

FINCH NEWS

DECEMBER 2022

A Publication for Finch College Alumni and Friends



THE FINCH COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESENTS THE NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP AND SHOWCASES ITS SCHOLARS



Eileen and Liz



Lesley and Natalie

At the close of yet another glorious Cosgrave evening on May 17, 2022, Board Co-Chairs Eileen Bluestone Sherman and Liz Glick Colin proudly completed their five-year term and “passed the baton” to two more outstanding Finch board members, Lesley Rigler Kaminsky and Natalie J. Skeet. Eileen and Liz look forward to continuing their board service under the leadership of Lesley and Natalie, who have many innovative and exciting plans for Finch members around the world - now 200 strong! - whose achievements continue to generate our pride in the Finch College legacy. Former scholars, with “degrees in hand,” are now making their mark in their chosen professions “and giving back” as valued members of our Finch board. The newest Finch scholar board member, Yeschi Pelzom, is a Ph.D. candidate and the inaugural Finch Scholar Cosgrave Award Honoree 2022.

Now meet the 2022 Scholarship recipients in the pages ahead...



Susan Saklad Warren and Sulay Restrepo, recipient of the 2021 Susan Warren Finch Scholarship Award, have developed a profound and ongoing relationship which has inspired us all, and the generosity of several alumnae who have followed suit.



The presence of four of our outstanding scholar board members made Cosgrave 2022 complete! Standing L-R: Finch judge, Dr. Katherine E. Lynch and Yehudis Moscovits; Seated: Scholar board members Aquella White, Razieh Arabi and Jae Zheng. Our current board also includes past Finch scholars: Zineb Bouizy, Huiling Cai, Barbara Javori, Chu Mai Paing, Amey Lynne Rose and now, Yeschi Pelzom Pradham.



Yeschi Pelzom and Finch scholars judge, Dr. Cecilia Macheski Last year our Board of Directors asked its Finch scholar board members to create the criteria for selecting a graduate of the Finch Scholar Program to be honored each year at the Cosgrave Dinner; and in May 2022 we saluted them for choosing Yeschi Pelzom.

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2023 FINCH EVENTS

The 28th Annual Jessica Cosgrave Awards Ceremony
Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Grand Ballroom, New York City Cosmopolitan Club
122 East 66th Street
New York City

Look for further details and email blasts about 2023 tours, events and excursions on our website (finchcollege.org) and on Facebook. And, please make sure to keep in touch with us! finchassoc1@gmail.com

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SHERRY FOSTER TAXMAN

As a math & science major, Sherry Foster commuted from Belle Harbor, Long Island to attend Finch from 1967-1969, where she learned fencing. In 1970, she took classes in Art, Literature and Sociology at The New School for Social Research in Manhattan.

After marrying husband #1 in 1971, she moved to Omaha, Nebraska where she completed her degree at the mid-sized, coed, Jesuit Creighton University. One of her first post-college jobs was working at Project Success, a unique program for developmentally disabled adults, in a vocational/rehabilitation setting where she helped find employers who agreed to create jobs for her clients. One of those companies - which manufactured pink foam Tip-Top curlers in Omaha - was more

During the past 40-plus years, Sherry has been asked to develop critical illness and qualified long term care plans for a consortium of companies. She also created software and payroll deduction plans for her clients.

For the past 25 years, Sherry has volunteered her time and efforts on the Boards of the Omaha Symphony Guild, Omaha Habitat for Humanity, Omaha Community Playhouse, Tuesday Musical Concert Series, Joslyn Art Museum, Beth Israel Synagogue and Omaha Opera. She is currently involved with the Joslyn Art Museum and Opera/Omaha.

She loves to travel, and is in New York City at least 4-6 times a year to visit museums, theatre and friends and to enjoy the myriad of cuisines the city has to offer. She has 4 children:



Sherry Foster Taxman "organized" these books, all from the little Madison Avenue Bookstore, on her Finch shelf in her library.

than willing to hire them.

Around this time, Sherry also served as Youth Director at the Jewish Community Center where she supervised the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization programs for the region. After studying interior design, she did some commercial work for restaurants and a bowling alley.

In 1978, Sherry spent several years doing research, setting up a hospice program, teaching behavioral medicine to first-year medical students, and training residents about to enter the field of Psychiatry at her local psychiatric hospital which was affiliated with the city's medical center. Although, after divorcing her husband, she decided to remain in Omaha with her infant daughter, it was in New York City that she met her current husband, Jeff, an Omaha native, who happened to be living and working in The Big Apple at the time. Together, they returned to Omaha. After she and Jeff had their own daughter, she started working with him in his insurance and investment business, which continues to this day.

Lindsey lives in Silver Spring, MD and has 2 children: 8 year-old Maayan, and Caleb, 18, who is a college freshman. Daughter Whitney lives in Israel with her husband and 3 children: Gideon, 13, Moriyah, 11, and Eliav, 7. Sherry's son, Ben, 37, an architect at Kiewit Corporation, a Fortune 500 Company based in Omaha, lives in Omaha; and daughter, Chelsea, lives in Amherst, MA.

Sherry would love to show Finch alums and friends around her adopted city. She says the Joslyn Art Museum is a jewel, and recommends a visit in 2024 when the Museum's new wing - currently under construction - is finished. (Finch group tour, anyone?) We might even run into Omaha native, Warren Buffet. Maybe if we ask nicely, he will give us some stock tips!

You can reach Sherry at sherrytaxman@gmail.com.

Article: Wendy Glickstein

Photo courtesy of Sherry Taxman

2022 FINCH COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION TRUST

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Dear Friends of Finch, Fellow Alumni and Family of Finch Alumni,

We are in a season of action, promise and sharing and as we look forward to the holidays and its traditions of giving and being with friends and loved ones, we are counting on you! By giving to Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust you are a partner in our joyful pursuit of a smarter, healthier and more equitable world.

Donors like you make everything possible. Annual gifts like yours allow FCAAFT to award scholarships to outstanding and deserving women who might not otherwise complete their undergraduate degree. These students transfer from local community colleges into some of our most prestigious universities in the U.S.A and go on to pursue notable careers. Your commitment and renewed commitment encourage our scholars and the organization in service to the public good.

Please consider your donation to FCAAFT this year. Every donation matters and makes a difference. No matter what, your support is noticed and deeply appreciated by everybody at FCAAFT, especially the students. We would be delighted to have you as an integral member of our FCAAFT donor family.

Warmest regards,

Lesley Kaminsky and *Natalie J. Skeet*

Finch College Alumnae Association Foundation Trust Co-chairs

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You can support our annual appeal as follows:

- *Becoming a lifetime member for a donation of \$300
- *Recognizing a classmate, family member or friend by naming a scholarship in her/his honor
- *Making any donation, however comfortable or as generous as possible

Full two-year scholarship \$5,000 One-year scholarship \$2,500
Scholarship in honor of _____ Amount _____

Annual Donation:
 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,000 Other _____
 Lifetime Member Dues \$300 Annual Dues \$50

**Indicate your choice(s) and return with your check issued to:
Finch College Alumni Association
954 Lexington Avenue #184
New York, NY 10021**

Each contribution is tax deductible as the FCAAFT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Please issue your check by December 31, 2022, if you wish to apply it to your 2022 deductions.

MEET THE 2022 FINCH SCHOLARS



NADEZHDA ATANASOVA

LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO SUNY COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY
THE REBECCA AND YEHUDA EVEN-ZOHAR SCHOLARSHIP

Nadezhda hopes to become an environmental engineer specializing in hydrology. She designed an experiment to test the capabilities of local willow species to filter contaminants, including bacteria and heavy metals, from the wastewater which impacts our local waterways in the form of combined sewer overflows.

Nadezhda is an Ambassador of the prestigious President's Society.



JAMIE BROWN

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
THE HEDY ZANKEL SCHOLARSHIP

Jamie's focus in life is on personal development through persistence, curiosity, academic excellence, and leadership. Maintaining a 3.9 GPA, she is on the Dean's List.

Having studied Food and Culture, and the history of food, Jamie has worked in the industry at A.A.S. Baking & Pastry Arts, Dana's Bakery, and Maison Kayser Commissary, where she produced macaroons, gluten-free vegan and black & white cookies, as well as parve and dairy cookies in a kosher kitchen setting



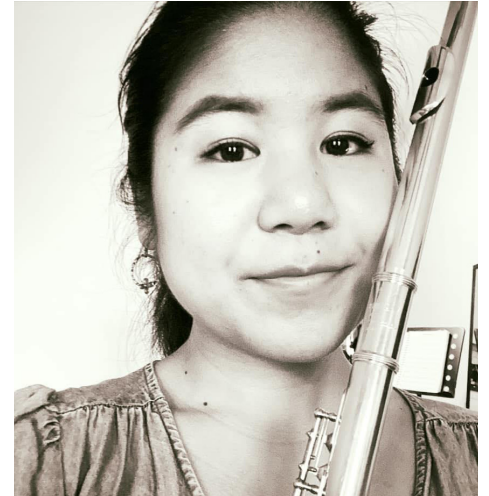
LATINA BYRD

ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
THE JOAN KAYE BICK SCHOLARSHIP

Latina is an African-American single mother of two who received an honorable discharge after serving in the US Army in Desert Storm. A firefighter in the Newark Fire Department for many years, she is currently working as a first responder and will attend Montclair State University for paralegal studies. Her plan is to continue on to a degree in criminal law.

A member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor So-

ciety, Latina has participated in numerous community service events, has mentored high school children, taught liturgical dance at a local church, and recruited new female firefighters. Participation in community service has earned her a Fannie Lou Hamer award and a meritorious commendation for saving a life, using skills obtained while serving in the US Army. For Fire Safety Month, City of Newark 2014, she organized events for approximately 2,000 Newark public school students.



YURI FELICIANO

LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO THE NEW SCHOOL
THE TENNIE BERNSTEIN LEONARD SCHOLARSHIP

Japanese-born Yuri performed in her native country as a singer-songwriter at a small city venue and café. At age 32, she enrolled at the LaGuardia Community College Music Performance program where she participates in lively discussions about music. Yuri's videos showcase some of her strongest performances, performing on both flute and piano.



MEGAN CHELEDNIK

BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
THE JAMEE JACOBS FIELD SCHOLARSHIP

Hailing from a hard-working family of master carpenters, plumbers and roofers, as a yoga teacher, Megan was introduced to a nonprofit organization which brought mindfulness to a community struggling with drug abuse, mental illness, and poverty. Through healing and connectivity, Megan fostered a safe environment.

Once she earns a degree, she will collaborate with sustainable companies that design, manufacture, and deliver products without compromising future generations. She envisions being part of a larger movement that will help craft a better future in both design and sustainability. Megan says "Artistically, this is who I want to be. I want to create. I want to have a role in reshaping the future of the buildings that surround us."

Continued on next page ▶



CARLY GLASSE

ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO PACE UNIVERSITY
THE DR. SARA ARTHUR SCHOLARSHIP

Since childhood, Carly has been around nonprofit projects. She now yearns to make a real difference in the world, utilizing her business and life experiences. Her goal is to run a nonprofit organization, and to be responsible for maintaining a business that truly creates change that deals directly with people and their needs regarding housing, schooling, and basic resources.

She began an internship at Orange County Community College, with a nonprofit called Safe Harbors of the Hudson, where she learned the inner workings of a nonprofit. A member of Phi Theta Kappa, with 3.9 GPA, Carly was granted the SUNY Chancellor's Award and the Orange County Rising Star Award.



STEPHANIE HEIERMANN

MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO
ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
THE FELICE FORER AXELROD SCHOLARSHIP

Stephanie married young, and with four children, became a stay-at-home mom. She volunteered as PTSA representative for her children's school where she loved being involved with their activities, and getting to know the teachers, other students, and their

families. In 2018 she returned to college. Wanting to do something technical, she chose the Management Information Systems degree at Rochester Institute of Technology. She had enjoyed being able to use financial and enrollment data to make informed business decisions while volunteering at the school.

Stephanie received the Computer Information System Scholarship at MCC, awarded to a student who has excelled academically and has demonstrated a dedication to further study in the field of information technology. In college, her overall accumulative GPA is 3.571.



KAIYUN LIANG

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO
HUNTER COLLEGE, SILBERMAN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
THE FREYA MOSKOWITZ STERN SCHOLARSHIP

Originally a Bilingual Early Childhood major, Kaiyun found satisfaction in helping elderly neighbors as a translator. She moved on to a Social Work major, receiving a 3.7 GPA throughout community college while working and interning part-time.

At an internship with PHS's SNAP Benefits Enrollment Program, she worked with the field staff, screening potential enrollees for linguisti-

cally appropriate information and assisted eligible clients with SNAP applications electronically and followed up through the entire application process. Kaiyun reorganized the agency's waiting room for walk-in clients and appointment clients so the supervisor could provide service in proper order.

After receiving a bachelor's degree, she plans to get a master's degree to study immigrant social work. As an immigrant in the U.S., she wants to make contributions to help our immigrant society.



LAURA LYNCH-IVANHOE

LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO BARUCH COLLEGE
THE RITA THOMPSON SCHOLARSHIP

After working for many years as a bartender, Laura moved on to her goal of obtaining a college degree at age 32. She earned a 3.882 GPA while taking extra classes during both summer and winter and has been on the Dean's list every semester at LaGuardia Community College, in addition to being a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. As 1 of 10 ambassadors selected out of 10,000 students at La-

For more about Laura, turn to page 10 ▶

MELISA LONG

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO HUNTER COLLEGE
THE HEDY ZANKEL SCHOLARSHIP



Melisa enjoyed the creativity and social interaction with clients while working as a hair stylist. After completing two marathons, she realized that she could use the same training skills - willpower, dedication, resilience, and perseverance toward the challenge of pursuing a higher education.

Attaining her GED diploma gave her the same sense of satisfaction and accomplishment she felt after completing marathons. It led her on the path to higher education, and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health.

As part of an internship with the New York State Department of Health Cancer Consortium team, Melisa was assigned to a Colorectal Cancer Screening Public Service Announcement with an expert medical doctor advising about the screening age for colorectal cancer. The YouTube presentation they created was translated into Filipino and Spanish. This invaluable experience taught her how to look for data, how to prepare and organize presentations, and just how crucial health screening is to an individual.

Scholars' news continues on page 10 ▶

27th Annual Cosgrave at the New York May

Photography by Hideaki



Honorees Audrey Block Heckler, Ronalda Nicholas, Megan Dees Friedman, Carol Barnes Ross, Sandie Newton and MC Alba Francesca Farber



Carol Ross' friends Jeffrey and Marlene Moskowitz



Hideaki and Margaret Nakamura



Honoree Megan Friedman and son Nico Sermoneta on her right and friends. L-R: Barbara Lambrakis, Noni Pratt and Pepper Petit



Pat Meehan and Nina Di Giovanna LaBruna



Standing: Natalie J. Skeet, Barbara Long Pitney and Joan Kaye Bick. Seated: Jenny Anderson Merriman, Ann M. Holmes and Elba Vargas



Marjorie Schulman with Friends of Finch Sonia Bubnova and Galina Kouliaeva to her right and Lynda Maer on her left



Standing: Finch scholars judge Dr. Katherine Lynch, Yeshi Pradhan, Dr. Cecilia Macheski, Lois Moran Ziegler, Aquella White, Razien Arabi, Yehudis Moscovits, Jiahul (Jae) Zheng. Seated: Liz Colin, Ronny Cohen, Eileen and Neal Sherman



Honoree Carol Barnes Ross with sons John and Douglas Ross, granddaughter Lauren and daughter-in-law Dr. Ann Ross

Award Ceremony Cosmopolitan Club 17, 2022

and Margaret Stein Nakamura



Sherry Taxman and Donna Miller Casey



John and Virginia Wattiker Gildea with Lesley and Stan Kaminsky



Honoree Ronald Nicholas with son Uri Frazier to her right and to her left: friends Lewis Hadden; Lisa Herzog; Justine Wezenaar. Top row: cousins Kittura Dior and Captilda Lane and friends Diana and Nate Winstead



Manoj and Yeshi Pradham, Alba Francesca Farber, Felice Forer Axelrod, Cheryl Kornberg Lefkovits and Nohra Haime



Honoree Sandie Newton next to classmate, Ilene Kirsten, and her sons Douglas and William with their gals Sadie and Emily



Lois Moran Ziegler, Ruth Underberg and Laddy (Louis) Stern



Ceil Gavin Ainsworth, top row: Helena Consuegra and Cheryl Rawlins (guest)



Standing: Natalie J. Skeet and Hedy Zankel. Seated: Michele Brown Sibeud, Zita Rosenthal, Audrey Block Heckler, Audrey Green and FOF Marjorie Walker



FOF Corrie de Groot and Wendy Glickstein



Nancy Azara and her daughter Nana Olivas



Agnes Birnbaum, Julia Berwick, Cheryl Young Deknatel and Jan Deknatel and Wesley Cullen Davidson

From the Finch E-Mailbag...

Rosalie Van Cleef writes: “Thank you for the many emails which helped so much during the pandemic. Happy to say that all is well and looking forward to in-person events, especially the December 3rd Holiday Bazaar. It is a pleasure to share with you that I continue my outreach work with the Order of Malta on Human Trafficking and Holy Family neonatal center in Bethlehem. I am also bringing awareness to a recently published book, “Blessed Economics,” and hope to host a virtual promotional event this Fall. I am thankful for so many friendships, especially my connection to the Finch Alumnae of admirable women. My family is growing and the grandchildren are a great joy.”

Afternoon tea and hospitality authority, **Ellen Easton**, is regularly featured in *The Three Tomatoes* with “Times for Tea,” which covers a plethora of wonderful teas, menus and recipes. Pictured below are some of her holiday favorites.



<https://www.threetomatoes.com/holiday-cakes-great-gadgets-and-vintage-recipes>

Julie Vasques Horns reports: “My husband, John, and I continue to spend the winters in southwest Florida by the Gulf of Mexico, and summers in Catawba Island – a peninsula - on Lake Erie. We visited relatives in Denver this summer and spent time in Townsend, Maryland with our daughter and husband and new grandson. At the end of October, we will be in France for two weeks. Four of us from Finch who lived together at college still communicate regularly. Melanie Jamgochian Mitchell (North Carolina); Peggy Flaxman Millheiser (Texas), and Noko Takigawa Hoy (Oregon.) We occasionally hear from Kathi Hercz Lapidus who was our roommate for two short years. Recently, I made contact with Jo-Ann King. It’s been great reconnecting with college friends.”

Thelma Ruby Wigoder writes from across the pond: “I am a very lucky old Finch graduate from 1943. I am now 97, and feeling and behaving somewhat younger. I studied Theatre Arts at Finch with the wonderful Frances Pole and have spent my happy life as an actress. I even married a wonderful man at age 45 and had 21 glorious years with him until he died in 1991. I performed my one-woman show last June for the first time sitting down, and it went better than ever. In July I was invited to the 75th birthday celebration for Camilla, now the Queen Consort, for over 100 celebrities, at which the host announced he had been to my



show and it was brilliant and, ‘she is in her 98th year and here today...Thelma Ruby.’ At which point the room burst into applause and I stood up! Since then, I have done 3 Question and Answer (Q&A) sessions. So, you can imagine how grateful I am to Finch for setting me on this path. I tell about Finch in my show, which are stories from my life, with songs from shows I have been in; basically, the same I performed for Finch some years ago in New York. I still live alone in London in the same flat the Finch group visited me during the UK trip I organized all those years ago. For those who were here, I am still in touch with our guide, Ingrid. With abiding love and wonderful memories, Thelma.”

Alba Francesca has been busy with an intense period of work and travel for the past six months. She shares: “The entertainment Community (formerly the Actors Fund) is now accepting applications for our Los Angeles affordable housing and art center that I am Co-Chair of Development on, and that has been a multi-year journey. It’s gratifying to know that a year from now there will be 150 families living in this beautiful and vibrant community. I continue my fundraising efforts, as well as sitting on the Western Council of this nonprofit. In May, I visited my close Finch friend, Rena (Niculescu) Crisp on Nantucket, where I originally visited her over fifty years ago when we were in college. In July, my brother and I joined my longtime friends for a week of salmon fishing on their boat in British Columbia. My annual August quilt retreat in an old

coast guard station on the outermost tip of San Francisco harbor had me sewing a silk prayer shawl (tallis) for my dear friend who sings with her daughter for the Jewish High Holy Days services. Finally, in October, I visited friends living in a walled hilltop town in Umbria, halfway between Rome and Florence. I spent sever-



al days in Rome and stayed at the Bernini Bristol Hotel where we lived during my FISP time there. I have also been working on a screenplay, editing two books for friends, and staying in close touch with my Finch scholar, Sherette Gregg.

Nancy Azara is featured among the twenty-three women artists who were active and successful in New York City’s art world in the 1970’s.



The exhibition, “**The Difference We’ve Made: Featuring New Work by Trailblazing Women Artists of the 70’s**”, at the Carter Burden Gallery, 548 West 28th Street, #534, NYC 10001 (212) 564-8405, runs from October 13-November 9, 2022. Gallery hours are Tues.-Fri.: 11AM-5PM; Sat. 11AM-6PM. For more information: www.carterburdengallery.org.

Continued on next page ►

Diana O'Rourke Jacoby and hubby, Mark, continue their antiques business in the high-end showroom of Philip Colleck, located in a historical building at 311 East 58th Street,

**PHILIP COLLECK
EST 1938**



where Diana is busy with various interior design projects. The couple was interviewed in a recent edition of the community newsletter of East Midtown Partnership, An East Midtown Minute, by host Betsy Bober Polivy, author of *The Art of Walking Manhattan Sideways: side street businesses that have stood the test of time*. The book features Diana and Mark on pages 131 & 132.

Joanne B. Thomas writes from Florida,

“Will love to hear what has happened to people living their chosen paths! I went to Finch for two years and loved it and NYC. As I traveled down my path I had two children—a boy and a girl. I had spent a lot of school vacations in the Florida Keys with my parents at the Ocean Reef Club. As time passed my husband and I purchased property there and, including my school years, I was there for 70 years, eventually living there year around. When my husband passed away I met another man who I married. We snowbirded to Vancouver BC for eight years and then moved to Ocean Reef permanently. A few years ago we decided, as we were aging, that we did not want our children to end up caring for us, so we moved to independent living at Abbey Delray South in Delray Beach. Here we are very busy, have made new and wonderful friends, and have care available if and when we need it. I now have four grandchildren and one great grandchild. I am blessed!

Susie Salomon has yet another great-grandchild, Brooklynn, named for her Brooklyn(n) Dodgers. Daughter Debbie Smith’s porcelain sculpture is featured in a NYC exhibition!

Tony Award-winning producer, **Pat Addiss**, was interviewed and honored by critic and journalist Roma Torre in the Oct 17th installment of the League of Professional Theatre Women’s ongoing series, filmed for the Lincoln Center Performing Arts Library archives.



The LPTW chronicles and documents the contributions of significant women in theatre.

Another wonderful exhibition at the **Nohra Haime Gallery!** This was taken by Hideaki Nakamura at the Opening of the Takashi Murakami show, Sept. 9th, with **Nohra, Margaret Nakamura & Dr. Ronny Cohen** in front of one of Takashi Murakami’s paintings.



Nohra, Margaret Nakamura & Dr. Ronny Cohen in front of one of Takashi Murakami’s paintings.

Krystal Borneo graduated on May 13, 2022 from Stockton University in New Jersey with honors in Criminal Justice and with a concentration in Forensics.



**FINCH WELCOMES FALL WITH
A VISIT TO THE MUSEUM OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

On Friday, September 23rd, seven Finch graduates and one “Friend of Finch” enjoyed touring a portion of the Museum of the City of New York’s permanent exhibit “New York at Its Core: World City 1898-2012,” the complementary half to “Port City: 1609-1898.” The visit was led by docent and Arizona native, Kit Hermanson, a Ph.D. candidate at Columbia University, who, in an engaging manner, helped further our knowledge of New York City by interpreting the rise of Manhattan to a superpower through industrialization, finance, immigration, the arts, housing, civil rights, and politics.



L-R: Margaret Nakamura, Audrey Block Heckler, Joy Corrage, Sally Hallows, Rita Thompson, Wesley Davidson, Wendy Glickstein, Corrie de Groot

Each section encompassing the 1898-2012 time frame dealt with objects of the period with original photographs, copy, and in some cases, documentaries. The interactive multi-media portion of the exhibit brought much of what might have been dry, dull material to life. A 20-minute film also accompanied the show.

The original Museum of the City of New York was housed in Gracie Mansion. Built during 1929-32 in its current location, the Museum, itself, is a magnificent colonial Georgian building with a repository of over 750,000 objects, including furniture and costumes. The Museum’s mission is to educate the public about New York while bringing to life its long and colorful history. Located at 103rd Street and Fifth Avenue across from the Conservatory Garden, the Museum has both travelling and permanent exhibits, a café, and an expansive book and gift shop.

This event marked our third fundraiser for FCAAF at the venue, and from all accounts, it certainly will not be our last!

Article by Wesley Davidson

◀ *Laura & Scholars' News - cont'd from p. 5*

Guardia, Laura is an ambassador of The President's Society, a highly selective leadership organization that teaches personal and professional skills.

She learned about accounting in the entertainment business from MediaMKR production company that offered a free certified training workshop during spring break, the "Production Accounting in TV and Film" training session. Her goal is to become a Certified Public Accountant.



HANANE MAHLA
NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO
WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
THE JOAN KAYE BICK SCHOLARSHIP

Hanane arrived in the U.S. from Morocco just 12 years ago. Barely able to speak English, she enrolled in a free course at the library to learn the language. Although menial jobs provided immediate income, with 2 children, she knew that having an American education would be life-altering.

Today, she is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants and Accounting Society, NCC. Her professor recommended she work at the Tutoring Center at Norwalk Community College tutoring in Financial, Managerial, and Intermediate Accounting. She is transferring to Western Connecticut State University and is working toward achieving her dream of earning a bachelor's degree in accounting.



SARA MAJID
MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY
THE FRANCES FISH TOMPKINS SCHOLARSHIP

Growing up in Flushing, Queens, Sara and her four siblings were both home schooled and not allowed to watch television or go outside. To escape her domineering father and oppressive lifestyle, she agreed to an arranged marriage at age 18. After the birth of her son, family priorities delayed her dream of attending Stony Brook University to study psychology.

During this time, along with homeschooling her child with health issues, she taught children as well as teenager after-school programs promoting mental health and physical wellness. She volunteers with Huntington Muslim Youth Outreach, an organization aiming to give high school students opportunities to engage in interfaith and civic volunteer opportunities. Sara is a board member of Muslim Women of Long Island, an organization that seeks to promote the well-being of Muslim women across all realms of mental and physical health and connecting them with resources and opportunities.

A Bachelor's Degree in Psychology will provide the first step on her journey to become a physician's assistant.



NAWEL MESSAUDI
KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
DR. MARGARET MAXWELL SCHOLARSHIP

After Nawel arrived in the U.S. from Tunisia with an abusive husband who would not allow her to leave the home, learn English, or even obtain her life-saving insulin, she fled from Seattle to New York City. During a diabetes-related health emergency, she visited a hospital where a social worker became aware of her situation, and suggested an organization assisting battered women. There, she received shelter, language training, and legal assistance to obtain a VAWA-based Green Card. When she heard about community college, she received assistance in applying. With a 4.0 GPA and as a participant in the honors program, Nawel will enter Rutgers University Nursing Program, specializing in Anesthesiology. She hopes one day to become a teacher and mentor to underprivileged immigrants.



SHANNON O'DONNELL
HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TO RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
THE LOIS CHILES GILDER SCHOLARSHIP

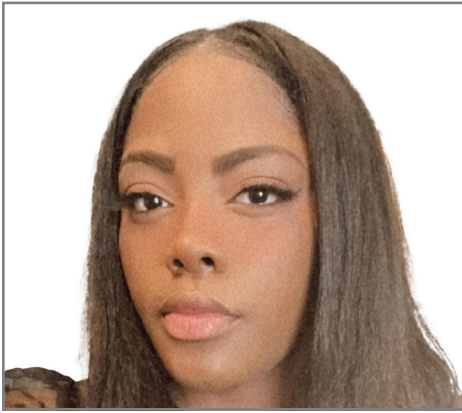
Shannon always assumed she would earn her living as a musician - singing and playing guitar. She enjoyed reading books, and her dad encouraged her to write about their discussions in a notebook each night. She soon discovered that she enjoyed writing prose as much as song lyrics. When

Continued on next page ▶



MAHLON MATHIESON
HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TO NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
THE REBECCA AND YEHUDA EVEN-ZOHAR SCHOLARSHIP

After high school, Mahlon attended Bingham University where she did not perform well academically. Becoming disillusioned, she dropped out. When her mental health hit rock bottom, therapy helped tremendously and soon she began a career of social work with children in foster care. A decade later, Mahlon entered Hudson County Community College, graduating Phi Theta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude. She will major in Biology at New Jersey City University. Her career goal is to become a practicing healthcare provider in low-income areas in New York City.



MAHAM NAZ
LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO CUNY YORK
THE FINCH COLLEGE ALUMNI FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Although Maham had always wanted to be a doctor, she married at age 19, and after her children started school, she worked as a Pharmacy Technician at Walgreen’s. She is currently in the Honors Program at LaGuardia Community College, is a member of the Dean’s List, and was selected as a member of the prestigious President’s Society. Her volunteer work includes Professional Development as a peer advisor to students with upcoming events, and as a technical coordinator for the Climate Change Conference.

◀ *Continued from page 10*

Covid-19 struck in 2020, playing live and teaching music were put on hold. Feeling alone during this time of isolation, she dived deeply into herself to find solutions and realized she needed the support of family and the opportunities afforded by a college curriculum.

She is considering writing or editing stories and essays and books and is also entertaining the idea of teaching or doing media work. Graduating with straight A’s, she plans to major in English at Rutgers University.



JENNIFER TSUEI
LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO
JOHN JAY SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
THE FINCH COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Jennifer is studying writing and literature, balancing traditional academic writing with an interest in journalism. She has had articles published in New York Family Magazine, Queens Family Magazine, and Brooklyn Paper, has written social issues articles for the school newspaper, and has written and produced plays.

She volunteers in soup kitchens, helps formerly incarcerated individuals with resume writing and offers free SAT preparation classes to low-income high school students.

Jennifer wants to help bring about a fresh, scholarly viewpoint to social change by transcending boundaries and limitations of the nation-state, combining this with interviews, her literature background, and a fresh viewpoint of power in gender/ethnic studies.



KAYLA ROSARIO-WONG
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TO QUEENS COLLEGE
THE FRANCES FISH TOMPKINS SCHOLARSHIP

After taking a two-year sabbatical from college, Kayla went back to college pursuing a path to teaching in the art field.

She has participated in AIDS and pediatric cancer walks, volunteered at the community food pantry, and served an internship at The Kupferberg Holocaust Center. Kayla is also a member of PTK Honor society.



JACLYN ROMANO
BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO
COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
THE JOAN KAYE BICK SCHOLARSHIP

Being invited to present her memoir at The New Jersey Women and Gender Studies Consortium Colloquium was one of the proudest moments of Jaclyn’s academic career and entire life. English major courses included “Approaches to Literary Studies”, Marxism, feminism, and queer theory. In addition to interviewing, organizing and moderating panels, she interviewed professors in a webinar, providing them a platform to express their expertise and opinions about legislation.

Jackie says: “If not for Brookdale, I am unsure that I would have ever become the person writing this piece. I owe so much to the experiences presented here.” In future, her goal is to obtain a master’s degree in library sciences in order to become a school librarian.



URSULA SCOTT
ROCKLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TO SUNY PURCHASE
THE JOAN KAYE BICK SCHOLARSHIP

After 10th grade, Ursula went to live with an aunt and uncle in Madrid. These days, she is working part-time as a Spanish teacher, a one-on-one aide in an alternative school for children and young adults with autism, and as a kitchen worker at the Fellowship Community. She founded a business foraging wild herbs for teas, salves, oils, and herbal cigarettes to encourage people to stop smoking. She also continues to work on music and has recorded her first album.

At SUNY Purchase, Ursula will pursue Liberal Studies: writing, Spanish, Music, and Gender Studies.

**Finch College Alumni Association Proposed Candidate for the
Jessica Cosgrave Lifetime Achievement Award to be presented at the
28th Annual Jessica Cosgrave Awards Ceremony May 9th, 2023**

Yes, it's that time again when we ask you to don your special 'Finch thinking cap' and send us your nomination(s) for the 2023 Cosgrave Awards Evening!

Here are the guidelines:

The nominee should be a respected and distinguished dues-paying Finch Alumna who has achieved a significant contribution in public life, the arts, business and/or volunteer work in her community. The selected nominee is required to be present to receive the award at the Jessica Cosgrave Awards Ceremony on May 09, 2023.

We will be in touch again by mail in a few weeks. In the meantime, please gather the following information:

- Name and contact information of Candidate
- Years Attended and Degree
- Activity/Profession, Current Affiliation
- A one page statement indicating the activities and achievements of the candidate since leaving Finch. Note any specific achievements, awards and honors

Ready? If so, feel free to send now, by mail or email, to:
Attention: Jessica Cosgrave Lifetime Achievement Award
FCAAFT, 954 Lexington Avenue #183, New York, NY 10021
Finchassoc1@gmail.com



FINCH COLLEGE
Alumni Association Foundation Trust
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New York, NY 10021