, and The Verge is a very special place.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Even though graduation seems like it's so far away, it's really important to start reaching out to Vassar alumnae/i right now. Make a wish list of companies you want to work for, find alumnae/i at those companies, and reach out to them. If you want to be a journalist, reach out to 10 journalists at different media companies. If you want to be a producer, make sure you get coffee with 10 different producers. Even if you're not currently looking for a job or an internship, the media industry is so often about who you know. There are a lot of amazing Vassar grads who want to help you succeed! That's how I got my foot in the door.

Seth Armitage '98

**Vice President, Senior Specialist,
Head of Research, Sotheby's**
New York, New York
Major at Vassar: Art History
Advanced Degree: MA, University of Chicago



After receiving a master's degree with a concentration in late 19th-century art from the University of Chicago, Seth Armitage joined Sotheby's in 2000. Serving as a specialist in 19th-century European art since 2004, he has catalogued each of the biannual sales, working closely with the world's preeminent art scholars,

curators, and collectors. In the process, Armitage has rediscovered a number of masterworks from the period, which have gone on to achieve world-record prices for the artists. In 2016, he was named Vice President, Senior Specialist, Head of Research, leading the sourcing and research for the sales of 19th-century European art in New York. Armitage works with active clients in Sotheby's international salerooms across a variety of departments, coordinating consignments and appraisals, and advising on acquisitions and collection-building.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

The inclusive Vassar spirit that allows students to confidently take risks and exchange a range of ideas is equally valuable in the workplace. While the professional world can appear ruthlessly competitive, you can find inspiration and success in dialogue with your colleagues; always find a way to relate to them and then make yourself heard. Look to be part of a team that is mindful and encouraging of the contributions of all members, no matter their position. Further, don't let your job title define you; find opportunities to collaborate with more experienced members of your field to gain knowledge, feedback, and opportunities. Don't ignore lateral moves—they can be chances to learn more and do new things that can propel you onward and upward.

Nicky Barber '95

Corporate Controller, Invuity Inc.

San Francisco, California

Major at Vassar: Biopsychology

Advanced Degree: Certificate of Advanced Accounting (CAAP), Santa Clara University



Nicky Barber is a CPA who has spent the past 17 years working in a range of operational accounting and finance roles, with a particular focus in biotech, pharmaceutical, and medical devices. Her original passion was to be a doctor, but a physical reaction to “caine” drugs cut short that career and

directed her down a more numbers-orientated path. She started her career in New York, working as the finance manager for Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia. She also enjoyed a brief stint as a trader on the Nasdaq exchange. After three years as a semiconductor analyst, she finished her accounting requirements and passed the CPA exam. In her free time, she is a competitive triathlete and has competed at both the half Ironman and full Ironman World Championships. Last year, she took six months off from work to backpack around Australia, New Zealand, and parts of Europe.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

I believe that life is meant to be lived to the fullest and that anything is possible; most of my successes have been because I started down a path that no one believed I could take. Surround yourself with positive influences and don't let the naysayers hold you back from your dreams.

Sarah Begley '12

Staff Writer, *TIME* magazine

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: English, French



Sarah Begley is a staff writer at *TIME* magazine, where she has written dozens of reviews of fiction, nonfiction, and children's literature. In addition to her books coverage, she has interviewed actors from Julie Andrews to Dwayne Johnson. She contributes to the brand's signature

franchises like *TIME* 100 and helps cover breaking news for the website. Prior to joining *TIME* in 2013, Begley worked for *Newsweek*. While in college she held internships at *Fine Cooking* and *Food Network Magazine*. At Vassar, she majored in English with a focus on creative writing and participated in the department's senior Creative Writing Seminar. She also majored in French and studied abroad in the Vassar-Wesleyan Program in Paris.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Participate in internships as early and as often as you are able, and apply to a wider range than you think necessary. Once you secure an internship, build strong connections with your supervisors and make sure to check in with them frequently after you've left—you never know who they're friends with in the industry and when their connections might help you secure a job. Think creatively about how past and future internships might serve as stepping stones to an ultimate goal.

David Black '81

President, David Black Literary Agency

Brooklyn, New York

Major at Vassar: Political Science



Established in 1989, the David Black Literary Agency has a reputation for representing a wide range of works, mostly nonfiction. Authors are encouraged to develop their concepts in detail before they present them to the publishing community, with the understanding that a

solid blueprint becomes the best marketing tool and gives books a better chance at success. Black and his staff negotiate contracts and act as the buffer between the author and the publisher, from the inception of the idea through the publishing process. The agency has represented dozens of bestselling authors and books. Black says, “We have the luxury of working on books that are important to us and mean something to the world.”

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Build a network. Remember that most people don't settle into their careers until they have worked in numerous jobs. Use the base of alumnae/i that Vassar provides, but recognize that you are representing not only yourself but also those before you and those after you. Make connections and come prepared. Vassar graduates are proud of their school and are eager to pay it forward, but they will do so only if you are sharp, prepared, and eager to absorb what they have to offer. Vassar opens the door. What happens after you walk through it is up to you, but don't leave a trail of crumbs behind you.

Christopher Blume P'19

Managing Director, Goldman Sachs

New York, New York

Major in College: Finance

Advanced Degree: MBA, Wharton



Chris Blume is the chief investment officer charged with managing the portfolios of nonprofit organizations at Goldman Sachs. Prior to this role, he spent two years in Hong Kong within Goldman's Private Wealth Management division. He started his career at Goldman in 1994 as

a fixed income portfolio manager, working with a range of institutions (e.g., central banks, pension funds, insurance companies). His initial job right out of school was with JPMorgan, working within its asset management arm. He graduated *magna cum laude* in 1989 from the University of Pennsylvania and also received an MBA from Wharton in 1994. Raised in the Philadelphia area, Blume is an avid runner. He now works in New York City and lives in Summit, New Jersey.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

For sophomores at a liberal arts college, I advise three key steps in thinking about a job after graduation:

- **Educate:** Figure out what the possible career paths are and find out what interests you. Vassar is less pre-professional than some other schools, so you need to be very proactive.
- **Credentialize:** Create a track record of interest in the industry. That could be working for a professor, or just being very knowledgeable about the industry, or joining a club.
- **Network:** You should also remember that Vassar is a smaller school; while it might not track right into business, Vassar grads will want to help you. Just be prepared when approaching them and remember that all interactions are essentially job interviews.

Seth Bynum '15

Analyst, Benenson Strategy Group

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Economics



After graduating from Vassar, Seth Bynum interned at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development its Low Income Housing Tax Credit Preservation Office. Afterwards, he took part in the Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs, an experiential

leadership development training program for aspiring change makers in New York City. Over the course of the nine-month fellowship, Bynum had six different jobs at organizations such as the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, AFSCME DC 1707, The Hudson Companies, New York Cares, and the Pratt Area Community Council; he also met with various leaders at the city, state, and federal level. Upon completion of the fellowship, he began working as an analyst at Benenson Strategy Group, a Democratic polling and strategic messaging firm that works on behalf of Democratic candidates, nonprofits, for-profits, and Fortune 500 companies. As an analyst, Bynum writes surveys, analyzes quantitative and qualitative data, and creates messaging strategies for various clients such as Verizon Wireless, Families for Excellent Schools, and a Democratic gubernatorial candidate.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Alums, alums, alums. Begin reaching out to alums as soon as you possibly can. It doesn't matter if you don't know exactly what you want to do after college because, most likely, neither did any of the alums you are reaching out to. Contact them via LinkedIn, email, any way you possibly can and ask as many questions as you can. People love talking about themselves and they especially love it if they think it'll somehow help another person. And the people you meet and create relationships with now will become mentors, advocates, references, and maybe even bosses or co-workers later.

Tamsin Chen '15

Research Analyst, ImpactMatters

Manhattan, New York

Major at Vassar: International Studies and Economics



Tamsin Chen's work with ImpactMatters enables nonprofits to better use and produce evidence of impact, and drives donors toward nonprofits with proven impact. She oversees ImpactMatters' flagship product, the "impact audit," a

detailed report published after months of closely engaging with a nonprofit, analyzing its private and public documents and data, interviewing staff, and visiting field operations. The impact audit provides tailored, credible, third-party assessment for the nonprofit, and offers donors priceless insight into the nonprofits they seek to fund. Chen has been instrumental in bringing this new product to market and in strengthening ImpactMatters as a start-up organization. Her favorite part of the job is learning and listening to stories of positive social change in defiance of the worst of odds. At Vassar, Chen was a leader of the Vassar Haiti Project, sang with the Vassar Devils, interned on the College Committee on Sustainability, and made granola and friends in Ferry House.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

The best opportunity to take is not always going to be the most high-paying, most respectable, or most sensible one. Take time at Vassar to learn about people living on the margins, and the unconventional life choices you can make; take time to listen to and make room for them in the world.

Karen V. Clopton '80

**Chief Administrative Law Judge,
California Public Utilities Commission**

San Francisco, California

Major at Vassar: Political Science, Hispanic Studies

Advanced Degree: JD, Antioch School of Law



Karen V. Clopton is the first African American to be appointed Chief Administrative Law Judge for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). She manages the Administrative Law Judge Division, which employs over 100 people, including over 40 judges. The commission charged her with conducting a

“soup to nuts” review of the CPUC’s decision-making processes in January 2009, and she exceeded every expectation with her thorough research, review, and recommendations. The commission has embraced her many initiatives to make its crucial regulatory work more accessible to the public, more transparent, and more efficient. In recognition of her work at the commission and throughout her over 25-year career, the American Bar Association awarded Clopton the 2010 Mary C. Lawton Award for Outstanding Government Service. The CPUC regulates privately owned electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger transportation companies. The CPUC serves the public interest by protecting consumers and ensuring the provision of safe, reliable utility service and infrastructure at reasonable rates, with a commitment to environmental sustainability, health, and safety.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Build relationships, stay in touch with the people you meet, and always be kind. Vassar provides an amazing opportunity to meet extraordinary leaders, thinkers, and doers. Attend lectures, meet authors, musicians, public figures, and if you have a connection, stay in touch with them. Stay connected to your professors. Develop academic and professional relationships with them, go to office hours, brainstorm projects, and go the extra mile. Most importantly, always do your best, show your best, and be resilient.

Sharon Davidson Chang '84 P'19

**Vice-President, Talent Agent,
Non-Scripted Television Division,
William Morris Endeavor (WME)-IMG**

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: English



Sharon Davidson Chang is Vice-President, Talent Agent in the Non-Scripted Television Division of William Morris Endeavor (WME)-IMG, based out of New York City. Chang represents, manages, and develops top-tier and rising entertainment,

news, sports, and lifestyle talent in broadcast, cable, regional, and digital programming. Chang also represents production companies, packaging some of the most successful non-scripted series in television. Chang joined WME in 2014 after the entertainment talent agency acquired the sports management company IMG. She joined IMG in 1996 as the director of broadcasting and was promoted to vice-president of broadcasting in 2000. Prior to joining IMG, Chang spent 12 years at CBS Sports. Her experience at CBS spanned the areas of talent relations and production services. In 1990, Chang served as director of talent and production, where she recruited, assigned, and strategically developed talent and production personnel for the network. She was also responsible for launching the future careers of some of the most prominent producers, directors, and senior management in sports television through various initiatives.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Don't take your liberal arts education for granted. Be the best writer and creative thinker that you can be. Be a voracious reader, not only in areas that you're passionate about, but also in areas that you know nothing about. Always have a mentor in your life and don't be fearful of building relationships with individuals in senior positions. Keep balance in your life, with family as a focal point. Balance your intelligence and “book smarts” with common sense and “street smarts.” Balance working hard with playing hard, while maintaining strong character, integrity, and a moral core/center. Always be willing to serve, sharing the blessings and God-given talents you've been graced with.

Nana Effah '09

**Director of School Operations,
Achievement First University Prep High School**
Brooklyn, New York
Major at Vassar: Economics, French
Advanced Degree: Master of International Affairs,
Columbia University



Nana Effah graduated from Vassar in '09 and moved to D.C. to work for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. She worked for two years on elections, political parties, and women's and youth empowerment programs

in Guinea and Mali. She became interested in education management in domestic and international settings, and earned a Master of International Affairs degree in economic and political development from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). Following SIPA, she decided to work in schools, and spent two years as a program manager for Explore Schools, where she oversaw assessments, data management, and student recruitment as part of the operations team. She is currently the Director of School Operations for Achievement First University Prep High School, where she leads a six-person team and oversees day-to-day operations, human resources, and finance. She likes to dance, read, eat great food with friends, and spend quality time with her Vassar hubby.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Be an informed, critically thinking, and skilled force for good. Work in a variety of industries, take as many opportunities as you can to refine your skills, keep speaking the foreign languages you've learned, travel often, and find ways to do it at no cost to yourself. Never stop reflecting about your beliefs, your motivations, your passions, and the places in the country and world where you want to work and why. At the same time, don't put too much pressure on yourself to have life perfectly figured out. You have many years and varying paths to find happiness, and change the world! I'm still figuring out what I want to be when I grow up!

Maximilian Familian '09

**Associate Director of Planning, New York City
Department of Education**
New York, New York
Major at Vassar: Education Policy and Political Science
(Independent Major)
Advanced Degree: MA, Education Leadership



During his time at Vassar, Max Familian became passionate about urban education through coursework in his independent major and by volunteering in middle schools in Poughkeepsie and New York City. He began his career by working in finance and

operations at Community Roots, an independent charter school in Brooklyn. Soon after, Familian began his graduate work in education leadership to build his skills and knowledge of education management, politics, and advocacy. Over the next several years, as the founding leader of the middle school operations team, Familian helped direct the growth of Community Roots to a full K-8 school by supporting a variety of work in accounting, technology, development, programming, school culture, and operations. Recently, Familian transitioned to education policy—he now works in district planning for the New York City Department of Education. In his current position, Familian collaborates with communities and officials across the NYCDOE to strategically plan for school districts and make changes to improve learning outcomes for students throughout the city.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Try and get as much practical experience in your fields of interest before choosing a career trajectory. It can be very intimidating to graduate without the experience or knowledge to guide a job search and determine what opportunities might be the right fit. The experiences I gained working in schools, doing internships at nonprofit organizations, and conducting policy research during my time at Vassar was instrumental in helping me determine my professional goals and begin to build a network to kick off my career.

Brian Farkas '10

Attorney, Goetz Fitzpatrick LLP

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: History, Political Science

Advanced Degree: JD, Cardozo School of Law



Brian Farkas is an attorney at Goetz Fitzpatrick LLP, focusing his practice on commercial litigation, arbitration, and intellectual property. Outside of the firm, he is an adjunct professor at the City University of New York, where he teaches a course on negotiation and

conflict resolution. He also teaches in Brooklyn Law School's Mediation Clinic, training students to mediate cases in the New York State Court System. Farkas's writing on arbitration and mediation has appeared in numerous publications, including the *Harvard Negotiation Law Review*, *New York County Lawyer*, *Dispute Resolution Journal*, *Resolution Roundtable*, *Alternatives to the High Cost of Litigation*, and the *Northeastern University Law Journal*. In law school, Farkas was the editor-in-chief of the *Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution* and won the Andrew S. Zucker Award for Academic Excellence.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Every day, starting now, you have a responsibility to serve Vassar. Some days, this is easy. You'll make a small contribution to the 2017 Student Gift; you'll become a member of the Art Center; or you'll proudly wear your burgundy T-shirt when you go running. Other days, your service is harder. You'll need to make the case for hiring a Vassar intern; you'll need to convince friends' children to apply; and you'll volunteer your limited time to mentor students. Vassar is special and sacred. Whether you are in the class of 2019 or the class of 1949, we all share a moral obligation to keep Vassar's torch burning bright. What you give to Vassar will be returned to you tenfold—professionally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Prudence Fenton '75

Executive Producer of Cinematic Reality, Magic Leap

Santa Monica, California

Major at Vassar: English and Architecture

Advanced Degrees: Master of Spiritual Science (MSS), Peace Theological Seminary; Doctor of Spiritual Science (DSS), Peace Theological Seminary



Prudence Fenton has won Emmys, a Grammy, an MTV award, a Women in Film award, and ASIFA (Association Internationale du Film d'Animation) awards. She has helped create some of the most cutting-edge visuals in

the 20th century with *Pee-wee's Playhouse*, the animated Peter Gabriel rock videos, and *Liquid Television*. She worked at Disney from 1996–2012 in many departments such as TV Animation, Feature Animation, and Disney Online. She also worked at Imagineering R&D, where she collaborated with teams making prototypes for the future of television, smart toys, and FastPass, plus interactive games played in the park with phones (*Kim Possible*) and cards (*Sorcerers of the Magic Kingdom*). Her current job at Magic Leap is creating mixed reality content for a new platform to be launched in 2018. Her day-to-day activities involve meetings, communication, and writing. In order to move projects forward, biweekly and daily meetings with the teams are essential. At the heart of her work is the ability to communicate an idea through visual imagery and choose who is the best person to create those images/films.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Listening and communication are at the heart of any profession you choose. Developing an awareness for language and for images will help you in every area of your life. What's the story you want to tell? What is the purpose of your communication? Who is your audience? Think about how you talk to your father. Would you use the same tone or language with your best friend? Think before you speak.

Delaney Fischer '15

Research Technician, Weill Cornell Medicine
New York, New York
Major at Vassar: Neuroscience and Behavior



Following Vassar, Delaney Fischer accepted a research position with Dr. Anjali Rajadhyaksha at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. She has since contributed to numerous research projects and is

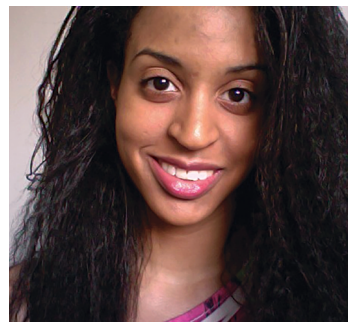
currently the lead researcher on two projects. In her first independent project, using a rodent model, she investigated if paternal cocaine exposure affects the behavior of offspring. She separated the mice by sex and conducted a battery of behavioral tests to establish endophenotypes. She contributed substantially to the manuscript, of which she is co-first author with Richard Rice '13. The manuscript is currently under review for publication in *Brain and Behavior*. She has also been examining intellectual disability (ID) related to cereblon, a gene linked to a non-syndromic, autosomal recessive type of ID in humans. She has been using the cereblon knockout (Crbn^{-/-}) transgenic mouse model, an animal model that behaviorally mirrors the human condition. She is investigating the development of hippocampal circuitry that could be underlying ID-related behavioral deficits in Crbn^{-/-} mice. She is using different molecular tools to investigate alterations in hippocampal formation and synaptogenesis.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

If you are interested in research and possibly pursuing a PhD, seeking a position as a technician in a lab or applying for a post-bac position is a great idea, so you can become immersed in research and confirm that this is the right path for you.

Amber Footman '13

**Program Analyst, U.S. Department of State,
Kenjya-Trusant Group**
Washington, DC
Major at Vassar: International Studies, Russian Studies
Advanced Degree: MA, European and Eurasian Studies



Amber Footman is a contracted Program Analyst in the Office of International Religious Freedom at the U.S. Department

of State. Footman's role in the office normally includes researching and editing the International Religious Freedom and Human Rights Reports in the Europe portfolio, as well as providing administrative support to the office as a whole. Footman found employment in international relations after completing a master's in European and Eurasian affairs at George Washington University; working as a graduate research assistant; and interning in the Office of the Coordinator of Assistance to Europe and Eurasia at the U.S. Department of State. Obtaining a security clearance as an intern allowed Footman to begin working as a government contractor, which eventually led to her current position.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Create a general plan for where you would like to end up in your career. A loose plan allows you to be flexible and open to multiple paths at once. Also, make foreign language skills a top priority.

Jaime-Alexis Fowler '04

Deputy Director, Common Sense News

San Francisco, California

Major at Vassar: History, Art History

Advanced Degree: MA, History of International Relations, London School of Economics



Jaime-Alexis Fowler is a nonprofit leader known for building collaborative, high-performing teams. She is currently working to launch the nation's first nonprofit newsroom focused on kids. Previously, she launched and led an agile team at Code for America;

the team's focus was growing a network of local governments and technologists to help make government work in the 21st century. Prior to Code for America, Fowler served as deputy director at Exhale, overseeing organizational operations, programs, fundraising, and strategy. At Exhale—a post-abortion counseling organization—she managed a growing team and prepared the organization to “go big”; Exhale expanded its program reach through a book and film launch, as well as a TED talk. Fowler spent six years developing and growing communications, public relations, and online fundraising at Pathfinder International, a \$100 million sexual and reproductive health nonprofit that works in more than 20 countries. Her work has been honored by the Convio Innovator Awards for best online fund-raising, and a short video she created won the DoGooder Funny for Good Award. She was also a New Leaders Council Fellow.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Know what you're good at. Learn how to tell your story. And always remember that how you treat people is important. People won't always remember you or what you've done, but as Maya Angelou said, people will never forget how you made them feel.

Richard Gleiner '74

Adult Psychotherapist, Self-Employed

Chicago, Illinois

Major at Vassar: History

Advanced Degrees: MSW, Smith College School for Social Work; JD, Boston University School of Law



Richard Gleiner practices individual and group psychotherapy, working with adults in a private setting. Areas of focus include men's issues, sexual orientation, and working with professionals and executives. He also has conducted workshops and training in finding balance between home and the workplace, increasing

satisfaction in the practice of law, and setting boundaries in relationships. He has worked in a variety of settings, including at several community mental health centers, a college counseling center, a counseling center for persons living with HIV/AIDS, and a counseling program delivering services to the LGBT community. Prior to that, he was an attorney in private practice and served as general counsel and as a senior executive in several publicly held media companies.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

I once overheard a conversation between two students who were studying for the Law School Aptitude Test. One said to the other, “It's unbelievable that one test will determine the rest of your life.” I remembered thinking that way as I was graduating from Vassar, and it made every decision seem so crucial and heavy. Fortunately, life is not so deterministic. So much of what has happened in my life I never would have expected, let alone could have planned for. Taking advantage of what opportunities have presented themselves has been much more important than making the “right” decision.

Stephanie Goldberg '14

**Assistant, Hall of Fame at Lincoln Center,
Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts**
New York, New York
Major at Vassar: Music, Psychology



Stephanie Goldberg is the Hall of Fame Administrative Assistant at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, where she also oversees and maintains the Vera List Art

Project, Lincoln Center's visual art program. The Performing Arts Hall of Fame is Lincoln Center's newest initiative, and Goldberg has been a part of the project from the beginning. Goldberg previously served as program assistant with Lincoln Center Education's Community and Family Programs; as jazz programming intern with Kennedy Center Jazz at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; as Friends Office coordinator at Tanglewood Music Center of the Boston Symphony Orchestra; and as Grammy U intern with the Recording Academy. At Vassar, Goldberg's activities included Jewett House Team, VSA as the VP for activities, Daisy Chain, Founder's Day co-chair, Women's Chorus, Jazz Combo and Ensemble, Future Waitstaff of America, and Modfest. Outside of office hours, Goldberg is deputy chair of the Vassar Club of New York Programming Committee and co-chair of the Vassar Fund for the class of 2014.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Be willing to step out of your comfort zone and do something that challenges you, even at work. If you're presented with a task that requires skills you're not familiar with, test yourself. At least you can say you tried. If you're offered an opportunity for an unpaid internship or part-time job, consider the pros of taking it. You never know where that opportunity could lead you. Listen and do your own absolute best, but don't worry about being perfect. Do whatever makes you happy. This is your life, and it's not worth the time doing something that drains you. Remember that you are young and have your whole life ahead of you, so relax because you will find your way.

Michael Graff P'09 P'15

Managing Director, Warburg Pincus
New York, New York
Major in College: Economics
Advance Degree: MS, Finance, MIT



Michael Graff has been a managing director at Warburg Pincus, a private equity firm, since 2003. He leads the firm's aerospace investing group. He is chairman of Extant Aerospace Wencor Group, and Consolidated Precision Products,

and is a director of TransDigm and Allied Universal Security. Prior to joining Warburg Pincus, Graff was president of Bombardier Aerospace in Montreal and prior to Bombardier, he was a partner at McKinsey & Company in New York and London. In addition, Graff is a member of the board of the Flea Theater in New York and is chairman of the board of USA Water Polo.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Find something you love to do and try to make a living doing it.

Never use more words than necessary to get your points across.

Dr. Judith Grinspan '74 P'09

Professor of Neurology, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

Major at Vassar: Biology

Advanced Degrees: MS, Pathology, Hahnemann University (now Drexel University); PhD, Cell and Molecular Biology, University of Pennsylvania



Dr. Judith Grinspan has been a faculty member at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania for 27 years. Her laboratory uses cellular and molecular techniques to study the development of myelin, the membrane that coats

nerve processes in the central and peripheral nervous system and ensures proper conduction of nervous impulses. Lack of myelin, seen in diseases such as multiple sclerosis and cerebral palsy, causes deficits in motor and/or cognitive function. The Grinspan lab focuses on facilitating regeneration of myelin from stem cells using tissue culture models, genetic models, and disease models. These studies have identified proteins, altered in the central nervous system during disease, that interfere with myelination. Through its studies, the Grinspan lab has trained undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows to be the next generation of neuroscientists and science advocates. Dr. Grinspan also serves on hospital and university committees for academic engagement, education, and infrastructure, as well as national and international scientific review panels. She is also active in national scientific societies in her area.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Attending Vassar gives you the opportunity to study in a small classroom setting with teachers who really care about teaching. You can study one area in depth and at the same time become broadly educated in the arts and sciences. Take advantage of the rich cultural life on campus. Take advantage of the diversity of students to make friends with people unlike yourself. Get academic help in your courses if you need it. If you are interested in medicine, try working in the lab of one of your professors. You may get hooked or discover it's not for you. This is the time in your life to figure out who you are.

Justin Hergianto '04

Senior Director, Digital and Print Marketing, ESPN
New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Psychology

Advanced Degree: MBA, Brand Strategy & Marketing, NYU Stern



Justin Hergianto is Senior Director of Digital & Print Marketing at ESPN. In this role, he oversees a marketing team responsible for ESPN's digital platforms, including ESPN.com, ESPN mobile apps,

WatchESPN live-streaming, fantasy sports, and all social platforms. Since joining ESPN in 2014, his team has helped launch a redesigned ESPN.com, the ESPN app, and ESPN's Discover channel on Snapchat, along with numerous advertising innovations. Most recently, his team began to measure fan engagement across traditional and nontraditional media platforms, better understanding the role of each with regards to sports fandom. Prior to ESPN, Hergianto was vice president of digital marketing at MTV, overseeing events such as the MTV Video Music Awards and the MTV Movie Awards. He also previously served as marketing director at Sports Illustrated. After graduating from Vassar in 2004, Hergianto earned his MBA in brand strategy and marketing from NYU Stern. He lives in Chappaqua, New York, with his wife and two children.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

The speed of innovation is only getting faster, which means that your first job out of college may not currently exist. This would make me very excited if I were enrolled at Vassar, knowing that I am being challenged in diverse areas, building relationships, and being encouraged to learn more about topics I am passionate about. If you are curious, learn more; if you are challenged, find a solution; if you are bored, move on. I changed my major my sophomore year because I realized I wasn't excited about what I was studying. That approach has served me well in my professional career, and I am fortunate to work with brands, colleagues, and on projects that excite me.

Dan Herron '92

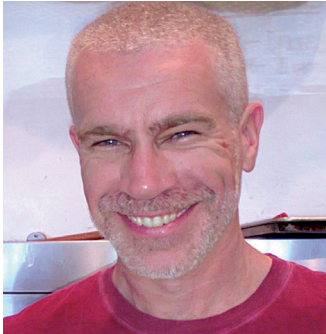
Principal Lead Software Engineer, Microsoft

Redmond, Washington

Major at Vassar: Cognitive Science

Advanced Degree: PhD, Cognitive Science,

UC San Diego



Dan Herron has worked at Microsoft as a software engineer for 16 years, moving from the speech group, to the mobile/phone group, to Bing, to data science, and most recently to the Windows organization.

As a lead, he oversees the work and careers of 4 to 14 engineers, and works with management to ensure the right software is built at the right time. The work spans thinking about features and customer problems, designing technical solutions, and moving through the software lifecycle to build those solutions. He arrived at Microsoft via a side door, having developed his basic engineering skills somewhat on his own while in graduate school and while doing post-doc work. He enjoyed and learned much from grad school, but realized that the academic life is a specific and deep commitment to particular passions that weren't a great fit for him, and he has not looked back.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Have a plan and/or a reason for the big decisions you make (or fail to make). If your reason is "because I want to," don't think you're necessarily crazy—just be sure you're aware that you're operating on gut feeling. Be interesting. Be interested. Smile a lot, but not too much.

If you are looking to the technology industry:

- Know the fundamentals (not just the latest and greatest).
- Build something you can talk about at length, proving that you thought about it and did the work yourself.
- Get an internship. Right now! Try for a great company but settle for a lesser company. Real experience will pay dividends.

Rachel Hovnanian P'17

Artist, Rachel Lee Hovnanian

New York, New York

Major in College: Fine Arts



Born in Parkersburg, West Virginia, Rachel Hovnanian lives and works in New York City. She received a BFA from the University of Texas, Austin, and did post-grad studies at Parsons School of Design. Select solo

exhibitions include: 2016 *Perfect Baby Showroom*, Public Installation, Dallas Art Fair; 2014 *Plastic Perfect*, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, New York; *Plastic Perfect*, Pechersky Gallery, Moscow, Russia; *New Year's Feast: Beijing*, Joyce Gallery, Beijing, China; 2013 *Rachel Lee Hovnanian: Power, Beauty, Narcissism and Other New Work*, Imago Gallery, Palm Springs, New York; 2012 *Mud Pie*, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, New York; *Too Good to be True*, Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong; 2011 *American Beauty: Too Good to be True*, Foundation Pons, Barcelona, Spain; 2010 *American Beauty: Too Good to be True*, Aina Nowack/AAC, Madrid, Spain; *Too Good to be True*, Carrie Secrist Gallery, Chicago, Illinois; *Power and Burden of Beauty*, Galerij ARTRA, Kalmthout, Belgium; 2009 *Power & Burden of Beauty*, Jason McCoy, Inc., New York, New York; *Power & Burden of Beauty*, Meredith Long & Company, Houston, Texas. Her website: rachelleehovnanian.com.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

See as much art as you can. Always take time to experience the culture and community that surrounds you, and make sure you keep a healthy work/ life balance. As an artist living in New York, I know how easy it is to get caught up in comparing your success to the success of those around you—especially in 2017 with the instant accessibility of social media and technology that's offered from smart phones. Always remember to give yourself a break, refocus, and enjoy the moment—and a great way to do that is by seeing some art!

Olga “Jordan” Hynes ’11

Professional Staff Member, United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC
Major at Vassar: International Studies



Olga “Jordan” Hynes is a Professional Staff Member to Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) on the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. She is responsible for managing, developing, and carrying out the committee’s legislative

agenda on early childhood education, child welfare, and school choice, in addition to other elementary and secondary education issues. In this capacity, she develops policy proposals, drafts and negotiates legislation, secures stakeholder support, and staffs the chairman at speeches and hearings. In 2015, Hynes served as a negotiator for the Every Student Succeeds Act, the federal education law that replaced the onerous No Child Left Behind Act; she helped shepherd the bill through the HELP Committee, the greater Senate, and ultimately through Congress all the way to the President’s desk. Hynes previously served as a legislative aide to Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL), managing a portfolio that included topics related to K-12 and higher education, education research, workforce development, veterans’ jobs, and labor policy.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Find an internship ASAP! Try out as many different types of careers and workplace settings as possible—this will help you narrow down the thing (and environment) that gets you excited to wake up for work every day. Work hard, but don’t be afraid to socialize, and never turn down an opportunity for networking. Everyone started somewhere, and in DC no one person’s path looks the same, so don’t be afraid to share those experiences, or ask for help.

Imara Jones ’16

Operations Manager, Love Emme
Chicago, Illinois
Major at Vassar: Film



Imara Jones grew up in Chicago, Illinois, and finished high school in Park City, Utah, where she developed her love of snowboarding and ceramic art. Knowing she wanted to dive into cinema and media studies in college, she

chose to attend Vassar. After graduating with a BA in film and Hispanic studies, Jones went East and spent three months working in Shenzhen, China, on a design team for a start-up marketing agency. Back in Chicago, Jones is a marketing manager at the online gift giving phenom, LoveEmme.com, which affords women the opportunity to earn income promoting the site. Jones enjoys some aspects of her job more than others, including scouting models, directing photo shoots, and creating ad campaigns for the website LoveEmme.com.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Make a list of your personal strengths. Now make a list of things you WANT to add to that list. Online resources have helped our community members expand their list of personal strengths. We have used web sources like Lynda, Shopify, and YouTube as tools to expand our business and our community. Find five job postings that are beyond your reach (senior-level jobs) and make a list of skills or experience you need to acquire to attain those jobs. This will help identify where you want to be, thereby making it easier to determine how to get there. Lastly, make a portfolio or collection. Having a collection of things you have created will help you see what you’re good at and what you can offer.

Eamon P. Joyce '99

Partner, Supreme Court and Appellate Practice Group, Sidley Austin LLP

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Sociology

Advanced Degree: JD,

University of Pennsylvania Law School



Eamon P. Joyce has been an appellate partner at Sidley Austin LLP since 2011. Except for 2003–04, when he served as a law clerk for Hon. Roger L. Gregory, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Joyce has spent his

entire career at Sidley. He has filed more than 50 briefs in the United States Supreme Court, and his clients have prevailed in cases he argued before the United States Courts of Appeals for the Second, Sixth, and Eleventh Circuits, as well as before the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division. Joyce has briefed appeals in nearly every federal appellate court and argued many critical motions in trial courts. He has a busy pro bono practice, including current representations of two death-row defendants and many past representations in civil rights litigation.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Think carefully and critically when making career-oriented choices, but more importantly, realize that they are not permanent—you can and should revisit them as your interests, needs, and life change. Much like your time at Vassar, it is not the course names that will make your graduate education and life in the working world exciting and fulfilling; rather, it's the people teaching you and working alongside you. Should you choose to pursue a career in law, remember to give back. The skills you develop as a lawyer are special and empowering; put them to use to serve the less fortunate whenever you can.

Danny Kadishson '09

Director of Economic Development, NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Political Science

Advanced Degree: MA, International Security Studies, National Defense University



After college, Danny Kadishson worked for a U.S. congressman in Washington, DC. As the congressman's legislative assistant, Kadishson worked on policy and legislation related to the environment, energy, commerce, and government oversight/reform issues. Kadishson

then worked as a civilian for the deputy assistant secretary of the army (procurement) on congressional matters relating to the oversight and reform of contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Kadishson later served as a Nonproliferation Fellow for the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration, working with partner countries and multilateral organizations to cooperate on nuclear issues. During the evenings in DC, Kadishson earned a master's degree in international security studies from National Defense University. Kadishson then worked in the New York City Mayor's Office of Operations on initiatives that use technology to make health and social services more efficient and accessible. Kadishson currently is Director of Economic Development in the New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs, where he works with the diplomatic community, businesses, and city partners to drive inclusive growth and economic opportunity.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

You can help a lot of people by working in the government. The bureaucracy can be frustrating, and the wins can feel far apart, but when they happen they are big wins that help a lot of people. Apply for internships—they're one of the best ways to ultimately get a job in government/public service. When you get internships, work hard and learn from everyone. Keep in touch with the people you work with in your internship. And while you're at Vassar, have fun. And be respectful to your fellow classmates regardless of their political beliefs.

Charles Kim '92

Associate Publisher, The Museum of Modern Art

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: French, Asian Studies

Advanced Degree: MA, French Literature, New York University



As The Museum of Modern Art's Associate Publisher, Charles Kim is responsible for the publications department's intellectual property and copyright matters. He negotiates agreements with international museum and publisher collaborators

and supervises the department's digital strategy. He establishes and maintains the department's financial budgets and forecasts and supervises all aspects of revenue generation, including onsite, trade and wholesale, co-editions, and licensing. He directs the department's publicity and marketing strategies, and manages the clearance of copyright and image permissions for all publications.

- He led the department to over \$18.5 million in gross revenue and \$4.1 million in net profit since 2012.
- He launched an award-winning children's story-book line, which now has dedicated foreign-language partners in eight countries.
- He established a line of limited editions featuring new titles and reissues of rare MoMA publications.
- He represents the department on a variety of MoMA committees and working groups, including the editorial board, MoMA for Kids Committee, and the Digital Planning and Innovation Committee.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

This is a time of immense self-reflection, change, and upheaval within many arts and cultural institutions. They are trying to become more multicultural and diverse, inside and out. They are trying to engage more with underserved communities. They are trying to make themselves look more like the increasingly heterogeneous populations they serve. There are wonderfully exciting, fulfilling, creative, challenging, and financially sustainable jobs available within these institutions. There are opportunities to touch people's lives and to be a part of the change that is happening. You just have to know where to look.

Margo Kinneberg '11

**Director, Policy and Advocacy,
Leadership for Educational Equity**

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Physics

Advanced Degree: M.Ed, Policy, University of Washington-Seattle



Margo Kinneberg is a director at Leadership for Educational Equity (LEE), a national nonprofit that helps former teachers move into civic leadership positions. In her current role, she provides career coaching and cultivates partnerships with policy

and advocacy organizations, having started at LEE conducting policy research. Kinneberg first became involved in education as a supplemental instructor of physics and a volunteer tutor at Vassar. Upon graduating, she joined Teach for America as a founding corps member in Seattle, Washington, where she taught high school science and mathematics. After completing Teach for America, Kinneberg transitioned into nonprofit work and studied at the University of Washington, graduating with an M.Ed. In addition to her work at LEE, Kinneberg is passionate about criminal justice reform and volunteers to help people who are incarcerated prepare for parole hearings. She is also an avid reader and enjoys printmaking in her free time. Originally from Massachusetts, Kinneberg is now based out of New York.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

First—Don't fixate on finding the "best job" or determining your ideal career trajectory. Instead, reflect on what each work experience teaches you about your interests and strengths, and use that information to inform your next career move. Over time, you will narrow down the roles in which you will excel and which will excite you while remaining flexible and open to new possibilities. Second—Be nice! Express gratitude to people who help you and stay in touch with them. You never know who may be able to assist you in the future, so build and maintain strong relationships. Even if you don't seek support, your work life will be much more enjoyable if you have a great network around you.

Peter Korzenik '82

Founder and President, Give Back Global

Norwalk, Connecticut

Major at Vassar: Russian

Advanced Degree: MSc, Boston University Brussels



Peter Korzenik is the founder of Give Back Global, an international NGO that helps health care organizations in Africa strengthen their management/leadership capacity and nonclinical business operations. This is accomplished by connecting young African health manag-

ers with highly experienced, senior-level American health care executives on short-term, onsite, volunteer-based training and mentoring projects. He is a committed social entrepreneur who believes that “business volunteerism” can be a powerful force for social good in the developing world. During his over-25-year career in international development, Korzenik has recruited and placed hundreds of skilled business volunteers overseas on management training and leadership development projects. He is currently developing a proposal along with two Ugandan partners to create a nationwide training and mentoring program for health-care managers in Uganda.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

In my experience, there is nothing more important to career success than the ability to write a coherent sentence. If you can master this art, you will be in a position to influence others and bring about positive results. Read as much as you can every day. By doing so, your writing will inevitably improve—and this will lead to good things! Another imperative is to follow your passion and believe in yourself. Don't let others tell you that you can't achieve your goals. Refuse to let obstacles and difficulties stand in your way—they can be overcome by hard work, determination, passion, and, old-fashioned luck. Finally, don't be afraid to ask for help.

Paula Krasny '85

Partner, Culhane Meadows, PLLC

Chicago, Illinois

Major at Vassar: Art History

Advanced Degree: JD, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law



Paula Krasny has been an intellectual property lawyer for nearly 30 years. She works with companies to strategically build value through their brands by developing and implementing programs to grow global trademark portfolios, reduce the

risk of infringements, and monetize intellectual property assets through licensing programs, advertising, and corporate transactions, such as mergers, acquisitions, sales, and joint ventures. Krasny has extensive experience representing clients in a variety of industries, including consumer products, apparel, food and beverage, hospitality, insurance, financial and professional services, technology, and nonprofits. Her clients range from start-ups to multinational companies. Krasny also serves as independent counsel to the Business Conduct Committee of Chicago Board of Options Exchange. Krasny is a partner in the nontraditional, cloud-based law firm Culhane Meadows PLLC. She also was a partner at the global law firm Baker & McKenzie and a partner and associate at McDermott, Will & Emery.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

You will stand out from others if you make meaningful and genuine connections with people who inspire trust and confidence. Here are some things that may help you to do this:

- Have interests, hobbies, and passions. You will need them for balance, refuge, and to have interesting things to discuss.
- Nonverbal communication is important. A warm smile, attentive eyes, and an open posture can say just as much, and sometimes more, than words.
- Ask questions so you can learn about the other person. Listen to the responses.
- Follow up when you think of something that will interest that person (e.g., send an article of interest).
- Step back every now and then, regroup, and breathe!

Nicole Krenitsky '11

MD/MBA Candidate,
Yale Schools of Medicine and Management
New Haven, Connecticut
Major at Vassar: Science, Technology and Society
Advanced Degrees: MD, Yale School of Medicine; MBA,
Yale School of Management



Nicole Krenitsky is an MD/MBA candidate at Yale Schools of Medicine and Management. Krenitsky's research centers on the use of estimated fetal weight for preterm pregnancy outcome prediction. She also consults for a

center to improve patients' social determinants of health. Krenitsky served as Executive Director of HAVEN Free Clinic, a primary care clinic for uninsured adults in New Haven, where she led the creation of a strategic plan and financial analysis, and oversaw the clinic's operations. Prior to beginning medical school, Krenitsky worked as managing director of FACE AIDS (now part of Partners In Health), a nonprofit dedicated to building the next generation of leaders in global health. At Vassar, she was a proud member of Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre, a leader of ProHealth and the STS Majors Committee, and a student advisor in Davison House.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Instead of trying to plan where you'll do what several years from now, think instead about the issues you are passionate about, the type of environments you work well in, and the people you want to surround yourself with. Build strong relationships with faculty mentors by chatting about their interests and career paths over coffee or engaging in their research. If you're considering the health professions: In my experience, taking time to work between college and graduate school is invaluable. Lastly, take advantage of the breadth of classes at Vassar. I wish I'd taken art history and philosophy. Language classes are instrumental.

Werner Lutze S '79

Senior Scientist, Catholic University of America
Washington, DC
Major in College: Chemistry
Advanced Degrees: Master's, Chemistry, Freie
Universität, Berlin, Germany; PhD, Chemistry,
Technische Universität, Berlin, Germany



Werner Lutze has done research in materials science, especially glasses, ceramics, and nuclear and environmental chemistry; he has also taught and advised students at universities in Germany and in the United States. He was a leader of various research

groups, working, for example, on radioactive waste solidification, in situ bioremediation, and in ion-exchange. Currently, he works on the development of cement, mortar, and concrete that is free of Portland cement, by recycling industrial byproducts and thus reducing the output of carbon dioxide. Based on several inventions that involve these materials, he founded a company together with colleagues to promote the use of low CO₂-footprint concrete. Most of this research has been or is being patented. Lutze has published over 160 scientific and technical papers, most of them in peer-reviewed journals.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Find out what interests you most in science. Application or research? Find out how "hot" the subject is; does it have long-term potential and/or current market potential? If you are interested in a job right away, find out where you fit best. Look at what start-ups are doing. Talk to people. Maybe you want to take an internship to find out. If research is your preference, get a master's and/or PhD. Become broadly educated. Then find "your" topic and specialize in it when doing the PhD work. Your choice determines your market value. Always ask yourself, talk to others—what can I do with what I am good at? Publish your research. Attend conferences. Build a network as early as possible.

Andrea Disario Marcusa '76

**Communications and Marketing Consultant,
Andrea Disario Communications**
New York, New York
Major at Vassar: English



Andrea Disario is an experienced communications professional with a range of writing, reporting, editing, project management, art directing, and social media skills. She is fluent in all com-

munications formats including print, photography, web, and social media. She is also a Pushcart Prize-nominated author of fiction, poetry, and essays. A former writer at national magazines *Mademoiselle* and *Glamour*, Disario began her career creating articles, profiles, and “how to” pieces. After a stint at a PR agency, she formed her own consulting business, where she worked for brand names such as Swarovski and Waterford Crystal, Shiseido *Cosmetics*, *Boar’s Head*, and Organic Valley. For the past 15 years, her focus has been in the health, medical, and food areas. She has worked for the top names in the health-care field, including Hospital for Special Surgery, Weill Cornell Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering, the National Kidney Foundation, United Healthcare, and others.

Advice for Class of 2019:

Showing up on time, working hard, understanding what is expected and then exceeding this, putting the organization and their goals before your own, and keeping your eyes open for more opportunities to take on more responsibility (work), and a cheerful nature (even if you aren’t feeling that way) never go out of style.

John McIlwain P’18

Vice President for Advancement, Aspire
Hillside, Illinois
Major in College: Political Science
Advanced Degree: Master’s in Divinity, Chicago
Theological Seminary



As Vice President for Advancement at Aspire, John McIlwain exceeded fundraising goals year after year, successfully launched a new look and web presence for the brand, and established a culture of collaboration and creativity that has made Aspire one of

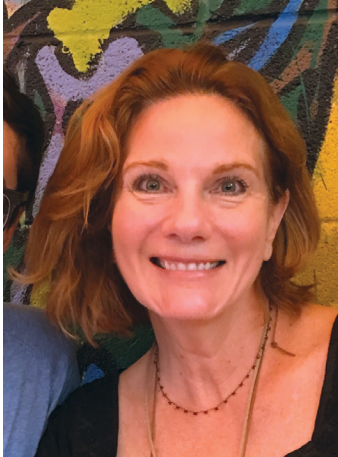
“Chicago’s Best and Brightest Companies to Work For®” by the National Association for Business Resources. Under McIlwain’s leadership, Aspire CoffeeWorks, a partnership between Aspire and Metropolis Coffee Company, has increased its revenue tenfold. Prior to joining Aspire, McIlwain was Vice President of Development for Urban Innovations, a real estate investment company. McIlwain honed his business and negotiation skills at Jones Lang LaSalle and Cushman & Wakefield in new-business development. McIlwain began his professional career as a minister in the United Church of Christ. Ordained in 1992, McIlwain spearheaded a community-wide movement that gave rise to a comprehensive human rights ordinance. McIlwain has a bachelor’s degree from Rutgers College and a master’s in divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Every day, people are hired for their experience; and every day, people are fit. It is important to know the culture of the organization. When interviewing, keep in mind that you are buying something; every company has a culture, and that culture contributes to or detracts from its success. Ask questions about the company culture—the strengths and weaknesses of the leaders, how managers handle conflict, and how your success will be measured. You will want to pay attention to those responses to affirm that this company is a good fit for you.

Kary McIlwain P'18

**Chief Marketing and Communications Officer,
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago**
Chicago, Illinois
Major in College: Political Science
Advanced Degree: MBA, Northwestern University



As Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Kary McIlwain is responsible for all marketing and communications for the hospital, its foundation, and all of its outpatient centers and affiliates. Her profit-and-loss responsibility

includes public affairs, internal communications, donor relations, digital, event, and traditional marketing. Her team is responsible for raising the awareness, reputation, and fund-raising for this top-ranked children's hospital in addition to helping drive volumes in out-patient and key in-patient services. Prior to coming to Lurie Children's, McIlwain had a successful 25-year career in advertising, culminating with over 10 years as president and CEO of Y&R Chicago.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Life is long and, with any luck, your career will have incredible longevity. Don't sweat every step. Have conversations, take interviews, get experience. It's ok to not love your internship, your first job, or even your first attempt at a career. Re-invention happens all the time. Each experience will teach you something about yourself, about what motivates you, about what you love and about what you should avoid. There is so much artificial pressure put on every move; take some of the air out of all of it. Relax. Be yourself and explore!

Neile Miller '79

Founder and CEO, Ultra High Materials LLC
Washington, DC
Major at Vassar: Political Science
Advanced Degree: MSFS, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service



Neile Miller is an experienced executive and innovator in complex technological, financial, and political environments. Her nomination by President Obama to serve as Principal Deputy Administrator for the U.S. Department of

Energy's nuclear security enterprise was confirmed by the Senate in August 2010. She later served as the Acting Administrator and Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security. Earlier, she was the director of the DOE's budget office, during which time she was a member of the credit and risk boards of the DOE Loan Program. Miller also served two tours at the White House Office of Management and Budget as a senior analyst on nuclear matters, worked at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Nuclear Energy Agency in Paris, and spent time in the private sector. She is currently the CEO and a founder of Ultra High Materials, a start-up technology company that is bringing green concrete to market.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Know yourself. The more you work at understanding what you want to do, the more likely you will succeed in doing what you like. I am a strong believer in focusing on the "what" more than the "where" of jobs. But understand that this kind of self-knowledge evolves with time and experience. It's in the "doing" of a job that you learn your interests, strengths, and capabilities. Subject matter may turn out to be what gives you the greatest satisfaction, or it may be what you're asked to actually do every day that tells you whether the position is right for you. And don't be afraid of change—ever. It's a fact of life, and it very often brings opportunity, unlike perpetual status quo.

Abby Nathanson '14

**Director of Program Development,
Grace Episcopal Church**
Millbrook, New York
Major at Vassar: Sociology



Abby Nathanson is Director of Program Development at Grace Episcopal Church in Millbrook, New York. She is the founder and program director for Engaging People in Change (EPIC),

the church's leadership and social transformation program for high school students in rural Northeast Dutchess County. She coordinates interfaith and secular programs at Grace Church, including the Food/Farm/Faith Initiative for intergroup dialogue and a young-adult service program. At Vassar, Nathanson focused on queer- gender politics, anti-racism, and radical pedagogy. She is a yoga teacher and is happily living in Millerton, New York, where she likes to play outside and try to convince fellow millennials to move to rural communities.

Advice for Class of 2019:

Vassar is for you, you do not owe anyone anything, and college is just an experiment, anyway. Take every opportunity to travel. Only write papers that you want to write. Make sure that every moment is educating and serving you as best as possible. When you graduate, zero people will care that you skipped a class to go to something that was important to you out in the world. Conferences are the greatest. Annotate in the good books and keep them forever. Write in a journal, and turn college drama into life lessons. Text less, make phone calls and leave voicemails. Go waterfalling. Hide snacks in the stacks. Don't take advice from a booklet too seriously.

Juliet M. Nevins '91

**Medical Director (Aetna) and Attending Physician
(NYU Lutheran Medical Center)**
New York, New York
Major at Vassar: Human Biology and Its Social Context
(Independent Major)
Advanced Degrees: MPA, Health Policy; NYU; MD,
Medicine, University of Virginia School of Medicine



Dr. Juliet Nevins is a medical director at Aetna. She is also an attending physician in ob-gyn at New York University Lutheran Medical Center. Dr. Nevins was an independent

major at Vassar. Her self-titled focus, "Human Biology and Its Social Context," led to a thesis on "AIDS and Its Impact on the Medicaid System." She then went on to earn a master's in public administration from New York University, followed by her medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine. In the role of medical director, she serves as clinical lead for the collaborative efforts between physicians and hospitals, and health management. Her passion for consumer health education and wellness has been consistent and has colored her roles as both a physician and a clinician executive. She fervently believes that health education is a critical tool that can change behavior, improve the health of individuals, and facilitate intact communities. As such, Dr. Nevins is a longstanding member of the American Medical Writers Association. And, she is the founder of BelowtheBellyButton.com.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

First, study something you love. Second, know that you have the capacity to shape your career. A medical degree can take you anywhere: television, publishing, corporate America, government, international medicine, the list goes on ...

Natalie Nixon '91

Associate Professor, Philadelphia University

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Major at Vassar: Anthropology, Africana Studies
Advanced Degrees: MS, Global Textile Marketing,
Philadelphia University|Shenkar College|Reutlingen
University; PhD, Design Management, University of
Westminster (London)



Natalie W. Nixon is a hybrid thinker whose consulting and research interests are at the intersections of creativity and strategy, and design and business. She is an associate professor and the founding director of

the Strategic Design MBA program at Philadelphia University, where she holds the G. Allen Mebane IV '52 Chair for Design Thinkers. In her consultancy, Figure 8 Thinking LLC, she taps into her background in anthropology and fashion when working on projects that call for the strategic design process. She is the editor of *Strategic Design Thinking: Innovation in Products, Services, Experiences and Beyond* and is a regular contributor to INC.com, an online magazine on creativity and design thinking. Her public-speaking invitations have included the Business Innovation Factory, TEDx Philadelphia, 360 Possibles (France), The Copenhagen Institute for Interactive Design, The European Innovation Academy (Nice, France), SEB Bank (Tallinn, Estonia), and the Mayo Clinic's Transform conference. Nixon serves on the boards of the Philadelphia Art Commission and the Arts and Business Council of Greater Philadelphia.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Practice curiosity, humility, and always show up; you never know whom you will meet that will lead to your next breakthrough, break, or good chuckle. And as my dad always reminded me, never underestimate the value of “please” and “thank you.”

Carol Ostrow '77 P'09 P'15

Producing Director, The Flea Theater

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Drama

Advanced Degree: MFA, Theater, Yale School of Drama



Carol Ostrow is Producing Director of The Flea, an award-winning off-off-Broadway theater located in Tribeca. She was producing director of the New York's Classic Stage Company as well as the founder and producing director

of the Powerhouse Theater at Vassar, now entering its 31st season. Ostrow has been an adjunct professor of theater at Vassar, Chatham College, and McGill University. She holds a BA from Vassar and an MFA from the Yale Drama School. She was elected to the Vassar College Board of Trustees in 2015 and is a new board member of The MacDowell Colony, the oldest arts colony in the United States. In addition, she is a member of the Board of Advisors to the Yale Drama School and a board member of LAVA, an acrobatic dance collective in Brooklyn. For The Flea, Ostrow has produced 16 seasons of world premiere productions and has been responsible for the sound fiscal management and strategic growth of the theater's \$1.6-million budget, programs, and initiatives, including The Bats, the emerging resident company of actors at The Flea.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Follow your heart but think with your head. There are a lot of options for your work life out there, but you have to know what you want in order to go for it. Remember that life is long and careers take time to build. You cannot choose your boss, but if you find a good one, cling. Like a cherished teacher or coach, that person in charge can become a guide for life and a colleague, too. Developing relationships is as important as building your résumé.

Tracy Elise Poole '82

Assistant General Counsel, Johnson & Johnson
New Brunswick, New Jersey
Major at Vassar: Political Science
Advanced Degree: JD Georgetown University



Upon graduation from Georgetown, Tracy Elise Poole was appointed Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn, NY, where she prosecuted major crimes. She was next associated with Wood, Williams, Rafalsky & Harris and Arnelle & Hastie where she litigated business

and commercial disputes. Next, Poole joined Wall Street's Hughes, Hubbard & Reed, where she handled business and corporate litigation. At Johnson & Johnson, she is responsible for a broad range of litigation, including advertising, corporate, employment, and product liability matters for several operating companies. She also manages J&J's law department pro bono practice, and she is an active member of several not-for-profit boards and organizations.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

No matter what your aspirations are, be fearless ... not reckless. Fearless means having the courage and confidence to follow your dreams, to trust your instincts, and to set high goals and standards for yourself. It means pursuing what makes you happy despite various voices that may try to discourage you along the way. Fearless is knowing that each challenge carries a valuable lesson for your continued development and growth. Reckless means failing to be strategic. Reckless means forging ahead while ignoring constructive feedback and signals along the way. The difference between fearlessness and recklessness is nuanced and can be tough to distinguish. But that's life ... so settle in and brave it.

Gleny M. Ramírez '03

Senior Legal Analyst, Jennison Associates LLC
New York, New York
Major at Vassar: Sociology



Gleny M. Ramírez is Senior Legal Analyst for the Legal Department at Jennison Associates LLC (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Prudential Financial, Inc.). Ramírez works closely with the attorneys and other legal analysts to provide legal

and regulatory support to Jennison's investment management business and to the firm as a whole. From May 2006 through August 2015, Ramírez worked at the International Investment Group LLC (IIG), where she began as a legal compliance analyst and eventually became an associate director of legal and compliance, a role that included liaising with IIG's international colleagues, external parties, and outside counsel on various firm initiatives. Prior to joining IIG in May 2006, Ramírez worked as a litigation paralegal at Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett LLP. Ramírez received a bachelor of arts in sociology from Vassar in May 2003 and, following one of her passions, became a classically trained chef in 2010 with a Culinary Arts Diploma from the Institute of Culinary Education in New York City.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Time is one of the greatest allies you have at this stage of your lives. Use it wisely while at Vassar, and you will set yourself up for success post-graduation. Given the world we live in, it's no longer realistic to graduate and then figure out what to do next. Start early and make finding your career path part of your coursework. Use the infinite resources at your disposal as a student and seek guidance from your professors, peers, alumnae/i network, and the Career Development Office.

Ashley Rey '09

**Associate Vice President-Investments,
Rey Financial Group of Wells Fargo Advisors**
Short Hills, New Jersey
Major at Vassar: Economics
Advanced Degree: CFP® advanced designation



Ashley Rey joined Rey Financial Group of Wells Fargo Advisors in 2010. Prior to joining the company, Rey studied economics at Vassar, where she was captain of the women's varsity field hockey and lacrosse teams. Outside of the

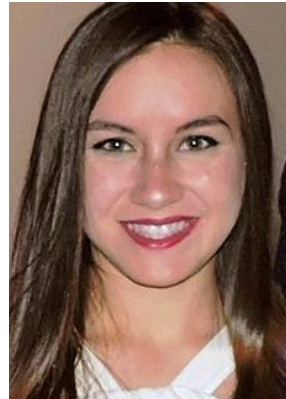
classroom, she gained invaluable experience in the tax and estate planning department of Stern and Kilcullen, LLC, and at Goldman Sachs's private wealth management division. Rey continues to advance her education by regularly participating in industry seminars and conferences. As a CFP®, Rey focuses on developing goal-based investment strategies for the Rey Financial Group's high-net-worth clients. She utilizes the breadth of Wells Fargo Advisors' technology when preparing clients' written plans. In addition to focusing on goal-based planning, Rey also concentrates on asset allocation models, as well as manager review and selection for the team. In her spare time, Rey is the treasurer and an avid member of New Jersey Audubon's Board of Directors. NJA strives to connect people with nature and preserve vital ecosystems for future generations.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

A few recommendations for current students, regardless of their career paths: Never hesitate to ask for help, especially with Vassar alumnae/i. When I was a student, I reached out to two alumnae/i at Goldman Sachs and they helped prepare me for my interviews (30–40 total); I cannot thank them enough. As an alumna now, I always try to help any students who reach out to me. What I've noticed is that the ones I can help the most are the ones who ask questions, and are proactive and honest. If you do not think you'll like the position, then tell us. Keep in mind, when alumnae/i recommend someone for a position, they are putting their reputation on the line, too.

Aleya Romero '15

Staff Officer, U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC
Major at Vassar: International Studies



Aleya Romero is a staff officer at the U.S. Department of Defense, where she advises and provides support to senior policymakers and warfighters. She briefs and evaluates high-level, strategic programs and plans for operational viability. She also serves as the vice president of the

Vassar Club of Washington, DC. As a student, she interned with a district congressional office and the U.S. Department of State in the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. She also studied abroad at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service in Qatar. At Vassar, she was president of the UNICEF chapter, president of Amnesty International, co-president of the Vassar Alliance of Women in Foreign Affairs, and co-chair of the Student Gift; she was also a Foreign Affairs Campus Coordinator for the State Department. She was a 2013 Cornelisen Fellow, 2014 Tananbaum Fellow, and 2014 Truman Scholarship Finalist. Today, she continues to increase her fluency in Arabic through Department of Defense programs and is pursuing government positions in the Middle East.

Advice for Class of 2019:

Over the course of my four years at Vassar, I was rejected from countless internships, scholarships, jobs, programs (you name it). There were plenty of times that I told myself that maybe the rejections signified that I wasn't supposed to be in the international affairs/government world. If I had one piece of advice, it would be to let the rejections make you stronger—seek feedback and become more encouraged to prove to yourself that you can succeed. These “no's” will continue throughout your career, but it's important to keep trying in spite of the odds set against you. In the words of Winston Churchill, “Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It is the courage to continue on that counts.”

Hassan Sakhtah '10

Fermentation Scientist, New England Biolabs
Ipswich, Massachusetts
Major at Vassar: Biochemistry
Advanced Degrees: MA, PhD, Biology, Columbia University



Hassan Sakhtah is a molecular microbiologist. He received his PhD under Professor Lars Dietrich at Columbia University, studying antibiotic transport in the pathogenic bacterium *Pseudomonas*

aeruginosa. Research from his graduate studies has been published in peer-reviewed journals, including Nature Communications and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. Currently, he is using the yeast *Hyphozyma roseonigra* to develop a green protocol for the production of Ambrox, a compound commonly used in perfumery. Hassan has skills in molecular biology and analytical chemistry. He is primarily interested in using microbes for industrial biotransformation of small molecules or proteins.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Find what you love to do, and pursue it relentlessly. Try not to get too caught up by money or prestige. Use your interests to guide your career pursuits—both the journey and the destination will be deeply rewarding.

Eve E. Slater '67

Professor of Clinical Medicine, Columbia University
New York, New York
Major at Vassar: Chemistry
Advanced Degree: MD, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons



Dr. Eve E. Slater is Professor of Clinical Medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (P&S), where she has taught for over 35 years. She is board certified in internal medicine and cardiology, and a fellow of the American College

of Cardiology. Dr. Slater received her BA (Phi Beta Kappa) from Vassar in 1967, her MD (Alpha Omega Alpha) from P&S, and residency and fellowship training at the Massachusetts General Hospital, where she was the first woman chief resident in medicine, and later led the hypertension unit, as assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. She has been senior vice president, Worldwide Policy, Pfizer, Inc. Prior to that, she served as assistant secretary for health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and spent over 19 years with Merck and Co. as executive director of biochemistry and molecular biology, and later, senior vice president of Clinical and Regulatory Development, and SVP of External Policy. Many of Merck's drugs, including statins, vaccines, and HIV/AIDS medicines, received worldwide regulatory approval during her tenure, and she supervised drug safety, during which time no FDA-mandated labeling changes were required.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Please use your time liberally to sample courses—ones that you know you will love but also ones about which you know little. Choose some friends who will explore with you. Discard preconceived notions. Question the conventional wisdom; where possible create constructive alternatives. Listen to all points of view. Try to find the truth in each of them. College, if possible, should allow you the freedom to find what you will love to do in life. Be relentless in your search. Vassar will provide the choices and the environment.

Laura Starr P'19

Partner, Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners, New York, New York
Major in College: Architecture
Advanced Degree: Master's of Landscape Architecture, University of Pennsylvania



Landscape architect Laura Starr focuses on making density livable by bringing nature to the city. Her practice began with a 12-year tenure at the Central Park Conservancy during its

formative years as a public-private partnership. She gained inside experience of the workings of this new park management structure and its critical role in sustaining the work of living landscapes. Since co-founding Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners, Starr has continued to expand on the Olmstedian themes she absorbed in Central Park, choreographing and sequencing the experience and stewardship of the landscape from tiny urban courtyards to vulnerable stretches of the waterfront. Participating in the mayor's post-Sandy Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency (SIRR), Starr promoted the idea of integrating flood protection into a vibrant new waterfront—ideas that later earned her the nickname “mid-wife” of the Big U, a winning proposal in HUD's Rebuild by Design (RBD) competition.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Take the best opportunities available as they arise, even if they are not directly part of your game plan. You never know where life will lead. Do what gives you energy.

Eli Stein '12

Assistant Campaign Manager, Ad Council
New York, New York
Major at Vassar: International Studies



Eli Stein works at the Ad Council, where he helps develop public service advertising campaigns for a variety of nonprofit and government organizations.

In his role, he helps oversee the campaign development process on several campaigns, from inception to research and strategy, creative testing and production, and distribution and tracking. He also works with Enable, a nonprofit that uses 3-D printing to create prosthetic arms for children; runs a college consulting company; and serves on the board of the Vassar Club of New York. Previously, he worked in Vassar's Office of Admission.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Always ask lots of questions and never be satisfied with the status quo. If you don't understand why something is the way it is, don't be afraid to ask.

Dave Tobias '83 P'16

**Director, Land Acquisition Program,
NYC Department of Environmental Protection**
Kingston, New York
Major at Vassar: Biopsychology
Advanced Degree: MS, Environmental Economics, Yale
University



After earning a master's degree from Yale, Dave Tobias worked for The Nature Conservancy for seven years. In 1996, New York City hired him to develop a land acquisition program and implement

a \$600 million initiative to permanently protect land and water resources throughout the city's 2,000-square-mile watershed. To date, the program has acquired over 145,000 acres of land and conservation easements. Tobias's office is also providing real estate needs for massive engineering projects, such as two billion-dollar tunnels designed to enhance the city's delivery of water downstate. Tobias's work is at the nexus of real estate, conservation, government services, public health, water supply, land and resource management, parks, and recreational use. If you have interests in any of these areas, just walk up and introduce yourself!

Advice for the Class of 2019:

DON'T STRESS!! Easy to say, hard to live by, but it's a really important lesson that you'll learn one way or another, so why not learn it early?! Work hard, play hard, follow your passions, and just don't sweat what you can't control. Stress will sneak up on you and slowly build over the years, so learn to dispense with it now while you're young, in your work and personal life, and you'll benefit for a long, long time.

Nicole Wood '12

Producer/Voice Actor,
Independent Films/Pokémon: XY
Brooklyn, New York
Major at Vassar: Drama



Nicole Wood is a hybrid producer and voice actor based in Brooklyn. She travels often, wearing many hats in film production and live events. In New York City, Wood production managed for *Huffington Post*

Comedy and served as point person on events for clients including Google, YouTube, NBC Upfronts, and once a private Paul McCartney concert at the Steinway Museum. Originally trained as an actress, she occasionally can be found recording funny voices in her home studio. Voiceover credits include *Pokemon XY* on Cartoon Network. For more about Wood and her latest projects, you can find her on IMDB, LinkedIn, or www.nicolejaywood.com.

Advice for the Class of 2019:

Don't worry about "what you're going to do with the rest of your life," and just say yes to work experiences. We learn so much more about what we want to do by actually doing it than we do by thinking about it. One step at a time, you'll find your own way through the world. Be active and proactive, and don't fear rejection. Every no leads you closer to a yes! Reach out to people whose careers you admire, and ask them for an informational interview. Sure, they may say no, but more often than you may expect, they'll say yes. Be kind to everyone. Always. Also, use the alumnae/i network! It's your friend, so don't be a stranger.

Career Guidebook Definitions

Résumés

Strong résumés are targeted to a specific opportunity and bring out a candidate's key credentials, skills, interests, and accomplishments. Generally limited to one page in length, a résumé should provide contact information, summarize your educational and professional history, and highlight additional skill sets and leadership capabilities. To get help with your résumé, drop by the CDO at any time between 2:00 and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. The CDO's Résumé Writing and Job Search Correspondence Guide provides useful tips on format and content, and provides examples of successful résumés.

Cover Letters

Cover letters are persuasive documents that highlight a candidate's skills, knowledge of the employer, and ability to contribute to the organization. Simply put, a cover letter is an opportunity for you to interpret your résumé and highlight why you are a strong candidate. The CDO's Résumé Writing and Job Search Correspondence Guide provides useful tips on format and content, and provides examples of successful cover letters.

Interviews

Interviews are two-way conversations by which employers evaluate a candidate's skills, motivation, goals, and personality. Usually granted to applicants who stand out on paper, interviews help an employer determine whether an individual would be a good fit for their organization. Interviews also allow applicants insight into potential workplaces. To learn more about polishing your interviewing skills, contact the CDO to schedule a mock interview with a career counselor.

Networking and Informational Interviews

One of the best ways to explore career options and plan your job search is to talk directly with people who work in fields that interest you. Informational interviewing adds a dynamic, personalized dimension to your career research—and can help you approach your internship in a strategic, focused manner. Vassar alumnae/i have a strong track record of helping current students advance their career goals. Use our networking resources (on the opposite page) to learn more about a specific industry, occupation, or organization; get advice on how to break into or advance in a given industry; or explore graduate and professional school programs.

Thank-You Notes

Thank-you notes are expected by employers and networking contacts as an appropriate method to extend your appreciation for an individual's time and attention. It is also a strategic way to emphasize your professionalism and differentiate yourself. Always follow up with a thank-you note (or email) after every professional interaction.

To access links, please visit the electronic program booklet at:
careers.vassar.edu/explore-and-plan/sig-programs/sophomores.html

Career Guidebook—CDO Resources

The Career Development Office

The Career Development Office (CDO) helps students and alumnae/i envision and realize a meaningful life after Vassar. We support members of the Vassar community as they explore their interests, define their career goals, and seek their next opportunity for personal growth and professional development. Located in Main-South (Room 170), CDO staff can help you find internships, review résumés and cover letters, network effectively, and prepare for interviews. The office also offers career assessment and graduate/law school advising services, hosts regular workshops and on-campus recruiting events, brings employers and graduate schools to campus, and administers internship funding. To take advantage of these resources, schedule a half-hour appointment with a career counselor—or visit the office between 2:00 and 4:00pm, Monday through Friday, for a drop-in appointment.

Online Internship Resources

The CDO operates, subscribes to, and recommends a number of useful online resources for internship searching. We encourage you to begin your internship search with the CDO's Vassar-connected resources. Available solely to the Vassar community and updated daily, VCLink is a database of job and internship opportunities for which employers explicitly seek Vassar students. Resources accessible through VCLink include the Liberal Arts Career Network (LACN) and the Nationwide Internship Consortium (NIC), both of which draw upon a network of 38+ selective liberal arts colleges across the nation. In addition to highlighting specific internships, a number of our resources offer informational (often industry and company-specific) content and advice on finding internships outside the U.S. For a full list of recommended online resources, consult the Internship Resource Directory. Mentors: If you wish to post an internship opportunity, please contact the CDO directly at cdo@vassar.edu.

Networking Tools

Sophomore Career Connections is not your only opportunity to network with members of the Vassar community. As a student or alumna/us, you have access to the Vassar network through a handful of convenient online tools. The Alumnae/i Directory, operated by the Office of Alumnae/i Affairs and Development (OAAD), allows you to search for and (professionally) contact nearly 40,000 Vassar graduates. Nearly 20,000 Vassar graduates currently use LinkedIn; set up a free account to connect with people who inspire you! Finally, Vassar's growing AlumniFire network offers another way to identify and contact community members who are willing to help and advise current students.

Funding Opportunities

Many internship programs are unpaid or underpaid. To help make financially inaccessible opportunities a reality, the CDO administers a number of funds every year. Through the Internship Grant Fund (IGF), a need-sensitive program open to students from all class years, the CDO supports students participating in low-pay and unpaid summer internships. Whether you require assistance to cover rent for the summer, or simply need a transit card to get from your home to the office, consider applying to the IGF after rolling admissions open in March. Open to juniors only, the highly competitive Tananbaum Fellowship helps 20 juniors find their dream summer opportunity through comprehensive career coaching and a generous stipend. See the websites of the CDO and the Office of Fellowships for more information about these and other Vassar funding opportunities.

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Sophomore Career Connections is planned and organized by the offices of Career Development and Alumnae/i Engagement at Vassar College.