



Dear GSAS Alumni,

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the end of a wonderful summer with friends and family. In this quieter time as the new academic year approaches, I write to pass along news about recent accomplishments and milestones of GSAS students and alumni, and share invitations to upcoming events.

In addition, a reminder: GSAS Compass Graduate Career Development is continually seeking partnerships with alumni to post job and internship opportunities, meet with students one-on-one for informational interviews, share career path stories with groups of students, or present workshops on professional development topics. Please contact gsas-compass@columbia.edu if you are interested in any of these ways to help.

Sincerely,

Erin Hussein
Director of Alumni Relations
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

RECENT GSAS EVENTS



Students Compete in SynThesis 2024

On April 25, fourteen GSAS master's students gathered in the Faculty Room in Low Library to compete in SynThesis 2024. Each participant presented their thesis research to a live audience and panel of judges. Each competitor was allowed just three minutes and one slide in which to convey the content and impact of their thesis research. SynThesis covered a variety of fascinating topics from the ecological impact of a dam in Paraguay, to the use of TikTok in the US presidential election, to the power of an old Japanese ghost story. Learn more and see presentations [here](#).

GSAS Honors Alumni, Students, and Faculty at Awards Ceremony

On May 6, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences held its annual awards ceremony. Among those honored were **Timothy L. Macdonald** ('75PhD, Chemistry) and **Melissa Garcia** ('11MA, International and World History), who received the Dean's Distinguished Award. **Anuk Arudpragasam** ('19PhD, Philosophy) and **Tanya Kotelnikova** ('23MA, Human Rights Studies) received the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award. **Louis Eugene Brus** ('69PhD, Chemical Physics), who is a 2024 Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry and Samuel Latham Mitchill Professor Emeritus, and Special Research Scientist, at Columbia, received the Dean's Award for Lifetime Achievement. **Roni Henig** ('18PhD, Middle East, South African, and Asian Studies) was presented with the Salo and Jeannette Baron Prize in Jewish Studies. Learn [more](#) and see a [full list of award winners here](#).

The Awards Committee of the GSAS Alumni Association Board of Directors is responsible for curating a pool of worthy PhD and master's alumni candidates for the Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement and the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award. To nominate a deserving GSAS graduate for one of our annual awards, please write to the GSAS Office of Alumni Relations at gsas-alumni@columbia.edu.

GSAS ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES

Boston Lions in Biopharma: Panels and GSAS Reception

Join fellow alumni in the Boston area for an evening of panels focused on biopharma careers. Hear from experts working in biopharma research and development, operations, and business development and venture capital.

The first panel of the evening will be chaired by Brent Stockwell, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Biological Sciences at Columbia.

GSAS alumni panelists:

- **Neel Desai** ('10MA, Biotechnology), Executive Director of Business Development and Licensing at Biogen
- **Nichole O'Connell** ('10PhD, Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics), Head of Platform Discovery at Kymera Therapeutics
- **Audrey Ross** ('12PhD, Chemistry), Associate Director in Program Management at Kymera Therapeutics
- **Kenichi Shimada** ('15PhD, Biological Sciences), Research Associate in the Laboratory of Systems Pharmacology at Harvard Medical School
- **Katherine Bowdish** ('94PhD, Cellular and Molecular Physiology and Biophysics), Chief Executive Officer at PIC Therapeutics
- **Dominic Yee** ('06PhD, Chemistry), Senior Director in Legal at Kymera Therapeutics and co-president of the Columbia Alumni Association of Boston

Mr. Yee will graciously welcome attendees to the offices of Kymera Therapeutics. The event will be followed by a reception hosted by GSAS.

Wednesday, September 4, 2024, 4:00–8:00 pm, at the Life Sciences Campus at the Arsenal on the Charles, 400 North Beacon Street, Watertown, MA. [Register here.](#)

Columbia Alumni with Disabilities: Inaugural Event

Join Columbia Alumni with Disabilities, one of the newest [Columbia Alumni Association shared interest groups](#), for its very first event: The

#ActuallyAutistic Guide to Building Independence, a conversation featuring GSAS alumna **Jennifer Elizabeth Brunton** ('06PhD, Sociology). Ms. Brunton, the autistic parent of an autistic son and a neurotypical daughter, is the co-author of [The #ActuallyAutistic Guide to Building Independence](#).

Thursday, September 12, 2024, 6:00–7:30 pm, on Zoom. [Register here.](#)

ALUMNI NEWS

- **Jean Cottam Allen** ('01PhD, Physics) joined the US National Science Foundation in February of 2024 as Acting Director for the Office of Polar Programs (OPP) within the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO). Before joining NSF, Ms. Cottam Allan spent seven years at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center as an instrument scientist for a flagship x-ray observatory and then as Chief Scientist for the Physics of the Cosmos Program Office. Learn more about her work [here](#).
- **Susan Clark** ('17PhD, Astronomy) is the leader of the Cosmic Magnetism and Interstellar Physics group at Stanford University. An article about her work, "[Tracing the Hidden Hand of Magnetism in the Galaxy](#)," was recently featured in both *Quanta Magazine* and *Wired*.
- In October, [Columbia Global Reports](#) will publish *Left Adrift* by **Timothy Shenk** ('16PhD, History), Assistant Professor of History at George Washington University. The book explores the economic and cultural changes in the US political landscape—who leans left and who leans right, then and now. Please save the date for an event co-hosted by Columbia Global Reports and GSAS and featuring Timothy Shenk in Washington, DC, on the **evening of Tuesday, October 22, 2024**. To ensure you are included on the invitation list, please write to gsas-alumni@columbia.edu.
- **Timothy Su** ('16PhD, Chemistry), Assistant Professor in the department of Chemistry and the Materials Science and Engineering Program at the University of California, Riverside, was selected by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement (RCSA) to receive a 2024 Cottrell Scholar award. The prestigious award recognizes early career scholars in chemistry, physics, and astronomy. Each awardee receives \$120,000. Learn more about his work [here](#).

Do you have news to share? Write to us at gsas-alumni@columbia.edu.

GSAS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

You can assist the [GSAS Alumni Association Board of Directors](#) in advancing the vision of GSAS Dean Carlos J. Alonso by joining one of four alumni board committees: Awards, Professional Development, Recent Alumni and Students, and Stewardship and Engagement. Write to gsas-alumni@columbia.edu for more information.

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