Where Do I Go From Yale?

2024 Alumni Participants

April 1 – 13, 2024

Co-hosted by the Yale Graduate School Alumni Association and the Yale Alumni Association

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Virtual Panels

April 1: Exploring Careers in Government and Public Policy

Explore public service through careers in government agencies, policy-making institutes, foundations, and non-profit organizations. Engage with distinguished professionals who have dedicated their careers to public service, shaping policies, and driving social change. They will help you evaluate options in policy analysis, public administration, or contributing to a non-profit mission.

Nancy Brune ’06 PhD, Political Science

Nancy Brune serves on the Las Vegas City Council and is a research professor at Desert Research Institute, a recognized world leader in basic and applied environmental research. Prior to being elected in November 2022, Nancy founded and led the Guinn Center, Nevada’s only bipartisan policy and research center now housed at the University of Nevada, Reno. She previously worked at Sandia National Laboratories, one of the country’s largest national security laboratories. A social entrepreneur and policy expert, Nancy has authored over 100 publications and was a regular contributor to The Nevada Independent. Nancy is the owner of Luz Development Institute, a grant-writing and strategic development firm, where she has successfully written federal and private grants totaling more than $20 million.

In 2015, President Obama appointed her to the President’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. Nancy received her PhD from Yale University in Political Science, her Master’s in Public Policy and BA in Government from Harvard University. She previously served on the Yale Graduate School Alumni Association Executive Committee. Nancy serves on the Yale Club of Nevada board where she is responsible for organizing Yale Service Day activities.

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Nichole A. Nelson ’20 PhD, History

Nichole Nelson is a Senior Policy Advisor at the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. Prior to working at NCRC, Nichole was a Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow and Policy Analyst in the Economic Justice Program of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. At the Institute, she worked on initiatives to increase the homeownership rate for Black and Brown New Jerseyans. She was the primary author of the Institute’s report Black Homeownership Matters and wrote an op-ed on NJ.com that discussed the importance of fair housing in New Jersey.

Nichole also wrote amendments to and advocated for New Jersey’s Fair Appraisals Act (S777/A1519). Nichole received her Bachelor’s degree in History from the University of Pennsylvania and graduated
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magna cum laude in 2011. At Penn, she was Vice President of the Onyx Senior Honor Society, a historically Black honor society that emphasizes leadership, scholarship, and community service for Black undergraduate students. After graduating, she worked as an intern at the American Philosophical Society, a Research Assistant at Bryn Mawr College, and later interned at the National Urban League. In 2014, she received her Master’s degree in History from Vanderbilt University. Nichole is a 2020 graduate of Yale University, where she earned her PhD in American History. Her dissertation examined how white supremacy diluted the Fair Housing Movement because a moderate view of fair housing that stressed integration prevailed, effectively overshadowing equitable models of fair housing that called for reinvesting in African American neighborhoods.

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Yale Cross Campus
OCS Profile

**Martin Nemer ‘03 PhD, Chemical Engineering**

![Martin Nemer](image)

Martin Nemer grew up in beautiful upstate New York (Saratoga Springs, NY). He obtained a BS from SUNY Albany, followed by a MS and PhD in Chemical Engineering at Yale. Martin’s thesis work focused on numerical simulations in low-Reynolds-number fluid mechanics; his advisor is Michael Loewenberg. After Yale, Martin completed a one-year post-doctoral fellowship at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

He was subsequently hired as staff at Sandia National Laboratories, in Carlsbad New Mexico at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant site. He now works at Sandia in Albuquerque, NM, focusing on lithium batteries, nuclear waste, and nuclear deterrence. Martin’s technical interests lie in Bayesian statistics and uncertainty quantification involved in model calibration and forward model predictions. Martin has worked within the nuclear-deterrence national labs for nearly twenty-one years. Any opinions expressed by Martin Nemer are not necessarily those of Sandia National Laboratories, the U.S. Department of Energy, nor the U.S. Federal Government.

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OCS Profile

**Ian D. Simon ‘08 PhD, Microbial Pathogenesis**

![Ian D. Simon](image)

Ian D. Simon is the inaugural Director of the Office of Long COVID Research and Practice (OCL) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), where he leads the government-wide coordination to address the longer-term impacts of COVID-19. Dr. Simon previously served as the Assistant Director for Health Strategy and Biopreparedness at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). In this role, he crafted the strategic vision to prevent pandemics and improve health outcomes through
interagency coordination and leveraging private sector innovation. Before his position at the White House, Dr. Simon served as Senior Advisor for Pandemic Preparedness for the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Prior to working at NIAID, he was the Assistant Director at the IDA Science & Technology Policy Institute. There, he specialized in policy development for biosecurity, pandemic preparedness, and international science cooperation. Previously, Dr. Simon served as the Health and Science Advisor to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, as part of the American Society for Microbiology Congressional Science Fellowship. Ian Simon received his BS from the University of Maryland, College Park. He then earned his MPhil and Doctorate from Yale University.

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Moderator: **Federico Galizia ’98 PhD, Economics**

Federico Galizia has served for more than fifteen years as Chief Risk Officer of triple-A rated multilateral development banks (MDBs), overseeing both financial and non-financial risks. A founding member of the MDBs Chief Risk Officers Forum, and co-chair of the Global Emerging Market Risk Database Consortium (GEMs) he has engaged in the implementation of key G20 action plans for the MDBs. Holding to his ideals on the importance of developing key talent and promoting career diversity, Federico has been instrumental in expanding representation of women in mid- and senior-level staff positions in risk management. He has also valued the opportunity to guide and empower colleagues in their careers through dedicated mentorship programs. Previously, as Adviser to the President of the European Investment Bank, he designed guarantee instruments leading up to the Junker Plan’s European Fund for Strategic Investments. He also established the team tasked with monitoring systemically important financial institutions at the International Monetary Fund during the U.S. financial crisis of 2007-09. Lessons learned from this experience were published by *Risk Books*, in the edited volume *Managing Systemic Risk: a risk management framework for SIFIs and their markets*.

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OCS Profile
April 3: Applying Graduate Study to a Career in Law

Thinking about the law? Explore ways to leverage your field of graduate study – whether business, technology, humanities, social science, or the sciences – for jobs in the law. Learn how your Ph.D., combined with a law degree, can provide you with a valuable edge in a legal career. And if you want to try out the law before committing three more years of your life to yet another graduate school, our panelists will tell you about law related jobs – such as science advisor or policy analyst – that you can do without a law degree, and get a taste of the law.

Gauri Dhavan ‘99 PhD, Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry

Gauri Dhavan is Vice President and Chief Intellectual Property Counsel at ZOLL Medical Corporation in Boston, Massachusetts. At ZOLL, where she has been since 2014, Gauri leads a team in all aspects of intellectual property, including IP strategy, patent prosecution and portfolio management, IP litigation, risk mitigation, M&A due diligence, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and data security. Before that, Gauri practiced patent law at two different law firms, Fish & Richardson and Goodwin Procter. Gauri obtained her undergraduate degree in Biochemistry from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry from Yale University. After graduate school, she did a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School, and then worked as a technology specialist at the law firm Foley Hoag, before obtaining her JD from Boston College Law School.

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OCS Profile

Jennifer Hall ‘00 M.Phil, ‘03 PhD, Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry

The Honorable Jennifer L. Hall was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Delaware in 2024. Prior to her appointment, Judge Hall served as a United States Magistrate Judge for four years. Previously, she served in the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Delaware for eight years and served as the Chief of the Civil Division. She was also a patent litigator at the Wilmington office of Fish & Richardson P.C. Judge Hall holds a BS in Biochemistry from the University of Minnesota, a MPhil and PhD in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry from Yale University, and a JD from the University of Pennsylvania. After law school, she clerked for both the Honorable Sharon Prost, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the Honorable Kent A. Jordan of the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.
Phil Rosenthal, PhD ‘88 BS

Phil Rosenthal is the Chief Growth Officer of vLex. Prior to vLex, Phil was the President and co-founder of Fastcase, a leading online legal research software and analytics company. Before founding Fastcase, Phil was an associate at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C. His diverse legal practice encompassed nuclear, patent, telecommunications, environmental, and corporate law. Phil has served on the Board of the MIT Enterprise Forum of Washington/Baltimore and The Dwelling Place of Montgomery County and is currently on the Executive Board of the Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET). Phil also was an initial member of the Pluto Fast Flyby team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which evolved into the mission that visited Pluto in 2015.

Phil was the 2016 Republican Candidate for Congress in the NY 10th Congressional district. Phil received 35% more votes than any Republican candidate has obtained for many decades. Phil earned a BS in physics from Yale University, where he graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa and earned his JD at Harvard Law School (magna cum laude). He continued his studies at the California Institute of Technology, where he earned both Master’s and PhD degrees in Physics for work in string cosmology. Phil is a member of the New York Bar and the District of Columbia Bar.

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OCS Profile

Moderator: Anne Toker ‘88 BA, ‘98 PhD, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry

Anne Toker is a partner in the law firm of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, where she focuses her practice on biotech and pharmaceutical patent litigation. She has litigated biotech and pharmaceutical patent cases in the U.S. district courts and in the United States International Trade Commission. Anne is admitted to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. She has spoken on patent law issues at the American Conference Institute Paragraph IV Disputes Conference, served on the New York City Bar Association Patents Committee, and been a member of the Harvard Law School Women’s Alliance of New York. Anne is committed to mentoring young lawyers and has served as a faculty member for the Quinn Emanuel Trial Advocacy Programs, a co-director of the summer associate program for the Quinn Emanuel New York office, and a Quinn Emanuel Summer Associate Mentor.

After obtaining her BA from Yale College, Anne obtained a JD in 1991 from Harvard Law School. She served as a law clerk in the Southern District of New York for the Honorable Pierre N. Leval, now on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. After her clerkship, Anne earned her PhD from the Yale Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and then completed a postdoc at Columbia University.

https://www.quinnemanuel.com/attorneys/toker-anne-s/
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April 8: Discovering Careers in Data Science, AI, and Emerging Technologies

Are you interested in a data scientist position in Silicon Valley, Big Pharma, or Wall Street? Learn about the experiences of industry experts, thought leaders, and successful professionals in data science, artificial intelligence, and other emerging information technologies. Discover diverse career opportunities from data analysis and machine learning to cutting-edge applications of artificial intelligence. This event will help you gain valuable industry insights and connect with potential employers at the forefront of innovation in these fields.

Emma Castiglia ‘22 PhD, Physics

Emma Castiglia is a data scientist at Meta working on AR devices, where she analyzes and debugs data related to device power, builds and monitors product and program metrics, and collaborates with PMs, SWEs, and DEs to create excellent products. Emma received her PhD from Yale University, where she researched machine learning to improve detector performance and optimize signal sensitivity at the ATLAS experiment. She previously served on the Graduate Women in Physics+ group and co-chaired the Equity in the Job Search symposium. She is also a member of the first intern class at Netflix where she applied ML techniques to optimize their computing system. Emma received her BA in Physics and Mathematics from the University of Chicago.

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OCS Profile

Adam Trexler ‘13 PhD, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry

Adam Trexler earned his PhD from the Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry at Yale, where he used single molecule techniques to study the early stages of Parkinson’s disease pathophysiology in Elizabeth Rhoades’ lab. In the following years, he completed a postdoc at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. His transition to data science during his postdoc was due to his passion for data analysis and problem solving. He currently works at Elder Research, a small data science consulting firm and is a Principal Data Scientist serving clients within the US federal government. He works directly with clients to implement machine learning and AI techniques to tackle tough problems and enjoys mentoring junior data scientists and helping guide the company's technical direction.

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OCS Profile
Mariko Yanagawa '06 PhD, Linguistics

Mariko Yanagawa is a data and analytics leader and a master data storyteller. She obtained her PhD in Linguistics in 2006 with a specialization in Experimental Phonetics. Her PhD was the foundation of her career in data and analytics, which began as an analyst after graduating from Yale. She has over 15 years of experience in building and leading high-performing analytics and data science teams in the San Francisco Bay Area across various industries and companies, including AOL, Macy's.com, and PlayStation. Her expertise lies in data storytelling, which is often overlooked but the crucial last mile that elevates data to business strategy and decision-making. Currently she is based in Tokyo driving the data and AI function at Avanade, a global technology consulting firm. As a female leader in data and analytics, she is also passionate about driving women’s empowerment in the workplace and has served on company steering committees for DE&I initiatives. A firm believer in mentorship as one of the core foundations for personal growth, she also regularly provides mentorship both in and out of the workplace, including participating in the Yale mentorship program.

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Yale Cross Campus OCS Profile

Moderator: 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 worldview to the practical “build and iterate” mentality of Silicon Valley.

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April 10: Career Opportunities in Consulting and Finance

Learn about career opportunities in the consulting industry (e.g., McKinsey, BCG), financial institutions (e.g., banks, hedge funds, private equity), and newer business ventures. Join seasoned consultants, rocket scientists-turned quants, and entrepreneurs as they share their experiences and insights, both from the domestic and the international perspective.

**Ran Duan ‘08 PhD, Physics**

Ran Duan is an executive vice president in PIMCO and leads emerging markets analytics. He is also in the research group for PIMCO’s emerging markets portfolio committee. Prior to joining PIMCO in 2010, he worked in the interest rate derivatives quantitative research group at Barclays Capital and at Lehman Brothers. He has 17 years of investment and financial services experience and holds a PhD in Physics from Yale University and a Bachelor's degree from Peking University.

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**Rachel Naa-Du Laryea ‘22 PhD, Anthropology and African American Studies**

Rachel Naa-Du Laryea is a thought leader who specializes in racial capitalism, ethical entrepreneurship and social good. Weaving together rigorous research methods, corporate, non-profit and entrepreneurial experience, she develops critical, evidence-based insights that advance our collective social intelligence. She is passionate about providing empirically driven solutions to social problems rooted in race, equity, and cultural processes. She holds a PhD in Anthropology and African American Studies from Yale.

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**Sophia Ononye-Onyia, ‘14 Postdoc Alum, Medical Oncology**

Sophia Ononye-Onyia is the owner and principal of a diversity certified (WBENC, WOSB, NMSDC, ByBlack), curated scientific communications and executive leadership consultancy with a specialty focus on oncology/immuno-oncology, women’s health, aesthetic and regenerative medicine. She is a creator, host and producer of the Amplifying Scientific Innovation® Video Podcast, which features senior life science leaders who discuss their perspectives on science advocacy, health equity and influential leadership.

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**Justin White ’14 MAR, ’20 PhD, Religious Studies**

Justin White is a project leader with BCG based in Denver. He is focused primarily on climate and sustainability topics across industries, though he also works on digital transformations and operations strategy. At Yale Justin studied Philosophy of Visual Communication in West Asian antiquity in the Department of Religious Studies and prior to that, he studied at the Yale Divinity School.

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OCS Profile

**Moderator: Jia Chen ‘00 PhD, Physics**

Dr. Jia Chen is a Senior Director at Medidata AI, part of Dassault Systèmes. She leads the strategy and growth of synthetic data solutions leveraging generative AI. Prior to Medidata, she successfully led the launch of new products serving millions of users and held leadership roles in product management, innovation incubators, strategic partnerships and AI client centers at IBM corporate headquarters as well as in emerging markets. She was named as one of the top 35 innovators (TR35) by MIT Tech Review, and one of the top 26 tech women innovators at IBM. Dr. Chen received her PhD in Physics from Yale University and holds 45 patents. She’s the chair of the Yale Graduate School Alumni Association Board and a member of the Yale Alumni Association Board of Governors.

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In-person Panels on April 13

Strategies for Managing the Early Years of Grad School to Further Your Career

This session is designed to provide you with practical advice and strategies to help you manage the early stages of your graduate career. Learn how to map the path early on from your chosen field of graduate study to the job you would like to have – through internships, choice of subject matter to focus on for your dissertation, early networking, and more.

Humanities and Social Sciences Panel

Xuesong Han ’10 PhD, Epidemiology & Public Health

Xuesong Han is a Scientific Director of Health Services Research in the Surveillance & Health Equity Science department of the American Cancer Society (ACS). Dr. Han’s research examines the effects of health policies and social determinants of health on access to care and outcomes across the cancer continuum. Her research also contributes to the understanding of disparities in cancer survivorship including financial hardship, employment changes, psychosocial distress, and health-related quality of life. Dr. Han earned her PhD in Epidemiology & Public Health from Yale University in 2010 and completed the American Institute for Cancer Research Marilyn Gentry Fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2012. She holds an adjunct professorship at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University. She serves on the editorial board for Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

https://www.cancer.org/research/acs-researchers/xuesong-han-bio.html

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John Klaess ‘19 PhD, Ethnomusicology

John earned degrees in American History and Trumpet Performance at the Eastman School of Music and the University of Rochester before completing a PhD in Ethnomusicology. His first book, Breaks in the Air: The Birth of Rap Radio in New York City was published by Duke University Press in 2022. He currently leads the Customer Education and Enablement program at Tulip Interfaces, a manufacturing technology startup based in Boston.

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OCS Profile
**Zachary G. Smith ’19 PhD, Religious Studies**

As part of the cybersecurity research team in Gartner’s Security and Risk Management Practice, Zachary Smith works with functional leaders and their teams to conduct in-depth research of the most pressing challenges cybersecurity leaders are facing today, surfacing evidenced insights, best practices and practical tools cybersecurity professionals can put to their own use. Prior to joining Gartner, Zachary worked in higher education as a university professor, teaching students across all majors and researching how to translate complex topics into modern solutions.

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**Chen Daisy Sun ’20 PhD, Economics**

Dr. Daisy Sun is a Vice President with Compass Lexecon. Dr. Sun specializes in applying microeconomic theory and econometric methods to merger and litigation matters. Her experience includes assisting clients with a variety of jurisdictions’ merger clearance processes, antitrust investigations, and patent litigation. Dr. Sun provided economic analyses supporting testifying experts in many cases. Dr. Sun holds a MA, MPhil, and PhD in Economics from Yale University and a BA in Economics and Mathematics from Carleton College.

Prior to graduate school, she worked as a research assistant at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and MIT.

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**Moderator: Ed Balleisen ’95 PhD, History**

Edward Balleisen is Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies at Duke, as well as Professor of History and Public Policy. Balleisen has written widely on the historical intersections among law, business, and policy in the United States, as well as the evolution of American regulatory institutions and contemporary debates on regulatory governance. His most recent book is *Fraud: An American History from Barnum to Madoff* (2017). A national leader in conversations about the need to expand the versatility of doctoral students, Balleisen has spearheaded a process of reform at Duke. As Vice Provost, Balleisen facilitates cross-school undertakings around research, teaching, and civic engagement.
STEM Panel

**Ariana Hackenberg ’18 PhD, Physics**

Ariana Hackenberg earned her PhD in Neutrino Physics from Yale in 2018. After grad school, she transitioned to working in data science in the tech industry at Wayfair, where she developed algorithms and models to automate and optimize aspects of the custom experience. She currently works as a data scientist at Google in data privacy and protection. In her free time, she plays flute with local community groups, and participates in her summer softball league.

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Yale Cross Campus
OCS Profile

**Weiping Li ’07 PhD, Electrical Engineering**

Weiping Li graduated from Yale University with a PhD in Electrical Engineering in 2007 under the guidance of thesis advisor Professor Tso-ping Ma. He proceeded to work at IBM for several years in semiconductor device engineering and financial planning. He then spent a few years in financial service industry working on data science and machine learning predictive modeling, including retail banking and investment banking. He joined Meta in 2022, working in the machine learning and platform engineering functions for ads monetization.

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**Thomas Magaldi ’12 PhD, Genetics**

Dr. Tom Magaldi is the Associate Dean in the Gerstner Sloan Kettering Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the graduate arm of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In this role, he supports GSK’s PhD and master’s programs. Prior to joining GSK, Tom developed, implemented, and evaluated career and professional development services and activities for MSK postdoctoral researchers and graduate students. He also served as the Director of Science Alliance, the professional development branch of the New York Academy of Sciences. There, he developed and implemented innovative workshops and courses that provided early career scientists with a range of business skills essential for all careers. Tom received his PhD in Genetics from Yale University and was a postdoc at the National Cancer Institute. He currently lives in Fairfield, CT with his wife and two sons.

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OCS Profile

Where Do I Go From Yale?
2024 Alumni Panelists
Traci Mansfield ‘98 PhD Genetics

Traci Mansfield is a scientist with over 25 years of pharmaceutical industry experience and extensive knowledge of drug development. She completed a PhD in Genetics at Yale, studying the genetics of familial hypertension and kidney diseases. She started her career as an Alliance Manager and Early Development Team Leader at CuraGen Corporation, a genomics-based biotech in Branford, CT. She managed a collaboration that generated monoclonal antibodies to new drug targets and led development teams evaluating the antibodies’ ability to treat cancers and inflammatory diseases.

After 9 years, Traci moved to Bristol-Myers Squibb, working as a Project Manager and then Clinical Study Director, designing and leading clinical trials for diabetes and cardiovascular disease drugs. She supported the development and approval of FARXIGA, a SGLT2 inhibitor to treat type 2 diabetes. When AstraZeneca acquired FARXIGA from BMS, Traci took a job in U.S. Medical Affairs at AstraZeneca to continue working on the launch of FARXIGA. For the past 8 years, Traci has worked as a Development Team Leader, first at Johnson & Johnson and now at CSL Behring, where she leads drug development teams working to get approval of new hematology drugs and expand the use of marketed plasma drugs.

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OCS Profile

Moderator: Jim Staros ‘74 PhD, Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry

Staros was a NSF Graduate Fellow at Yale, where he earned a PhD in Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry in 1974 under the guidance of Fred Richards. He then served as a Helen Hay Whitney Postdoctoral Fellow in Chemistry at Harvard in Jeremy Knowles’ laboratory. Staros began his faculty career at Vanderbilt in 1978, was tenured in 1983, promoted to professor in 1986, and served as a department chair 1988-2002. In 2002, he 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 until his retirement in September 2019.

On the graduate side, he served on numerous NIH review committees and site visit teams focused on interdisciplinary graduate education. He founded the NIH-funded Molecular Biophysics Training Program at Vanderbilt in 1989, and he was one of the small group of department chairs who founded the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in 1991. Prior to becoming Dean, he trained numerous students in his laboratory, serving as dissertation advisor to eleven PhD students, four of whom were in the combined MD-PhD program.

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Where Do I Go From Yale?
2024 Alumni Panelists
Entering the Corporate World

Join a discussion with industry professionals and alumni in the corporate world who have successfully leveraged their graduate school training to enter corporate life. Learn about effective networking and job search strategies, mastering interviews, and adapting to corporate culture. Also learn how to understand and present the value of the knowledge and skills you have acquired in your specific field of study to market yourself most effectively to corporate employers.

Humanities and Social Sciences Panel

Chris Faulkner-MacDonagh ’01 PhD, Economics

Chris Faulkner-MacDonagh currently serves as the co-portfolio manager on several multi-asset strategies, including the $20 billion Real Assets Equity Strategy (an inflation hedging multi-strategy fund), the $500 million Multi-Strategy Total Return fund (T. Rowe Price’s liquid alternatives strategy), and the newly incepted Global Impact Multi-Asset Strategy. Before joining the firm in 2016, Chris spent nearly two years as a market strategist and as the chair of the tactical asset allocation committee at Standard Life Investments in Edinburgh, Scotland. In addition, he spent six years as a macro investor at Ziff Brothers Investments, a multi-asset family office in New York, where he had a focus on investing in Japan, Australia, and emerging Asia across foreign exchange, government bonds, and other macro assets. He also served for over a decade as an official at the International Monetary Fund and at the U.S. Treasury Department in Washington, D.C. Chris earned a BS in Mathematics and a BA in Political Economy from Michigan State University and a PhD in Economics from Yale University.

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Kathryn Nicole Graves ‘23 PhD, Psychology

Kathryn Graves is an Associate Analyst at UBS in NYC, where she focuses on applying empirical science methods to provide unique insights in equity research. Kathryn made the jump from academia to industry after completing her PhD in Psychology at Yale, working under Dr. Nicholas Turk-Browne, where her research focused on the neural mechanisms by which people learn and extract structure from their environments as they navigate, with a focus on the hippocampus.

Kathryn is a champion for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives. In graduate school, she was the Co-Chair of her department’s diversity committee and a Fellow in the Office of Graduate Student Development and Diversity. Now, she is a member of the People’s Council at UBS. Outside of work,
Kathryn enjoys long runs through Central Park, building her rolodex of vegan restaurants in the city, and finding new and creative ways to work her and her fiancé’s doctorates into casual conversation.

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Max Perez Leon Quinoso ’19 PhD, Economics

Max Perez Leon Quinoso is passionate about leveraging econometrics, statistics, and data science to drive strategic decision-making. In Amazon’s Finance Operations division, he serves as an Economist within a Data Science team, supporting both Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable teams. His expertise lies in quantitative analysis, particularly in causal inference methodologies. Before joining Amazon, Max worked as a consultant at NERA Economic Consulting, specializing in antitrust litigation matters. At Yale University, he researched how financial incentives shape public teachers’ migration patterns and served as a research assistant to Professor Sam Kortum.

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Moderator: 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.

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STEM Panel

Emily Cohen ’14 PhD, Genetics

Emily Cohen graduated from Connecticut College in 2006, majoring in Biochemistry. She then received her PhD in Genetics from Yale in 2014 in the laboratory of Daniel DiMaio. While at Yale, she co-founded the Biomedical Careers Committee, which organized the first-ever career fair for life science PhD students and postdocs and exists today as the Yale Biotech Club. She then pursued her postdoctoral studies in the laboratory of Alex Toker at Harvard Medical School studying breast cancer signaling and metabolism. She co-led the Harvard Biotech Club, directing several initiatives including the organizing of the annual career fair. In 2020, she joined the Cambridge-based oncology therapeutics biotechnology company, Kronos Bio, where she is currently a senior scientist in the Discovery Biology group. For the last six years, she has served as a mentor to many female life science graduate students through mentorship programs at both Yale and Harvard. She serves on the Yale Alumni Fund Board and as a Yale Alumni Fund Agent.

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Marisa Dolled-Filhart ’05 PhD, Genetics

Marisa Dolled-Filhart is an experienced biotech, CRO, and industry translational scientist and leader with experience from early drug development through commercialization. She received her PhD from Yale University in Genetics in 2005.

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Erling Donnelly ’05 PhD, Pharmacology

Erling Thor Donnelly is Vice President of the US Breast Cancer Franchise Lead at Pfizer Oncology. He leads all U.S. commercial efforts for IBRANCE, TUKYSA, and TALZENNA in Breast Cancer. Prior to this role, Erling was the Oncology Business Unit Lead in the United Kingdom and previously in Sweden and Finland as well.

Before moving to Commercial, Erling was the Asset Team Leader for IBRANCE (palbociclib), where he led the expansive clinical development program, submission and registration, plus life-cycle management efforts bringing to market the first new therapy for metastatic breast cancer patients in over a decade. In addition, Erling was the Team Leader for VIZIMPRO (dacomitinib) while it was in Phase 3 development for EGFR mutant advanced NSCLC and was the Global Regulatory Lead
for XALKORI (crizotinib) as it was initially developed and registered around the globe. Erling has been with Pfizer for 18 years and holds a PhD in Pharmacology from Yale University.

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Jun Wang ’07 PhD, Physics

Jun Wang is a Managing Director and Head of FICC (Fixed Income, Currency and Commodities) Emerging Markets Structured Trading at Barclays. Jun’s team at Barclays is one of the world’s leading providers of innovative and structured financing solutions to clients across Latin America, Asia, Central/East Europe, Africa and Middle East. Before joining Barclays, Jun was a Managing Director at Goldman Sachs from 2008 to 2020, leading various FICC Strats teams, generating quantitative trading strategies, models and algorithms across Global Markets. Prior to Goldman, Jun was a Quantitative Research associate at Susquehanna International Group. Jun graduated from Yale University with PhD in Physics in 2007.

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Moderator: Sandy 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 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.

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Exploring Research Options After the PhD

Wondering about options for doing research after grad school? Trying to decide between research scientist positions or postdoctoral positions, whether in academia, non-academic research institutions (e.g., NIH, FDA), or even corporate settings? In this session you’ll hear the insights of seasoned researchers, professionals, and recent postdocs who have navigated diverse research landscapes. They’ll help you explore the tradeoffs between research in academia and research in industry or research-focused non-academic institutions.

**Kimberly Fowler White '05 PhD, Cell Biology**

Dr. Kimberly T. Fowler, a native of Jacksonville, FL, has been working to support indigenous communities for over a decade. Dr. Fowler has been employed at the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) since 2011 and as the current VP of the Technical Assistance and Research Center (TARC), has led the development of various projects focused on Urban Indian Organization capacity-building and sustainability to support operational and programmatic growth, as well as supporting research centered on the urban Indian health sector.

She received her PhD from Yale University in 2005 and BS from Tennessee State University. Before joining NCUIH, Dr. Fowler supported several initiatives by coordinating and delivering technical assistance in health systems and clinical operations for communities of color, including managing a women’s health behavior intervention program to reduce health disparities risk. Dr. Fowler also completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Colorado-Denver, where she also received a Certificate in Public Health. Over the years, she has supported several national, regional, and local non-profit boards, including the Tennessee State University National Alumni Association, holding various positions from President to Secretary. She serves as Secretary on the Adam’s Purpose non-profit board in Denver, CO, and enjoys spending free time watching sports with her husband, Keith, and bonus teens, Keith and Makayla.

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**Xuemei Han '11 PhD, Forestry and Environmental Studies**

Xuemei Han, born in China, studied Biology and Ecology at Beijing Normal University and earned her PhD in Forestry and Environmental Studies from Yale University in 2011. She is currently the Principal Data Scientist managing the Economic, Demographic, and Statistical Research unit in the Fairfax County Government, VA, where she supervises the data science team to create public data and promote their usage in local governments’ policymaking and community development processes. Outside her regular 9-5, she conducts
research supporting initiatives and programs in environmental conservation and social justice worldwide through her volunteer or consulting services. Her past research experience includes NatureServe, where she served as the technical lead for the MacArthur award-winning Biodiversity Indicators Dashboard Program from 2011 to 2018, which developed a global data visualization system to facilitate the national reporting process and biodiversity monitoring programs supporting the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. She then received her PhD at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where she researched with Professor Chad Oliver on tiger habitat conservation in Northeast China and the Russian Far East through imagery mapping and sustainable forest management. This research ultimately led to the establishment of the China Northeast Tiger & Leopard National Park in 2016.

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**Eric Jin ’18 PhD, Physics**

Eric Jin is a research physicist at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Washington, D.C. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Physics from UC Berkeley and a PhD in applied physics from Yale. Eric joined NRL as an NRC postdoctoral research associate in 2018 before transitioning to the civil service in 2021 under the Jerome and Isabella Karle Distinguished Scholar Fellowship Program. He is currently a PI for basic materials science research programs and splits his time between performing research and serving as a subject matter expert for industry and defense partners. Eric’s research focuses on developing next-generation radio frequency (RF) materials needed for beyond-5G telecommunications, high power infrastructure, and heterogeneously integrated electronics.

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**Jeffrey Mankoff ’06 PhD, History**

Dr. Jeffrey Mankoff is a Distinguished Research Fellow at the U.S. National Defense University’s Institute for National Strategic Studies and a Non-Resident Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). His research focuses on Russian foreign policy, Eurasian geopolitics, and the role of history and memory in international relations.

He is the author of the books Empires of Eurasia: How Imperial Legacies Shape International Security (Yale, 2022) and Russian Foreign Policy: The Return of Great Power Politics (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009, 2012). He also writes frequently for Foreign Affairs, War on the Rocks and other outlets. Dr. Mankoff was previously a senior fellow with the Russia and
Eurasia Program at CSIS and served as an adviser on U.S.-Russia relations at the U.S. Department of State as a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow. From 2008 to 2010, he was associate director of International Security Studies at Yale University and an adjunct fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He also held the John M. Olin National Security Fellowship at Harvard University (2006-07) and the Henry Chauncey Fellowship at Yale University (2007-08). Dr. Mankoff received undergraduate degrees in international studies and Russian from the University of Oklahoma and an MA, MPhil, and PhD in diplomatic history from Yale University. He is a Truman National Security Fellow and a past Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

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Moderator: James Shulman ’93 PhD, Renaissance Studies

James Shulman serves as vice president and chief operating officer of ACLS. His latest book, The Synthetic University; How Higher Education Can Benefit from Shared Solutions and Save Itself was published by Princeton University Press in fall 2023. At the Mellon Foundation in the 1990s, he collaborated with William G. Bowen and Derek Bok on The Shape of the River: Long-term Consequences of Considering Race in College and University Admissions. He also wrote (with William G. Bowen), The Game of Life: College Sports and Educational Values. His first book was The Pale Cast of Thought: Hesitation and Decision in the Renaissance Epic. From its founding in 2001 to 2016 he was president of Artstor. Working with his colleagues, he developed and implemented plans for an organization that now serves over 2,000 colleges, universities, schools, and museums around the world. He received his BA and PhD from Yale in Renaissance Studies.

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