



VASSAR

**SOPHOMORE  
CAREER CONNECTIONS**

*Linking the Liberal Arts to the World of Work*

JANUARY 12-14, 2024



## About Sophomore Career Connections

Vassar's Center for Career Education (CCE) and Office of Advancement are delighted to welcome you to Vassar's tenth annual *Sophomore Career Connections*, a program of networking and professional self-discovery. More than 600 unique alum and parent mentors and over 2000 students have participated in this award-winning program over the past ten years.

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 alum and parent mentors—we hope to help students complement their liberal arts education with industry-specific knowledge, tap into the extensive Vassar network, and focus on their professional development in a supportive environment. Making these connections will serve sophomores well as they begin to consider not only summer internship options, but also life beyond Vassar.

We extend our sincere thanks to the 100+ alum and parent mentors who have generously offered their time to mentor 250+ students and lead 18 industry-specific industry panels 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 Center for Career Education (CCE) and the Office of Advancement at Vassar College.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

---

## ILYSE HOGUE '91

Ilyse Hogue '91 (she/her), the former President and CEO of NARAL Pro-Choice America, is a longtime activist, political strategist, and writer. She currently serves as a Senior Fellow at New America, a Washington-based think tank dedicated to realizing the promise of America in an era of rapid technological and social change. She's also a Senior Adviser to Rewiring America, where she offers counsel on how to leverage the clean energy transformation into a movement for civic renewal.



Trained as an ecologist, Ilyse has put those skills to use in understanding and leveraging systems of power: social movements—both left and right—as well as systems of governance and politics. Her career has spanned issues, diving into opportunities for and barriers to collective and societal progress. As a trained scientist, she has always taken a data-driven and research-grounded orientation to effective strategies to advance social change, honing those skills in her time as a leader at [MoveOn.org](https://www.moveon.org), where she led the communications and advocacy efforts for the 6-million-plus member organization. Ilyse has also served as Senior Advisor to Media Matters for America, where she grew a sharp instinct for how narratives move through the information ecosystem before co-founding a Super PAC designed to expose and counter dark money in politics. Ilyse spent close to a decade as President and CEO of NARAL Pro-Choice America (now Reproductive Freedom for All). Under her tenure, the organization tripled in size. She designed and led initiatives to raise the salience of reproductive freedom in

political and cultural discourse, dissecting and leveraging how to undercut its potency as a rallying cry for authoritarian forces. Her work resulted in a deep understanding of how embedded gender norms undergird so much of the current social friction.

Ilyse is the author of *The Lie That Binds*, a bestselling book about how gender was weaponized in service of an anti-democratic agenda in post-World War II America, and she is producing a podcast by the same name. Her work has been published in *Newsweek*, the *Guardian*, *USA Today*, *Democracy: Journal of Ideas*, the *Nation*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Teen Vogue*. She's been a regular guest on cable news, including MSNBC, CNN, and Fox News. Hogue has most recently been at Purpose Campaigns, a global evidence-driven strategy firm, where her focus was on rising authoritarianism around the world and different strategies employed by communities and nation-states to combat the trend. When she's not obsessing over thorny issues of democracy, power, and purpose, she is collecting rescue animals and coaching her kids' soccer team. Ilyse lives in Washington, DC.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

---

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

## **Complexity and Curiosity as Building Blocks for a Better World**

featuring Ilyse Hogue '91

A classic liberal arts education, like Vassar offers, is not designed to predetermine your path in life. In fact, many—like myself—seek out liberal arts education for the purpose of transcending a myopic view of destiny that can result from our upbringings, societal expectations, and so on. Still, with today's challenging global turmoil, a liberal arts education can feel like a luxury, or even an indulgence. How can we utilize this time we have at Vassar to make a meaningful impact once we leave?

As it turns out, the very skills you learn through liberal arts education are the ones that the world most needs right now. From war to climate change to economic and racial inequality, students today are entering a world that feels fraught with adversity and peril. In times of high stress, we also experience high polarization where people's positions harden and move further to the extremes. However, this is also the

time when we most need to challenge our own assumptions and seek to learn more than we seek to answer.

Studies show that curiosity creates healthier individuals and more robust learning environments. But what if curiosity is also the key to democracies surviving and thriving? Navigating thorny problems and seeking solutions toward progress requires complex thinking, not pat answers. Complex thinking is not possible without a posture of curiosity. The liberal arts education at its best forms minds that carry curiosity and complexity into a plethora of roles that shape the world that comes next. People change the course of history, not professions or governments or trades. Now more than ever, we need places like Vassar to instill a deep sense of curiosity and a respect for the complexity of life in order to equip the next generation that will shape a new and better world.

# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

---

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

---

11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Aula / Ely Hall	<b>Student Pre-conference Workshop: Uncovering YOU: The Road to Self Discovery featuring Alexa Jordan '17</b>  Students are invited to dream, explore and assess different career possibilities with Certified Life Coach Alexa Jordan '17 in this interactive session.
12:00 - 2:00 pm	Center for Career Education, Main Building, South 170	<b>Student Check-in</b> Check in, grab your SCC swag, and prepare for the start of SCC!
2:15 - 3:15 pm	Taylor Hall, Room 102	<b>Welcome to the Center for Career Education (CCE) &amp; Internship Searching 101 Workshop</b> Learn what the CCE can do for you while also getting acquainted with resources to support you during the internship search process. Facilitated by Center for Career Education staff.
3:30 - 4:30 pm	Taylor Hall, Room 102	<b>SCC Student Orientation &amp; Networking 101 Workshop</b> Learn how to make the most of the weekend and get a primer on networking. Facilitated by Center for Career Education staff.
3:00 - 6:00 pm	Rose Parlor, Main Building, 2nd Floor	<b>Mentor Check-in</b> Check-in, grab your SCC swag, and ask any questions you have about the program!
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Skinner Hall, Mary Anna Fox Martel Recital Hall	<b>SCC Keynote Address: Complexity and Curiosity as Building Blocks for a Better World featuring Ilyse Hogue '91</b>
6:00 - 7:00 pm	Bridge Building for Laboratory Sciences, 1st Floor	<b>Welcome Reception for Mentors</b> An opportunity for mentors to network with one another and reconnect with Vassar faculty, administrators, and staff.
6:00 - 8:00 pm	Gordon Commons / ACDC	<b>Student Dinner</b>
7:00 - 8:30 pm	Villard Room, Main Building, 2nd Floor	<b>Mentor Dinner &amp; Orientation</b> Remarks by President Bradley, Carol Ostrow '77, P'09,'15 and Michael Graff P '09,'15. Facilitated by Jannette Swanson.

---

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

---

8:45 - 9:45 am	Gordon Commons / ACDC	<b>Mentor &amp; Student Breakfast   LinkedIn Headshots</b> Grab your breakfast and enjoy casual/ unstructured conversations with mentors and students.  A professional photographer will also be on hand to take LinkedIn headshots for mentors and students.
10:00 - 11:15 am	Rockefeller Hall / Chicago Hall	<b>Industry Panel Session I</b> (See page 9 for room assignments.)  Students attend the first of three industry panel sessions designed to introduce students to industries of interest and the Vassar network.
11:30 am - 12:45 pm	Rockefeller Hall / Chicago Hall	<b>Industry Panel Session II</b>
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Gordon Commons/ ACDC	<b>Program Luncheon</b> Grab your lunch and enjoy casual/unstructured conversations with mentors and students.  A professional photographer will also be on hand to take LinkedIn headshots for mentors and students.
2:00 - 2:30 pm		<b>Break</b>
2:30 - 3:45 pm	Rockefeller Hall / Chicago Hall	<b>Industry Panel Session III</b>
4:00 - 4:40 pm	Rockefeller Hall	<b>Topics / Identity@Work Session I</b> (See page 10 for room assignments.)  Students and mentors will have the opportunity to connect with one another over shared interests and/or identities.
4:50 - 5:30 pm	Rockefeller Hall	<b>Topics / Identity@Work Session II</b>
5:45 - 8:00 pm	Gordon Commons / ACDC	<b>Student Dinner</b>
6:00 - 8:00 pm	Alumnae House Living Room and Dining Room	<b>Mentor Reception &amp; Dinner</b> Network and unwind while reflecting on the day's events over drinks and dinner.

# PROGRAM SCHEDULE *(continued)*

---

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

---

9:00 - 10:00 am	Gordon Commons / ACDC	<b>Mentor &amp; Student Breakfast</b> Grab your breakfast and enjoy casual/unstructured conversation with mentors and students.
10:15 am - 12:15 pm	Main Building, 2nd Floor	<b>Mentor &amp; Student Networking Reception</b> During this reception, students will have the Opportunity to practice their networking skills with mentors in an encouraging environment while making final connections before the program ends.
12:15 - 12:30 pm	Villard Room, Main Building, 2nd Floor	<b>Program Closing Remarks</b>



To access links, please visit the electronic program booklet at:

[go.vassar.edu/scc](https://go.vassar.edu/scc)



To access the online interactive Mentor Directory please visit:

[go.vassar.edu/scc-mentors](https://go.vassar.edu/scc-mentors)



# INDUSTRY PANEL LOCATIONS

Each industry panel will take place three times. The sessions start at 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 13. Sessions will take place in either Rockefeller Hall or Chicago Hall, and each industry panel will be held in the same room for all three sessions.

See the following index for room assignments:

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Building &amp; Room</b>
Activism, Social Justice & Non-Profit	Rockefeller Hall – Room 312
Arts Administration	Chicago Hall – Room 134
Advertising, Marketing & Public Relations	Chicago Hall – Room 118
Data Science & Analytics	Rockefeller Hall – Room 112
Education	Chicago Hall – Room 106
Entertainment & Performing Arts	Rockefeller Hall – Room 201
Entrepreneurship & Start-Ups	Chicago Hall – Room 123
Environment & Sustainability	Chicago Hall – Room 137
Financial Services & Economic Consulting	Rockefeller Hall – Room 301
Government & Public Policy	Rockefeller Hall – Room 101
Healthcare & Medicine	Rockefeller Hall – Room 304
International Affairs & Policy	Rockefeller Hall – Room 212
Journalism, Publishing & Writing	Rockefeller Hall – Room 210
Law & Legal Services	Rockefeller Hall – Room 203
Management Consulting	Chicago Hall – Room 102
Public Health	Rockefeller Hall – Room 307
Scientific Research (Academia & Industry)	Rockefeller Hall – Room 310
Technology	Rockefeller Hall – Room 104

# TOPICS / IDENTITY@WORK ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Topic / Identity@Work sessions will be repeated twice. The sessions start at 4:00 p.m. and 4:50 p.m. on Saturday, January 13. All sessions will take place in Rockefeller Hall, and students are encouraged to participate in two unique sessions.

See the following index for room assignments:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Room in Rockefeller Hall</b>
<b>Identity@Work: ALANA</b> African American/Black, Latine, Asian, & Native American	212
<b>Identity@Work: FGLI+</b> First-Generation, Low-Income and/or Undocumented	101
<b>Identity@Work: International Students</b>	308
<b>Identity@Work: LGBTQ+</b>	201
<b>Identity@Work: Women</b>	200
<b>Translating the Liberal Arts Experience</b>	300
<b>Translating the Student-Athlete Experience</b>	203
<b>Help! I Don't Know What I Want to Do!</b>	312
<b>Business School</b>	301
<b>Law School</b>	210
<b>Medical School</b>	307
<b>Entrepreneurship &amp; Start-Ups</b>	104
<b>Fellowships &amp; Year of Service</b>	304
<b>Working Abroad</b>	310

# NETWORKING RECEPTION INDUSTRY LOCATIONS

All sessions will take place Sunday, January 14 from 10:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Students are encouraged to move between industries over the two hours.

See the following index for room assignments:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Industry</b>
<b>College Center MPR (Room 223)</b> <b>** Food &amp; Drinks **</b>	Environment & Sustainability Government & Public Policy International Affairs & Policy Law & Legal Services
<b>Faculty Parlor</b>	Activism, Social Justice & Non-Profit Education
<b>Gold Parlor</b>	Recharge Room - Quiet Space
<b>Jade Parlor</b>	Financial Services & Economic Consulting Management Consulting
<b>Ordan Conference Room</b>	Advertising, Marketing & Public Relations Journalism, Publishing & Writing
<b>Rose Parlor</b> <b>** Food &amp; Drinks **</b>	Arts Administration Entertainment & Performing Arts
<b>Villard Room</b> <b>** Food &amp; Drinks **</b>	Data Science & Analytics Entrepreneurship & Start-Ups Healthcare & Medicine Public Health Scientific Research (Academia & Industry) Technology

# MENTORS BY INDUSTRY INDEX

Although many of our alum and parent mentors work in fields, professions, and organizations that span more than one industry, we have assigned each mentor to a primary industry panel. The table below matches our 18 designated industry panels with the 4–8 mentor representatives who will lead these sessions.

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

<i><b>Industry</b></i>	<i><b>Mentor</b></i>	<i><b>Position Title and Employer</b></i>
<b>ACTIVISM, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND NON-PROFIT</b>	Nina Huang '10	<i>Director of Operations, National Domestic Workers Alliance</i>
	Laura Kinter '13	<i>Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Awakenings</i>
	Peggy Nagae '73	<i>Owner and Principal, Peggy Nagae Consulting</i>
	Alex Roth '93	<i>Senior Program Associate, Vera Institute of Justice</i>
	Alistair Scott '04	<i>Founder, Diaspora Legacy Collective</i>
	Lindsay Wolk '19	<i>Federal Organizing Manager, Everytown for Gun Safety</i>
<b>ADVERTISING, MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS</b>	Anne Green '93	<i>Chief Executive Officer, GandS Business Communications</i>
	Nick Kohomban '17	<i>Digital Content Producer, The Wilderness Society</i>
	Alexa Levine '15	<i>Senior Content Marketing Manager, HUMAN Security</i>
	James Purtle '12	<i>Vice President, Enterprise Solutions, Data Axle</i>
	Valerie Silverman Kerr '84	<i>President, VSK Public Relations, LLC</i>
	Rudi Williams '16	<i>Public Relations and Marketing Manager, EcoMap Technologies</i>
<b>ARTS ADMINISTRATION</b>	Julian Corbett '19	<i>Assistant Director, Garth Greenan Gallery</i>
	Rachel Garbade '15	<i>Assistant Archivist, Processing, MoMA</i>
	Kate Parvenski '08	<i>Content Director, Testudo Art</i>
	Michael Reback '11	<i>Senior Manager, School Programs, Brooklyn Museum</i>

## Mentors by Industry Index continues

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Mentor</i>	<i>Position Title and Employer</i>
<b>DATA SCIENCE AND ANALYTICS</b>	Daniel Gutowski '16	<i>Data Analyst, Audible</i>
	Khasi-Marc Jamieson '16	<i>Data Scientist II, Lendio</i>
	Cindy Liu '16	<i>Data Analyst, The Walt Disney Company</i>
	Kai Matheson '19	<i>Data Visualization and Trainings Specialist, Accenture Federal Services</i>
	Rachel Wagner-Kaiser '10	<i>Director, Data Scientist, KPMG</i>
	Jessy Yu '16	<i>Data Scientist, Amazon Games</i>
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Joel Arce '08	<i>Graduate Editorial Assistant, UMass Amherst</i> <i>Visiting Instructor, Westfield State University</i>
	Mai Nguyen '13	<i>Associate Director of Instructional Design, GroupM</i>
	Adina Ornstein-Luks '22	<i>Kindergarten Teacher, The Co-Op School</i>
	Emily Short '17	<i>Lower School Teacher, French School of Philadelphia</i>
	Harrison Taylor '20	<i>Coordinator for Research, Education, Data, and Impact, Sesame Workshop</i>
<b>ENTERTAINMENT AND PERFORMING ARTS</b>	Miranda Cornell '19	<i>Theater Director, Freelance</i>
	Judd Ehrlich '93 P'27	<i>Director and Producer, Flatbush Pictures</i>
	Sieu Nguyen '17	<i>Writer and Producer, HBO</i>
	Britta von Schoeler '97	<i>President, Broadway Video Enterprises</i>
	Charley Young '09	<i>Chief Executive Officer, Charley Girl LLC</i>
	Carol Ostrow '77, P'09, '15	<i>President, Stop the Wind Theatricals, LLC</i>

## Mentors by Industry Index continues

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Mentor</i>	<i>Position Title and Employer</i>
<b>ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND START-UPS</b>	<b>Christopher Deutsch '97</b>	<i>Founder, Lofty Ventures</i>
	<b>Erik Larson P'26</b>	<i>Co-Founder and Chief Product Officer, Cloverpop</i>
	<b>Samantha Mandor '97</b>	<i>Co-Owner and Chief Creative Officer, TEMPTU</i>
	<b>Elisa Strauss '98</b>	<i>Founder and Head Designer, Confetti Cakes, Ltd</i>
	<b>Gene Waddy P'27</b>	<i>Chief Executive Officer, Alpha Business Solutions</i>
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<b>Emily Goddard '15</b>	<i>Data Analyst, Yale Program on Climate Change Communication</i>
	<b>Ian Kowalok '16</b>	<i>Energy Engineer, EME Group / Salas O'Brien</i>
	<b>Kevin Lee '14</b>	<i>Environmental Health and Sustainability Manager, Dr. Bronner's</i>
	<b>Sarah Scott '12</b>	<i>Regional Land Use Planner II, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)</i>
	<b>Maya Sterling '20</b>	<i>Program Coordinator, Pan American Development Foundation</i>
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES AND ECONOMIC CONSULTING</b>	<b>Jesse Graff '15</b>	<i>Finance and Strategy Consultant, JSG Strategic Solutions</i>
	<b>Andrew Lemon '00</b>	<i>Senior Consultant, Compass Lexecon</i>
	<b>Marjorie Penrod P'26</b>	<i>Managing Director, JPMorgan</i>
	<b>Bhargav Poudel '21</b>	<i>Senior Analyst, Analysis Group</i>
	<b>Medha Venkat-Ramani '20</b>	<i>Assistant Vice President, Client Analyst, Wellington Management Company</i>
	<b>Travis Walker '20</b>	<i>Investment Banking Associate, Bank of America</i>
	<b>Michael Graff P'09, '15</b>	<i>Managing Director, Warburg Pincus LLC</i>

## Mentors by Industry Index continues

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Mentor</i>	<i>Position Title and Employer</i>
<b>GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY</b>	Shoshanah Bewlay '92	<i>Executive Director and Counsel, NYS Department of State, Committee on Open Government</i>
	DeVan Hankerson Madrigal '06	<i>Research Manager, Center for Democracy and Technology</i>
	John Kane '02	<i>Deputy Staff Director and Director of Infrastructure, US Committee on the Environment and Public Works</i>
	Alfonso Lopez '92	<i>Member, 3rd District Virginia House of Delegates, Virginia General Assembly</i>
	Kafi Moragne-Patterson '06	<i>Senior Program Director, University of Chicago Inclusive Economy Lab</i>
	Shahid Naeem '18	<i>Senior Policy Analyst, American Economic Liberties Project</i>
	Kaira Smith '21	<i>Budget Analyst, Council of the District of Columbia</i>
<b>HEALTHCARE AND MEDICINE</b>	Ashley Barad '16	<i>Psychotherapist, Cobb Psychotherapy, LCSW</i>
	Randy Guertin '18	<i>Administrative Support, Behavioral Health Network</i>
	Seiji Hayashi '91	<i>Lead Medical Director, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield</i>
	Pamela Kim '06	<i>Physician, Center for Vein Restoration</i>
	Michael Renner '14	<i>Product Manager, Cityblock Health</i>
	Douglas Stewart '92 P'26	<i>Senior Investigator, National Cancer Institute</i>
	Kristin Woods '08	<i>Trauma Therapist, Trauma Institute</i>
<b>INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND POLICY</b>	Lee Ann Bael '21	<i>Program Associate, National Democratic Institute</i>
	Steven Cook '90	<i>Senior Fellow, Middle East and Africa Studies, Council on Foreign Relations</i>
	Sara Lobo '16	<i>Communications and Development Lead, International Center for Advocates Against Discrimination (ICAAD)</i>
	Shruti Manian '14	<i>Programme Specialist, United Nations</i>
	Rebecca Smith '13	<i>Policy Manager, Innovations for Poverty Action</i>
	Christine Sow '90	<i>Chief Executive Officer and President, Humentum</i>
	Saúl Ulloa '15	<i>Policy Advisor, International Rescue Committee</i>

## Mentors by Industry Index continues

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Mentor</i>	<i>Position Title and Employer</i>
-----------------	---------------	------------------------------------

<b>JOURNALISM, PUBLISHING, AND WRITING</b>	<b>Anabel Graff '09</b>	<i>Founder,</i> Creative Connections Essays
	<b>Alexa Jordan '17</b>	<i>Writer and Certified Life Coach,</i> Alexa Jordan Coaching LLC
	<b>Marie Solis '15</b>	<i>Editor,</i> The New York Times
	<b>Jade Wong-Baxter '17</b>	<i>Literary Agent,</i> Frances Goldin Literary Agency
	<b>John Wordock '91</b>	<i>Executive Editor and Senior Vice President,</i> Cumulus Media   Westwood One
<b>LAW AND LEGAL SERVICES</b>	<b>Brian Farkas '10</b>	<i>Partner,</i> ArentFox Schiff LLP
	<b>Raymond Magsaysay '17</b>	<i>Judicial Law Clerk and Chambers Attorney,</i> Supreme Court of California
	<b>Benedicte Mathijssen-Bayi '78</b>	<i>Senior Director Data Privacy and Compliance Counsel,</i> Christian Dior
	<b>Taylor Mosley '15</b>	<i>Law Clerk and Associate,</i> McNees Wallace and Nurick LLC
	<b>Darci Siegel '20</b>	<i>Appeals Paralegal,</i> Kings County (Brooklyn) District Attorneys Office
	<b>Emma Tanner '22</b>	<i>Associate,</i> Blackstone
	<b>Sam Thypin-Bermeo '11</b>	<i>Assistant United States Attorney,</i> United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey
<b>MANAGEMENT CONSULTING</b>	<b>Ilse Heine '15</b>	<i>Senior Associate,</i> Article One Advisors
	<b>Mihajlo Ivanovic '22</b>	<i>Business Analyst,</i> McKinsey and Company
	<b>Stefan Richards '17</b>	<i>Senior Consultant,</i> Boston Consulting Group
	<b>Sabrina Stacks '20</b>	<i>Consultant,</i> Deloitte
	<b>Hannah Van Demark '15</b>	<i>Strategy Manager,</i> Nike



To access the online interactive mentor directory which includes bios, advice, and photos, please visit:

[go.vassar.edu/scc-mentors](https://go.vassar.edu/scc-mentors)



## *Mentors by Industry Index continues*

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Mentor</i>	<i>Position Title and Employer</i>
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH</b>	Victoria Clarke '20	<i>Program Manager II, Cleveland Clinic</i>
	Katrina Mateo '10	<i>Associate Director, Development Innovation, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals</i>
	Matthew Norstad '14	<i>Bioethics Program Manager, University of California, San Francisco</i>
	Lesli Vipond '14	<i>Manager, Adolescent and Young Adult Health, American Academy of Pediatrics</i>
	Elizabeth Wieand '08	<i>Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</i>
<b>SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY)</b>	Akina Hoshino '06	<i>Director of Clinical Gene Editing and Process Development, Universal Cells, an Astellas company</i>
	Gavin Huntley-Fenner '90	<i>Chief Executive Officer, Huntley-Fenner Advisors, Inc</i>
	Alicia Lewis '18	<i>Senior Clinical Research Coordinator, Columbia University Irving Medical Center</i>
	Eric Lin '21	<i>Scientist, LEXEO Therapeutics</i>
	Alexandru Mahmoud '18	<i>Research Software Engineer and Project Manager, Harvard Medical School</i>
	Philani Mpfu '12	<i>Senior Quantitative Scientist, Flatiron Health</i>
	Eleni Rice '21	<i>Senior Research Assistant, The Rockefeller University</i>
	Bethany Terry '16	<i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Albert Einstein College of Medicine</i>
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	Zoe Bachman '10	<i>Senior Director of Curriculum and Instructional Design, Codecademy</i>
	Munish Dabas '02	<i>UX Design Lead, Google</i>
	Diego Encarnacion '18	<i>User Researcher and UX Designer, IBM</i>
	Beth Huntley-Fenner '88	<i>Principal Consultant, Huntley-Fenner Advisors, Inc</i>
	Piper Yang '19	<i>Software Engineer, Formerly at Cisco</i>

# 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, stop by drop-in hours any time between 1:30 and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The CCE's [Resume and C.V. 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 CCE's [Cover Letter and Communications Guide](#) provides useful tips on format and content, and provides examples of successful cover letters.

### 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 alums 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. Sample informational outreach messages can be found in our [Cover Letter and Communications Guide](#).

### 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 through resumes and cover letters, 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 CCE to schedule a mock interview with a career counselor.

### 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. Sample thank you messages can be found in our [Cover Letter and Communications Guide](#).

# CAREER GUIDEBOOK

## CCE RESOURCES

### The Center for Career Education (CCE)

The Career for Career Education (CCE) helps students and alums 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 Building, South 170, CCE staff can help you find internships, review resumes and cover letters, learn how to network effectively, and prepare for interviews. They also offer career assessment and graduate/professional school advising services, host regular workshops and on-campus recruiting events, bring employers and graduate schools to campus, and administer internship funding. To take advantage of these resources, schedule an appointment with a career counselor—or stop by the office between 1:30–4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, for a drop-in appointment.

### Online Internship Resources

The CCE 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 [Internships, Jobs, and Programs Resource Guide](#). Mentors: If you wish to post an internship opportunity, please contact the CCE at [hirevassar@vassar.edu](mailto: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 alum, you have access to the Vassar network through a handful of convenient online tools. VassarNet is our online mentoring and networking platform powered by PeopleGrove, [vassarnet.vassar.edu](http://vassarnet.vassar.edu). 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 CCE administers a number of funds every year. The CCE supports students participating in low-pay and unpaid summer internship through the Internship Grant Fund (IGF), a need-sensitive grant that ranges from \$350-\$5,000. 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 when the application opens in the spring semester. Additional merit-based summer funds provide awards of \$4,000-\$6,000. See [summer-funding.vassar.edu](http://summer-funding.vassar.edu) for more information about these and other Vassar funding opportunities.



To access links, please visit the electronic program booklet at:

[go.vassar.edu/scc](http://go.vassar.edu/scc)



To access the online interactive Mentor Directory please visit:

[go.vassar.edu/scc-mentors](http://go.vassar.edu/scc-mentors)



To access the *Cover Letter and Communications Guide*, please visit:

[go.vassar.edu/commsguide](http://go.vassar.edu/commsguide)



To access the *Resume and C.V. Guide*, please visit:

[go.vassar.edu/resumeguide](http://go.vassar.edu/resumeguide)



To access the *Internships, Jobs, and Programs Resource Guide*, please visit:

[go.vassar.edu/internshipjobguide](http://go.vassar.edu/internshipjobguide)



To join Handshake, please visit:

[go.vassar.edu/handshake](http://go.vassar.edu/handshake)



*Sophomore Career Connections* is planned and organized by the Center for Career Education (CCE) and the Office of Advancement at Vassar College.