[Test]:GSAS Spring Alumni Newsletter

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences <gsas-alumni@columbia.edu>
To: ym3122@columbia.edu

Tue, Jul 1, 2025 at 4:31 PM

Winter/Spring 2020

Dear GSAS Alumni,

As the coronavirus has invaded nearly every corner of the world, I am mindful that all of you have seen your life severely disrupted over the last few weeks. GSAS and the rest of the University have had to establish a new normal that you, even with your knowledge as former graduate students, may find difficult to recognize.

Columbia's master's and doctoral candidates have undertaken to meet the academic commitments of the semester remotely, whether by taking or teaching classes, sitting for exams, or defending their proposals or theses online. Students who were conducting research abroad have returned to safe harbors. The living situations of many students have changed dramatically, and many have been dislocated, leaving the confines of Morningside Heights to move across the country—and in the case of our international students, across the world.

The resiliency of our faculty has made it possible to preserve our academic mission. GSAS is taking every precaution to keep our community safe, and to take care of our students in need. I invite you to visit GSAS's COVID-19 website to learn about the school's response to the crisis.

Be well; stay well.

Sincerely,
Carlos J. Alonso, Dean
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

GSAS NEWS

Convocation Goes Virtual

GSAS held our virtual Convocation ceremonies for master's and doctoral students on the original Convocation date of **Sunday, May 17.** Links to the virtual ceremonies are provided here.

To help celebrate our remarkable graduates, we are collecting messages of congratulations from alumni that will be shared with the graduates. Submit your message today, and show our graduates what alumni support feels like on this very special day.

Watch the Empire State Building light up for Columbia graduates on **Wednesday, May 20, 9:00 – 11:00 p.m. EST**.

PhD Students Present Their Research at the First Columbia 3MT Competition

On December 12, GSAS celebrated the scholarly achievements of our doctoral student community at the second annual Columbia 3MT Competition. Finalists presented their dissertation research in three minutes and only one slide to faculty and alumni judges and an audience of their peers. Richard Warren, a student in Neurobiology and Behavior, won First Prize for his presentation, "Machine Learning Reveals Hidden Beauty in Animal Behavior," and Wei-Li Lee, a student in Chemistry , won Second Prize for "Fluorescent Chemicals to Image Serotonin Release." Divya Venkatesh, in Biological Sciences, received the Audience Choice Award for "Identifying New Molecular Pathways that Alter the Antitumorigenic Ability of Ferroptosis."

GSAS LinkedIn

Connect with GSAS on LinkedIn.

GSAS ALUMNI EVENTS

All GSAS in person events have been canceled. The University's COVID-19 website posts up-to-date information on COVID-19 generally and on Columbia's response.

GSAS Community COVID-19 Emergency Fund

The past weeks have been challenging for the Columbia community, and the disruption for graduate students has been profound. GSAS and the Arts and Sciences Graduate Council have partnered to create the **GSAS Community COVID-19 Emergency Fund** to support master's and doctoral students in Arts and Sciences programs who are experiencing substantial and unanticipated financial emergencies.

The strength and support of our community takes on a new meaning in times like these, and we are immensely grateful for the generous contributions to the Fund already received from GSAS alumni and from academic programs and departments in the Arts and Sciences. This collective effort is a testament to our capacity for compassion and solidarity. We are proud of our ability to rise together as a community in these difficult times.

If you are able, please help support graduate students with a gift through our Columbians Care for Students portal.

Introducing GSAS Conversations

This series of special virtual talks for friends and alumni of GSAS feature alumni scholars and practitioners sharing their perspectives on conversations arising from the pandemic. We invite our friends and alumni to join us now through the month of June for quick, deep dives into aspects of the crisis, thought-provoking examinations of issues at the core of humanity, and much-needed distractions.

In Episode 1, **David M. Blitzer** ('78PhD, Economics), former chairman of the S&P Dow Jones Index Committee, shared his thoughts on how the current downturn compares with those bear markets of the past and whether they may provide hints as to the trajectory of recovery.

Join us for an upcoming episode.

Episode 2
Jessamyn Conrad ('16PhD, Art History and Archaeology), Managing Director, H Partners, and CEO, Artsal, Inc.
From Black Death to Little Black Dress
Wednesday, May 20 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. EST
Today's fast fashion traces its lineage to that infamous pandemic of the 14th and 15th centuries. The Bubonic Plague dramatically changed the course of the world economy and helped spur mass luxury spending, creating a consumer culture that drove the development of fashion. Take a walk along the timeline of the invention of fashion with Jessie Conrad, investor, writer, and student of the financial and political history of medieval Italian art and architecture, and a winner of the Columbia College Preceptor Teaching Award in both Literature Humanities and Art Humanities.

Episode 3
Martha Joynt Kumar ('72PhD, Political Science), Director, White House Transition Project, and Professor Emerita, Towson University
Stay Tuned: Current Presidential Press Relations and Upcoming Transitions
Wednesday, May 27 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. EST
Martha Joynt Kumar has spent decades watching presidents transition into and out of office and, while in that office, establish relationships with the press. In addition to being an academic observer of White House operations, Kumar works with her non-profit, non-partisan team of presidency scholars to provide analytical information to incoming White House staff about the functions and responsibilities of their offices and directors. Hear her insights on the current President's meetings with the press in historical context as well as what to look for during the upcoming presidential transition.

Alumni Summer Auditing Program

Also new this summer – Delve deeper into an untapped passion or explore a new subject area that sparks your interest by auditing a course through the Alumni Summer Auditing Program. Designed especially for this atypical summer, the Alumni Summer Auditing Program offers a wide variety of dynamic online course offerings at a special price featuring Columbia's distinguished faculty teaching some of the University's most in-demand courses.

CAA VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

During this time, we hope you will also stay in touch through the virtual programs produced by the Columbia Alumni Association.

ALUMNI NEWS

- On February 9, GSAS alumni and students were among the 500 attendees of She Opened the Door, a Columbia conference that aims to enlighten, educate, elevate, and empower women. The name of the conference is a tribute to GSAS alumna Winifred Edgerton Merrill ('1888PhD, Mathematics), the first woman to receive a degree from Columbia University. Two GSAS alumnae spoke at breakout sessions: **Tanya Domi** ('07MA, Human Rights Studies) at "Personal Journeys through Social Justice," and **Denise Murrell** ('14PhD, Art History and Archaeology) at "Personal Journeys Through the Arts."
- **Meet Yanjin Li** ('17MA, Statistics), Data Scientist II, LINE Corporation.
- **Mary Annunziata** ('17MA, Modern and Contemporary Art: Critical and Curatorial Studies) and **Allison Cannella** ('18MA, Modern and Contemporary Art: Critical and Curatorial Studies) are Curatorial Advisors to the Immigrant Artist Biennial, which is currently featuring virtual visits to the studios of immigrant artists.
- **Gerrard Bushell** ('04PhD, Political Science) received the BAC Heritage Award from the Black Alumni Council of Columbia University. Read more about Dr. Bushell here.
- **Ivana Dizdar** ('19MA, Modern Art: Critical and Curatorial Studies) published He Loves Me Not: Marriage and Migration in the Work of Tanja Ostojić, comprised of a section of her MA thesis, for which she was awarded first-place in the 2019 Master's SynThesis competition.
- **Anthony Elson** ('73PhD, Economics) published his fourth book, *The United States in the World Economy: Making Sense of Globalization*, in June 2019. The book examines different aspects of economic and financial globalization. Read more about Dr. Elson here.
- **Edward L. Greenstein** ('77PhD, Middle Eastern, South Asian & African Studies), Professor Emeritus at Bar-Ilan University, Israel, published *Job: A New Translation*.
- **Carol Helmstadter** ('57MA, History) published her second book, *Beyond Nightingale: Nursing on the Crimean War Battlefields*, in November 2019. Read more about Ms. Helmstadter here.
- **Marvina Robinson** ('05MA, Statistics) launched Stuyvesant Champagne, a line of French champagne which will be the private house label for her upcoming champagne bar.
- **Patricia D. Stokes** ('92PhD, Psychology) published her third book, *Using Paired Constraints to Solve the Innovation Problem*, with co-author Michael Gibbert. Dr. Stokes is an Adjunct Professor of Psychology at Barnard College.
- **Tyshawn Storey's** essay "A Will to Adorn" was included in the *New York Times* Long Read The African-American Art Shaping the 21st Century.
- **George Yancopoulos** ('86PhD, Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics) received the Hamilton Medal from Columbia College.
- **Nina C. Young** ('17DMA, Music Composition) is part of the New York Philharmonic's Project 19, a multiyear initiative featuring commissions by 19 women composers in honor of the centennial of the 19th Amendment.

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

GSAS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Welcome Jiayi Chen ('06MA, Statistics), Newest Member of the GSAS Alumni Association Board

Jiayi Chen received his undergraduate degree from Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, and his MA in Statistics from Columbia University, after which he joined Goldman Sachs Asset Management as an Analyst. His next role was as a Portfolio Manager for Pine River Capital Management, where he went on to become a Partner. He is currently one of four Partners at Trutino Capital Management, a start-up hedge fund. In 2012, Jiayi was listed on The Forbes 30 Under 30 Finance list.
Jiayi lives in Warren, New Jersey, with his wife (a fellow native of China and an alumna of Yale University) and their six-year-old daughter and three-year-old son. He is an avid diver.

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

SUPPORT GSAS STUDENTS

STAY CONNECTED

This email was sent by: **Graduate School of Arts and Sciences - Columbia University**
535 West 116th Street - 109 Low Memorial Library New York, NY, 10027 , US

Update Profile