



Fall 2018

GSAS NEWS

GSAS Unveils New Writing Studio



This September, the Graduate School inaugurated the GSAS Writing Studio, our newest initiative to support doctoral students in the dissertation-writing phase. Located on the third floor of Lehman Library, this vibrant, fully renovated space with meeting and seminar rooms, and individual workspaces, directed by Kate Daloz and staffed with graduate writing consultants, is now available for dissertation-writing groups, writing workshops and retreats, and long stretches of concentrated individual writing.

GSAS Alumni at the 2018 Alumni Leaders Weekend



A record number of alumni and student leaders convened from October 5 to 7 for the 14th annual Columbia Alumni Leadership Weekend, a series of celebrations, networking events, leadership and skills-building sessions, awards presentations, and more. Louis Parks ('95MA, Classical Studies) was honored at the Alumni Medalists Gala, and talks were given by Jillisa Brittan ('86MA, English and Comparative Literature) and Allison Turza Badger ('14PhD, Psychology).

Join a GSAS Alumni Committee

Assist the GSAS Alumni Association Board of Directors in advancing Dean Carlos J. Alonso's mission by joining one of our five alumni committees: Ambassadorship, Recent Alumni and Students, Awards, Stewardship and Engagement, and Professional Development. Write to gsasalumni@columbia.edu for more information and to apply.

Christine Anne Denny ('12PhD, Biological Sciences)



**Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurobiology (in Psychiatry),
Columbia University Medical Center**

"The brain has always fascinated me. When I was in college, I joined a neuroscience laboratory for financial reasons. My mentor at the time suggested that I continue in research, which I ultimately did. Then and now, I am driven to find novel treatments or preventions for psychiatric and cognitive disorders."

Gerrard P. Bushell ('04PhD, Political Science)



**President and CEO,
DASNY (Dormitory Authority State of New York).**

"I wanted an opportunity to combine finance and public policy into a meaningful role. The opportunity to lead the nation's largest financier of infrastructure was a chance to bring skills and lessons from my previous experiences in the public and private sectors."

Steven Abrahams ('89PhD, Psychology)



**Senior Managing Director and Head of Strategy,
Amherst Pierpont Securities LLC.**

"Investing has a lot in common with good research in psychology, or good research in any discipline, for that matter. You have to develop a strong theory of why a market is showing certain behavior. You have to test that theory with data. And then you have to clearly communicate results."

Would you like to be featured in our alumni profiles series? Write to us at gsasalumni@columbia.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS

- **Amanda Seales** ('05MA, African-American Studies), who stars on HBO's hit series *Insecure* and is now on a sold-out comedy tour, is "having a moment," writes *The Washington Post*.
- At just 34, rising paleontology star **Steve Brusatte** ('13PhD, Earth and Environmental Sciences) has already discovered ten new species of dinosaurs. Read an [excerpt from his latest book](#), *The Rise and Fall of Dinosaurs*, in *Columbia Magazine*.
- *Posing Modernity: The Black Model from Manet and Matisse to Today*, an exhibition curated by **Denise Murrell** ('14PhD, Art History and Archaeology), will be on view at Columbia University's Wallach Art Gallery until February 10.
- **Steven Andrew McAlpine's** ('17MA, Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences) groundbreaking research on sea levels' impact on the housing market was covered

by [The Miami Herald](#), [The New Observer](#), [The Herald Sun](#), and [The Charlotte Observer](#).

- **Valeria Luiselli** ('15PhD, Latin American and Iberian Cultures) authored an [essay for The New York Times](#) about the shame and guilt that Hispanic children are taught to feel.
- **Karen R. Lawrence** ('78PhD, English and Comparative Literature) [was named the next president of The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens](#) in San Marino, California.
- **Trevor Reed**, an expert in Native American cultural and intellectual property issues, [was appointed as a faculty member](#) at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.

Do you have news to share? Write to us at gsasalumni@columbia.edu.

ALUMNI EVENTS

Visit the [Columbia Alumni Association's events calendar](#) to find alumni events near you.

STAY CONNECTED
www.alumni.columbia.edu



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