FINCHNEWS



FALL 2023

A Publication for Finch College Alumnae and Friends

Introducing the 2023 Finch Scholars from A-Z

This year, seventeen Finch Scholars will transfer to four-year colleges to earn their bachelor's degrees. Three are awarded in honor of our two distinguished past judges, Dr. Cecilia Macheski of LaGuardia Community College, and Dr. Mary Raddock of Norwalk Community College; and our continuing estimable judge, Dr. Katherine Lynch of Rockland County Community College who have contributed tirelessly to the success of the program which has awarded 200 Finch College Alumni Foundation Scholarships to date.



Bernice Agyeiwas

Bronx Community College to Northeastern University, School of Nursing The Rebecca and Yehuda Even-Zohar Scholarship

Growing up in Ghana, Bernice's family life experiences led her to pursue her interest in education and healthcare. Moving to the United States in 2018, she enrolled in home health school to obtain a work certificate. Starting as a nursing major at Bronx Community College (BCC), she changed her major to healthcare. During the summer of 2022 she interned with the NYC Mayors' Public Engagement Unit of the New York City Mayor's Office. Bernice's goal is to create a network of clinics that offer both primary and preventative care in rural areas.



Marlenne E. Andalia

Hudson County Community College to Montclair State University The Dr. Katherine Lynch Scholarship

As a single parent, with a son in college, Marlenne held minimum wage jobs to allow flexibility to attend her son's school events. While in college she was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Team from Hudson. With a psychology degree, Marlenne hopes to grow in a job in which she can be of help to her community



Karissa Cook

LaGuardia Community College to SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry The Hedy Zankel Scholarship

Working full time at Amazon as an Escalation Specialist team leader with dispatchers and customers to improve delivery, Karissa learned to conduct research, perform statistical analysis, and present work in a professional manner. Always interested in biology, she enrolled in college with a goal toward working in the field of ecology. A member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society and a Dean's List honorees, Karissa finds time to work in her community with HarborLAB, clean up Newtown Creek, and volunteer with the NYC Parks Department.



Sara DeCanta

Borough of Manhattan Community College to Baruch College The Finch College Alumni Foundation Scholarship

As Executive Assistant to a CEO, Sara managed confidential information, conducted research and analysis for business reports, and maintained records with discretion. Currently studying Business Administration, her professor reports "Sara's abilities fall into the top 1% of any student I have taught." She plans to pursue a career in Risk Management and Cybersecurity.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: **LOIS MORAN ZIEGLER**



At age 8, Lois Elena Moran and her three brothers moved with their parents from Brooklyn, NY to Caracas, Venezuela where her father was in the construction business. When she reached college age, she attended the Universidad Central in Caracas, before moving to Manhattan to attend Finch College where she majored in Costume Design and Merchandising, graduating with an A.A.S. degree. After learning that French designer Christian Dior had delivered a speech at the Tobé Coburn School for Fashion Careers, she decided to enroll there. At the time, Tobé Coburn blazed the trail for educating budding female executives in the fashion retailing industry. Although the school did not offer college credits, graduates did receive a Certificate. Her first job was with Vogue Magazine, where she covered the fabric market. After that, she joined J.C. Penney's executive office and major buying office in New York; with 1,700 stores, they

catered to young mothers with children. At that time, Penney was a quality company with good value and moderate prices. It was also the largest retailer of women's clothing in the world. During the "Swinging' Sixties," Lois worked alongside mod designer, Mary Quant, who created an exclusive line of clothing for the company. In later years, she travelled to Europe twice a year to cover the collections in London and Paris. Then, with the JC Penney buyers, it was on to Asia twice annually - visiting Seoul, Tokyo, Osaka, Taipei and Hong Kong - to put ideas and trends into production. Once the lines were completed, Lois worked on the company's dynamic advertising and publicity campaigns to create one consistent, attractive story for the customer. After a thrilling career of more than 38 years at J.C. Penney, Lois decided not to remain with the company as Corporate Fashion Director, when it moved its headquarters to Plano, Texas. Her post-Penney working life included consulting with clothing manufacturers, working with an advertising agency, and selling fabrics in Asia.

Lois sat on the Board of Directors of The Fashion Group International and was President of The Roundtable of Fashion Executives. She received both Tobé Coburn alumni awards, The T Award for graduates 5 years out, and the Mehitable for all-times graduates, as well as The Finch College Jessica Cosgrave Award. And, she is listed in Who's Who of American Women in Business. She met medical journal publisher, Ron Ziegler, at a wedding, where Ron caught the garter, and Lois caught the bouquet! Soon, The New York Times carried the following headline in its February 2, 1966 Weddings Section: "Ronald J. Ziegler and Lois Moran Will Wed June 4. Graduate of Colgate is Fiancé of J.C. Penney Fashion Coordinator." The wedding took place at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral.

About 25 years ago, former Finch history professor, Dr. Margaret Maxwell, called Lois to suggest a Finch College reunion, to be held at Marymount Manhattan College. The group of Finch College alumnae contributed to the non-profit Evelyn Lauder Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Ultimately, it was decided that, as a college, the Foundation would be better served with a focus on supporting women's higher education. Dr. Maxwell designated Dr. Sara ("Sally") Arthur, Finch College's former registrar, to head it up. At that time, most scholarship monies were sent directly to the college for tuition only. Under Sally's direction, the Finch monies went directly to the student for any collegerelated need. After Sally retired from NYU, Dr. Maxwell tapped Lois to take over the scholarship fundraising for Finch. The scholarship was earmarked for a college graduate to enroll in graduate school. Dr. Mary Raddock, of Norwalk Community College told Lois about community colleges, the fully accredited state funded two-year colleges which provide affordable accredited public education; many students transfer to four-year colleges for a bachelor's degree. Lois narrowed the field down to those colleges in the Tri-State Area: New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. To date, 200 women have received the Finch College Scholarship, enabling them to graduate from a 4-year college with a B.A. In 2023, Finch awarded 17 scholarships, 14 of which were donated by generous Finch alums and Friends of Finch. Along with her Finch friends and fellow alums, Lois takes great pride in knowing that many Finch Scholars have gone on to become lawyers, college professors, executives, and other fine professionals. As Chair of the Scholarship Committee, Lois does not take part in the voting process. There are three college professors who volunteer their time and expertise to plow though the applications and, who, as a group, review and select the recipients. For twenty years, Dr. Mary Raddock of Norwalk Community College and Dr. Cecilia Macheski of LaGuardia Community College have volunteered. More recently, Dr. Katherine Lynch of Rockland County Community College, Dr. Karlyn Koh of LaGuardia Community College and Finch Scholar Aquella White are serving as judges. For the first time, a Finch Scholar has joined the panel in order to offer a student's - and therefore, different - perspective on the Awards process. Each scholarship recipient is awarded \$2,500 for the first year of their transition to a 4-year college, and \$2,500 for the second year. Scholarship monies may be used for any college-related purpose such as books, supplies, lab fees, and moving. (continued on page 3)

2023 FINCH COLLEGE **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION TRUST**

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LOIS MORAN ZIEGLER (continued from page 2) While continuing to be a valued and contributing member of the Finch community, at the end of this year, Lois will be passing the Scholarship Chair baton to another Finch alum. Anyone who ever attended Finch may apply for this important and necessary volunteer position. (For more information, please see "Wanted" ad on page 8 of this newsletter.) She thanks the judges for their many contributions to making the Scholarship Program the great success it has become. Lois believes "there is nothing more valuable than a solid education. It greatly increases opportunities, offers a sense of community, broadens one's horizons and helps to bring about a better quality of life. Education is something no one can ever take away from you."

2023 Finch Scholars (continued)



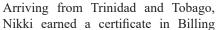
Destinee Geathers LaGuardia Community College to Queens College The Rita Thompson Scholarship

LaGuardia Community supported Destinee's desire to continue her education. She will obtain a bachelor's in art education through

Secondary Education & Youth Services (SEYS) for Grades Pre-K-12. Her goal is to teach art to adolescents.

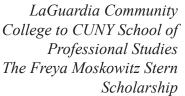


LaGuardia Community College to New York University The Dr. Cecilia Macheski Scholarship



and Coding with Electronic Health Records. An instructor's suggestion that she continue her studies in Healthcare Management at LaGuardia Community College inspired an Introduction to Communication Skills. Nikkisha made Dean's List with a 3.8 average. Her goal is a career in healthcare management and to provide compassionate and personalized care for elders.





Yakira participated in humanitarian internships with the LaGuardia and

Wagner Archives - Women in Government project researching local female district representatives in preparation for oral history interviews. One of her assignments was to "choose a personal project affecting your community." Yakira focused on the Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center, bringing awareness to a small group of people tackling food insecurity in the Bronx. Her dream is to become a photojournalist and documentarian. A Communications and Media degree is sure to further impact her career in exploring ethical principles and the link between cultures.



Katherine Gorman Brookdale Community Collee to Pratt

Institute

The Joan Kaye Bick Scholarship

As a child, Kathy begged to visit her family's business construction sites. Several medical issues brought her to New York City where she visited the Ground Zero disaster site. She

quickly realized just how much architecture can be a very powerful tool, evoking emotions that can bridge together societies and cultures worldwide. Her professor cites her superior craftsmanship in modelmaking and graphic presentations. Her goal is to be an architect.

Ella Mukasa



Hudson County Community College to Emory University The Rebecca and Yehuda Even-Zohar Scholarship

Ella organized five transfer events for students to assist with essay writing, and

interview preparation for resume writing. She served in the Goldman Sachs Local College Collaborative Program solving real life business problems with solutions. Her professor describes her as an organized, intelligent, responsible young lady with fine leadership qualities. She made Dean's List with 3.9 GPA. Ella's goal is to become a business consultant in order to help members of her community achieve their dreams.

Mst Jannatul Priti



LaGuardia Community College to Baruch College. The Joan Kaye Bick Scholarship

Jannatul was described by her professor as having "great critical thinking and

problem-solving skills which was evidenced in all of the work she has completed." Volunteering in "Junior Achievement of New York" she helped school children with comprehension of basic concepts related to economics, business, and finance. In CUNY Research Scholars Program (CRSP) she worked on a project "Cost of Living Fluctuations Post Pandemic in the U.S," learning the various tools in research as well as the process. Since then, Priti has helped to collect relevant data and articles. A fast learner, she is always ready to learn something new. She plans to become a Certified Public Accountant.

THE JESSICA COSGRAVE AWARDS 2023



Marcy Syms



(1.-r.) Pepper Pettit, Megan Friedman, 2023 Cosgrave Honoree Sherry Foster Taxman and her husband, Jeffrey



(1.-r.) Neal Sherman, Kayla Rosario, Phurkima Sherpa, Eileen Sherman, Barbara Javori, (Judge) Dr. Katherine Lynch



(l.-r.) Audrey Heckler; Friend of Finch, Hedy Zankel; Nina LaBruna; Pat Addiss; Carol Ross; Susan Parker; Judy Kendall Levine



(l.-r.) Sitting: Barbara O'Hare, Maria Sessa, Juliet Messimer Gede; Standing: Sally Johnson Shy, Margaret Nakamura, Devin Toolan, Tom Gede, Maureen K. Toolan, Hideaki Nakamura



(l,-r.) Cheryl and Jan Deknatel, Audrey Block Heckler



(1.-r.) Lesley Kaminsky, Joy Correge, Marjorie Schulman, Francine LeFrak and Wendy Glickstein



(l.- r.) Lesley Kaminsky, Stanley Kaminsky, Louise Blaney, Corrie DeGroot



(l.-r.) Darla Bjork, Nancy Azara



(l.-r.) Felice Axelrod, Carly Glasse, Finch Scholar



(l. - r.) Sitting, Carol Ross, Marjorie Walker; Standing, Judy Levin, Magda Stark



(l.-r.) Carly Glasse (Current Finch Scholar), Barbara Javori (Finch Scholar Board Member), Phurkima Sherpa (Finch Scholar Board Member), and Kayla Rosario; Scholarship Committee Chair, Lois Moran Ziegler, Dr. Katherine Lynch, Judge

FINCH SPECIAL EVENTS 2023

Roosevelt House Tour May 5, 2023



(l.-r.) Ann Holmes and her guest; Sherry Taxman, Eileen Sherman, Wendy Glickstein, Megan McCarthy, Rita Thompson

Fashion in Art Tour, Metropolitan Museum of Art May 6, 2023



(l.-r.) Marjorie Schulman, Joy Correge, Audrey Heckler, Sherry Taxman, Megan Friedman, Margaret Nakamura, Pepper Pettit

The Sassoons Exhibition at the Jewish Museum, May 8, 2023



Finch group with educator, Desiree Minton

Spring Finch Salon and Reception at the Home of Regeen Runes Kiernan, May 7, 2023



Ginger Kiernan hosts Finch alums and Friends of Finch at Her Annual Reception During Cosgrave Special Events Weekend



Art expert & Finch alum, Kathleen Guzman, regales a captive Finch audience at Ginger's with behind-the-scenes anecdotes from Antiques Roadshow



(l.- r.) Kathleen Guzman, Felice Axelrod, Lois Ziegler

Reception at the Home of Diana and Mark Jacoby, May 8, 2023



Hosts Mark & Diana Jacoby Welcome Marjorie Schulman (c.) to their Upper East Side 19th Century Gallery/Townhouse.



(l.-r.) Susan Wexler, Rita Thompson, Corrie DeGroot, Wendy Glickstein, Patricia Meehan



(l.-r.) 2023 Cosgrave Honorees Maureen K. Toolan, Sally Johnson Shy, Sherry Foster Taxman and 2021 Honoree Lesley Rigler Kaminsky



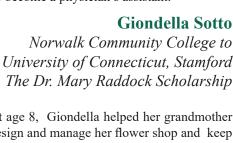
Kazi Salam LaGuardia Community College to Hunter College The Freya Moskowitz Stern Scholarship



Ana Carolina Semeghini Norwalk Community College to University of Connecticut The Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Scholarship

When Kazi entered into an arranged marriage at age 18, she lost the opportunity

to attend medical school in Bangladesh. Now, in New York with a husband, two children and in-laws, she has complete responsibility for her home and family. Today, she is a peer advisor helping students with registration, and managing time and, as a technology assistant in the IT department helping students solve their technical problems. She gave her first oral presentation for a science course she was taking. Her goal is to become a physician's assistant.



At age 8, Giondella helped her grandmother design and manage her flower shop and keep the store open past midnight, while finishing homework. After a customer asked if they sold snacks and drinks, she opened a mini

snack stand in the store using her earnings for capital. She allocated the profits for her school uniform, supplies, and textbooks throughout middle school. Her single-mother family transitioned from living in a domestic violence shelter and homeless housing to finally being able to afford proper housing. Giondella will continue her passion for marketing and creativity by earning a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing Management.



While recuperating from several serious illnesses, Jasmine discovered the magic

of art. Returning to college after a three-year break, she has gained the support and encouragement of her professors who have encouraged her by allowing space to develop self-confidence in her abilities. Currently enrolled in Contemporary Art and an Independent Study in studio art, her real world experience as a United Nations Youth Representative for the Women's Caucus for Art (WCA) provides her with a much sought-after and valued opportunity, allowing participants to be confident, independent thinkers, who are conscious of and able to articulate their personal and community goals. With a Dean's List 4 GPA, Jasmine hopes to be able to impact the lives of others in a meaningful and positive way.

Ana Carolina was introduced to the wonders of an education at Norwalk Community College in English As A Second Language by attending Bridgewater Associates Mentorship program, a network of business professionals who provided career advice and mentorship to help students develop critical professional skills, create a polished resume, and excel in the job interview process. She acquired vital professional skills which gave her the confidence to secure a position as a marketing and administrative assistant at a solar company. A member of PTK Honor society, Carolina's career goal is the field of sustainability and environmental causes.



Kaoutar Tayoubi-Eldrissi Middlesex Community College to Charter Oak State College The Hedy Zankel Scholarship

Arriving undocumented from Casablanca, Morocco, and married and divorced, with

children, Kaoutart worked as a home health aide. With a change in the DACA laws she was able to gain a US Green Card and to enter college at age 32. With a passion for social work, she has made Dean's List, and has been able to participate in extra-curricular activities. Studying online, at Charter Oak State College, Kaoutar plans to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work.



Ebele Wyre Essex County Community College to Felician University School of The Patty Gurfein Scholarship – Donated by Sherry Foster Taxman

Working in a home caring for motherless children in Nigeria, Ebele's single mother

emphasized the importance of education. Her mother's early death necessitated that Ebele drop out of high school and start a cleaning business. She enrolled at ECCC, but when she lost everything in a flood in 2021, she stayed late at her job in order to be able to afford her online studies. Ebele's goal is to become a pediatric nurse and give back to the community. With a GPA of 3.90, she is a member of The Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society and has made Dean's list. She looks forward to pursuing a career in pediatric nursing.



Alying Lin Zheng

Queensborough Community College to SUNY Old Westbury The Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Scholarship

Alying was raised in a happy family in Vietnam. At age 19, she was recruited by a foreigner lacking the credentials to run a business in Vietnam and subsequently had a managerial role in a company she was soon to own, albeit in name only. Suddenly, a long-forgotten US Visa application was approved and Alying and her parents soon moved to the United States. Working at part time jobs, she enrolled in English As A Second Language (ESL) classes at Queensborough. Now a mother, with a 4.0 GPA, her goal is to become a certified public accountant.

From the Finch E-Mailbag...

Margaret S. Nakamura joined a group of Finch alums and friends who gathered on Monday, May 8th at the Jewish Museum for a one-hour tour led by museum docent, Desiree Mitton. She writes: "The lecture and exhibition followed four generations of the Sassoon family, from the early 1830's through the end of World War II. In 1832, patriarch David Sassoon - himself, the scion of an Iraqi sheikh – had fled with his family from Iraqi persecution to settle in India. Subsequent generations went to China and England. Theirs was a complex story of diaspora and re-acculturation, as the family established themselves in new homelands, amassing great wealth (in part, through their active participation in the opium trade), which enabled them to rise within colonial England's high society, execute philanthropic endeavors in civic and architectural projects, and to collect magnificent artifacts and other works of art: fine ceramics and ivory from China, rare Jewish ceremonial art and manuscripts, masterpieces by European and American artists, including Thomas Jean-Baptiste Gainsborough, Corot, John Singer Sargent, and Sir Winston Churchill, who was an old family friend. Though scores of David Sassoon's descendants served in both World Wars, many sought to document the tragedy of war. Philip Sassoon, who was serving as private secretary to the Commanderin-Chief in France during WWI arranged for artists to record the devastation at the Front, while his cousin, the poet Siegfried Sassoon, wrote about it. The exhibition featured more than 120 works of art from the family's collection – together, for the first time."

In May, Lesley Kaminsky's granddaughter, Rebecca Nadler, graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania with Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees in Biology, as well as with two senior leadership awards: the 2023 Robert J. Alig Student Leadership Award from the University of Pennsylvania Association of Alumnae, and a 2023 Student Award of Merit from from Penn Alumni.

On August 24th, Eileen Sherman shared her exciting news: "While the holiday of Kwanzaa is a little more than 4 months away, the release of our new song, "Kwanzaa's Pure Light" is tomorrow!!!

[August 25th] An exciting mixture of Jazz, Gospel, Afrobeat, and Spoken Word, this song was specifically created for all kids' choirs, everywhere, to sing every year at their holiday concerts. We are thrilled to be included in the new children's album (all done for charity), ARISE TOGETHER CHILDREN OF THE WORLD, featuring 500 children's voices from around the globe.

Tierens is searching Ingrid records that capture Finch School (sic) involvement in the restoration of University Library in Leuven (Belgium) after World War I. She writes: "I am on the Board of the Chapter USA of KU Leuven, my Alma Mater, in Belgium. KU Leuven will celebrate its 600th anniversary in 2025 and wants to utilize that occasion to bring important moments in its history more to the surface. Chapter USA is helping out with an initiative to memorialize the fascinating story of the restoration of the University Library after World War I, thanks to the tremendous generosity of many American academic institutions, civil service organizations, businesses and involvement of the US government (Woodrow Wilson and Herbert Hoover and others.) The donors, including the Finch Sch ool in NYC, are captured in inscriptions in the façade of the library, which was designed by Whitney Warren, the architect of Grand Central Terminal. We would like to reconnect with the organizations that made the restoration happen a century ago, and see if there are any records left that capture their involvement. The relevant search period is between August 1914, when the Germans invaded Belgium, through 1928, when the new library was appropriately opened on July 4th. In future correspondence, I'd be happy to share a soft copy of a short version of the story titled: "The Restoration of the Louvain Library: An Amazing Tale of American Generosity," authored by Prof. Dr. Jan Wouters, who is the driving forcer behind this initiative. Thank you in advance for your assistance."

Email: ingrid.tierens@chicagobooth.edu

Transitions

Shermane Billingsley, who died of cancer at age 78 on April 16, 2023 in a New York City hospital, was the last living link to the storied Manhattan nightspot The Stork Club, owned by her father, Sherman Billingsley. After the club closed in 1965, she became the faithful guardian of its legacy for nearly six Shermane attended the all-girls Spence School on the Upper East Side, and was enrolled by her father in Finch College so that he could keep her from straying like her wayward sisters. She later transferred to Connecticut College in New London but didn't graduate. She was married twice and is survived by her sons, Austin Billingsley Drill and Clifton Billingsley Drill from her first marriage, two grandsons; and a step-brother Robert Rodenberg.

Lammy Olcott Johnstone passed away on April 5, 2023 at The Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara, CA at the age of 79. Born in New York on January 23, 1944, her time growing up was spent in New York City and summer homes in Saratoga and Pound Ridge, NY. She was a graduate of The Hewitt School in New York, and was a debutante in the 1961 New York Infirmary Ball at the Waldorf Astoria. She continued her education at Mercy and Finch Colleges. She had a long, illustrious career in various roles from coast to coast in positions including a Society Reporter for the New York Daily News and Los Angeles Times. As a freelance writer, her articles appeared in Good Housekeeping, Women's Day, Sports Illustrated and Cosmopolitan. Lammy was an ardent philanthropist supporting a variety of causes and charities. Her love of animals was apparent, as her home was always filled with dogs, cats and birds. Her Japanese Chin dogs won "Best in Show" at Westminster in 2022. Horses were her true passion from an early age. She owned a number of horses and continued to ride throughout her life. Lammy was the granddaughter of the late Rita Olcott and the well-known Irish tenor, Chauncey Olcott, who was the performing artist and composer of numerous Irish songs, including "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," "My Wild Irish Rose," and "Mother Machree." Lammy is survived by her brothers, Chauncey Johnstone and wife, Pat, of Wilton, CT; Charles Johnstone of New York City; and sister Jyll Johnstone and husband, Michael Davis, of Belvedere, CA, as well as by her four nieces and six grandnieces & nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Nicholas Kockler, and by her parents, Edmund and Janet Johnstone, and her brother, Ned Johnstone.

NEW FOUNDATION CENTER AT BARNARD *IS NAMED FOR FINCH ALUM*



On Monday, June 5, 2023, Francine LeFrak broke ground for The Francine A. LeFrak Foundation Center for Well-Being in Barnard Hall at Barnard College. The newly created Center will serve as a centralized hub for all wellness-related initiatives across campus and its

mission will support a total perspective of personal and holistic well-being: physical, financial, and mental. The Center will feature a 4,000-square foot fitness center as well as The Ethel S. Lefrak '41 and Samuel J. LeFrak Theatre which will replace the former pool, providing a flexible +/- 225-seat venue for classes, performances, and events that will enhance and expand opportunities for Barnard's student community. Work in Barnard Hall is expected to conclude by late Spring 2024. For more information, contact Kate Martinez, Associate Vice President for Development and Alumnae Relations, at (212) 853-8329 or kmartinez@barnard.edu.

New Chair of the Finch Scholarship Committee



After 19 years of serving as Finch Scholarship Committee Chair, Lois Moran Ziegler is passing the baton. The entire Finch College Community thanks Lois for her years of selfless service and dedication to the Scholarship Program. During her tenure as Chair, Lois was responsible for almost 200 worthy women community college graduates to receive scholarships to earn a fouryear college degree.

Finch Scholar and Board Member, Yeshev Pelzom Pradhan, has graciously agreed to take on the responsibility as Chair.

WANTED

Co-chair to assist in facilitating the selection of scholars and the disbursement of scholarships.

8 Finch News



