



VASSAR

**SOPHOMORE
CAREER CONNECTIONS**

Linking the Liberal Arts to the World of Work

JANUARY 17-19, 2020

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 sixth 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, parent and friend 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 100+ alumnae/i and parents who have generously offered their time to mentor over 250 students and lead 18 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, '15 and Michael Graff P '09, '15.



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

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Saturday, January 18

Linking the Chapters of Life: *How Connections Made at Vassar Can Ripple Outward*

Featuring Torrey Maldonado '96
Introduction by President Elizabeth H. Bradley



Teacher and author Torrey Maldonado '96, whose middle-grade children's story *Tight* was named a best book of 2019 by NPR, will reinforce the reality that our world is always simultaneously bigger and smaller than we think and options are available to us. His audience will see how key it is to draw on expertise and inspirations to make the best of situations and choose which way to go.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Friday, January 17

Telling Your Story: *Finding Connection Through the Art of Personal Storytelling*

Featuring Bonnie Levison '78

Bonnie Levison '78, Lead Coach with The Moth, an award-winning nonprofit organization dedicated to the art and craft of first-person storytelling, teaches people from all walks of life to share their stories to inspire, connect, and motivate. In this session, you will hear examples of well-crafted stories and you will be challenged to develop your own story as you embark on your job search.



Sunday, January 19

Networks that Work: *Building an Authentic Network at Vassar and Beyond*

**Featuring Tara Pyle '06 and
Connor McIlwain '18**

After meeting in 2016 at Sophomore Career Connections, Tara Pyle '06, Vice President of Global Marketing at L'Oreal, and Connor McIlwain '18, Associate Marketing Manager at Macy's Inc., have stayed in touch ever since. Their connection led to Connor's 2017 internship at L'Oréal and they continue to exchange career advice and beauty gossip to this day. They'll share their secrets on how to be a mentee and mentor in the changing world of work.



Program Schedule

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

1:00 – 3:00pm	Gordon Commons 2nd Floor	Student Registration <i>Check in once for the entire program</i>
3:00 – 4:00pm	Gordon Commons 2nd Floor	Student Orientation & Introduction to Networking <i>Facilitated by the CDO staff</i>
4:00 – 6:00pm	Villard Room	Mentor Check-in
4:15 – 5:45pm	Gordon Commons 2nd Floor	Telling Your Story: Finding Connection Through the Art of Personal Storytelling <i>Featuring Bonnie Levison '78 with Michele Tugade '95 Introduction by Carol Ostrow '77, P'09, '15</i>
6:00 – 7:30pm	Gordon Commons/ ACDC	Student Dinner
6:00 – 7:00pm	Villard Room/ Rose Parlor	Welcome Reception for Mentors with Remarks by President Elizabeth H. Bradley <i>An opportunity for mentors to network with one another and re-connect with Vassar faculty, administrators and staff.</i>
7:00 – 9:00pm	Villard Room	Dinner and Mentor Orientation <i>Facilitated by Carol Ostrow '77, P'09, '15 and Michael Graff P'09, '15</i>

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

8:00 – 9:00am	Gordon Commons/ ACDC	Mentor and Student Breakfast LinkedIn Headshots <i>A professional photographer will be on hand to take LinkedIn headshots throughout the day.</i>
9:00 – 9:45am	Gordon Commons 2nd Floor	Keynote Linking the Chapters of Life: How Connections Made at Vassar Can Ripple Outward <i>Featuring Torrey Maldonado '96 Introduction by President Elizabeth H. Bradley</i>
10:00 – 11:15am	Rockefeller Hall	Career Cluster Session I
11:30am – 12:45pm	Rockefeller Hall	Career Cluster Session II
1:00 – 2:15pm	Gordon Commons/ ACDC	Program Luncheon with Table Topic Discussions LinkedIn Headshots <i>Students will have the opportunity to dine with mentors and connect over a shared interest. Students are welcome to attend any session they wish.</i>

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, cont.

2:30 – 3:45pm	Rockefeller Hall	Career Cluster Session III
4:00 – 5:30pm	Villard Room, Rose Parlor, CC MPR	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 safe environment. A professional photographer will also be on hand to take LinkedIn headshots for students and mentors.</i>
6:00 – 7:00pm	Gordon Commons/ ACDC	Student Dinner <i>Students are invited to enjoy dinner and reflect upon the day.</i>
6:00 – 8:00pm	Alumnae House Living Room and Dining Room	Mentor Reception and Dinner with Remarks from Carlos Alamo-Pastrana, Dean of the College <i>Introduction by Steve Hankins '85, P'13, '17, President of the Alumnae/i Association of Vassar College (AAVC) Network and unwind with the other mentors while reflecting on the day's events.</i>

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

9:00 – 10:00am	Gordon Commons/ ACDC	Mentor and Student Breakfast by 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 last-minute advice.</i>
10:15 – 11:15am	Villard Room	Networks that Work: Building an Authentic Network at Vassar and Beyond <i>Featuring Tara Pyle '06 and Connor McIlwain '18</i>
11:15am	Villard Room	Program Conclusion

While the program formally concludes on Sunday, additional programming will be offered for all students on Tuesday, January 21, and throughout the semester (see next page for details).

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

12:00 – 1:00pm	Rockefeller Hall Room 200	Workshop: Resumes and Cover Letters <i>Preparing to apply for internships? Applications will require that you submit a resume and cover letter. Come learn what to do (and what not to do) when writing resumes and cover letters so that your documents will stand out from the crowd.</i>
1:00 – 2:00pm	Rockefeller Hall Room 200	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	Rockefeller Hall Room 200	Workshop: Tapping into the Vassar Alumnae/i Network <i>More than 70 percent of jobs/internships are unadvertised and only accessible through networking. It's never too early to begin networking with Vassar alumnae/i — one of Vassar's best career resources. 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	Rockefeller Hall Room 200	Workshop: The 5 Most Difficult 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 difficult (and common) interview questions asked by employers and how to prepare for them.</i>
12:00 – 4:00pm	Rockefeller Hall Room 201	Drop-in Resume and Cover Letter Reviews <i>CDO staff will be on hand to provide on-the-spot resume and cover letter reviews. Please bring hard copies of these documents or your laptop. If you are seeking guidance on how to put together your resume or cover letter, please attend the workshop at noon, listed above.</i>

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

4:00 – 5:00pm	Rockefeller Hall Room 200	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 and the Career Development Office.</i>
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CAREER CLUSTER LOCATIONS

Each career cluster will take place three times on Saturday. As indicated on the program schedule, the sessions start at 10:00am, 11:30am, and 2:30pm 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:

Industry	Room in Rockefeller Hall
Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations	201
Architecture/Design/Planning	Political Science Lounge - 109
Artists	Math Lounge - 305
Arts Administration	Philosophy Lounge - 413
Business/Entrepreneurship	104
Education	307
Entertainment/Media	203
Environment/Sustainability	212
Financial Services	101
Government/Public Service	312
Health/Medicine	200
International Affairs/Global Careers	310
Law/Legal Services	301
Management Consulting	112
Nonprofit/Social Justice	210
Scientific Research	300
Technology	304
Writing/Publishing	308

LUNCH BREAKOUT TOPICS

Each breakout discussion will take place during lunch on Saturday, January 18. As indicated on the program schedule, the meal will begin at 1:00pm and run till 2:15pm. All sessions will take place in ACDC Gordon Commons. Students should plan to go to the topic that interests them most; table-hopping between topics is permitted.

See the following index for a list of breakout topics.

Lunch Table Topics

Business School

Entrepreneurship

Fellowships/Year of Service Opportunities

Help! I Don't Know What To Do

International Students in the U.S. Workplace

Interview Horror Stories

Law School

LGBTQIA in the Workplace

Medical School

Race in the Workplace

The Student-Athlete Experience

Transitions in the Workplace

Translating the Liberal Arts Experience (Transferable Skills)

Women in the Workplace

Working Abroad

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 18 designated career clusters with the 3–7 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.

Industry	Mentor	Position Title and Employer
Advertising/ Marketing/PR	Nana Baffour-Awuah '14	<i>Senior Strategist Consumer Dynamics</i>
	Lauren Chin '13	<i>CRM Marketing Manager Zocdoc</i>
	Anne Green '93	<i>Principal & Managing Director G&S Business Communications</i>
	Connor McIlwain '18	<i>Associate Marketing Manager Macy's Inc.</i>
	Alison Mooradian '13	<i>Director of Marketing Busy Beauty</i>
Architecture/Design/ Planning	Pedro L. Rodriguez '05	<i>Vice President, Business Growth, Digital Marketing & Transformation Horizon Media Inc.</i>
	Laura Buck '08	<i>Project Architect nArchitects</i>
	Katharine George '14	<i>Assistant Conservator EverGreene Architectural Arts</i>
	Christopher Landis '80	<i>Principal & Founding Partner Landis Architects/Builders</i>
	Carlos Mandeville '16	<i>Research Analyst Regional Plan Association</i>
Artists	Laura Starr P'19	<i>Partner/Founder Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners PLLC</i>
	Hollace Francy '15	<i>Freelance Scenic Artist Various</i>
	Alexa Jordan '17	<i>Playwright, Actress, Interim Associate Teacher, Part-Time Development Assistant The Brearley School, The Mustique Charitable Foundation</i>
	Evan Joseph (Uhlfelder) '92	<i>President Evan Joseph Studios</i>
	Alex Sarrigeorgiou '13	<i>Actor, Writer & Filmmaker Freelance</i>
	Michael Woods '17	<i>Singer-Songwriter/Audit Analyst Independent Artist/JP Morgan</i>

Career Cluster Index continues

Industry	Mentor	Position Title and Employer
Arts Administration	Brian Evans '14	<i>Head of Fine Art, Interiors, Collector and Proud Sales Christie's</i>
	Andrew Gaines '12	<i>Production Administrator, Vocal Arts The Juilliard School</i>
	Rachel Garbade '15	<i>Assistant Director/Archivist Garth Greenan Gallery</i>
	Pilar Jefferson '15	<i>Education Coordinator Museum of the City of New York</i>
	Alisa Martin '85	<i>Vice President, Educational Operations Tenement Museum</i>
	Carol Ostrow '77, P'09, '15	<i>Producing Director The Flea Theater</i>
Businesss/ Entrepreneurship	Graham Campbell '99	<i>Director of Customer Success ShotSpotter</i>
	Alanna Corwin '15	<i>Sales Development Manager McMaster-Carr Supply</i>
	Deb Macfarlan Enright '82	<i>Founder, CEO The Macfarlan Group</i>
	Jesse Graff '15	<i>Corporate Development and Strategic Finance Senior Associate Compass</i>
	Arielle Lapiano '96	<i>CEO Shattered Glass Tees</i>
	Joy Williams '87	<i>Founder & CEO SoulJoy Wellness</i>
Education	Christine Cruz '11	<i>Speech Language Pathologist NYC Department of Education</i>
	Kelly Harrington '14	<i>Master of Education Candidate Harvard University</i>
	Shanna Kohn '13	<i>Senior Education Manager, Humanitarian Programs Sesame Workshop</i>
	Torrey Maldonado '96	<i>Teacher & Author NYC Department of Education/ Penguin Random House</i>
	Deborah Temkin '07	<i>Senior Director, Education Research Child Trends</i>

Career Cluster Index continues

Industry **Mentor** **Position Title and Employer**

Entertainment/Media	Merema Ahmed '12	<i>Associate Business Affairs Manager TBWA \ Media Arts Lab</i>
	Sam Bisbee P'22	<i>Film Producer, Partner Park Pictures</i>
	Britta von Schoeler '97	<i>President Broadway Video Enterprises</i>
	Erik Lief '85	<i>Director of Communications, American Council on Science and Health</i>
	Nicholas Weinstock P'22	<i>Producer Red Hour Films</i>
Environment/ Sustainability	Evan Abramson '00	<i>Pollination Systems Designer and Planner Landscape interactions</i>
	Evan Carberry '14	<i>Director, High Rise and Commercial Services ReVireo</i>
	Dave Tobias '83	<i>Director, Land Acquisition Program NYC Department of Environmental Protection</i>
	Abigail Tripler '15	<i>Masters Student National Park Ranger Northeastern University Boston Harbor Islands National & State Park</i>
Financial Services	Kwasi Benneh '00	<i>Managing Director, Fixed Income Division Morgan Stanley</i>
	Phil Black P'22	<i>Co-Founder and Partner True Ventures</i>
	Michael Graff P'09, '15	<i>Managing Director Warburg Pincus</i>
	Tina Muller '16	<i>Assistant Vice President/ Branch Manager M&T Bank</i>
	Andreas Stavropoulos P'22	<i>Partner Threshold Ventures (formerly DFJ Ventures)</i>
	Tanay Tatum-Edwards '12	<i>Founder & CEO FreeCap</i>
	Kenneth Wong '07	<i>Principal Centre Lane Partners, LLC</i>

Career Cluster Index continues

Industry	Mentor	Position Title and Employer
Government/ Public Service	Melissa Appleby '08	<i>Deputy Town Manager Town of Simsbury, Connecticut</i>
	Anne Brewer '04	<i>Senior Advisor for Policy & Intergovernmental Affairs NYC Mayor's Public Engagement Unit</i>
	Philip D. Cooke '91	<i>Associate Executive Director of Public Affairs & Community Outreach NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem</i>
	John Kane '02	<i>Sr. Policy Advisor Committee of the Environment and Public Works</i>
	Gregg Orton '08	<i>National Director The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)</i>
	Naimah Petigny '14	<i>Ph.D Candidate; Research Fellow University of Minnesota Twin Cities; Hennepin County Government</i>
Health/Medicine	Chrysoula Dosiou P'22	<i>Clinical Professor Stanford University School of Medicine</i>
	Seiji Hayashi '91	<i>Chief Transformation Officer Mary's Center</i>
	Kenneth Morford '06	<i>Assistant Professor Yale School of Medicine</i>
	Sarah Sisco '93	<i>Senior Director, Social Determinants, Office of Population Health NYC Health + Hospitals</i>
	Jonathan Weinstein '96	<i>Suicide Prevention Coordinator VA Hudson Valley Health Care System</i>
International Affairs/ Global Careers	Marcelo Buitron '09	<i>Operations Officer, Office of the Chief Economist of the World Bank World Bank</i>
	Fardeen Chowdhury '13	<i>Director of Monitoring and Evaluation OPIC</i>
	Timothy George Connolly '78	<i>Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager United Nations</i>
	Jacqueline Parziale '14	<i>Masters in Public Policy Candidate Harvard Kennedy School</i>
	Aditi Shrikhande '17	<i>Project Coordinator for Early Childhood Development UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)</i>
	David Vannier '99	<i>Chief of Protocol and Senior Officer International Monetary Fund</i>

Career Cluster Index continues

Industry **Mentor** **Position Title and Employer**

Law/Legal Services	Camille Victoria Liboro Delgado '16	<i>Paralegal and Analyst Cohen & Gresser LLP</i>
	Travis Edwards '12	<i>Associate Kellogg, Hansen, Todd, Figel & Frederick PLLC</i>
	Brian Farkas '10	<i>Judicial Law Clerk Southern District of New York</i>
	Steve Hankins '85, P'13, '17	<i>Partner Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila</i>
	Shari Leventhal '85, P'24	<i>Of Counsel Sullivan & Cromwell, LLP</i>
	Tracy Elise Poole '82	<i>Assistant General Counsel Johnson & Johnson</i>
Management Consulting	Nicholas Dynin '18	<i>Consultant Oliver Wyman</i>
	Hyunsu Jung '18	<i>Consultant EY</i>
	Steven Kauderer '85, P'24	<i>Consultant McKinsey and Company</i>
	Samantha Mignotte '09	<i>Senior Consultant Deloitte Consulting LLP</i>
	Emily Omrod '16	<i>Business Analyst Deloitte Consulting LLP</i>
	Kilian Schalk '92	<i>Founder PurpleGray Consulting</i>
Non-Profit/ Social Justice	Jonathan Bix '14	<i>Executive Director Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson</i>
	Michelle Defosset '87	<i>Vice President of Finance, Human Resources & Administration Sponsors for Educational Opportunity</i>
	Rachel Gilmer '10	<i>Co-Director Dream Defenders</i>
	Jenna Kronenberg '13	<i>Engagement Associate Physicians for Reproductive Health</i>
	Bonnie Levison '78	<i>Senior Instructor The Moth</i>
	Ian Patrick '07	<i>Director of Events, Tenement Museum</i>
	Lauren Reilly '11	<i>Executive Director SuitUp</i>

Career Cluster Index continues

Industry	Mentor	Position Title and Employer
Scientific Research	Donnele Daley '06	<i>Surgical Oncology Fellow Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center</i>
	Maya Enriquez '17	<i>Master's Student University of Minnesota</i>
	Steven Gilhool '05	<i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow Children's Hospital of Philadelphia</i>
	Stephan Ginell P'22	<i>Consultant P32 Consulting</i>
	Lisa Keefe, '83 P'22	<i>Director of IMCA-CAT, Vice President for Advancing Therapeutics Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute</i>
	Alexandru Mahmoud '18	<i>Senior Programmer Analyst John Hopkins University</i>
	Adrienne Natrillo '98	<i>Expert Global Trial Manager Novartis</i>
	Technology	Juleen Graham '18
Sydney Hessel '12		<i>User Experience Researcher Google</i>
Joe Lozito '93		<i>Managing Director Accenture</i>
Chloé Ouyang '15		<i>Regional Manager, Sales Development BetterCloud</i>
Ethan Tavan '03		<i>Senior Manager of Engineering athenaHealth</i>
Roger Vera '18		<i>Software Engineer Codecademy</i>
Simon Whitelaw '13		<i>Software Engineering Team Lead Paytronix</i>
Writing/Publishing	Jean-Luc Bouchard '14	<i>Senior Platform Editor Medium</i>
	Mary Kathleen (MK) Flynn '84	<i>Editor-in-Chief SourceMedia</i>
	Anabel Graff '09	<i>Writer, Writing Coach Creative Connections Essays</i>
	Matthew Kauffman '83	<i>Investigative Reporter (formerly) The Hartford Courant</i>
	Joshunda Sanders '00	<i>Author & Communications Specialist Lehman College</i>
	Jeff Wallach '82	<i>Writer / Journalist Freelance</i>

Mentors

Bios and Advice

Evan Abramson '00

Pollination Systems Designer and Planner,
LandscapeInteractions

Northampton, Massachusetts

Major at Vassar: English

Advanced Degree: MS, Ecological Design, Conway
School of Landscape Design

[linkedin.com/in/evanabramson-landscapeinteractions/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/evanabramson-landscapeinteractions/)



Drawing on his diverse experience as a regional planner, landscape designer, farmer, community organizer, documentary filmmaker and photojournalist, Evan designs landscapes and regional corridors that build biodiversity and strengthen ecological resilience to a

changing climate at the ecosystems level, through the (re)creation of native pollination systems and pollinator-plant interactions. A former land use and natural resources planner at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Evan designed the first watershed-based climate resiliency plan in Massachusetts. His environmental documentaries have garnered dozens of festival awards, and influenced policymakers across the globe. His photographs have been published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Guardian*, among other periodicals. As a community organizer for Food & Water Watch, Evan helped pass a statewide ban on fracking waste in Connecticut. He milked cows, grew vegetables, and raised cattle, pigs and poultry on pasture at Hawthorne Valley Farm. He holds a master of science in ecological design from the Conway School, Certificates in Permaculture Design and Biodynamic Gardening, and is co-author of the Great Barrington Pollinator Action Plan.

Advice to Students

Strike out new directions, constantly.

Do what you fear.

If there aren't jobs you like, make up your own.

Travel by land extensively and cheaply.

Don't listen to your parents.

Take long walks in nature without a phone.

Do what you love, even if it doesn't pay at first.

Your evolution is your life's work.

Merema Ahmed '12

Associate Business Affairs Manager,
TBWA \ Media Arts Lab

Los Angeles, California

Major at Vassar: History

[linkedin.com/in/merema-ahmed](https://www.linkedin.com/in/merema-ahmed)



Merema is currently managing a range of business affairs matters at the intersection of the entertainment and advertising industries in Los Angeles, CA. After having worked as a business representative for the world's largest entertainment union, SAG-AFTRA, she brought her commercial talent expertise

to the business affairs team at TBWA \ Media Arts Lab, Apple's bespoke advertising agency. As an associate manager there, she liaises with several teams from client account to production to ultimately ensure their creative visions may actualize within compliant terms and parameters on a global scale. While entrenched in this work, she's also managing a handful of professional artists, negotiating deals, and diligently advocating for her clients' needs as their business manager. She has been living in LA since moving post-graduation from her former home in Fargo, ND, and has maintained her unyielding love for dance that was ignited during her co-founding HYPE days at Vassar. In the midst of all of her work, she's consistently adventuring in various dance classes and performing with a new dance family throughout the city.

Advice to Students

If you haven't begun to do so already, start doing the work of unlearning the misattributed value of self with what you do professionally versus who you are personally. We're often conditioned to place our worth in relation to companies or titles—I admittedly am still reckoning with this corporate undoing as well. However, having now worked in several roles, I know to be true that no position/entity will equate your success—that will be only measured ultimately through joy. The sooner you may come to terms with understanding and prioritizing who you are and how you want to show up in the world and for others, the more aligned within your work and purpose you will be. Start the unpacking!

Melissa Appleby '08

Deputy Town Manager,
Town of Simsbury

Simsbury, Connecticut

Major at Vassar: History

Advanced Degree: Master of Public Administration (MPA), University of Connecticut

[linkedin.com/in/melissa-appleby/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/melissa-appleby/)



Melissa has worked in the field of local government administration for six years. As Deputy Town Manager for the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut, Melissa has responsibility for risk management, budget development, communications, and oversight of information technology services. She

previously served as a senior management analyst for the Town of Greenwich, Connecticut, and as a management analyst for the Town of Lexington, Massachusetts. Prior to earning her MPA degree from the University of Connecticut in 2013, she worked with the non-profit Girls Incorporated of New York City through the AmeriCorps VISTA program, and served on a congressional campaign in upstate New York. While at Vassar, Melissa played on the women's basketball team and was a member of the senior class council.

Advice to Students

Allow yourself to explore multiple areas of interest to you, especially early on in your career. No matter what field you work in, there is no set path that you are required to follow. Rather than pursuing a particular title, look for positions that will help you develop your skill set and challenge you daily. Find employers that are supportive of your professional growth. Seek advice from the people you trust, but always trust your intuition.

Nana T. Baffour-Awuah '14

Senior Strategist,
Consumer Dynamics

Brooklyn, New York

Major at Vassar: Psychology

[linkedin.com/in/ntbaffourawuah/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ntbaffourawuah/)



As Senior Strategist with Consumer Dynamics, a brand strategy and innovation consultancy in New York City, Nana works on projects at the intersection of creativity and strategy. He helps to unearth pithy insights that translate into marketing and communications strategies or products

for clients such as Colgate, Keurig, iRobot, and Weight Watchers—basically pulling together the building blocks for what could turn into an ad or sometimes a product in your neighborhood bodega. When he's not working, he's either reading himself into a Wikipedia rabbit hole, chasing some new horizon, or spinning words into essays, articles, and blogs. You can find some of his words in Quirk's magazine, Brand Quarterly, HuffPost, New African magazine, or The Good Men Project...and maybe someday soon, an anthology in a bookstore near you!

Advice to Students

The most consistent advice I've heard from older, much wiser people is: Don't sweat the small stuff, worry less; enjoy life more. Relax. It's going to be okay.

Your best will vary from time to time, but what matters most is that you always try your best—nothing more, nothing less. The rest is gravy.

Kwasi Benneh '00

**Managing Director, Morgan Stanley
New York, New York**

Major at Vassar: Physics

Advanced Degree: MBA, Stanford Graduate School of Business



Kwasi is a managing director in the Fixed Income Division of Morgan Stanley. He joined the firm in 2005 in the Commercial Real Estate Lending Group based in New York. He currently runs all large loan originations and private loan distribution in the Commercial Real Estate Lending platform

with previous roles in origination and distribution of private market debt. Morgan Stanley's platform consists of financing clients who own commercial real estate assets. Morgan Stanley provides approximately \$20B annually in financing, which is either retained on the firm's investment portfolio or is securitized in the capital markets. His day-to-day responsibilities include managing teams that analyze real estate credit risk and also meeting with prospective Morgan Stanley clients.

Previously, Kwasi worked in the Investment Banking Division of Citigroup as an analyst in the Telecommunications M&A Group. At Citigroup, Kwasi helped advise institutional clients on mergers & acquisitions transactions in the telecommunications industry.

Kwasi earned an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business in 2005.

Advice to Students

It's never too early to start networking. Finding job opportunities are getting more competitive and so the earlier you start in your college years, the better.

Sam Bisbee P'22

**Film Producer/Partner,
Park Pictures**

New York, New York

Major in College: English



Sam is an Emmy Award-winning producer and founding partner of Park Pictures Features, the feature film division of acclaimed commercial production company Park Pictures. In 2009, Sam produced *The New Tenants*, which won the Academy Award in 2010 for best live action short.

Over the last seven years, Sam and Park Pictures have brought nine films to premiere at the Sundance Film Festival, all of which have been picked up at Sundance for distribution: 2012's Sloan Award winner *Robot and Frank*, 2013's Golden Globe-nominated *Infinitely Polar Bear* and *God's Pocket*, 2015's Midnight selection *Cop Car*, 2016's Independent Spirit Award winner (*Molly Shannon*) and four-time nominee *Other People*, 2017's *The Hero*, 2018's *Hearts Beat Loud*, *An Evening with Beverly Luff Linn*, and Rudy Valdez's *The Sentence* (HBO), for which Sam also composed the original score. *The Sentence* won the 2018 Sundance Audience Award for U.S. Documentary Competition and just won the 2019 Primetime Emmy Award for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking.

Advice to Students

My advice is to do what you love, and to love what you do. Of course, it's never as simple as that, but that's always a great place to start. It's also very important to work with people who inspire you, and who bring out the best in you. It's the relationships and connections you make now which might surprise you some day. And of course, work hard.

Jonathan Bix '14

Executive Director,
Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson

Poughkeepsie, New York

Major at Vassar: Sociology



Jonathan is the Executive Director and a co-founder of Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson, a grassroots, member-led organization that builds power for social justice through community organizing, civic engagement, and leadership development.

Since graduating from Vassar in 2014, Jonathan has helped turn Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson from an all-volunteer, Poughkeepsie-specific group into an organization with staff and offices across three counties, members in over a dozen cities, and significant influence in local and statewide politics.

Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson's accomplishments in 2019 alone include co-leading the campaign that expanded driver's license access to over 750,000 undocumented New Yorkers, registering over 1,700 people to vote, and making over 35,000 Get-Out-The-Vote calls and texts.

Advice to Students

Take advantage of the opportunity to do community-engaged learning! There is crucial experience and knowledge you can gain from community-engaged learning that you can't from a classroom.

Phil Black P'22

Co-Founder and Partner,
True Ventures

San Francisco, California

Major in College: Economics

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Phil is an early-stage venture capitalist and co-founder of True Ventures. He learned the venture trade and met his future True Ventures co-founder during his time at Summit Partners. He held general partner positions for eight years prior to raising and investing a small angel fund called

Blacksmith Capital, which became a seminal moment in his career of managing venture fund investments. Phil believes in risk-taking at the earliest stage and that start-up founders benefit most when they are supported fully, both professionally and personally.

Phil is a product of Oklahoma and a Stanford University alumnus. He loves art, wine, and travel. His favorite place outside of the San Francisco Bay Area is London.

Advice to Students

Check out our company Handshake! Handshake is the college career network of the future, built to transform the recruiting experience for college students, career centers, and employers. Their mission is to democratize access to opportunity: to help every college student find the right job for them, no matter where they go to school, what they're majoring in, or who they know.

vassar.joinhandshake.com

Jean-Luc Bouchard '14

Senior Platform Editor,
Medium

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: English

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Jean-Luc is a senior platform editor at Medium as well as a features contributor to The Onion. Their writing has been published in The Paris Review, Vox, VICE, BuzzFeed, Quartz, CollegeHumor, and several literary magazines and anthologies. They were the winner of Epiphany

magazine's 2016 "Writers Under 30" contest, won Split Lip Magazine's 2019 flash fiction contest, were included on Wigleaf's 2018 longlist for best short stories, and were selected for honorable mention by the Speculative Literature Foundation for the 2016 Working Class Writers Grant. Their ragtime piano compositions have been performed by pianist Ishmael Wallace in concerts in New York City, and they are the host of Famous Podcast, a musical satire podcast.

Advice to Students

Always favor being a generalist over a specialist. The ability to shift between roles and industries is increasingly valuable and much easier than you realize. Learn to write, edit, code, produce, videotape, record, work with data, or whatever else interests you. It will come in handy later. I strongly encourage people to try and fail several things rather than double down on a path that leaves you unhappy for years in hopes of one day receiving your due. Especially when it comes to writing and publishing, try not to hitch your dreams to one goal, project, or company.

Anne Brewer '04

Senior Advisor for Policy and
Intergovernmental Affairs,
NYC Mayor's Public Engagement Unit

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Cognitive Science

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Anne has spent the majority of her career in politics and public service, including two years in federal government in Washington, DC and nearly five years in local government. In her current role as a Senior Advisor in the NYC Mayor's Public Engagement Unit, she is part of the leadership team that

develops and implements outreach initiatives to raise awareness of new programs and to make government more accessible. She worked on the presidential campaigns of John Kerry (2004) and Barack Obama (2008), and went on to serve in the White House Office of Public Engagement—a team tasked with inclusively and transparently engaging the public to seek input, foster dialogue and build support around the president's agenda. Highlights include supporting the efforts to pass the Affordable Care Act and the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, as well as supporting the nomination and confirmation of Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan to the U.S. Supreme Court. She also served in the Peace Corps as a Community Health and Economic Development volunteer in Lesotho from 2011-2013.

Advice to Students

Be open-minded as to where your choices and opportunities take you—if you find yourself without a 5-year or 10-year plan, that's perfectly okay! I saw my choice to join a presidential campaign as a principle-driven but short-term detour upon graduation—a job I was hired for in part because of the extracurricular activities I'd done during my senior year (and don't underestimate their importance!). As it turns out, I'd stumbled upon a passion on which to chart a career path. Though you may often hear the phrase "fake it 'til you make it" when starting out in your career, don't forget to be your authentic and genuine self—it's critical to building trust, rapport and enduring relationships.

Laura Buck '08

Project Architect,
nArchitects
Brooklyn, New York

Major at Vassar: Religion

Advanced Degree: Master of Architecture, Columbia University GSAPP

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Laura is an architect interested in public space, education, and art. She is currently a project architect at nArchitects working on an Energy and Nature Education Center at Jones Beach for New York State Parks as well as a rectory for Fordham University in the Bronx. On a daily basis, Laura

manages a small team, leads design, interfaces with clients, and is currently overseeing her project through construction. Prior to her current role, Laura worked at Ennead Architects designing museums, higher education buildings, and performance spaces while she earned her license. Over the past six years, Laura has also taught undergraduate and graduate studios at the University of New Haven and Columbia University. Laura is a graduate of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation, where she earned the Lucille Lowenfish Memorial Prize for excellence in design and AIA Henry Adams Certificate for promise for professional ability.

Advice to Students

I have never had any specific career aspirations, but I have tried to stay engaged with what I am doing. If you feel lost or overwhelmed with choosing a career, I think the choice of the career is less important than the process of listening to yourself while you are in it. Allow yourself to find your own path and try to do things that make you feel curious and interested. Also, let yourself consider the type of lifestyle you would like to have. Give yourself permission to do what works best for you and be proactive to try and create the life that you want.

Marcelo Buitron '09

Operations Officer,
Office of the Chief Economist, World Bank
Washington, DC

Major at Vassar: Economics, Political Science

Advanced Degree: MA, Democracy and Governance, Georgetown University

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Marcelo is an international development professional with nearly a decade of experience advising governments on various economic and governance issues. Areas of expertise include transparency and accountability; public participation in budget and audit processes; anti-corruption

programs; citizen engagement; public financial management, public investment management; shared services and civil service reform. He has extensive regional experience in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as East Asia Pacific. He has designed and supervised various World Bank projects around the world. In early 2019, Marcelo joined the front office of the Chief Economist of the World Bank Group. In this current position, he supports managing the Office of the Chief Economist.

Advice to Students

I would encourage those looking at careers in international affairs to try to get some experience abroad and learn a second language. Also, sometimes to get a foot in the door, you will need to go for a job/internship that may not sound too appealing or may not be your first choice.

Graham Campbell '99

Director of Customer Success,
ShotSpotter

Washington, DC

Major at Vassar: Urban Studies

Advanced Degree: MPA, State and Local Government,
Suffolk University

[linkedin.com/in/grahamccampbell](https://www.linkedin.com/in/grahamccampbell)



In his role as Director of Customer Success for ShotSpotter, an acoustic gunshot detection company based in Silicon Valley, Graham works with cities to detect and locate illegal gunfire in their communities—enabling police to respond within seconds of gunshots being fired.

Graham travels to cities around the Northeast, as well as Baltimore, to work with everyone from mayors to patrol officers to help them leverage this gunshot data for everything from tactical responses to big-picture social service resource allocation. Prior to that, he worked in emergency and crisis management consulting for the public sector and private industry. Graham was Director of Training for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, overseeing training as well as operations during disasters in the state. Directly after graduating from Vassar, Graham joined the NYPD. He served as a police officer for five years doing patrol and plainclothes work in Harlem, working both 9/11 and the 2003 blackout. Graham is a former Jewett House President and knows it is the finest residence hall on this campus.

Advice to Students

First, realize that whatever you are paid when you graduate, it's too much. The first few months—or even year—in a new job out of college, they're essentially paying you to be trained. Vassar teaches you great critical thinking and writing skills, but they don't teach you how to be on Slack while participating in a Zoom meeting, while fighting the copy machine which says it's out of toner, but it's totally not. So remember to be humble.

Evan Carberry '14

Director, High Rise and Commercial Services,
ReVireo

Cranford, New Jersey

Major at Vassar: Economics

Advanced Degree: MSc, Sustainable Energy and
Entrepreneurship, University of Nottingham

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Evan is the Director of High Rise and Commercial Services for ReVireo, an energy efficiency and green building services company. In this role, he oversees the growth of the company's work with commercial real estate developers and design professionals across a broad range of service offerings.

He also provides consulting and project management expertise across a variety of project types pursuing a diverse range of sustainability goals. Prior to joining ReVireo, Evan worked as a sustainability consultant at Steven Winter Associates as part of the Multifamily New Construction team. In this role, he provided sustainability expertise as related to the New York City market and spent most of his time working with affordable housing developers and designers. He gained his introduction to the green building and sustainability industry as a home energy analyst with Sealed, developing energy-efficient retrofits for single-family homeowners after graduating from the University of Nottingham.

Advice to Students

It is great to have a plan but it is inevitable that you will eventually deviate from it in one way or another. My advice is to pursue experiences that will make you question your plan and to embrace the deviations when they occur.

Lauren Chin '13

CRM Marketing Manager,
Zocdoc

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: French, Political Science



Lauren is a CRM marketing manager at Zocdoc, a company created to solve patient problems and improve the overall healthcare experience for all. CRM (customer relationship management) is an effective marketing channel that targets an audience during various lifecycle stages, driving

them to adopt certain behaviors as relevant.

After graduating in 2013, Lauren received the Chinese Government Fellowship and studied Mandarin in Shanghai. She then moved back to New York to work at Shutterstock, a stock photography tech company, as a marketing coordinator. She decided to specialize in CRM after discovering her interest in the channel. After four years at Shutterstock, Lauren quit her job to go “offexplauren” for eight months. She started working at Zocdoc since she’s been back in the city.

Prior to graduating Vassar, she had several internships over the summer. She was a Tananbaum fellow and worked for a Vassar alum at NBC News through a summer and spring internship. Lauren believes in the power of networking and is eager to share her hiring insight from her experience at Zocdoc.

Advice to Students

Don’t be scared to network. Understand the value of networking and how you can learn from others without asking specifically for a job or wanting a specific outcome. When applying to jobs, make sure your resume has quantitative results and share your experiences in a way that is transferable to the job description. Ask others for feedback and don’t take any job rejections personally. After interviewing over 500 candidates for one role at Zocdoc, it is safe to say that hiring managers are looking for very specific traits so it is extremely difficult for candidates to be the right fit for the role.

Fardeen Chowdhury '13

Director of Monitoring and Evaluation,
Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Washington, DC

Major at Vassar: Economics

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Fardeen is Director of Monitoring and Evaluation for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the U.S. government’s development finance Institution. He has been in federal service since his graduation, starting his career at the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury as a financial analyst where

he worked with the newly created Financial Stability Oversight Council created by the Dodd-Frank Act. He moved to OPIC in pursuit of his interests in finance and international development. His primary role is leading the monitoring and evaluation program, which focuses on the developmental impact of OPIC’s portfolio, conducting deep-dive reviews of projects that are of interest to the agency. His daily responsibilities change throughout the fiscal year as the demands of both the White House and Congress change but range from authoring policy reports to conducting on-site analysis of projects OPIC has invested in. In his free time he does fund-raising and consulting for a nonprofit he began in DC that focuses on reducing food insecurity.

Advice to Students

Try to meet as many people as possible as early as you can. During my freshman year, I was dead set on pursuing medicine. Two years later, I was trying to figure out how I could graduate with enough credits in Economics for my degree to be competitive for internships in finance. I wouldn’t have made the change nor known more about fields outside of what I was set on without networking constantly and meeting as many people as I could. The world is full of opportunities and career paths that aren’t easily seen; ask around and really find something you love.

Timothy George Connolly '78

Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager,
United Nations

Madison, Wisconsin

Major at Vassar: Political Science

Advanced Degrees: MS, Teaching, The New School for Social Research; MS, Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison

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Over the last two decades, Tim has been a United Nations emergency preparedness and response manager in over two dozen countries—often in post-conflict or insecure environments, including post-war Sudan and Liberia during the 2014 Ebola pandemic. In October 2019, he returned from Bangladesh after

a year of directing engineering operations supporting the Rohingya refugee crisis there. He has also been an NYC-based Actors' Equity production stage manager and a U.S. Army Ranger and special operations officer in Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War. He planned and managed the Democratic National Convention operations for two presidential campaigns and was senior staff on the 52nd Presidential Inaugural Committee. He spent three years as a Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and taught seventh grade in a NYC public school. He was a political campaign adviser to the opposition party in Zimbabwe and the President of the Republic of Maldives; Sudan country manager for a landmine clearing project; and planned and directed Peoples Climate Movement marches in Washington DC and San Francisco in 2017 and 2018.

Advice to Students

In a 2014 interview, Charlie Rose commented to actor Bill Murray that “[y]our life is interesting and it seems that it—it’s not a carefully thought-out and well-planned life.” In response, Murray said he tries “to be just alert, you know, and available…” He went on: “I mean, available for work but available just for life to happen to you, you know, that we are living this life, we are in this life and if you are not available, this sort of ordinary time goes past and you didn’t live it, you know, the day passes and you didn’t live it.”

My advice to you: be available. It has worked for me.

Philip D. Cooke '91

Associate Executive Director of
Public Affairs & Community Outreach,
NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Africana Studies

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Philip has held many progressive leadership positions at NYC Health + Hospitals since 2000. Prior to joining NYC Health + Hospitals, Philip was Assistant Chief of Operations to former New York City Public Advocate Mark Green. He also had the pleasure of serving as a press aide in the historic administration of New

York City’s first African American Mayor, David N. Dinkins. Philip’s professional goal is to contribute to NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem by communicating to patients and staff alike that everyone has value and together we can all make a difference for our community.

Advice to Students

Dare to dream and live your life as if nothing matters. Life is really about trial and error. You may fall many times but continue to get back up. In the end, the only thing that matters is a life that is full of integrity, service to others, and being true to self. Always remember, you must run your own race. You may stumble, but persevere, you will make it!

Alanna Corwin '15

Sales Development Manager,
McMaster-Carr Supply

Robbinsville, New Jersey

Major at Vassar: Women's Studies

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Alanna is a sales development manager at McMaster-Carr Supply, a distributor of industrial goods. Alanna first joined the company in 2015 upon graduating from Vassar College. During her time at McMaster-Carr, Alanna has worked in six different roles spanning both warehouse and sales operations. Most recently, Alanna is responsible for managing the company's marketing efforts at the New Jersey branch. In this role, Alanna supports and develops marketers, sets the department's vision and goals, and works on projects pertaining to sales development initiatives. Throughout her career, Alanna has worked on projects across many different areas of the business including publishing, sales, and distribution.

Advice to Students

A liberal arts education is a universal degree in many ways—learning to think critically across many disciplines is a skill that is relevant and valued. For many industries, your specific major has less bearing on your qualification for a role than your ability to apply critical thought to your work and adapt to versatility.

Christine Cruz '11

Speech Language Pathologist,
NYC Department of Education

Bronx, New York

Major at Vassar: Political Science

Advanced Degrees: MS, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Teachers College, Columbia University; Post-baccalaureate, Speech-language Pathology, CUNY Brooklyn College

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Christine is a pediatric, bilingual speech language pathologist who works for the NYC Department of Education in a self-contained, special education school in the Bronx. Her current caseload includes students with developmental language disorders, multiple disabilities, emotional disturbance, and autism. Her primary mission

is to provide each student the opportunity to participate and communicate functionally within their school and home environments. Through culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate assessment, Christine evaluates her students' receptive, expressive, and pragmatic use of language, speech production, cognition, and swallowing, and incorporates these findings into therapy that improves each student's access to school curriculum and quality of life. She specializes in use of alternate and augmentative communication (AAC), allowing for students who are nonverbal and/or unintelligible to express themselves using picture symbols or voice output devices. After fulfilling her obligation to the NYC DOE as a recipient of a full-tuition, graduate study scholarship, Christine hopes to incorporate treatment of infants in neonatal intensive care units as well as rehabilitative therapy for individuals who have suffered brain injury.

Advice to Students

Choosing a career can be intimidating, but finding one that fulfills you is possible—even if you're unsure now as an undergraduate. You probably have things you're interested in and it's a great idea to seek out as much exposure to those things as possible and to be receptive. But don't feel upset if no job feels like a calling right now. Finding a rewarding field is also about your perspective. Most of all, don't ever think it's too late to change your field or switch things up. Continuing education and post-baccalaureate work can lead you to new places. Though schooling and preparation for a certain career can be a big investment, it doesn't have to be a lifelong commitment.

Donnele Daley '06

**Surgical Oncology Fellow,
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, New York**

Major at Vassar: Physics
Advanced Degrees: MD, Penn State College of Medicine; BE, Engineering, Dartmouth College



Donnele is from Kingston, Jamaica and attended Vassar as an international student. While at Vassar, Donnele participated in the dual-degree program in engineering at Dartmouth College, and upon graduating from Vassar she matriculated at Dartmouth, earning a bachelor's in

engineering. She went on to attend medical school at the Penn State College of Medicine, after which she completed her residency in general surgery at the New York University School of Medicine. During her time at NYU, Donnele also completed a two-year research fellowship in gastrointestinal oncology. Her research focused on studying the tumor microenvironment in pancreatic cancer to identify new targets for treating the disease. She is currently a surgical oncology fellow at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. Her clinical interests include the surgical management of gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary cancers, and as a surgeon-scientist, she continues to conduct research in tumor immunology.

Advice to Students

Ultimately, you must enjoy what you do. Find an area that excites you, that you are passionate about, and pursue it. The journey you take to pursue this passion may be challenging and may require a lot of dedication. However, it will be worth it if it truly brings you joy.

Michelle DeFossett '87

**VP of Finance and Administration
Sponsors for Educational Opportunities
New York, New York**

Major at Vassar: Economics
Advanced Degree: MBA, Columbia Business School



Michelle DeFossett holds the CFO role at Sponsors for Educational Opportunities, where she oversees the operational functions for close to 200 full- and part-time staff. She is an experienced nonprofit and finance professional. Prior to SEO, Michelle oversaw the

CFO functions for several nonprofits. Prior to embarking on her career in the nonprofit sector, Michelle spent over 20 years within the financial services arena. She began her career at the Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.'s International Banking sector. After Business School, Michelle embarked on a career within the Asset Management sector. In her various roles at well-established firms such as JP Morgan Asset Management, she led teams that were responsible for new product development, business development, and process reengineering initiatives.

Advice to Students

The selection of a major should be based on the combination of skill and passion. The career path that might ultimately bring you the greatest overall satisfaction and fulfillment might not fit others' vision for you or may not be in line with your current passion.

Do not be afraid to have the honest and sometimes difficult conversations with family, friends, and professors. A major selected on skill but without heart or any passion is no better than a major selected solely on passion with no talent or skill.

Camille Victoria Liboro Delgado '16

Paralegal and Analyst,
Cohen & Gresser LLP

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Classics (Greek & Roman Studies)

Advanced Degree: MBA, Accounting and Marketing,
King Graduate School

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Camille serves as a paralegal and analyst at Cohen & Gresser LLP's head office in New York. Cohen & Gresser is an international law firm specializing in complex litigation, corporate law, intellectual property ("IP"), arbitration, and white-collar defense and regulation. In

addition to case work, Camille oversees junior paralegal development and manages the IP Department. In these roles, she interviews and trains new hires; reviews and indexes discovery documents; prepares court filings; copyedits and fact-checks legal briefs; drafts and files trademark applications; engages in, and oversees, patent and trademark maintenance; and works with the business department by case monitoring and running conflict checks for potential clients. Camille completed her MBA program in December 2019 with a double major in accounting and marketing, pursuing her degree alongside her work at the firm. Prior to Cohen & Gresser, Camille worked in fund-raising and development with Teach for China in Beijing; in supply chain operations for Troll Trailers Chassis in both China and the Philippines; and in the Legal Department of Glencore Copper in Manila, Philippines.

Advice to Students

Organization, prioritization, time management, and a solid work ethic will get you very far in every aspect of your life, especially in your career. That aside, cultivating your passions, relationships, mental growth, and a life outside of work is integral to maintaining a happy, well-balanced state of mind. Opportunities often come from positive, genuine interactions with other people, and those are much easier to execute and come by when you are in a good place yourself.

Chrysoula Dosiou P'22

Clinical Professor,
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford, California

Major in College: Biology

Advanced Degrees: MD, Harvard Medical School;
MS, Clinical Epidemiology, Stanford University



Chrysoula is a clinical professor in the Division of Endocrinology at Stanford University School of Medicine. After obtaining her BA in biology from Harvard College and her medical degree from Harvard Medical School, she completed her internal medicine residency at University of California, San Francisco,

followed by fellowship training in endocrinology and a master of science in clinical epidemiology at Stanford University. Chrysoula's clinical focus has been thyroidology, with a special interest in the management of thyroid disease in pregnancy and the care of patients with thyroid eye disease. She has served as a member of the American Thyroid Association's Thyroid and Pregnancy Guidelines Task Force. To better meet the complex needs of patients with thyroid eye disease, she founded the multidisciplinary Stanford Thyroid-Eye Clinic about 10 years ago. Chrysoula teaches medical students, residents, and fellows. For the past 5 years, she has directed the Stanford Endocrinology Fellowship training program. Her research interests have been in the field of hormonal regulation of the immune

Nicholas Dynin '18

Consultant,
Oliver Wyman
New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Economics, Russian Studies



Nick is a second-year consultant at Oliver Wyman, having joined the firm right after graduating Vassar. So far, he has had the opportunity to serve clients in a variety of industries, ranging from wealth management to food service, across the continental United States. In his role, Nick primarily performs qualitative and quantitative analyses,

synthesizes key findings derived from these analyses, and works with his team to communicate said findings to clients in the most effective manner. Outside of work, when time permits, Nick enjoys traveling, Soviet cinema (big thank you to the Vassar Russian department), and watching football/soccer.

Advice to Students

The first couple of years after college are critical to your professional development. To make the most of it, make sure that you're always learning and surrounded by people who inspire you, no matter where you may start your career.

Travis Edwards '12

Associate,
Kellogg, Hansen, Todd, Figel & Frederick PLLC
Washington, DC

Major at Vassar: Urban Studies
Advanced Degree: JD, Harvard Law School

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Travis is an associate at Kellogg Hansen, a litigation boutique in Washington, DC. While at Vassar, Travis took classes ranging from religion to hip-hop theory and spent his time outside of class as a campus tour guide, VSA VP of Finance, and house team member. After Vassar, he spent time living in his hometown of

Quito, Ecuador (studying for the LSAT) before following his then-girlfriend (now wife!) Tanay Tatum-Edwards '12 to South Africa. In an attempt to sample everything he could before law school, Travis returned to New York City as a Coro Fellow in Public Affairs and worked at six different placements—including the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, the Open Society Foundations, and the Center for Court Innovation. He then deferred his law school acceptance to backpack through South America. Travis eventually graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School and then clerked for the Honorable Diana Gribbon Motz on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. He is looking forward to a career as a plaintiff-side trial and appellate lawyer.

Advice to Students

Be honest with yourself. If you don't like something, you won't be good at it. Classes, activities, and internships are as much about figuring out what you don't like as what you love. The right job isn't necessarily the one that is the most prestigious, does the most good, or impresses your family or friends. It is the one where you enjoy most of the work (what you spend your time doing 40+ hours a week) and can endure the rest (because every job involves some grunt work). Oh, and anything

Deb Macfarlan Enright '82

Founder/CEO,
The Macfarlan Group

Brentwood, Tennessee

Major at Vassar: Political Science

Advanced Degrees: MPP and EdD, Education Policy,
Vanderbilt University

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Deb loves anyone who seeks to improve the world through skillful disruption of the status quo. She is an acclaimed communicator and strategist adept at uncovering potential to optimize impact. Deb is the founder and CEO of The Macfarlan Group, whose work includes developing growth

strategies, donor/investor cultivation and engagement, brand strategies, and leadership development.

Clients include social impact organizations solving population-level social challenges including workforce development, literacy, addiction, incarceration, and human rights. The group's podcast, 3 a.m. What's Keeping You Up at Night?, spotlights social impact superstars from around the world. Find their shows on Spotify, iTunes, and www.themacfarlangroup.com

Deb serves as Vice President of Strategic Planning on the Board of the Alumnae/i Association of Vassar College. On campus, she directed Matthew's Minstrels and sang with The Raymond Avenue Ramblers. Deb was a jazz singer touring the East Coast and Caribbean. Listen to Deb perform her tune, "Tonight He's Mine" with the James Bazen Big Band <https://music.apple.com/us/album/tonight-hes-mine/5024231>.

Advice to Students

The only person who will attempt and possibly succeed in limiting your success is you. So find your north star, do whatever it takes, and help change the world for the better through creative disruption of the status quo. Maximize your impact.

Maya Enriquez '17

Master's Student, University of Minnesota
Duluth, Minnesota

Major at Vassar: Cognitive Science

Advanced Degree: MS, Integrated Biosciences,
University of Minnesota

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Maya is currently pursuing a master's degree at the University of Minnesota Duluth Integrated Biosciences program. She is currently working under Allen Mensinger with a focus on the sensory ecology of fish and invasive species management in the Great Lakes. Her latest

research project explores management of the invasive Round Goby and the effect of trapping techniques on population dynamics. Maya is a recipient of the University of Minnesota Diversity of Views and Experiences (DOVE) Fellowship and is active in community outreach in the Duluth area. Prior to graduate school, Maya worked as an EKG technician and medical scribe in Los Angeles. Though initially interested in a medical career pathway, she found her passion for biology through several fieldwork experiences at Vassar, which included tagging Northern Saw-Whet owls on Mohonk Ridge and studying biomechanics in a senior biology seminar. While at Vassar, she was an oboist in the Vassar College Orchestra and a student mentor through the Transitions Program. Maya is dedicated to increasing diversity in science and providing support and mentorship to underrepresented minorities.

Advice to Students

Even if you are interested in academics, do not feel like

Brian Evans '14

Head of Fine Art, Interiors,
Collector and Proud Sales,
Christie's

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Independent

Advanced Degree: MA, Art History, Courtauld Institute

[linkedin.com/in/brian-matthew-evans/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/brian-matthew-evans/)



Brian is the Head of Fine Arts for the Interiors, Collectors, Private and Iconic and Proud sales for Christie's auction house in New York. As both specialist and generalist, he oversees a wide evaluation process for artwork across mediums and value thresholds, gathering property and curating sales for a variety of platforms. In the summer of

2020, he will be leading the first Pride sale in Christie's 250-year history. He is also a trained auctioneer, representing the company at multiple fund-raising and charity events in helping to raise funds for their various causes. While at Vassar, Brian created his own major focusing on gender and queer theory in a wide range of art forms, which encompassed courses in film, art history, dance, music, and various literature. Upon graduating, he continued his line of inquiry in queer theory and the arts by completing a master's in the history of art focusing on the male body in nineteenth century European art.

Advice to Students

It is easy to say to find something you love and stick with it—but often times this passion will come to you furtively in ways you may not even realize. Continue with what brings you joy and the rest will fall into place. Never overestimate the value of Vassar and where it might lead, but always remain humble and curious.

Brian Farkas '10

Judicial Law Clerk,
Southern District of New York

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: History, Political Science

Advanced Degree: JD, Cardozo School of Law

[linkedin.com/in/brianfarkas/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/brianfarkas/)



Brian is a Judicial Law Clerk for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. He previously spent six years as an attorney at Goetz Fitzpatrick LLP, focusing his practice on commercial litigation, arbitration and intellectual property. He represented clients in litigation in state and

federal court. In 2019, Brian was named a "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers for Business Litigation. He is admitted to practice in New York, New Jersey and the District of Columbia. Beyond his legal work, Brian is an adjunct professor at the City University of New York, where he teaches undergraduate courses on business law and negotiation. He is also an adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School, teaching seminar courses on arbitration and mediation. Brian regularly serves as a volunteer court mediator in New York County and Kings County. His academic writings have appeared in numerous publications, including the Harvard Negotiation Law Review, Lewis & Clark Law Review, and NYU Journal of Law & Business. Brian proudly serves on the Board of Trustees of Vassar College.

Advice to Students

Find ways to serve Vassar every single day. That might involve picking up a piece of trash from the Quad; leading a student organization; connecting your roommate with a family member in an industry about which they are passionate; joining the Loeb Art Center

Mary Kathleen (MK) Flynn '84

Editor-in-Chief,
SourceMedia

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: English

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MK serves as Editor-in-Chief of Mergers & Acquisitions, a business-to-business (B2B) publication owned by SourceMedia, which she joined in 2011. MK oversees the brand's content on all media platforms, including website (www.themiddlemarket.com), e-newsletters, videos, slideshows, podcasts, and print. Her beats include private equity; investment banking; inclusion and diversity in the dealmaking community; and overall M&A trends. She spearheads The Most Influential Women in Mid-Market M&A, which profiles approximately 40 female dealmakers each year. Previously, she was a senior editor/senior video producer at The Deal; an on-camera reporter at CNN and MSNBC; a senior editor at U.S. News & World Report; and an associate editor at PC Magazine.

Advice to Students

Have faith that the working world is going to offer you many exciting adventures, and be open to opportunities that come your way. You never know where or when you'll meet someone who may be helpful in your career. Once you've met them, nurture the connection. Stay in touch with them. Let them know what you're doing. Stay on their radar. If time goes by and you're not in touch, don't be shy about reaching out and initiating contact again. People will respond to your tenacity, and they'll be flattered you remembered meeting them. It won't be long before you'll be in a position to help others.

Hollace Francy '15

Freelance Scenic Artist

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Drama

Advanced Degree: Certificate, Scenic Artist Training Program, Cobalt Studios



Hollace is a freelance scenic artist located in NYC (<https://hollacef.wixsite.com/website>). After working for Vassar College Campus Activities for two years as a post-bacc, she switched gears and went to Cobalt Studios, a specialty vocational school for scenic art and backdrops. Since graduating Cobalt, she freelances in New York City painting sets, backdrops, pop-ups, holiday windows, and art installations. In the world of freelancing, every day is different, but each day she's painting, sculpting, and problem solving. Some of her employers include Sleep No More, the Public Theater, Infinite Scenic, and the Public Art Fund. She is currently applying to become a member of Local USA 829, the Scenic Artists Union.

Advice to Students

Don't be afraid to take a risk, especially if what's holding you back is a feeling of self-doubt.

Remember that a career/job is just one part of who you are, and maintaining balance in all aspects your life is important for your overall health and well-being. Take the time to really self-reflect on what you want—what you would be happy doing every day, what you want your life outside of work to be like, what people, hobbies and environments make you feel fulfilled. Use this self-reflection to determine what your goals are, and then keep working towards them.

Andrew Gaines '12

Production Administrator, Vocal Arts,
The Juilliard School

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: English

[linkedin.com/in/angaines/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/angaines/)



Andrew works at The Juilliard School as the Production Administrator in the Ellen and James S. Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts, where he oversees the artistic elements and logistical operations of all Juilliard Opera productions. He works closely with undergraduate and graduate voice students, faculty

members, conductors, directors, designers, artistic teams, and production staff to produce Juilliard's opera season. He has also served as the Projects Administrator for Performance Activities in Vocal Arts at Juilliard, where he coordinated all extracurricular concert performances, residencies, and master classes. Prior to Juilliard, Andrew was an associate artist manager in the Opera/Vocal Division at IMG Artists, where he collaborated with over 55 internationally renowned classical singers and managed the logistics of 300+ performance engagements each year. He has also held positions in the Booking Department at Columbia Artists Management (CAMI), the Development Department at the Glimmerglass Festival, and the Education Department at the Metropolitan Opera Guild. He currently resides in Astoria, NY, where he is a founding board member of his local community choir, the Astoria Choir.

Advice to Students

Don't worry so much about adhering to a strict career "plan," because you never know where life will take you or what new opportunities may arise along the way. While it's important to have a strong sense of your personal values and professional goals, just know that your plans can—and will—change throughout your

Rachel Garbade '15

Assistant Director/Archivist,
Garth Greenan Gallery

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Art History, French

Advanced Degrees: MA, Art History, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU; MS, Library and Information Science, Long Island University

[linkedin.com/in/rachelgarbade/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rachelgarbade/)



A Brooklyn resident, Rachel is currently juggling two master's degrees, in art history and library science, and a part-time job at Garth Greenan Gallery. She's enrolled at NYU's Institute of Fine Arts and Long Island University's Palmer School in a dual degree program that will fast-track both degrees, with a completion date set

for 2022. She just surpassed the four-year mark at the Chelsea gallery, where she's risen from gallery assistant to Assistant Director/Archivist; there, she is a jack of all trades. When she's not working in the arts or learning about the arts, you can find her at an art museum gazing longingly at a Georgia O'Keeffe painting, at a brunch spot Instagramming her matcha latte, or at the farmers' market dropping off her compost. When she "grows up," she hopes to become a certified archivist working at an artist's foundation or museum.

Advice to Students

Do whatever you can to make networking less scary. Those friends you made interning, that's your network. The peers you knew in college, that's your network. Your sister's friend who works at a company you've always dreamed of working at, that's your network. Vassar alums you've never spoken to before, that's your network! Stay in touch with as many people as possible who work in the area you're interested in. And, remember, every industry is its own small little world, so chances are you'll keep bumping in to the same people.

Katharine George '14

Assistant Conservator,
EverGreene Architectural Arts

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Urban Studies

Advanced Degree: MSc, Historic Preservation,
University of Pennsylvania



Katharine is an architectural conservator based out of New York City. At Vassar, she majored in Urban Studies with concentrations in architecture and urban history, and two correlates in studio art and Hispanic studies. Her interest in historic architecture as an undergraduate led her to write

her thesis on preservation and adaptive reuse in Poughkeepsie.

Katharine pursued a master's degree in historic preservation from the University of Pennsylvania, completed in 2017. There she concentrated in architectural conservation, material science, documentation, drafting, and spent a summer doing hands-on work for the National Parks Service. Her master's thesis focused on wooden heritage conservation.

Katharine currently works as a conservator at EverGreene Architectural Arts, a Brooklyn-based architectural arts and conservation studio. She has worked on many different historic buildings and materials, from masonry at Trinity Church in New York City, to decorative wood paneling in a 1920s Austin, Texas courtroom, to decorative paint analysis at the United States Capitol in Washington, DC.

Steven Gilhool '05

Postdoctoral Research Fellow,
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Major at Vassar: Astronomy, Japanese, Physics

Advanced degrees: PhD and MA, Physics and
Astronomy, University of Pennsylvania

[in linkedin.com/in/steve-gilhool](https://www.linkedin.com/in/steve-gilhool)



At Vassar, Steven triple-majored in physics, astronomy, and Japanese, and was a member of the men's volleyball team. After graduating, he followed his passion for the Japanese language overseas, and taught English in Japan for the next five years. Upon returning to the States, Steven returned to his other interests—physics and

astronomy. He earned a PhD in physics and astronomy from the University of Pennsylvania, where he worked on methods to detect extrasolar planets orbiting small stars, and methods to measure the rotation rates of small stars. Finally, he found a new interest to pursue through his latest role as a postdoctoral researcher in the Center for Applied Genomics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where he analyzes genetic data to help in finding treatments for various childhood diseases.

Advice to Students

Persistence, perseverance, and patience are the superpowers of the real world. In my experience, the critical difference between undergrad and the rest of life is that it gets messier and more uncertain, and the rewards are fewer and farther between. But if you're in it for the long haul, no matter how long it may seem, life becomes very rich and rewarding and nothing can really stop you.

Rachel Gilmer '10

Co-Executive Director,
Dream Defenders

Miami, Florida

Major at Vassar: American Culture

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Rachel co-directs the Dream Defenders, a Florida-based organization of black, immigrant, and working-class youth, young adults, and students fighting for a better future. Established in 2012 in response to the unjust murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, Dream Defenders organizes campaigns, services, and

political-education programming to build power in our communities.

Prior, Rachel served as the Associate Director of the African American Policy Forum, developing research and narrative campaigns focused on elevating the experiences of women and girls of color. During her tenure, she developed and launched campaigns such as #BlackGirlsMatter and #SayHerName.

Rachel has 10 years' experience in issue and electoral campaigns, leadership development, and community education. She is fighting for a new vision for society focused on ending the criminalization and exploitation of communities, and instead ensuring that everyone's needs are met.

Advice to Students

Another world is possible. Fight for it!

Stephan Ginell P'22

Consultant,
P32 Consulting

Naperville, Illinois

Major in College: Physics

Advanced Degrees: PhD, Biophysics and MS, Natural Sciences, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, SUNY at Buffalo

[linkedin.com/in/stephan-ginell/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephan-ginell/)



Stephan is a biophysicist focused on developing innovative techniques and methods for structural biology using synchrotron radiation. Working in the space of expanding the experiment envelope, he is known for pushing the boundaries of experiment design. He has spent the past 25

years at Argonne National Laboratory coordinating a DOE national user program at the Advanced Photon Source. Currently, he is a consultant with a research emphasis on robotics as applied to improving sample throughput, understanding radiation damage, and designing drugs.

He contributed to the early development of cryo-crystallographic techniques for macromolecules at both liquid nitrogen (100K) and liquid helium (10K) temperatures. With expertise in mechanical design, he has worked on the implementation of robotics for sample mounting and was instrumental in the development of the Uni-Duck device for the transport and robotic handling

Anabel Graff '09

Writer/Writing Coach,
Creative Connections Essays

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: English, Film

Advanced Degree: MFA, Fiction Writing, Texas State University



Anabel is the winner of the 2014 Prada Feltrinelli Prize and The Fiction Desk's 2015 Ghost Story Competition. Her work has appeared in Day One, Prada Journal, Joyland, Joyland Retro, The Chicago Tribune's Printer's Row, Story|Houston, Blue Mesa Review, Front Porch Journal, The Fiction Desk and The Southampton Review. She

has taught in colleges, communities, and high schools in Texas, New York and, most recently, Alabama as the Writer-in-Residence at a boarding school. She currently lives and works in New York City.

Advice to Students

Below, please find two pieces of great advice for writers (or, anyone, really):

1. Things aren't happening to you—they're happening for you.
2. Everything's material.

Jesse Graff '15

Corporate Development and
Strategic Finance Senior Associate,
Compass

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Mathematics

[in linkedin.com/in/jesse-graff-475a18154/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jesse-graff-475a18154/)



Jesse works as a corporate development and strategic finance senior associate at the Softbank-backed real estate technology company, Compass, where he focuses on mergers and acquisitions, organic expansion, and investor relations. At Compass, Jesse has helped close 11 acquisition

to date, and was an integral part of the Series F and Series G fundraises that brought Compass' valuation to \$4.4 billion and \$6.4 billion, respectively. Prior to working at Compass, Jesse spent 2½ years working at Deutsche Bank as an investment banking analyst in the Global Consumer Group. During his role at Deutsche Bank, Jesse helped various public and private companies raise capital through both the equity and debt capital markets, and also provided advisory services for multiple acquisition and divestiture opportunities.

Advice to Students

Take every interview you can get—even if it is for a

Michael Graff P'09,'15

Managing Director,
Warburg Pincus
New York, New York

Major in College: Economics
Advanced Degree: MS, Finance, MIT



Michael 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 Aerospace, and Consolidated Precision Products and is a director of TransDigm and Allied Universal Security. Prior to joining Warburg Pincus, Michael

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, Michael is a member of the board of The Flea Theater in New York and is Chairman of the Board of USA Water Polo.

Advice to Students

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.

Juleen Graham '18

Programmer Analyst
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Major at Vassar: Computer Science

[linkedin.com/in/juleengraham/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/juleengraham/)



Juleen is a programmer analyst (software engineering) at Johns Hopkins University. In that role, she works on several open-source projects such as the Galaxy Project—a software framework mainly used by biology researchers to store and analyze their data.

Daily activities include bug fixes, working with cloud computing, implementing user interface features, and a lot of googling to help find solutions. Previously, she worked in Vassar's Career Development Office as the Administrative Fellow for a year. During her time at Vassar, she worked in the Computer Science Department and Office of International Students (among others), was a Burnam Fellow, and studied abroad in Italy and Hungary.

Advice to Students

You only really need one yes. In life and in the job search process, you will likely get a lot of rejections. It is important to learn how to take the noes and use them to continue to motivate you and help you grow. Even better, once you get your first yes, it's so much easier to search for better opportunities.

You don't have to do it alone. Make sure you have your support system. Your friends, your family, and all the resources that Vassar provides.

Have fun!

Anne Green '93

Principal & Managing Director,
G&S Business Communications

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: English

Advanced Degrees: MA, American Literature, New York University; MPhil (A.B.D.), American Literature, New York University

[linkedin.com/in/anne-e-green/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/anne-e-green/)



As a business leader and communicator, Anne relies on deep reserves of curiosity, empathy, and enthusiasm for learning new things and making strategic connections. Anne is a 25-year industry veteran who oversees the New York office of integrated communications agency

G&S with responsibilities for ensuring client service excellence, talent development, and business growth. She also provides senior-level counsel for such accounts as Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Fiserv and Coldwell Banker Real Estate. Anne was previously president and CEO of CooperKatz & Company, the award-winning independent agency whose team she helped to grow for 22 years prior to its acquisition by G&S. Anne serves as a board director for the Alumnae/i Association of Vassar College and the PR Council, as well as board president of LifeWay Network, a New York-based charitable organization that provides long-term housing to survivors of human trafficking.

Advice to Students

Learn to craft your own narrative, in terms of how your liberal arts education at Vassar College has incredible relevance to the types of work you hope to experience and, ultimately, pursue. And if you are not sure how to do this, reach out to members of the alumnae/i network in your target field to ask some simple questions like: How do I connect the dots between what I studied and did at Vassar, and the skills that are most meaningful in this field? What kinds of experiences (including, but not limited to, internships) should I pursue to make those connections more clear? So much of landing opportunities that excite you will be tied to how effectively you can tell your story!

Steve Hankins '85, P'13, '17

Partner

Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila

San Francisco, California

Major at Vassar: Art History, English

Advanced Degree: JD, University of California (Davis)

[linkedin.com/in/stephenhankins/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephenhankins/)



Steve is a trial attorney for large companies in lawsuits filed internationally. He focuses now on employment and intellectual property disputes (involving patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets). Think of situations where an employee who invents something and leaves his company for a competitor.

What are they allowed to take with them and work on at the new company? Are they supposed to forget all of the specialized knowledge from the first employer? Who owns their ideas? These are the issues that come up all the time, especially in the Silicon Valley. Steve started his own firm with four friends in 2016 and it has grown to 90 lawyers. He writes briefs, interviews witnesses, teaches law school, is a judge for the local court, and goes to court for hearings as a lawyer and judge. Steve is also the current President of the Alumnae/i Association of Vassar College (AAVC).

Advice to Students:

Try out what interests you and rule things out that don't sing for you. I've learned more from my mistakes than my successes — and my internships during and after Vassar were important for learning both what I did and did not want to do long term.

Kelly Harrington '14

Master's Student & Research Intern
Harvard Graduate School of Education;
Goodman Research Group Inc.

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Major at Vassar: Neuroscience and Behavior
Advanced Degree: Ed.M. in Mind, Brain, and Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education (Expected)

[linkedin.com/in/kellybharrington](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kellybharrington)



Kelly is currently a master's student in the Mind, Brain, and Education program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Her studies are at the intersection of neuroscience, psychology, and education, where neuroscience and psychology research is being used to improve education through understanding the cognitive and behavioral mechanisms

behind learning and teaching. Kelly is also a research intern at Goodman Research Group Inc. in Cambridge, where she assists in evaluating education-focused programs through data analysis.

Prior to graduate school, Kelly worked for five years in the Vassar College Office of Admission as Senior Assistant Director of Admission. In this role, she traveled and recruited students both domestically and internationally, directed the Alumnae/i Admission Program, coordinated transfer admission, and managed arts recruitment. She also worked as a lab manager and research assistant in the Vassar Emotions and Psychophysiology Lab.

Outside of work, Kelly enjoys continuing her love of dance with the Harvard Ballet Company and Harvard-Radcliffe Modern Dance Company after spending most of her time dancing with VRDT and Flypeople at Vassar.

Advice to Students

Use the interdisciplinary tools that Vassar's liberal arts curriculum gives you and keep your passions broad. Keep

Seiji Hayashi '91

Chief Transformation Officer,
Mary's Center

Washington, DC

Major at Vassar: Studio Art
Advanced Degrees: MD, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University; MPH, Harvard School of Public Health

[linkedin.com/in/seijihayashi/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/seijihayashi/)



Seiji is Chief Transformation Officer and Medical Director for Mary's Center, a community health center in the District of Columbia caring for vulnerable populations including recent immigrants. He is an experienced leader in primary care, quality improvement, and health policy at the local and

national levels. Prior to Mary's Center, he was Director of the Human Diagnosis Project Nonprofit and used machine learning and crowdsourcing to enable more accurate, affordable, and accessible care for all. Seiji's national health policy experience comes from his role as the Chief Medical Officer for the Bureau of Primary Health Care at HRSA and conducting policy research at George Washington University. He is a board-certified family physician and has been caring for patients in a community health center for 20 years.

Advice to Students

Find your passion and go after that. If you don't know,

Sydney Hessel '12

User Experience Researcher
Google

Mountain View, California

Major at Vassar: Sociology

Advanced Degree: MS, Human Centered Design & Engineering, University of Washington



Sydney is a User Experience (UX) Researcher at Google, where she studies people in order to build user-centered technologies as a part of the Search Social Impact team. In her time at Vassar, she split her academic work across the Sociology and Art departments. Following graduation from Vassar in

2012, she worked as a Research Fellow at WolfBrown, a consulting firm for non-profit organizations. While there, she led research projects to assess the impact of art experiences on audiences. In 2013, Sydney joined Google's UX Research department where she moved into a Program Manager role overseeing design research operations. In 2015, Sydney started grad school at the University of Washington, and in 2016, she graduated with an MS in Human Centered Design and Engineering. From there, she spent two years leading Google's first design sprint team, working on collaborative design and research as a UX Researcher. Currently, she continues her work as a UX Researcher on the Search team, focused on researching and building experiences for job seekers around the world on Google.

Advice to Students

'Prototype' your life by experimenting in small ways — internships at different types of organizations, coffee with radically different professionals, and side gigs across industries. Try a ton of different versions of yourself until you find the one that fits best.

Pilar Jefferson '15

Education Coordinator,
Museum of the City of New York

Brooklyn, New York

Major at Vassar: Art History

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Pilar graduated Vassar with a degree in Art History focused on early 20th century Native American art and cultural resilience. She is currently an educator coordinator at the Museum of the City of New York, where she runs Saturday Academy, the Internship in Museum Careers program, and

teaches K-12 field trips. She is also a teaching artist for Arts & Minds, an art-based museum program for adults with Alzheimer's and Dementia. Previously she has led teen programs at institutions including the Brooklyn Historical Society and the American Folk Art Museum, and interned at the Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Advice to Students

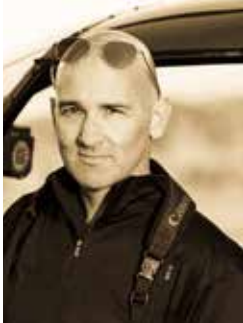
When I led my first museum program, I felt a deep sense of satisfaction and excitement. Following that feeling has led me to success in different ways than I expected, but always opened up incredible opportunities to grow and change as an educator. My advice is to always follow that feeling—it won't steer you wrong!

Evan Joseph (Uhlfelder) '92

Photographer,
Evan Joseph Studios
New York, New York

Major at Vassar: English, Studio Art
Advanced Degree: MPS, Interactive
Telecommunications, NYU

[linkedin.com/in/evanjoseph](https://www.linkedin.com/in/evanjoseph)



Evan is an aerial, architectural, and interior photographer based in New York. He creates iconic images for the world's top tourism, hospitality, and real estate brands from The Empire State Building to The World Trade Center, from the The Ritz Carlton to Aman Resorts. Evan's work is regularly featured in

Architectural Digest, Elle Décor, and Town & Country, and four books of his photography have been published. The most recent, *New York from Above*, was called "luscious eye candy" by The New York Times. He has captured the premier projects of today's leading architects as well as the private homes of celebrities, crafting visual stories that reveal the distinctive character and romance of each space. Evan's work is known for his obsessive commitment to light and composition as well as his innovative technical precision in both photography and post-production. Evan's fine art prints have been shown in the Venice Biennale for Architecture and he has frequent gallery exhibitions in NYC.

Advice to Students

To craft a creative career, always be on the lookout

Alexa Jordan '17

Playwright, Actress, Teacher, Development Assistant,
The Mustique Charitable Foundation
New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Drama

[linkedin.com/in/alexajordan](https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexajordan)



Alexa is a playwright, actress, and part-time development assistant. She will also be an interim associate teacher at The Brearley School (her elementary and middle school alma mater!) from January–June 2020. While at Vassar, Alexa won the Marilyn Swartz Seven Playwriting Award for her senior project, *Fine*, a

full-length drama about a therapist and her patients that explores the stigma surrounding not otherwise specified mental health issues. She later produced and acted in *Fine* on the first night of the 2018 International Human Rights Art Festival to a sold-out audience. Alexa earned her first New York Times review in Spring 2018 for her performance in *There's Blood at the Wedding*, at the La Mama Experimental Theater Club. Additionally, she was the Associate Producer and Outreach Coordinator for turning your body into a compass, a 360-livestream web story by Catherine Filloux, her former playwriting teacher, now mentor. Alexa is also extremely proud to be on the board of the Juanita James Memorial Scholarship Foundation, in memory of her late grandmother.

Advice to Students

Take the class that you don't think you'll ever use "in the real world." Go ahead and use your NRO credits.

If you're the most experienced person in the room, you're in the wrong room.

Don't be afraid to ask questions, even the ones you

Hyunsu Jung '18

Consultant,
Ernst & Young

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: International Studies

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Hyunsu is a second-year consultant at Ernst & Young, working in their Strategy & Operations group. His current project is focused on the three-way separation of a Fortune 500 multinational company: He is actively involved in client interaction and overall project

management, as well as the costing/financial modeling of the transaction. Prior to this project, he provided valuation and risk analysis advisory services to various financial services clients (banks, asset managers, hedge funds) on their Structured Products portfolios. Before starting his role at EY, Hyunsu was a summer analyst at Goldentree Asset Management, a hedge fund founded by a Vassar alum.

Advice to Students

The best way to learn is by doing. Be willing to take on challenges or additional responsibilities, both academically and professionally, even if you feel unprepared for them. The pressure can be discomfoting, but it often has a great of way of stimulating growth and helping you understand what you're capable of.

John Kane '02

Senior Policy Advisor,
Committee of the Environment and Public Works
Washington, DC

Major at Vassar: Sociology

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John is a senior professional U.S. Senate staff member with significant experience as a primary policy lead to multiple United States Senate committees and United States senators. His expertise lies in successfully managing strategic legislative goals and objectives over a number of

years, multiple committees ranging from Appropriations to Veterans Affairs to Environment and Public Works, and for both parties in the majority and minority. Through his extensive experience with various committees and members, he has become adept at ensuring adherence to organizational goals and requirements while facilitating streamlined policy operations. Last Congress, John managed all aspects of the Water Resources Development Act legislative process, leading to the passage of America's Water Infrastructure Act in October of 2018. This was the only major infrastructure bill to pass last Congress and it is widely considered to be a balanced bipartisan bill that delivered heavily for disadvantaged communities and created pathways to new water infrastructure investments while protecting the environment.

Advice to Students

In any career, you have to be willing to respectfully push boundaries, be creative, and stand up for your beliefs. All this is to stay, you can never give up because it takes a lot of no responses before you get to that yes.

Steven Kauderer '85, P'24

Consultant,
McKinsey and Company
Englewood, New Jersey

Major at Vassar: American Culture
Advanced Degree: MBA, Yale School of Management

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As a partner in the New York office of McKinsey & Company, Steven focuses on financial services and insurance. He works with a wide range of companies to help them achieve profitable growth, with a particular emphasis on advanced analytics and digital disruption, as well as customer experience and employee engagement. He consults in areas of strategy,

organization, and operations. Steven works with both large global organizations as well as fintech start-ups across North America, Europe, and Asia. Prior to joining McKinsey, he was a partner at Bain & Company. Steven started his career out of Vassar working as an insurance underwriter at Chubb Insurance Company.

Advice to Students

My primary advice is to explore many different fields, industries, and types of jobs. Try to meet different people, including leveraging the Vassar alumni network. Speak with people and sit down with them to get a sense of what they do, and a sense of the culture of their organizations. Ultimately, it is important to find your spark. Discover what excites you and motivates you to make an impact. Look for places and opportunities that give you energy. Find something that enables you to be challenged to keep learning and growing, where there is a strong focus on personal and professional growth, and where mentorship and apprenticeship can help you to reach your full potential.

Matthew Kauffman '83

Investigative Reporter (retired),
The Hartford Courant
Hartford, Connecticut

Major at Vassar: Political Science

[linkedin.com/in/matthewkauffman/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/matthewkauffman/)



Matthew recently retired from the Hartford Courant after a 32-year career. Assigned to the paper's investigative desk, he worked on longer-term projects, specialized in computer-assisted reporting, and served as an adviser to the reporting staff on freedom of information issues. In 2007, Matthew was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in

Investigative Reporting for a series he co-authored on mentally ill troops sent to war. He has also received the Polk Award, the Selden Ring Award, the Worth Bingham Prize, the Stephen A. Collins Memorial Freedom of Information Award, and was named a "Master Reporter" by the New England Society of Newspaper Editors. Since moving away from daily journalism, Matthew has consulted for several state and national news and civic organizations and is currently working with a large tech company on the development of a free data-reporting tool for small newsrooms. Matthew also teaches data journalism at Central Connecticut State University and serves on the board of a number of journalism organizations that promote open government and the First Amendment.

Advice to Students

Two thoughts: 1. Embrace your liberal arts education. Whatever you ultimately do, in any field, you will be well served by developing critical thinking skills, the capacity to analyze and synthesize information, and the ability to communicate clearly and persuasively. 2. Reject the generation gap. During the weekend, you will encounter successful professionals who may seem markedly different from you and somehow special. They are not. Most will tell you they are simply the 10- or 25- or 50-years-later version of the person they were when they were college sophomores, looking up at seasoned professionals and wrongly thinking their achievements were out of reach.

Lisa Keefe '83, P'22

Director of IMCA-CAT,
Vice President for Advancing Therapeutics,
Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute

Lemont, Illinois

Major at Vassar: Chemistry

Advanced Degree: PhD, Biophysics and
Biophysical Chemistry, Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

[linkedin.com/in/lisa-j-keefe/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lisa-j-keefe/)



Lisa is a biophysicist focused on accelerating drug discovery through synchrotron-based structural biology. She is Vice President for Advancing Therapeutics at the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute (HWI) in Buffalo, NY, and Director of the Industrial Macromolecular Crystallography Association–Collaborative Access Team (IMCA-CAT) located at

Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois.

At IMCA-CAT, Lisa leads a talented team at the Advanced Photon Source—a high-energy x-ray source (synchrotron) located at Argonne National Laboratory. By implementing state-of-the-art technology and innovative approaches in structural biology, her team leverages the power of synchrotron radiation for structure-based drug design. Working with researchers at many of the major pharmaceutical companies, including AbbVie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, and Pfizer, as well as many smaller biotech companies, Lisa and her team impact over 85% of these companies' drug discovery projects and have contributed to the development of numerous drugs now on the market. Through her leadership, IMCA-CAT has developed into a world-class research facility for the pharmaceutical industry.

Advice to Students

Be an exceptional communicator. Communication is essential—for networking, building trust with your colleagues, and successfully reaching your goals. Continually develop and strengthen your written, oral, and listening skills, follow best practices for communicating via email, and practice delivering presentations.

Shanna Kohn '13

Senior Education Manager of Humanitarian Programs,
Sesame Workshop

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: American Studies

Advanced Degree: EdM, Education Policy and
Management, Harvard Graduate School of Education

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As Senior Education Manager of Humanitarian Programs at Sesame Workshop, Shanna leads curriculum development, program design, and the creation of multimedia teaching and learning materials for Ahlan Simsim and Play to Learn—two early childhood development initiatives serving the needs of

children displaced by the Syrian and Rohingya crises in the Middle East and Bangladesh. These joint, five-year projects with the International Rescue Committee and BRAC are funded by LEGO Foundation and the first-ever MacArthur Foundation 100&Change grant.

Prior to working on Ahlan Simsim, Shanna managed curriculum, content, and program design in collaboration with on-the-ground partners for global programs focused on a variety of outcomes—including shifting parents' perceptions and capacity around meaningful play, improving global health outcomes, and promoting a whole-child curricula—in Jordan, Lebanon, the Kurdish Region of Iraq, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, South Africa, and Mexico. Before working on international projects, Shanna worked as an editorial assistant for the Sesame Learning team, creating multimedia content for preschool classrooms in the United States.

Advice to Students

As you near the end of your studies at Vassar, make an effort to schedule as many informational interviews as you can to learn about what careers are out there. (I had no idea my career existed when I was an undergrad student.) Not only do informational interviews give you a sense of the wide range of roles you could play in the work world, they also make you more real and memorable to potential employers when entry-level positions pop up in the future. And, don't be shy about using career services!

Jenna Kronenberg '13

Engagement Associate,
Physicians for Reproductive Health

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Independent

Advanced Degree: MS, Nonprofit Management,
The New School

[linkedin.com/in/jennakronenberg/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennakronenberg/)



As Engagement Associate at Physicians for Reproductive Health, Jenna is responsible for advancing the organization's strategic fund-raising and constituent development priorities. Prior to joining Physicians, she held a variety of roles, including managing administrative duties at a

music publishing company, handling operations at the JCC Manhattan, and fund-raising for the Reproductive Health Access Project. In 2016 Jenna enrolled in The New School's nonprofit management master's program, focusing her studies on philanthropy and health care. In her current role at Physicians, she has reshaped the organization's annual fund strategy to foster more sustainable fund-raising practices and helped its development team continue to meet and exceed its individual giving goals. Jenna is a member of Nu Lambda Mu, and while at Vassar was involved with CARES, Davison House Team, and VRDT.

Advice to Students

Sometimes it can feel like there's pressure to find the "right" career immediately after college, but that's very rarely going to happen. Don't feel discouraged if you don't know what to do, or if you don't land your dream job right away. You already have an advantage because you're entering the work field with a liberal arts degree—analytical thinking and good reading and writing skills will take you a long way. The trick is figuring out how to translate your skills into different fields—that adaptability will be one of your best assets. Ask lots of questions, develop a relationship with at least one mentor, and don't forget your own, unique voice.

Christopher Landis '80

Principal & Founding Partner,
Landis Architects/Builders

Washington, DC

Major at Vassar: English

Advanced Degree: MA, Architecture,
Columbia University

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Chris founded his mid-sized design/build firm with his brother, Ethan, in 1990. Focused primarily on residential design and construction in DC, MD, and VA, Landis Architects/Builders is a full-service firm that inspires and delights clients by providing a seamless end-to-end design

and construction experience. Landis is consistently recognized for excellence in design, and is a leader in the residential remodeling industry, both locally and nationally. Chris heads up the company's Design, Sales, and Marketing departments. He is a licensed architect in DC, MD, VA and NY. Additionally, Chris serves on the Historic Preservation Review Board of the District of Columbia. Chris is also the past President of the DC Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI). Chris is a recognized thought leader in residential design and construction, historic preservation, and successful entrepreneurship within the design/build industry. Prior to starting Landis, Chris worked as an architect for a number of major corporations including Shearson Lehman/American Express, AIG, First Boston, and Mobil.

Advice to Students

Treat every challenge, every failure, every perceived obstacle in your path, as an opportunity for growth and learning. Vassar serves to give you the foundational education, and more importantly, educational philosophy, to allow you to adapt and learn from all the adversity that you will face in life. A steadfast dedication to constant education and re-education, will allow you to collect the fundamental life lessons that those before you have learned, and will enable you to manifest your dreams into reality. This commitment to learning, coupled with an insatiable drive for excellence, fosters the best possible environment for talent and passion to blossom, and is the cornerstone characteristic of success.

Arielle Lapiano '96

CEO,
Shattered Glass Tees
New York, New York

Major at Vassar: French and Francophone Studies,
International Affairs

Advanced Degree: Master of International Affairs,
Columbia University

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Arielle is an entrepreneur, CEO, communications leader, serial side-gigger, author, and speaker, driven by her passion to empower women and girls through effective communications, personal branding, confidence training, and mindfulness. As CEO and Founder of Shattered Glass Tees, she helps tomorrow's glass breakers,

one bold thread at a time, by selling t-shirts, bags, and pillows that challenge gender stereotypes and tap into feminine power to support charities that empower girls, including Girls Inc., Girl Up, and Live Girl. Arielle's work has involved partnering with leading professional networks for women including Ellevote Network and The Quorum Initiative, in addition to major conference organizations like Momentum Events, as well as creating events to feature fellow women-owned businesses.

Arielle also works to inspire people to use their voice and words strategically and channel their passion to make an impact as Director of Communications and Public Relations at global law firm Paul Hastings, where she oversees global brand-building communications and activities for the firm's 21 offices. She has an extensive track record of crafting and executing creative communications and branding initiatives for global organizations and working closely with top management. Arielle was also recently certified as a mindfulness facilitator by Mindful Leader and has created corporate mindfulness programs and facilitates meditation classes.

Advice to Students

Shari Leventhal '85, P'24

Of Counsel, Sullivan & Cromwell, LLP
New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Political Science

Advanced Degree: JD, Georgetown University
Law Center

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Shari is a member of Sullivan & Cromwell's Financial Services Group. She focuses her practice on regulatory enforcement matters and external and internal investigations. She has substantial investigative and trial experience in matters involving economic sanctions, financial fraud, consumer

protection, cross-border payments, cybersecurity, money laundering, and the FCPA. Prior to joining Sullivan & Cromwell in 2016, Shari was the Deputy General Counsel and Senior Vice President responsible for the Enforcement, Litigation, and Investigations Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Legal Group. In that role, she represented the New York Fed in many complex litigation matters.

From 1992-1998, Shari served as an assistant United States attorney with the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York.

Shari regularly lectures on bank regulation and enforcement, money laundering issues, financial crimes, cross-border payments, investigative techniques, and related matters to audiences from the American Banking Association, the U.S. Treasury Department, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Federal Reserve System, foreign central banks, trade associations, and international monetary authorities.

Advice to Students

A Vassar education is special. Not only will you have the chance to learn and grow in a beautiful place surrounded

Bonnie Levison '78

Senior Instructor,
The Moth

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Sociology

Advanced Degree: MBA, Business Marketing,
Columbia University

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Bonnie is Lead Storytelling Instructor with the MothWorks educational arm of The Moth, whose clients include a wide variety of companies and nonprofit organizations around the world such as Google, SoulCycle, The Innocence Project and Hyatt Hotels. A graduate of Columbia Business

School and former marketing professional with Young & Rubicam and NBC, Bonnie is a Moth StorySLAM champion and Mainstage storyteller. Her stories have been featured on the Central Park Summer Stage, The Moth podcast and Peabody Award-winning Moth Radio Hour. Bonnie was co-host of radio show Anything Goes and has hosted a variety of storytelling programs. She also performs stand-up comedy and co-founded the Nantucket Comedy Festival.

Advice to Students

Show Up! Even when you think that job opportunity or networking event won't make a difference, show up and see what happens.

If there's something outside of the career you think you should have that fascinates you—

performance, art, living abroad, poetry—make sure it's part of your life in some way. It's amazing what can happen when you become a part of a community you love.

Be kind and inclusive. It's easy and gives back in huge ways over time.

Erik Lief '85

Director of Communications
American Council on Science and Health

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Political Science

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Erik has been involved in journalism and communications nearly all of his career, spent largely in major media. Working over a broad range of media platforms, he covered both news and sports as a television producer for CBS News, CNBC and WABC, and with ESPN served as lead

producer on the daily debate program 1st and 10. For NBC Sports.com, Erik covered Wimbledon and the U.S. Open while ghostwriting columns for the legendary journalist Bud Collins, and champion Chris Evert.

With internet video growing in importance, Erik joined the Associated Press to lead its national sports coverage for all online video content. Covering the World Series, the Super Bowl, as well as Olympic athletes, Erik's work included exclusively interviewing legends Michael Phelps, LeBron James, and Derek Jeter. Later, with technology evolving further, he moved to The Daily, the first-ever digital newspaper app.

Currently, Erik oversees media relations for the American Council on Science and Health, a media watchdog group consisting of physicians, PhDs and medical experts. ACSH's mission is to promote good public health by amplifying accurate information.

Advice to Students

Joe Lozito '93

Managing Director,
Accenture

South Orange, New Jersey

Major at Vassar: Computer Science

[linkedin.com/in/joelozito](https://www.linkedin.com/in/joelozito)



Joe is Digital Delivery Lead for Accenture Digital in the Northeast, based out of New York City. In that role, Joe oversees the execution of all digital programs for Accenture Digital, ensuring that those programs are set up for quality delivery for Accenture and its clients.

Prior to Accenture, Joe spent 10 years at Publicis Groupe, first at Digitas, leading their North American Technology team, then as CTO of Rosetta, and finally as operations lead for the newly formed SapientRazorfish, creating a unified North American delivery capability that was responsible for all digital output at the agency.

Earlier in his career, Joe was the first technology director at J. Walter Thompson, helping to build the “digital@JWT” capability from its infancy in 1999. Joe has over 20 years of delivery and operations experience, bringing software development to the digital marketing space at scale. Joe has watched the web grow from its early incarnations to a dominant business medium. He is fluent in most web languages, as well as a little Spanish and Italian.

Advice to Students

Do what you can to do what you love.

Create your brand.

Manage up and manage down.

Create your leverage model: find the next you.

Alexandru Mahmoud '18

Senior Programmer Analyst
Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore, Maryland

Major at Vassar: Computer Science, Psychological Science

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Alex is a member of the Biology department's research staff at Johns Hopkins University (JHU), working primarily on the Galaxy Project and related computational biology research. They first joined the broader Galaxy research community during their sophomore year at Vassar, when they became a research

assistant in the Computer Science department, and continued to work on the LAPPSGrid project for the remainder of their undergraduate career. After graduating, Alex was offered a Programmer Analyst position at JHU, joining the Galaxy Project core development team in June 2018. Since joining the team, they have also started working on four other research projects, focusing on the areas of cloud and distributed computing for data sciences, namely working on the containerization, deployment, and scalability of bioinformatics software. For this work, Alex was approved for a promotion only a year and a half after joining the team.

Advice to Students

I applied to over 100 positions, didn't hear back from most, and received the generic “Our funding does not allow us to hire international students” from almost all research positions. But, just as I was getting ready to give up on research and settle for the tech industry, I came across an old listing on an outdated lab website. It felt like an improbable leap, but the position seemed tremendous, so I asked my professor if she was willing to put in a good word for me. A few days later, after a few emails and a Skype interview, a new job listing was created for me to join the lab.

Don't give up, take improbable leaps, and squeeze your network for any and all opportunities.

Torrey Maldonado '96

Teacher & Author,
NYC Department of Education;
Penguin Random House

Brooklyn, New York

Major at Vassar: Sociology

Advanced Degree: MEd, Educational Administration,
Baruch College



NYC's current & former schools chancellors have praised Torrey as a top teacher and author. He has taught for 20 years in his childhood hometown of Brooklyn. His middle-grade books consistently receive American Library Association Quick Pick YA awards. *Tight* is a Washington Post Best Children's

Book of 2018 and also won a humanitarian Christopher Award. Growing up, Torrey hated books because "they were boring or seemed to hate or dismiss people where" he's from. Culturally responsive books and educators inspired him to teach and write. Voted a "Top 10 Latino Author" & best MG & YA novelist for African Americans, his work reflects his students' and his experiences and is celebrated as authentic and universal. Learn more at torreymaldonado.com.

Advice to Students

No one "success formula" builds us into a success story. But no "success formula" is complete without these three parts: First, all of us need to know how much people care before we care about how much people know, which brings us to the right mentors. The second part of the "success formula" is we often will be what we see, so positive modeling and exposure matters, which brings us back to mentors. That's a key third part of any "success formula"—the right mentors.

Carlos Mandeville '16

Research Analyst,
Regional Plan Association

Brooklyn, New York

Major at Vassar: Geography

Advanced Degree: MUP, Urban Planning, Hunter
College



As a research analyst for the Regional Plan Association, Carlos works across all of RPA's research areas, including housing, transportation, and climate adaptation. Carlos analyzes city and regional planning policies to inform a holistic vision for the 31-county Tri-State Region

that uplifts people from all communities, especially those historically marginalized by planning processes in the past. Prior to joining RPA, he worked as the 2017-2018 Equitable Public Space Fellow at the Design Trust for Public Space. His work ranged from designing and leading workshops with members of the cultural community on the North Shore of Staten Island in order to better organize and respond to development around the ferry terminal to scoping and planning an asset mapping and community planning project in partnership with South Bronx Unite. He studied Geography at Vassar College to engage his interest in using multidisciplinary methods to analyze the challenges of equitable access and opportunity in urban space. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in urban planning at Hunter College.

Advice to Students

Invest your time and energy in relationships, both personal and professional. As many folks will suggest, don't be afraid to reach out and try to build relationships with people who are inspiring to you or working in a job

Alisa Martin '85

Vice President, Educational Operations,
Tenement Museum

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Psychology

Advanced Degree: MA, Industrial/Organizational
Psychology, New York University

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Alisa, Vice President of Educational Operations at the Tenement Museum, is an arts and cultural administrator and consultant with expertise working in organizations to align internal operations and product offerings with their strategic goals and branding efforts. She leads

a management team and program specialists who hire, train, schedule and supervise the museum educators who deliver the museum's unique guided tour experiences. Alisa was responsible for brand management and visitor services at the Brooklyn Museum, and has served as an adjunct faculty member at Baruch College and The New School. Alisa has led cross-functional teams through change management, process improvement, and audience research initiatives. Her consulting clients include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Lincoln Center Education, BAM Local Development Corporation, and Columbia University. Before shifting her focus to the arts, Alisa spent the early years of her professional life in marketing, service quality, and human resources at MetLife and American Express.

Advice to Students

Follow your curiosity—befriend people who aren't just like you and practice going outside of your comfort zone. Grades aren't everything, and definitely not worth unhealthy stress—but do as well you can in case you want to apply to competitive employers or graduate programs. Look for internships, campus jobs and summer jobs that help you learn more about what you might want to do after graduation. Use your connections

Connor McIlwain '18

Associate Marketing Manager,
Macy's Inc.

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Political Science

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Connor is an associate manager of marketing at Macy's. He is part of a three-person team that owns the promotional calendar and all associated marketing tactics for Macy's \$3.5 billion cosmetics and fragrances business. Connor is responsible for the revamp of Macy's Beauty YouTube channel and special projects like the new Find Your

Fragrance online quiz. Other responsibilities include trend forecasting, competitive tracking, digital and print campaign planning, and printed scent stitches, blow-ins, and onserts. Prior to this role, Connor served as assistant manager of merchandise marketing for fragrances at Macy's. He has also interned at L'Oréal in global marketing and in public relations at boutique firm FRANK PR. At Vassar, Connor served as Arts Editor of the Misc and was active on Cushing's House Team.

Advice to Students

Be direct when asking for help and be conscious of the story your experience tells. People want to help; you just need to make it easy for them. End every email or follow-up with a clear action item (i.e. an introduction to x or ten minutes on the phone). Also, your experience and resume don't necessarily speak for themselves so craft a compelling story. Even odd jobs can be meaningful experience if you connect the dots in the

Samantha Mignotte '09

Senior Consultant,
Deloitte Consulting LLP

Washington, DC

Major at Vassar: Economics, Political Science
Advanced Degree: Master of Public Affairs,
Development Studies, Princeton University

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Samantha is a senior consultant at Deloitte's Public-Sector Consulting Practice where she works with government agencies and multilateral donors on enterprise strategy, performance management, and program evaluation. Prior to Deloitte, Samantha worked with the World Bank's Independent

Evaluation Group, focused on poverty alleviation programs. She also served as a graduate intern for both the United Nations—Bureau of Development Policy and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)—East Africa Division. Immediately after graduating from Vassar College, she served as a research associate for the Small Planet Institute. At Vassar, Samantha was a Public Policy and International Affairs Fellow (PPIA).

Advice to Students

When I was trying to figure out what to do after college, my biggest fear was that I would make one choice that would irreparably alter my future career. After a lot of panic and worry, I learned that it's normal to switch jobs, it's okay to change industries, and even top CEOs are still trying to figure out what comes next for their careers. All of that is to say, don't worry too much about finding the

Alison Mooradian '13

Director of Marketing,
Busy Beauty

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Major at Vassar: Environmental Studies
Advanced Degree: MBA, Babson College F.W. Olin
Graduate School of Business

[linkedin.com/in/alisonmooradian/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/alisonmooradian/)



Alison is Director of Marketing at Busy Beauty, a personal care startup that helps people take back more time in their day by developing products that shorten the traditional personal care routine. As an Environmental Studies major at Vassar, the path to consumer goods was not obvious at first. Alison spent the first four

years after Vassar in the environmental education and nonprofit space; first in teaching, then in marketing. However, she became increasingly interested in the intersection of sustainable consumer goods and social impact entrepreneurship, so she transitioned industries to work in marketing for clean beauty brands. To solidify the transition, she received her MBA at Babson College's F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business, which specializes in social impact entrepreneurship.

At Vassar, Alison participated in Davison House Team, Senior Class Council, and the Vassar Ski Team.

Advice to Students

I recommend that everyone read *Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life* by Bill Burnett and Dave Evans. In this book, Burnett and Evans walk you through how to apply design thinking principles to build a life that is fulfilling in both your career and in your personal life. I didn't learn about this book until my MBA program, but I wish someone had given it to me while I was at Vassar! Don't just read the book but actually do all of the design thinking exercises that are in it—they will help you find answers and clarity about what career path will bring you joy.

Kenneth Morford '06

Assistant Professor,
Yale School of Medicine

New Haven, Connecticut

Major at Vassar: Neuroscience and Behavior
Advanced Degree: MD, George Washington University
School of Medicine



Kenneth is an assistant professor at Yale School of Medicine. He trained as a general internist in the Yale Primary Care Residency Program and completed specialty training in addiction medicine. He provides primary care and addiction treatment services at the APT Foundation, a large nonprofit

addiction recovery center, and also cares for patients on the addiction medicine consult service at Yale New Haven Hospital. He leads an interprofessional addiction training program for students, residents and faculty, and serves as a core faculty member in the Yale Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program. He teaches workshops related to addiction, harm reduction, bias and power dynamics in medicine, and integrating behavioral health into primary care. Kenneth has a passion for medical humanities and enjoys mentoring pre-med students at Vassar.

Advice to Students

I often meet with students who feel rushed to figure out what to do with their lives. Take your time. We make our best decisions when we slow down and reflect. Stay curious, notice the things you really care about, and reach out for help when you feel stuck. There's a community here to support you along the way.

Tina Muller '16

Branch Manager,
M&T Bank

Albany, New York

Major at Vassar: French and Francophone Studies

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Tina is an assistant vice president and branch manager at M&T Bank. She oversees the downtown office in the heart of the capital region, working with business and personal clients to handle their everyday banking needs. Her day-to-day responsibilities include building relationships in the

community to bring new clients to the bank, meeting with individuals and families to help them achieve their financial goals, mitigating risk in many different types of transactions, and managing a team of individuals to serve clients in myriad ways. Tina came to M&T Bank through their Management Development Program in 2016 after graduation, where she had the opportunity to learn about all areas of the organization at their headquarters in Buffalo, NY. She plans to begin pursuing an MBA this year.

Advice to Students

Don't take yourself too seriously or overstress about what comes next. If you are open minded, willing to try things that challenge you, and you seek to help others along the way, there will always be a path for you. While you're focusing on where you want to go, make sure you are equally focused on what makes you happy.

Adrienne Natrillo '98

Expert Global Trial Manager,
Novartis

East Hanover, New Jersey

Major at Vassar: Mathematics

Advanced Degree: MS, Cellular and Molecular
Biology, University of New Haven

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Adrienne's career at Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation began 13 years ago as a senior scientist in drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics. She leads a pediatric oncology clinical trial with 70 sites across 20 countries. Some of her key responsibilities include study design/protocol

development, operational start-up of trials, patient data monitoring, liaising with regulatory agencies, and managing all clinical study report and close-out activities. Trials involve the supervision of locally based medical providers to ensure that protocols meet the highest global clinical practice standards. Her career has spanned research, preclinical development, and clinical development. It is this wide-ranging level of experience that has allowed Adrienne to successfully bridge the world of scientific research with the challenges of medical practitioners. Adrienne's career began 20 years ago as a research assistant in molecular biophysics and biochemistry at Yale University. Later she worked for six years as a senior associate scientist at Bayer Corporation, conducting molecular and cellular research. She's coauthor of multiple peer-reviewed scientific articles.

Advice to Students

In terms of your career, there's little downside to risk-taking when first getting out of college. In fact, any action becomes an experience that will further enrich and inform your development. It is precisely at the early stages of your career that a multidisciplinary approach will help you to know yourself better. A wide range of academic and work experience is always welcome by future employers.

Emily Omrod '16

Business Analyst,
Deloitte Consulting LLP

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Major at Vassar: English

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Emily is a human capital business analyst in Deloitte's government and public sector consulting practice. In her day-to-day at Deloitte, Emily supports higher education institutions and other public-sector clients in managing and sustaining their performance through their most important asset:

their people. Prior to joining Deloitte, Emily managed Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP's alumni program, overseeing the firm's alumni data management and communications plan. Emily started her career at Chubb, coordinating the company's philanthropic employee engagement programming. In this role, she oversaw U.S. volunteerism, matching gifts, fund-raising campaigns with City of Hope and United Way, and more. Emily is a former board member of the Power of Professional Women, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit aimed at developing the next generation of female leaders. Emily lives in Philadelphia and is enjoying exploring New Hampshire, where she works Monday through Thursday on client site.

Advice to Students

Don't be afraid to switch jobs and try new things! I love my current career in management consulting but it took me almost 3 years post-grad to get here. Keep on persevering and trying new things until you find the job that will satisfy where you currently are in life.

Gregg Orton '08

National Director,
The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans
Washington, DC

Major at Vassar: Political Science

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As National Director of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, Gregg leads the coalition in developing policy and communications strategy and advancing a joint agenda to address the needs of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities.

He joins NCAPA after spending nine years working on Capitol Hill for Rep. Al Green (D-TX). He has served as a dedicated advocate for the AAPI community, as well as a mentor for many AAPI staffers in Congress.

Gregg hails from Arcadia, CA and following graduation from Vassar College, he came to DC as an Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) Housing Fellow and joined Rep. Green's office. He served in many capacities, most recently as the congressman's Chief of Staff.

Advice to Students

There is overwhelming pressure these days to have a career path and a plan to get there with little or no margin for error. The truth is, your path to success or finding your passion does not need to be rigid or linear. However, what is more important is how you carry

Carol Ostrow '77, P'09, '15

Producing Director,
The Flea Theater

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Drama

Advanced Degree: MFA, Yale School of Drama



Carol is Producing Director of The Flea, the award-winning off-off-Broadway theater located in Tribeca. She was Producing Director of New York's Classic Stage Company as well as the founder and Producing Director of the Powerhouse Theater at Vassar, now entering its 34th season.

Carol has been an adjunct professor of theater at Vassar, Chatham College, and McGill University. She was elected to the Vassar College Board of Trustees in 2015, and is a member of the Board of Advisors to the Yale Drama School. For The Flea, Ostrow has produced 17 seasons of cutting-edge world-premiere productions and has been responsible for the sound fiscal management and strategic growth of the theater's \$1.8-million budget, programs, and initiatives, including the Bats—the emerging resident company of actors, now over 130 strong. In 2017, after a successful capital campaign, The Flea moved to a new home and opened a brand new \$25-million three-theater performing arts complex.

Advice to Students

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. Sometimes it's not a straight shot. 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 resume. Remember that your professors at Vassar are people, too, who can provide you with career advice. Don't be afraid to ask them about what they did to get where they are today.

Chloé Ouyang '15

Regional Manager, Sales Development,
BetterCloud

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: International Studies



Chloé is a SaaS (software as a service) sales leader interested in technology's ability to improve and enhance the human experience. She is currently Regional Manager, Sales Development at BetterCloud, the first SaaS operations management platform empowering IT to define, remediate, and enforce management and security policies for SaaS

applications. Chloé leads a team of sales development representatives responsible for expanding and accelerating the company's new customer acquisition, serving as a mentor to BetterCloud's entry-level sales professionals. Prior to BetterCloud, she worked at the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU), a nonpartisan, U.S.-based organization that works to expand international trade and commerce. As a Fellow, Chloé engaged with both Fortune 500 firms and foreign diplomats to arrange high-level roundtable discussions, including organizing programming during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) with various heads of state. At Vassar, she majored in international studies with concentrations in political science and education with a correlate in Hispanic studies. Chloé's thesis focused on undocumented students of color and questions of belonging and access to higher education.

Advice to Students

1. Whatever the work is, do it well—not for the boss but for yourself.
2. You make the job; it doesn't make you.
3. Your real life is with us, your family.
4. You are not the work you do; you are the person you are.

— Lessons Toni Morrison learned from her father about work

Always be curious and take advantage of every opportunity while at Vassar. The soft skills you are developing right now will come to benefit you in the future in surprising ways and places. Your ability to think critically and write persuasively will set you apart in the workforce. Embrace a growth mindset and take risks along the way.

Ian Patrick '07

Director of Events,
Tenement Museum

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Film

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Ian is a career fundraiser within the nonprofit realm and currently serves as the Director of Events at the Tenement Museum, an institution that embraces and values the role of immigration in the evolving American identity. In his role at the museum, he creates meaningful engagement

opportunities for a variety of stakeholders with the end goal being to enhance confidence in the museum's work and, in so doing, making the case for support. Prior to his current role, Ian worked in development for two organizations focused on LGBTQ+ social justice: GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) and Family Equality Council. During his time at Vassar, Ian was very involved in student government, serving as Jewett House President twice and Senior Class President, as well as student theater with Philaletheis.

Advice to Students

Build relationships with everyone around you. Keep on learning and experiencing. Be curious: ask questions and listen to the answers; ask more questions if those answers don't make sense. You are your own best advocate; if you don't ask, you won't ever know. Enjoy the people around you. Follow your instincts. Have fun!

Jacqueline Parziale '14

Master in Public Policy Candidate,
Harvard Kennedy School
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Major at Vassar: History, Mathematics



Jacqueline is in her second year of the Master in Public Policy program at Harvard Kennedy School, where she concentrates in International and Global Affairs. Between her first and second years, she worked in the Strategic Planning and Policy Directorate at the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in

Hawaii. Before the Kennedy School, she worked in the Department of Defense as the Special Assistant to the Principal Deputy Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD-CAPE). At the Pentagon, she addressed issues related to the defense budget, technological acquisition strategies, and cost and performance assessments of major defense programs. Previously, she published numerous reports and opinion pieces about defense acquisition reform and U.S. military-technical superiority as the Technology and National Security researcher at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS). After graduating from Vassar College with a double major in mathematics and history, her first job was editing a 71-chapter digital military history textbook in the Department of History at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Advice to Students

While you're still at Vassar, make time in your schedule to 1. take a class that forces you to practice writing and learn to do it well and 2. take a class completely

Naimah Petigny '14

PhD Candidate,
University of Minnesota Twin Cities;
Research Fellow, Hennepin County Government
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Major at Vassar: Sociology, Women's Studies

Advanced Degree: MA, Feminist Studies, University of Minnesota

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Born in Northampton, Massachusetts, Naimah is an artist and experienced researcher, educator, and strategist across government, nonprofit, and higher education sectors. Currently, Naimah is a PhD candidate in Feminist Studies at the University of Minnesota, where her

interdisciplinary research exists at the intersections of black feminist theory and performance studies. Naimah is the recipient of the Comparative Race & Ethnicity Studies Graduate Research Fellowship; the Steven J. Schochet Interdisciplinary Fellowship in Queer, Trans and Sexuality Studies; the Institute for Advance Study Research and Creative Collaboration Grant; and the University of Minnesota Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. Currently Naimah holds the 2019-2020 Hennepin County Graduate Fellowship and works as a consultant in the Center of Innovation and Excellence, where she drives strategy and change management, continuous improvement, and disparity-reduction efforts within Minnesota's most populous and diverse county. Naimah's writing blends critical theory and poetics and can be found in the *Walker Art Center Magazine*, *Films for the Feminist Classroom*, *Agitate! Journal*, *Commoning Ethnography*, *The Gender Policy Report*, and *Routledge International Handbook of Gender and Feminist Geographies*.

Advice to Students

Take time to get to know yourself. Get comfortable with your own voice. Visit office hours and ask for help when you need it. Spend time nurturing your passions outside of the classroom. Journal daily. Collaborate with your peers—they are some of your greatest teachers. Write final papers that start to seed big ideas you have—even if you can only scratch the surface. Think critically about

Tracy Elise Poole '82

Assistant General Counsel,
Johnson & Johnson

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Political Science

Advanced Degree: JD, Georgetown University Law Center



Upon graduation from Georgetown Law, Tracy was appointed an assistant district attorney in New York City, where she prosecuted major crimes. She later joined the law firm of Hughes Hubbard & Reed, where she handled business and commercial litigation including antitrust, banking,

copyright, employment, and telecommunications matters. Presently Assistant General Counsel at Johnson & Johnson, Tracy is responsible for global litigation including advertising, business and commercial, employment, and product liability matters for several J&J subsidiaries. She manages J&J's pro bono practice and summer intern program. The dean of Georgetown Law recently appointed her to a committee to address recruitment, student life, and career development concerns of students of color. A lifelong enthusiast and student of dance, Tracy is a patron of several ballet and modern dance companies.

Advice to Students

"If you STAY ready, you ain't gotta get ready." — James Brown

There is a high level of preparedness associated with success. No matter what career or endeavor you decide to pursue, you cannot be impactful or able to fully

Lauren Reilly '11

Executive Director,
SuitUp

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Education, History

Advanced Degree: MA, Adolescent Social Studies Education, Fordham University

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Lauren is the Executive Director of SuitUp, a nonprofit organization that increases college and career awareness through innovative business competitions with students from low-income areas using corporate volunteers. She joined SuitUp after serving as a board member and Chief

Learning Officer for Practice Makes Perfect, a nationally recognized summer learning organization. She is a Teach for America alum and NY-certified teacher, having taught both middle school and high school in the Bronx and Harlem. Lauren has received the Gratitude Network Fellowship, Student Success Network Fellowship, the Education Pioneers Award at the Global Now Gala, and was featured on Future of Women. In addition, Lauren was recognized by the Obama administration as a White House Champion for Change for her work in summer learning and invited to be a founding participant in the LEAP Program run by the Global Good Fund.

Advice to Students

Be proactive in finding your first leadership experiences, internships, first jobs, etc. It's easy to find yourself sitting back until junior year and then scrambling to find the "ideal" internship or applying frantically for a first job as a senior. Instead, build relationships with alums early (go for a coffee!), find your mentors, and create networks that will be your champions. That way, when an opportunity arises, you are top of mind!

Pedro L. Rodriguez '05

Vice President, Business Growth,
Digital Marketing & Transformation,
Horizon Media Inc.

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Hispanic Studies, Italian
Advanced Degree: MA, Communication Studies,
University of Miami

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As Vice President, Business Growth, Digital Marketing & Transformation at Horizon Media Inc., Pedro is charged with the strategic development of plans and programs for growing digital business at Horizon Media, co-leading the Multicultural Social Media Practice, as well as overseeing

Partnerships & Special Projects including the Voice Offering. In 2019, he was named one of Adweek's Media All-Stars, after appearing on Adweek's 2018 Young Influentials list.

In 2017, he launched Horizon Media's Voice Practice, focused on artificial intelligence (machine learning) as it relates to voice assistants (e.g. Alexa) and voice-enabled devices (e.g. Google Home).

Pedro is a former blogger for HuffPost, where he focused on emerging social and digital trends. His branding and marketing experience includes roles at HBO's New York International Latino Film Festival and Ocean Drive Español (Niche Media Holdings LLC).

He is a member of the Real Time Academy (Shorty Awards) and serves as a board member for the People's Theatre Project, an immigrant ensemble-based theatre group in New York City.

Advice to Students

Trust your gut.

Joshunda Sanders '00

Author & Communications Specialist,
Lehman College

Bronx, New York

Major at Vassar: English
Advanced Degree: MS, Information Studies,
University of Texas at Austin



Joshunda is the author of five books, most recently, *I Can Write the World*, a children's book about a black girl journalist and the first in a series. Her work across genres has appeared in *Time* magazine, *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, the *Bellevue Literary Review* and many

other international publications. She wrote speeches and other communications for the secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy during the Obama Administration and for the director of the Office of Minority Health at HHS. She also led communications strategy in North America for Change.org. She has been the recipient of writing residencies, scholarships or awards from the Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing, Lambda Literary, Bronx Council on the Arts, Hedgebrook, VONA and the Key West Literary Seminars. She has taught writing and journalism at the University of Texas Austin and The New School. She currently writes in the Office of the President at Lehman College.

Advice to Students

There is no wrong path for you to take. No matter what, you will end up exactly where you're supposed to be. Once you make a decision, you can always take another path.

Alex Sarrigeorgiou '13

Actor, Writer, Filmmaker

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Drama

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Alex is an actor, writer, and filmmaker represented by Engage Artists Agency, and her poems have appeared in numerous literary magazines, including *Fugue* and *Hypertrophic Literary*. In 2017, Alex was Artist-in-Residence at the Byrdcliffe Arts Colony in Woodstock, NY. More recently,

she was selected as one of 30 poets in the 2019 Visible Poetry Project. In 2018, Alex returned to Vassar to shoot “Con Spirito,” a short film inspired by the college years of poet Elizabeth Bishop. The film premiered at the Vassar Film Festival, before screening at film festivals around the country. Alex recently completed post-production on her directorial debut short film, which will soon enter the festival circuit. In tandem with her artistic career, Alex has held all sorts of other enriching positions, from operations manager at a tech start-up to professional figure model. For the past four years, she has been a regular volunteer at Art & Acceptance, a weekly drop-in program for homeless and marginally housed LGBTQ+ youth held in the West Village.

Advice to Students

Set your ego aside and focus on the work that excites you. If you’re not sure what excites you, connect with people whose work you’re curious about. Ask for help when you need it, accept help when it comes your way, and offer help as much as you are able. Support the people you respect and admire. It is very easy to get caught up in comparisons and arbitrary markers of success—do your best to ignore all that. Work isn’t about proving yourself to the world. How do you want to spend your days?

Kilian Schalk '92

Founder,
PurpleGray Consulting

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Math

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An expert in workflow design and “an energetic, passionate devotee of continuous improvement,” Kilian founded PurpleGray in New York City in 2014. He firmly believes that secure employment and employee-centered collaboration can work miracles in a multi-channel environment

and put this into practice in 2015-17, when he successfully positioned America Media, which publishes one of the oldest periodicals in the United States, to “lead the conversation about faith and culture.” He also oversaw the 2018 overhaul of Vanity Fair’s workflow.

Before PurpleGray, as Managing Editor for Editorial Development at Condé Nast, Kilian helped define and implement cultural change across 18 titles. Prior to that, he spent 11 years as Technical Director of Digital Projects for *The New Yorker*, where he was integral to the launch of the magazine’s website, digital archive, and kindle, nook, audible.com, and iPad editions. He was also the youngest production manager in Rolling Stone history and began his publishing career in Prague. Kilian is a citizen of the United States and France.

Advice to Students

However possible, try to work/volunteer in both a small and larger organizations and a profit and nonprofit as

Aditi Shrikhande '17

Project Coordinator for
Early Childhood Development
UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: English

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Aditi is a project coordinator with the Early Childhood Development team in UNICEF's headquarters, which strives to promote every child's right to cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development. In her role, Aditi helps with UNICEF's programming, partnership, and advocacy work, primarily around early childhood development in emergency settings. She has organized several advocacy events at forums such as the UN General Assembly and the Global Refugee Forum, and contributes to sustained advocacy efforts targeting governments via platforms like the G20. Much of her work involves coordinating with UNICEF's country offices around the world, as well as with partners like the LEGO Foundation, the H&M Foundation, Sesame Workshop and others. Aditi also serves as Assistant to the Secretariat of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium, a network of agencies who advocate for early childhood services as a means to bolster social cohesion and build resilience at a micro and macro level. Prior to UNICEF, Aditi worked and interned in schools and education-focused NGOs in the USA, UK, UAE, and India.

Advice to Students

Try to unlearn the concept of "should." Holding yourself to where you think you should be will not help you figure out where you want to be, or where you could be.

Being passionate about something is a great reason to choose a career path. but it's not a necessary condition.

Sarah Sisco '93

Senior Director, Social Determinants, Office of
Population Health, NYC Health + Hospitals

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Urban Studies

Advanced Degrees: MPH, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University; MSSW, Columbia University School of Social Work

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As Senior Director, Social Determinants in the Office of Population Health, NYC Health + Hospitals, Sarah established and expanded free, co-located tax preparation services in seven H+H sites, worked with city agencies and H+H staff to initiate social services technologies, built a data tracking system for the Social Determinants team, and advised on the development of NY Care, a citywide program for those who are unable to afford or are ineligible for health insurance. Sarah also leads a Robin Hood-funded 3-2-1 IMPACT program, a multidisciplinary, two-generational model of care for children aged 0-3 and their families. Prior, Sarah served eight years as Director of Evaluation and Research at NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response. In 2016, Sarah was deployed to the NYC Mayor's Office to help establish the NYC H+H Transformation, to support the efficiency and cost-reduction associated with NYC's public healthcare system.

Advice to Students

Invest in learning your strengths and then pursue them.

Laura Starr P'19

Partner/Founder, Starr Whitehouse
Landscape Architects and Planners PLLC
New York, New York

Major in College: Architecture
Advanced Degree: Master of Landscape Architecture,
University of Pennsylvania



Laura is a founding partner of Starr Whitehouse (<https://www.starrwhitehouse.com/>), where she focuses on making density livable by bringing nature into the city. In New York City, where she works and lives, Laura is a leader in sustainable design and an advocate for a world that is greener and more responsive to

the needs of a 21st century public. She has contributed to Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts through the SIRR Report, the BIG U Plan, and as leader of the city's consultant team on the East Harlem Resiliency Study. She has run dozens of public design workshops and serves on Manhattans Community Board 1's resiliency task force. Her practice began with her tenure as Chief of Design at the Central Park Conservancy during its formative years, where she learned the craft of forging consensus among diverse stakeholders in order to realize complex urban projects. Today, Laura is engaged in helping NYC adapt to climate change with designs for resilient waterfront parks, water-absorbing roof gardens, and leafy social spaces.

Advice to Students

Take the best opportunity that is offered to you at any given time. Choose classes and jobs based on working with the best and the brightest. Stay curious!

Andreas Stavropoulos P'22

Partner,
Threshold Ventures (formerly DFJ Ventures)
Menlo Park, California

Major in College: Computer Science
Advanced Degrees: MBA, Harvard Business School;
MS, Computer Science, Harvard University

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Andreas is an early-stage venture capitalist focusing primarily on disruptive software investments in rapidly growing domains. He has been a partner at DFJ, and now Threshold Ventures, for the past 20 years, where he has invested in companies spanning information technology

and healthcare. Prior to that, he was a consultant with McKinsey & Company in San Francisco, where he worked on business strategy and implementation projects for large corporate clients in a variety of industries. He is very familiar with all things startup- and entrepreneurship-related, especially in Silicon Valley. As a prior chair of the board of an independent school and current member of various nonprofit boards, Andreas also has significant nonprofit leadership and governance expertise. He can also speak to the value of an MBA degree as a graduate school option for Vassar alums.

Advice to Students

Choose people over job descriptions, substance over form, quality of experience over compensation. Have a five-year plan but don't be too rigid about it. Seek balance in your life, but realize you won't have it every day, week, or even year—and that's okay. Expose yourself to different styles of coworkers and teammates and be ready to adapt yourself, within reason, to work well together. Beware of the "fear of a better option" that prevents commitments to the detriment of making progress—keeping options open is not an end unto itself.

Tanay Tatum-Edwards '12

Founder & CEO,
FreeCap

Washington, DC

Major at Vassar: Africana Studies, Sociology
Advanced Degree: MA, International Relations,
The Fletcher School, Tufts University

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Tanay is the founder and CEO of FreeCap, an investment firm leveraging the power of capital markets to reform the criminal justice system. Prior to FreeCap, Tanay worked in business development and marketing at MicroVest Capital Management, where she developed a lifelong commitment to

using investment strategies to create systemic social change. She has multiple loved ones impacted by the mass incarceration crisis and is committed to using her expertise to address it. Tanay is the recipient of multiple fellowships, including Echoing Green, Halcyon Incubator, and Fulbright. At Vassar, she served as president of student government.

Advice to Students

1. Take risks! It's an important part of growing professionally and will create space for even greater opportunities.
2. Be a lifelong learner! Your love for learning won't go away when you graduate, and Vassar grads thrive in careers that reward our intellectual curiosity.
3. Network with your peers! Securing mentors is very important, but don't overlook the connections, advice, and resources your peers can open up for you as well.

Ethan Tavan '03

Senior Manager of Engineering,
athenahealth

Watertown, Massachusetts

Major at Vassar: Political Science
Advanced Degree: MA, Software Engineering,
Harvard University Extension School

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Ethan is an expert in coaching and inspiring mission-driven software developers to deliver quality products. After an early career in politics and government, he found software to be his calling, but still wanted to "do well while doing good." He embraced this ethos by working for the last seven

years at athenahealth, a leader in software solutions for alleviating the administrative burden placed on doctors and caregivers by insurance companies. After years working on the company's premier product, he's helping to lead the engineering enablement zone, dedicated to improving the working conditions of developers.

When not wrangling his two young boys, he enjoys building connections at work through board games, D&D and convincing people to join him for martial arts classes.

Advice to Students

Get started on your career as early as possible, but don't be afraid to start over. I didn't have a lot of direction in college and as such spent my summers with less than productive activities. I ended up wasting a year temping before starting on a master's that was necessary for the path I was on because I didn't have the internships on my resume that would have gotten me a job in the field. I regretted that "lost" time. That being said, years later when I pivoted from politics to software, I found a way to leverage the expertise I had gained and was rapidly propelled into a leadership role.

Deborah Temkin '07

Senior Director, Education Research,
Child Trends

Bethesda, Maryland

Major at Vassar: Psychology, Independent
(Education Policy)

Advanced Degrees: PhD, Human Development and
Family Studies and MA, Education Theory and Policy,
Pennsylvania State University

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Deborah is an accomplished researcher and former government official whose work focuses on improving schools' conditions for learning (e.g., school climate, school health) so all students can thrive. She currently serves as Vice President for Education and Youth Development Research at Child Trends, a nonprofit non-partisan

research organization dedicated to improving outcomes for youth. In that role, she oversees the work of scientists, analysts, and assistants completing federal and foundation funded research and technical assistance projects. She is frequently called upon to provide her expertise, including through testimony to the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee and through media interviews with The Washington Post, Politico, CNN, Education Week, U.S. News and World Report, USA Today, The 74 Million, and other publications. While completing her doctorate at Penn State, Deborah served in the Obama Department of Education, where she directed the administration's bullying prevention initiative—including coordinating three summits and the White House Conference on Bullying Prevention and leading the development and launch of StopBullying.gov.

Advice to Students

1. Don't be afraid to ask cool people for their advice or even to work for them. I ended up at the Department of Education by asking then Assistant Deputy Secretary Kevin Jennings to

Dave Tobias '83

Director, Land Acquisition Program,
NYC Department of Environmental Protection

Kingston, New York

Major at Vassar: Biology, Psychology

Advanced Degree: MS, Environmental Sciences,
Yale University

[linkedin.com/in/dttobias](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dttobias)



After Vassar, Dave received a master's degree in environmental sciences from Yale and was hired by The Nature Conservancy to develop landscape-level programs to protect biodiversity and rare species. In 1996 he was hired by New York City to create and manage a suite of programs to

permanently protect high-priority lands throughout the City's 2,000-square-mile watershed. These programs to date have protected over 150,000 acres of streams, wetlands, farms, forests and floodplains—ensuring that more than 8 million New Yorkers will continue to receive a billion gallons of pure drinking water every day, for generations to come. Lands are also made available for a range of public access including hiking, fishing and hunting. Over the past few years, the Land Acquisition Program has expanded its responsibilities to include all real estate needs for New York City outside the city limits, including a diversity of facility and infrastructure projects.

Advice to Students

SECRETS TO SUCCESS that I wish someone had told me when I was at VC: 1. Understand that “success” really means A HAPPY LIFE! Money, power, and fame are only distractions from this, the most important goal you can achieve: a HAPPY LIFE. 2. The largest portion of your life will be spent in your work and career—you will spend more time there than with family, sports, hobbies, vacations, or sleep, so CHOOSE WORK THAT YOU ENJOY and get paid to do WHAT YOU LOVE. 3. AVOID STRESSING about the future or your career; stress does nothing to improve your health or preferred outcomes—it wastes your precious energy.

Abigail Tripler '15

Master's Student in Marine Biology/
National Park Ranger

Boston, Massachusetts

Major at Vassar: Biology

Advanced Degree: MSc, Marine Biology, Northeastern University (expected December 2020)

[linkedin.com/in/abigail-tripler](https://www.linkedin.com/in/abigail-tripler)



Abby is a master's degree student in Northeastern University's Three Seas Program. Through this program, she has the opportunity to take courses in three different locations to compare marine ecosystems including Nahant, MA, San Juan Island, WA, and Townsville, QLD, Australia as well as obtain scuba certification

with the American Association of Underwater Scientists. She plans to complete her master's thesis on predator-prey interactions and marine protected areas. When she is not in class, she works as a seasonal national park ranger, educating the public about conservation, and natural and cultural history of some of our country's protected outdoor spaces. Starting as an intern with the Student Conservation Association (founded by a Vassar alum!), she worked at the Cape Cod National Seashore for three years and Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park for the last two years. Since graduating from Vassar, she has also worked at several nonprofits with varied missions including ocean conservation, sustainable development, and childhood education.

Advice to Students

As one of my Vassar mentors would say, "Life is about the people you meet and the things you create with them, so go out and start creating." My college experience taught me that being around coworkers, friends, and family that inspire you is just as important as the work you are doing. When you look at internships and jobs, don't forget to also look at location, work culture, and what

David Vannier '99

Chief of Protocol and Senior Officer,
International Monetary Fund

Washington, DC

Major at Vassar: History, Italian

Advanced Degree: MA, International Relations, SAIS-Johns Hopkins University



David is the IMF's Chief of Protocol and a senior officer in the Office of the Managing Director. David has been at the IMF for over 13 years, and has worked directly for four consecutive managing directors. David's duties entail assisting the head of the IMF in her day-to-day activities,

from coordinating the work of departments to engaging with country authorities and various stakeholders. Previously, David drafted the managing director's speeches and external correspondence, as well as managing speaking engagements. David's first post-Vassar job was serving in the French prime minister's cabinet. Subsequently, he was a reporter at Business Week and the Financial Times, worked as an economist on Wall Street and in the private sector, served in the World Bank's Cambodia Office and taught undergrad in Phnom Penh.

Advice to Students

Choices that you make today will not determine the rest of your life. Thus, as a student, your first duty is to allow yourself to be intellectually curious, while challenging your preconceived ideas. There is no such thing as asking too many questions, so use every opportunity, every interaction as an occasion to learn and grow. That being said, my two "nuggets: of wisdom are: 1. The only person you will have to spend the rest of your life with is yourself; 2. Life is about packaging.

Roger Vera '18

Software Engineer,
Codecademy

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Computer Science

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Roger is a software engineer at Codecademy, an education company offering an online interactive platform where people can learn how to code. Roger develops on the web application for the Growth team—responsible for driving user and revenue growth for the company. He's part of a multi-

functional group of engineers, designers, marketers, data analysts, and a product manager working on projects like Codecademy's product experimentation framework, finding out new ways of acquiring users, and shipping experiments to improve user experience.

Previously, Roger has taught computer programming to high school students through All Star Code—a nonprofit computer science education organization for boys and young men of color. During his time at Vassar, Roger worked as a tutor for Vassar After School Tutoring. He later worked as a mentor for the after-school leadership-building program Engaging People in Change (EPIC), based in nearby Millbrook, NY. He was also an active member of the Latinx Student Union (formerly Poder Latinx).

Advice to Students

A growth mindset is crucial—no matter what careers you will end up pursuing. From failures and setbacks.

Britta von Schoeler '97

President,
Broadway Video Enterprises

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Psychology

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Britta heads Broadway Video Enterprises—the division charged with amplifying the company's portfolio of brands, including Saturday Night Live, across all media. Britta helps strategic planning and partnerships for Broadway Video Entertainment's programming library. Her portfolio of projects ranges from global distribu-

tion of traditional media—including the production of new formats—to leveraging Broadway Video's family of talent and intellectual property for sponsorship and branded content opportunities, experiential executions such as live tours and exhibits, to the creation of product lines. Most recently she launched Más Mejor, a premium comedy studio powered by Latino voices. Prior to joining BVE in 2001, Britta worked for BBC Worldwide Americas, Inc. Golden Books Family Entertainment and Discovery Communications.

Advice to Students

Consider what you want your life to be like when you're 40 and pick a career that can help you attain that vision. In what city do you want to live? What work-life balance is right for you? Do you like to travel? Do you like the comfort of knowing what the path to success in your role is or do you like to be more entrepreneurial and chart your own course? Knowing these answers can help point you in a specific direction. Once you know what that direction is, get out there and talk to as many people in the profession as you can. Don't be afraid to work all resources!

Jeff Wallach '82

Freelance Writer / Journalist
Portland, Oregon

Major at Vassar: English
Advanced Degree: MFA, Fiction Writing,
Brown University



Jeff is the award-winning author of five books of non-fiction as well as upwards of 1,000 articles, essays, columns, and reviews in such publications as The New York Times, The Dallas Morning News, The Oregonian, Men's Journal, Men's Health, Sports Illustrated, Hemispheres, Money magazine, Outside, Forbes.com, and many, many

others. He believes himself to be the only journalist to ever write the same story for Popular Science and Seventeen magazines. His corporate writing clients include Intel, Motorola, Microsoft Corp., Ford Motor Company, Subaru of America, Mazda, Acura, the U.S. Department of Energy, Citibank, Marriott International, The Walt Disney Company, Hachette Filipacci Media, Sunset Publishing Corporation, and others. Jeff is also the founder of The Critical Faculty, a media/marketing and consulting firm specializing in the golf, resort, and travel industries, and The A Position, a network of golf and travel writing. He has taught fiction and magazine writing classes in high school, college, and adult education programs, and at several writers conferences. Jeff's fiction has most recently appeared in The Saturday Evening Post.

Advice to Students

Unless you are extremely lucky or incomparably talented.

Jonathan Weinstein '96

Suicide Prevention Coordinator,
VA Hudson Valley Health Care System
Montrose, New York

Major at Vassar: History
Advanced Degrees: PhD, Clinical Psychology, University of Mississippi; MPA, Public Administration, NYU

[in linkedin.com/in/jonathan-weinstein-469890109/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonathan-weinstein-469890109/)



Jonathan is a clinical psychologist and Suicide Prevention Coordinator at the VA Hudson Valley HCS, and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at New York Medical College. Jonathan has had an enduring interest in the science of empowerment. Jonathan and his co-author have written

two books adapting elements of Contextual Behavior Science to help teachers to empower their students. He has also applied this work to empower veterans who are at high risk for suicide. In addition to co-authoring Two-for-One Teaching: Connecting Instruction to Student Values and Empower Your Students: Tools to Inspire a Meaningful School Experience, Jonathan's publications can be found in Behavior and Social Issues, The Psychological Record, and Salud y Drogas. Jonathan and his family live in Westchester County and have two special children: One is on the autism spectrum, and the other is also amazing in ways that defy categorization.

Advice to Students

Learn the difference between your job and your work. What will you be making? Who will you be serving? How will these choices reflect your values? What will be left when you are gone?

Nicholas Weinstock P'22

Producer,
Red Hour Films

Los Angeles, California

Major in College: Anthropology



Nicholas is the creative head of Red Hour Films in Los Angeles, a wide-ranging film and television company that he runs together with his partner Ben Stiller. Originally a book editor at Random House in New York City, Nicholas went on to author three books as well as articles and essays for The New York Times Magazine, The

Nation, National Public Radio, Vogue, and many other national publications. Transitioning from journalism, he worked as Vice President of Communications at News Corporation, the global media company, before moving to Los Angeles to join 20th Century Fox and develop comedy series for broadcast TV. In 2007 he became the creative head of Apatow Productions, developing and producing movies including *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, *Step Brothers*, *Pineapple Express*, *Get Him to the Greek*, and *Bridesmaids*. Since partnering with Stiller and running Red Hour, Nicholas has produced the Emmy-nominated Showtime series *Escape at Dannemora*, the hit Netflix movies *Alex Strangelove* and *The Package*, and the CW series *In the Dark*, among other productions underway.

Advice to Students

As you dutifully follow the instructions of teachers and counselors and employers, be mindful of the working world's dirty secret: that there are no rules. Yes, there

Simon Whitelaw '13

Software Engineering Team Lead,
Paytronix

Newton, Massachusetts

Major at Vassar: Mathematics

Advanced Degree: MS, Interdisciplinary Computer Science, Mills College

[linkedin.com/in/simonwhitelaw/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/simonwhitelaw/)



Simon is a software engineer and a manager for the data science team at Paytronix—a small software company in Newton, MA. Simon has been with the company for 2½ years and was promoted to the team lead role after working on the team as an engineer for a year. In a typical day, Simon can be found doing a variety of tasks

including coding, working with other teams to solve an issue with the platform, planning and delegating work for the team or meeting with team members to talk about their work, goals and/or anything else that they want to talk about.

Prior to that, Simon earned his master's degree in computer science from Mills College and worked at Gap as a software engineer in their analytics and big data department. He has also worked as a teacher in small private schools for two years.

Advice to Students

Try to build good working relationships with those around you regardless of the difference in role or level. It is difficult to lead without the respect and support of those you are leading, and it is difficult to get into leadership positions without an effective rapport with people making the decisions.

Joy Williams '87

Founder & CEO,
SoulJoy Wellness

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Economics

Advanced Degrees: MBA, Media & Finance, Columbia Business School; MA, Media Studies, The New School

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Joy is a media producer, digital marketer, and business coach. She is Founder and CEO of SoulJoy Wellness, LLC, where she produces events and content for women and people of color. Immediately prior to launching her venture, Joy worked for ESPN for almost seven years as Senior Director of

Ad Sales Development for both Studio and International Production. Previously, she was Assistant Vice President at JP Morgan Chase. Joy also has experience in traditional and digital media with HBO, MTV, CBS, NYMetro.com, and Cablevision's Mag Rack, a provider of video-on-demand programming. While in Columbia Business School, Joy was president of the student government and currently coaches students as a part of the Career Management Center.

Advice to Students

The business world is rapidly changing and there are opportunities that will be available to you that you had never dreamed of before you heard of them. Be open to a career path that differs from what you envisioned. Commit to lifelong learning and to being flexible. Your ongoing education will be used in ways you never imagined. Continue to build your network. You will find great learning and guidance from your network that will help you along the way.

Kenneth Wong '07

Principal,
Centre Lane Partners, LLC

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Chinese, Economics

[linkedin.com/in/ken-wong-1209317/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ken-wong-1209317/)



Now a principal of the investment firm Centre Lane Partners, Ken has over 10 years of experience. Prior to joining Centre Lane, Ken was an associate with Monomoy Capital Partners. Earlier in his career, Ken worked as an investment analyst at Kohlberg Capital Corporation. He started his career in the Leveraged

Finance Group at Bear Stearns. As a member of the investment team at Centre Lane, Ken assists in sourcing new investment opportunities, structuring securities, executing transactions, and deploying capital. Ken spends his time working with the executive management teams of his portfolio companies implementing a variety of strategic initiatives.

Advice to Students

Organizations are quickly realizing the massive value-add and contribution young people can provide (fast learners, implementation and adoption of technology, being tech-savvy in general, high energy, passionate and driven). I think one way students can differentiate themselves early is to make sure they can effectively communicate their contributions to their future employers. I think in order to do that, it takes a lot of practice. Make sure you are doing practice interviews, video tape yourself, have people check over your resume, and please utilize the resources at Vassar!

Michael Woods '17

Independent Singer-Songwriter/Audit Analyst

New York, New York

Major at Vassar: Political Science

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Michael is a producer, singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist who is passionate about delivering good, smart music to his listeners' ears. Michael has performed in venues across NYC, London, Atlanta, San Francisco, France, etc. He was featured on the national ABC television show "Duets"

performing with Grammy Award-winning artist Jennifer Nettles of Sugarland. He continues to collaborate with artists and regularly performs at his home base in NYC. Michael is also an audit analyst for the JPMorgan Corporate Investment Bank, where he provides coverage of the global sales, marketing, and research businesses at the firm.

Michael is a member of the Grammy Recording Academy and attended the Grammys as a senior at Vassar College, a Fulbright Summer Institute Award winner, National Coca-Cola Scholar, Bill and Melinda Gates Scholar, Questbridge Scholar, and United Realty Scholar. For Junior Year Abroad, he studied at the London School of Economics (LSE). Prior to studying at the LSE, he spent a summer on a Fulbright award conducting independent research on slavery and memory at the University of Bristol.

Advice to Students

Always search for the small moments that give you happiness in any role. In whatever role you choose to pursue in financial services, make sure that you find those opportunities because you are bound to encounter a wide range of emotions. When your projects and/or psyche appear to spiral out of control, meditate on those good moments and never let them go. You will need them! If you can't find those moments, keep trying. If you fail to find those moments after trying, run!

CAREER GUIDEBOOK

DEFINITIONS

Resumes

Strong resumes 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 resume should provide contact information, summarize your educational and professional history, and highlight additional skill sets and leadership capabilities. To get help with your resume, drop by the Career Studio at any time between 12:30 and 3:30pm, Monday through Friday. The CDO's Resume Writing and Job Search Correspondence Guide provides useful tips on format and content, and provides examples of successful resumes.

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 resume and highlight why you are a strong candidate. The CDO's Resume 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 through 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.

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 resumes 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 Career Studio between 12:30 and 3:30pm, 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 Handshake, Vassar's job and internship database. 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 hirevassar@vassar.edu with the pertinent details.

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. VassarNet is a new online mentoring and networking platform powered by PeopleGrove, vassarnet.vassar.edu. 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 25,000 Vassar graduates currently use LinkedIn; set up a free account to connect with people who inspire you.

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.

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



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