

**Navigating Uncertainty:
Creating Balance and Flexibility in
a Changing World**

April 15, 2023
Linsly-Chittenden Hall

Sponsored by:
Yale Graduate School Alumni Association
Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Yale Alumni Association

WORLD LEADER

Where Do I Go from Yale?

Navigating Uncertainty: Creating Balance and Flexibility in a Changing World

April 15, 2023

Room: LC 102

8:30 – 9:00 AM

Coffee Reception

9:00 – 9:20 AM

Welcome and Introduction: Dean Lynn Cooley

9:20 – 9:50 AM

Keynote Address: OrLando Yarborough

10:00 – 10:55 AM

Pivoting After a PhD: Exploring Different Fields After Graduation

If you have made it into a PhD program, chances are you have worked hard to become a specialist in your field. You have honed your skills, learned the necessary jargon, and assembled a body of research that speaks to your expertise. It may feel impossible to envision yourself doing anything other than academic research. And yet, this is just one of so many career paths available to PhDs who want to make an impact in the world. This panel will reflect on the theme of exploration: how to think big and turn your skills, interests, and values into a career you love.

Moderator: Laura Brown

Panelists: Nicholas Vincent, Susan Pratt, Marius Constantin, Lisa Villeneuve

11:00 – 11:55 AM

Sessions 1a-1b: Staying on the Academic Track: Careers in Research and Higher Education

LC 101

Session 1a: Careers in STEM: Faculty, Teaching, & Research Opportunities

Interested in a STEM career in academia? Join our panel of early and mid-career Yale PhD graduates and learn about their pathways from graduate students at Yale to their current faculty or administrative staff positions. Learn about navigating the academic job market, balancing research, teaching, and service as a faculty member, and other insights for a successful career in academia. And bring your

questions; there will be time for them, too.

Moderator: James V. Staros

Panelists: Kai Du, Alison Adcock, Larry Bowman

LC 102

**Session 1b: Careers in the Humanities and Social Sciences:
Faculty, Teaching, & Research Opportunities**

Building and managing a productive and rewarding career in the profession is complex and can often be difficult to navigate. Our panelists will discuss defining personal and professional success, balancing career and personal development, and thriving on the academic track through planning, goal setting, and problem solving. Join us to learn more about how our alumni are making their own pathways and creating opportunities for themselves. Informal advice from our panelists will be of value to doctoral students contemplating the demands of the profession.

Moderator: Alicia Ellis

Panelists: Matthew Tanico, Usha Rungoo, Amanda Leiss, Carol Chiodo

12:05 – 1:00 PM

**Sessions 2a-2b: Careers in Non-Profits, Foundations, and
Government**

LC 101

Session 2a: Careers for STEM Graduates

In this panel we will discuss trials and tribulations of working in nonprofits, foundations, and the government. We will share our stories of how we got there, what it means to us, and why we care. We will talk about what it is like to work in our jobs, how we make a difference, and where our jobs may lead us. We welcome questions from the audience.

Moderator: Esther Zirbel

Panelists: Paul Fanto, Joseph Schmitt, Nathan Nhat Nguyen, Kelly Backes

LC 102

Session 2b: Careers for Humanities and Social Science Graduates

We will address job opportunities in today's changing and challenging global environment to use your graduate degree and the knowledge base you have acquired to drive change in policy, public education and foundation funding. We will also explore what careers in the nonprofit, foundation and government sphere might offer in terms of personal and professional growth and fulfillment, lifestyle flexibility, and family support.

Moderator: Betsy Sullivan

Panelists: Gina Hurley, Arthur Thomas, Patrick O'Brien

1:10 – 2:30 PM

Networking Lunch in Linsly-Chittenden Hall

2:40-3:30 PM

Sessions 3a-3b: Founding and Working in Startups

LC 101

Session 3a: Startups for STEM

Startups require conviction and resources, and their early trajectories are often nebulous. This panel will discuss the multi-faceted journey of entrepreneurs and those who worked at early technology startups. We will cover startup lifecycles, fundraising, key considerations in founding or working for a startup, and where to learn more.

Moderator: Bhaskar Ghosh

Panelists: Sahil Agrawal, Leela Dodda, Gary Fletcher

LC 102

Session 3b: Startups for Humanities and Social Sciences

Transforming an idea or passion into a sustainable business or non-profit takes courage, and the journey from graduate school to a startup can be intimidating. Join our discussion with alumni who have either chosen to work for a startup or to start a career as an entrepreneur. Hear their stories about the challenges and rewards of entrepreneurship and life in a startup. Learn how our Yale community may support you. Bring your ideas and questions for discussion.

Moderator: Pamela Adams

Panelists: Dan Rubins, Pierre Huguet, Heidi Knoblauch

3:45-4:40 PM

Sessions 4a-4b: Entering the Corporate World

LC 101

Session 4a: Sectors for STEM Graduates

The corporate world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is extremely diverse, opening the door to numerous, wide-ranging career opportunities. Company cultures and ideologies vary, not only between different disciplines but also within each discipline. In that same vein, corporate goals and objectives are distinctive and can set the tone for unique research environments. Moreover, professions outside of what may be considered the traditional STEM fields offer innovative and rewarding career prospects for STEM graduates. Please join our panelists as they share their experiences and engage in a discussion of the possibilities, as well as the challenges, of transitioning from an academic to corporate STEM career path in the current economic climate.

Moderator: Sandra Kuzmich

Panelists: Christopher Davis, Chun Ho, Miho Kaneko, Mary Lou Bailey

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Session 4b: Sectors for Humanities and Social Science Graduates

Join our discussion on how to prepare for a career outside of academia. From finance, to consulting, to entrepreneurship, the Yale community is comprised of members from around the world who have taken different non-academic paths and pursued interesting and fulfilling careers. However, the journey from graduate school is not straight forward, especially if you are interested in a professional or entrepreneurial career. Feeling unsure of what is out there, or where you belong, or feeling alone and unsupported are common experiences. We will talk about these hurdles, how we worked to overcome them, and the gifts Yale offers, which we leveraged to pursue our passions.

Please join us for this open and honest discussion – we look forward to your questions and participation.

Moderator: David Sanchez

Panelists: Jenny Carrillo, Thor Frei

4:45-5:30 PM

LC 102

Coffee and Networking Reception

2023 Participants' Biographies

Pamela Adams ('85 PhD, Political Science)



After completing her PhD at Yale University, Pamela joined the faculty of the Business School of Bocconi University in Milan, Italy and directed their MBA program. She has taught management in many countries including France, Spain and Switzerland. Pamela has been a member of the board of directors of the Illy Coffee company and has been on the executive team of two startups. She has held management positions in Italy's largest bank and has been a management consultant. She is currently a faculty member at the Stillman School of Business, Seton Hall University, and lives between New York and Milan.

R. Alison Adcock ('99 MD, '99 PhD, Neurobiology)



R. Alison Adcock, MD, PhD, is director of the Duke Center for Cognitive Neuroscience and interim director of the Duke Institute for Brain Sciences. Her research aims to understand how brain systems for motivation support adaptive learning and memory, and then to develop novel interventions for mental health and flourishing. She received her BA in psychology from Emory and her MD/PhD in neurobiology from Yale, and combined psychiatry residency at UC-San Francisco Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute with human neuroscience research at UCSF and Stanford. Her work has been funded by NIDA, NIMH, Alfred P. Sloan and Klingenstein Fellowships, and the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation.

Sahil Agarwal ('18 PhD, Applied Mathematics)



Sahil is the founder of Enkrypt AI and passionate about solving complex real-world problems using mathematical tools. Sahil is busy currently building software to enable deeper insights from sensitive data and enhance data privacy.

Kelly Backes ('21 PhD, Physics)



Dr. Kelly Backes is a physicist at the MITRE corporation where she conducts application-focused research on Rydberg atom based electric field sensing and other emerging quantum technologies. She graduated from Yale in 2021 with a PhD in physics. At Yale, she was a member of the HAYSTAC axion experiment and with a focus on applying quantum sensing technologies to dark matter detection. She was also chair of the Advocacy Committee on the Graduate and Professional Student Senate.

Mary Lou Bailey ('22 PhD, Applied Physics)



Mary Lou earned her PhD in applied physics in 2022 under Professor Simon Mochrie. In a joint project with the King Lab in cell biology, she studied chromatin dynamics. As someone who loves applying physics to the world of biology, she is excited to be working for Double Helix Optics, a computational optics company that enables enhanced imaging for biological and inspection applications. Working in a collaborative biophysics environment at Yale prepared her well for her current position, where she develops the company's image processing and analysis software.

Larry Bowman, Jr. ('19 PhD, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology)



Larry L. Bowman, Jr. is the data services manager for the Clemmer College of Education at East Tennessee State University. He is a member of the dean's cabinet and analyzes enrollment, retention, and credit hour data, while also serving as a key player in faculty development, grant proposals, and data management. Prior to his career in data science, Larry was a marine biologist. He held faculty positions and maintained active research labs at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the University of North Georgia, and the University of Georgia. Larry continues his research in marine biology and education as he continues his trajectory in higher education administration.

Laura Brown ('20 PhD, Music History)



Laura Brown is a senior user researcher at Spotify, driving product development through mixed-methods consumer research. She graduated from Yale in 2020 with a PhD in Music History, and her dissertation explored how music software has reshaped the way composers make music for film, TV, and other media. At Yale, she was a McDougal Fellow in the Office of Career Strategy, which helped her plan her career pivot into UX. Since Yale, she has built a career as a champion of user research, first as a senior user researcher at Wayfair, and now through her current role at Spotify.

Jenny Carrillo ('12 PhD, Clinical Psychology)



Jenny Carrillo, PhD, is inspired by innovative technologies that improve global health and works in healthcare technology to achieve health equity by removing barriers that contribute to health disparities. Dr. Carrillo serves as president at Ovia Health, a FemTech company, whose mission is to "make a healthy, happy family possible for everyone." Ovia leverages predictive analytics and their care team to equip individuals with personalized health information that improves health outcomes for them and their families and continues to expand its reach after its acquisition by Labcorp. Dr. Carrillo has held executive roles in various healthcare organizations, including health tech companies Amwell

and Vitality, as well as Planned Parenthood. A strategist at heart, she helps healthcare executives execute their digital healthcare strategy, expand access to quality care, and leverage technology to achieve measurable objectives and improved health outcomes. Trained as a clinical psychologist, Dr. Carrillo has more than 25 years of experience in healthcare, spanning from academia to executive roles in strategy, sales, marketing, external affairs, and cross-functional integration. She has contributed to publications and panels, speaking extensively about achieving health equity, and served on various boards. As a Latina, she has been involved in efforts to amplify the concerns of the Latinx community and mentor Latinx professionals. Dr. Carrillo's distinctions include an NIH National Research Service Award and Fellow of the Connecticut Health Foundation. She received her PhD from Yale University and was a consultant with McKinsey & Co.

Carol Chiodo ('14 PhD, Italian Languages and Literature)



Carol Chiodo is the librarian for collections and digital scholarship at Harvard University Library. She has taught courses and workshops on applying computational methods to humanities research at Harvard and around the world including Yale, Princeton, NYU Abu Dhabi, Université Bourgogne Franche-Comté and the University of Leipzig. Her recent work on the application of machine learning to cultural heritage has been awarded grants by the NEH and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Marius Constantin ('19 PhD, Physics)



A recovering academic, Marius has a bachelor's degree in physics magna cum laude from Princeton University, an MS and a MPhil in applied physics from Yale University. Marius has previously worked in plasma physics, quantum computing (both theory and experiment), laser theory and statistical physics. Marius also holds a Master of Science in financial engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology.

Marius has ample experience with mathematical modeling, analytical problem solving, and programming in Python, MATLAB and Slang and has won gold and silver medals at The International Physics Olympiad in 2009 and 2010. He is currently working in the space of quantitative finance, applying many of the methods and techniques that he mastered during his time studying physics.

Chris Davis ('20 PhD, Physics)



While a physics doctoral student, Chris worked on an Italian experiment called CUORE looking for rare nuclear decays. Also at Yale, Chris was active in the graduate community as a graduate teaching fellow at the Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning. Following trailblazing and mentoring by the postdocs he worked with, he completed the Insight Data Science program just before finishing his dissertation in 2019. He was interviewed and hired by CarMax at the end of the program, starting exactly one week after defending his PhD. In this role, Chris utilizes machine learning tools to price cars purchased and sold at CarMax and makes critical inventory decisions to manage a uniquely changing market affected by the pandemic. In short, a particle physicist turned used car salesperson.

Leela Sriram Dodda ('18 PhD, Chemistry)



Leela works as associate director, computational chemistry at Nimbus Therapeutics. At Nimbus, he works on leveraging cutting-edge computational tools to accelerate drug discovery. Leela's PhD focused on developing novel methods and methodologies for computer-aided drug design. Leela also worked at Silicon Therapeutics in Boston and then at VantAI in NYC, where he led the creation of a computational degrader design platform.

Kai Du ('12 PhD, Accounting)



Kai Du is an assistant professor of accounting at Penn State's Smeal College of Business. Kai served as a senior economic research fellow (2020-2021) at the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) and an academic fellow (2019-2020) in the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)'s Office of the Chief Accountant. Kai's research focuses on the intersection of financial reporting, disclosure, securities regulation, auditing, information economics, and DeFi. Kai received a PhD in Accounting from Yale University, an MA in Economics from Georgetown, and a BA in Finance from Peking University.

Alicia Ellis ('09 PhD, Germanic Languages and Literature)



Alicia E. Ellis is associate professor of German and chair of the Department of German and Russian at Colby College. She taught German and comparative literature at Hampshire College and held a Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Chicago. Ellis also earned an MA in African American studies at Yale. She is on the executive board of the German Studies Association (GSA). Her research interests include the long 19th century in German literature and culture, Black Germany, gender studies, and life writing. She is the author of *Gender and Identity in Franz Grillparzer's Classical Dramas: Figuring the Female*.

Paul Fanto ('21 PhD, Physics)



Paul currently works as a research staff member at the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), which provides analysis to government offices mostly within the DoD. In this role, he applies quantitative and qualitative methods to various data sets to address a wide range of questions. At Yale, he received his PhD in physics in the group Prof. Yoram Alhassid, in which he developed large-scale computational models of atomic nuclei.

Gary D. Fletcher ('83 PhD, Physics)



Gary Fletcher is founder & principal of consulting firm RnDDx Solutions, specializing in 1) providing biomedical and mechanical engineering, research, product development, and technology landscape assessments, in medical devices, diagnostics, optical devices, point-of-care blood sample testing; and on 2) serving as expert witness in medical device patent litigation. He is also co-founder of a startup biotech company, Raven Biomaterials, developing novel patented immunomagnetic blood cell separation technology, with both diagnostic and cell therapy manufacturing applications. He has a PhD in physics from Yale and has held leadership roles in both startup and large medical device companies.

Thor Frei ('13 MA, East Asian Studies)



Thor is an international business development leader with experience stretching from Belgium and Luxembourg to New York City, Beijing, Shanghai, and sub-tropical southern China. His industry experience includes organizational development, management consulting, education, art, travel, hospitality, law, and finance. He has a strong professional and academic interest in international relations and international business, especially as they relate to contemporary China, and is driven by a passion to solve problems through business improvement and education – a passion that drove him to BTS where he uses business simulations and experiential learning to help the world's leading companies with

the most difficult part of growing a business: successfully implementing strategy through their people.

Bhaskar Ghosh ('95 PhD, Computer Science)



Bhaskar Ghosh (“BG”) is a partner and CTO at the Silicon Valley venture capital firm 8VC. BG has been a builder and engineering executive for over twenty years - conceiving and scaling consumer and enterprise software products and teams in companies such as LinkedIn, Nerdwallet, Yahoo and Oracle. At 8VC, BG focuses on investing in and partnering with entrepreneurs to build generational companies in the data, cloud and AI-enabled spaces, and, as the firm’s CTO, also helps incubate and start disruptive tech-driven companies. When not whiteboarding with entrepreneurs, BG makes music in an Indian folk-fusion band in Palo Alto and is passionately engaged with nonprofits and social-entrepreneurs innovating in STEM education, healthcare and arts in the American deep-South and South Asia. BG is committed to expanding and deepening the collaboration and relationship between Yale and Silicon Valley in the areas of internships and career-acceleration, entrepreneurship in software, AI and biotech, funding Yale’s incubated companies, and in bringing Yale’s academic depth and humanities-informed compassionate world-view to the practical “build and iterate” mentality of Silicon Valley.

Chun Hu ('22 PhD, Pharmacology)



After graduating with a PhD in pharmacology, Chun worked as an associate (consultant) at McKinsey to help life sciences clients accelerate sustainable and inclusive growth. He has worked with many biotech and pharma companies and has been an author at the McKinsey Cancer Center.

Pierre Huguet ('20 PhD, French)



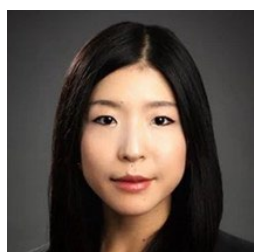
Pierre is an entrepreneur and a leading college and graduate admissions expert whose business advice and higher ed insights are routinely featured on Forbes.com, U.S. News, CNN Business, the Washington Post, ABC News, Business Insider, and elsewhere. He's the founder and CEO of H&C Education, a premier college and grad school admissions consultancy, and Belleisle Psychology Clinic, a neuropsychology clinic. He is also the founding president of the Yale Student Business Society.

Gina Hurley ('20 PhD, Medieval Studies)



Gina Marie Hurley is the associate director of graduate and postdoctoral teaching development at Yale's Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning, where she has worked since 2018. She coordinates a team of twenty-three incredible graduate fellows from across the disciplines. Gina has facilitated workshops internationally on both digital humanities and pedagogy, including a session on object-based teaching for the London Rare Books School. Her work has appeared in *Pedagogy and Profession*, *The Chaucer Review*, and *Exemplaria*, among other venues.

Miho Kaneko ('15 PhD, Chemistry)



Dr. Miho Kaneko is a patent attorney at the Boston office of Goodwin Procter and specializes in patent prosecution, patent counseling, portfolio management, and IP due diligence for life sciences and climate technology companies. She holds a PhD in organic chemistry from Yale and a J.D. from Suffolk Law School. Dr. Kaneko has extensive experience in the fields of small molecule therapeutics, drug formulations, drug delivery, polymer and material sciences, biologics, and climate technology.

Heidi Knoblauch ('15 PhD, History of Science and Medicine)



Dr. Knoblauch is the senior director of entrepreneurship development in the division of Science, Technology, and Innovation at Empire State Development. She teaches in the School of Business at the University at Albany. After graduating from Yale, she opened an oyster bar in a small Upstate New York town and, subsequently, started a software company. Prior to joining Empire State Development, she was the venture and growth banking relationship manager at a regional bank.

Sandra Kuzmich ('89 PhD, Pharmacology)



Dr. Sandra Kuzmich is managing partner of Haug Partners LLP. Her practice focuses on patent litigation and strategic intellectual property counseling in the areas of pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and biotechnology.

With experience in pharmaceutical litigation, Dr. Kuzmich offers a distinctive approach to obtaining and maximizing the value of intellectual property assets. Recognizing that product life-cycle management is continuous and dynamic, she develops, manages, and protects diverse patent portfolios, taking into consideration a client's immediate and long-term business objectives. She specializes in counseling clients on how to create strong and diverse intellectual property protection for pharmaceuticals and biological products during early

research, and how to expand that protection throughout development, product launch, and beyond.

Having spent many years in the pharmaceutical industry supporting preclinical research and clinical drug development, Dr. Kuzmich brings a uniquely informed perspective to bridging the legal and technical challenges facing clients involved in litigating intellectual property assets in the life sciences.

Amanda C. Leiss ('22 PhD, Anthropology)



Amanda is currently a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at Boston University. She is a paleoanthropologist who uses paleoecological, morphological, and taphonomic methods to address questions about hominin-environmental interactions and the mechanisms behind human behavioral and evolutionary change. She is an active member of the Gona Paleoanthropological Research Project and has been conducting research in Ethiopia since 2010. She has also piloted field and museum research with the Baringo Paleontological Research Project in Kenya. She is currently working as an isotope specialist with the Chawin Punta project in the Andes of Pasco, Peru.

Julia Limage ('12 PhD, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology)



Dr. Julia Limage serves as director for the Office of Strategy, Policy, and Requirements at the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Preparedness and Response. In this role she oversees development of strategy, policy, and requirements to ensure the nation's medical and public health preparedness for, response to, and recovery from disasters and public health emergencies. Previously, Julia was the associate deputy assistant secretary for strategy, plans, and policy at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office and the director of public affairs and policy coordination for the DHS Office of Health Affairs. At DHS, she led development and coordination of integrated policy, strategy, and communications to counter chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear threats, and other health security affecting the United States. Before joining DHS, Julia spent four years at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, where she provided full time operational planning and policy support for both the operation to remove and destroy Syria's declared chemical weapons stockpile and the U.S. Government response to the 2014-2015 Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

Julia holds a B.S. from Vanderbilt University and a PhD and MS in ecology and evolutionary biology from Yale University. Her dissertation research explored the genetics of worldwide populations of *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito species responsible for the spread of viruses such as dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika.

Nathan Nguyen ('20 PhD, Cell Biology)



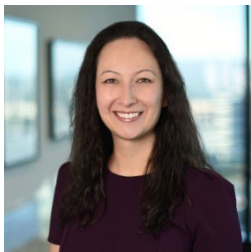
Dr. Nathan Nguyen is a cryptologic warfare officer for the United States Navy. He leads joint-service military members and the Department of Defense civilians to study national security issues. In his former life as a scientist, he conducted astrobiology research and participated in mission planning for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. At Yale, he completed his PhD thesis in the field of autophagy, and he was deeply involved with the Graduate Student Assembly, the Graduate Affiliate Program, and the Office of Career Strategy McDougal Fellowship Program.

Patrick O'Brien ('18 PhD, Political Science)



Patrick O'Brien is the research and policy director at Connecticut Voices for Children, a research-based child advocacy organization working to ensure that Connecticut is a thriving and equitable state where all children achieve their full potential. He is also a visiting assistant professor of public policy at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

Susan Pratt ('19 PhD, Physics)



Susan received her PhD in physics in 2019 from Yale, where she was the facilities and healthcare committee chair in the Graduate Student Assembly. She went on to receive her J.D. in 2022 from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was the technology senior editor for the Georgetown Law Technology Review and a senior editor for the Georgetown Journal of International Law. She is currently an associate for Knobbe Martens in Washington, D.C., working on both patent prosecution and patent litigation

matters.

Dan Rubens ('16, English)



Dan Rubens is the co-founder and executive director of Hear Your Song, a 501(c)(3) organization that empowers children and teens with serious illnesses and complex health needs to make their voices heard through collaborative songwriting. After launching Hear Your Song as an undergraduate organization while a sophomore at Yale University, Dan led the organization's national and virtual expansion in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, Hear Your Song has helped over 300 kids ages 6-18 in 28 states and six countries write their own songs with the support of hundreds of volunteer musicians around the world. A musical theater and opera

composer himself, Dan also holds an MA in elementary inclusive education from Teachers College, Columbia University and an MA in Shakespeare studies from King's College London/Shakespeare's Globe. Dan lives in New York City, where he was formerly a 4th and 5th grade teacher.

Usha Rungoo ('18 PhD, French, African American Studies)



Usha Rungoo graduated from Yale University with a PhD in French and African American Studies in 2018. She is currently assistant professor of romance languages and literatures at Harvard University. Her research and teaching center Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean literatures.

David R. Sanchez ('84 MA, '84 M.Phil, Political Science)



David Sanchez became the head of the Latin America M&A department at Bankers Trust and JP Morgan after Yale from 1983-1989. He became a hedge fund specialist in 1989 helping to introduce the first hedge fund at Merrill Lynch as well their offshore trust and corporate platforms. In 1989, Sanchez set up his own hedge fund platform which continues to this day.

David has served twice on the Yale Board of Governors, served as inaugural chair of Yale's Day of Service, was president of the YC of South Florida for 12 years and is currently co-founder and chair of the Yale Latino Alumni Network and is on the Graduate School Alumni Association board.

Joseph Schmitt ('17 PhD, Astronomy)



After graduating with a PhD in astronomy, Joey became a Presidential Management Fellow at Air Force Headquarters in the Pentagon as a civilian operations research analyst, where he helped lead studies to find efficiencies in Air Force costs and operations. As a fellow, he was also able to serve as a congressional staffer on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Joey is now an operations research analyst at the Department of Energy performing data analysis on federal budgets and energy programs.

Jim Staros ('74 PhD, Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry)



After receiving his PhD from Yale and serving as a Helen Hay Whitney Postdoctoral Fellow in Chemistry at Harvard, Staros began his tenure-track faculty career at Vanderbilt in 1978, serving as a department chair 1988-2002. In 2002, Staros was named dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Stony Brook University (SUNY). In 2009, he became senior vice chancellor for academic affairs & provost of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, with a faculty appointment as professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, a position that he assumed full time in September 2014 when he stepped out of his administrative post and back into life as a faculty member until his retirement in September 2019.

Elizabeth Sullivan ('76 MA, Soviet and East European Studies)



Elizabeth Sullivan has been opinion director of cleveland.com since 2013 and leads the editorial board for The Plain Dealer newspaper and cleveland.com. She has headed The Plain Dealer editorial board since 2009. In the 1990s, she covered the Balkan wars and breakup of Yugoslavia, and post-Cold War transitions in Russia, Germany and Eastern Europe. She has also reported from Israel, the West Bank, Northern Ireland, North and South Korea, China and Cuba.

A member of the second class of women admitted to Yale College, Sullivan previously served on the GSAA and YAA boards and is currently vice president of the Yale Alumni Association of Cleveland.

Matthew Tanico ('17 PhD, Renaissance Studies)



Matthew Tanico currently serves as assistant dean for academic support & outreach in the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Prior to joining the Graduate School, he was Associate Director of the Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration (RITM). At RITM, Matthew worked to advance innovative teaching and research on key topics of historical and contemporary importance. He began his career as an academic administration fellow in the Graduate School dean's office in 2017 while completing his doctoral degree in Spanish and Renaissance Studies. After graduating from Yale in 2017, he taught in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese at New York University and worked in Yale's Faculty of Arts and Sciences dean's office as a project specialist.

Arthur Thomas ('19 MDiv, Theology/Religion)



Mr. Arthur W. Thomas III received his bachelor's degree in industrial & labor relations from Cornell University. Upon graduation, he worked in finance for many years while preparing the transition to investing in real estate and community development. Once transitioned, Mr. Thomas focused on residential rehabilitation for both his personal investment company, and in a consultation capacity for other investment organizations. With a heart for his hometown of Newark, and experience in redevelopment, Mr. Thomas partnered with the City of Newark to beautify depressed areas with the construction of new multifamily residences. Mr. Thomas recently graduated from a master's program at Yale Divinity School to enhance his ability to evaluate the ethical intentions and outcomes of community empowerment programs and build strategic partnerships to reduce socio-economic inequities. Most recently, Mr. Thomas joined The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven as the director of entrepreneurial initiatives and inclusive economic opportunity providing the platform for collaborative cross-sector leadership and strategies for equity and empowerment. As such, he is currently piloting an innovative initiative with anchor institutions, business owners, and community leaders to begin building an equitable entrepreneurial ecosystem in New Haven.

Lisa Villeneuve (MA, French Literature; PhD, University of Oxford)



Lisa's studies began in linguistics, branching into literature, philosophy and urban studies. She entered real estate investment banking (Morgan Stanley) at the time of the Great Financial Crisis (GFC). Post-PhD, Lisa pivoted into roles in financial sector policy, including tactical outreach to SWFs; private wealth (Barclays, family office); and government (bank regulator). She's worked in the UK, Canada and US and is currently focused on over-the-horizon risks & trends with Citi's Institutional Clients Group.

A growth mindset, focus on continuous improvement, and passions for emerging technologies, idea incubation & VC, geopolitics, sustainability & energy security, and data ethics have opened doors to roles in payments, with developers in AI/ML, and to ESG opportunities.

Lisa has interest in graduate talent, global competitiveness & diversity issues: she welcomes personal color & perspectives from international students at Yale.

Nicholas Vincent ('17 PhD, Microbiology)



Nick received his PhD in microbiology in 2017 from Yale, where he served as chair of the Graduate Student Assembly and co-editor-in-chief of the Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine. He received his JD in 2020 from NYU School of Law, where he served as editor-in-chief of the NYU Journal of Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law. After law school, he worked as

a patent attorney for Morrison & Foerster LLP in Palo Alto, California. He currently clerks for a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C.

Esther Zirbel ('93 PhD, Astrophysics)



As an immigrant and first-generation high school graduate, Esther Zirbel earned a Bachelor of Science, three master's degrees and an award-winning PhD in astrophysics from Yale. Her projects on black holes in distant galaxies flew on the Hubble Space Telescope. As a professor, she discovered a passion for teaching and learning. To leave a larger impact, she first transitioned to teacher education and then to coaching professors. She founded the nonprofit organization, Learning Ledgers, with the goal to transform education. Her ambition is to offer opportunities to all individuals, irrespective of their background or socio-economic standing.