



# NEWSLETTER

**Wellesley College Department of Economics**

**June 2019**

Dear Alumnae, Graduating Seniors, Former Faculty, and Friends of Economics at Wellesley:

The academic year 2018-2019 was a good one in the Economics Department. We have about 120 Economics (and IR-Econ) majors and minors graduating this spring!

We continued our run of excellent speakers this year. In the fall, Mary Daly, the then newly-appointed President of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, gave the Goldman Lecture entitled, “Perspectives on Economics,” sharing her thoughts on both the Economy and the Economics Profession. In the spring, Professor Nina Pavcnik from Dartmouth College shared her research in the Calderwood Lecture entitled, “Poor Workers in a Globalizing World: Evidence from an Emerging Economy.” Both talks drew excellent audiences of engaged students, who asked insightful questions.

Representation and treatment of women in the Economics profession received some high-profile attention this year, with a climate survey and a code of conduct from the American Economic Association. The topic got some important press coverage, including a Washington Post [article](#) by former Economics & English major Heather Long (W’04). The Wellesley Economics

Department continues to be proud of our track record of sending extremely talented women into Economics and related fields. This year, three of our former students received National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships to pursue PhDs in Economics and in Public Policy: Micah Villarreal (W’15) will begin the PhD program in Economics at UC Santa Barbara; Kelsey Moran (W’17) will begin the PhD program in Economics at MIT; Emma Rackstraw (W’14) will begin the PhD program in Public Policy at the Kennedy School at Harvard. There were 52 (prestigious and highly competitive) Econ/Public Policy NSF fellowships awarded this year. We are very proud that Wellesley received three of them! Read more about these amazing alums – and Wellesley NSF recipients who majored in other subjects – at the College’s [Daily Shot](#) website.

Our faculty’s contributions to scholarship, pedagogy, and governance at the College are too broad and deep for me to do justice here. Suffice it to say, I am amazed daily by how hard my terrifically talented colleagues work to push out the frontiers of knowledge and to engage their students in that process. Please see the individual faculty entries to find out more.

While this has mostly been a good year in the Economics Department, there are two departures that are bittersweet. Julie Matthaei will be retiring after 41 years at Wellesley. We thank her for her dedication to her students, and wish her well with her (many!) plans for her time. Dan Fetter will be leaving Wellesley for a tenure-track job in the Department of Economics at Stanford. We will miss him a great deal, but wish him and his family all the best in their new home. We are making plans to visit (every year) in January!

The Economics Department looks forward to a busy summer. As always, we will have a number of students working in the Department either as research assistants through the Social Science Summer Research program, the Case Summer Fellows program, the Knapp Fellows program, or supported by faculty members' grants.

If you have news you would like to share with the network of Former Economics Majors (or FEMs, as Carolyn Shaw Bell used to call us,) please send it along for next year's Newsletter.

Finally, this is my sixth, and final, year as Chair of the Economics Department. Patrick McEwan will begin a three-year term on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Please join me in welcoming him to this position, which I hope he finds as rewarding as I have. I look forward to reading his "Letter from the Chair" next year!

We hope to see many of you at reunion – our reception will be from 3-5pm on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Pendleton East. Best wishes to all for a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

*Sincerely,  
Kristin F. Butcher, Chair and Marshall I.  
Goldman Professor of Economics*

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San Francisco Federal Reserve President Mary Daly delights students and faculty at the 2018 Goldman Lecture in Economics.



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The joint Williams/Amherst/Wesleyan/Wellesley College cocktail reception at the American Economics Association meetings in Atlanta, January 4-6, 2019 brought together alumnae, former faculty, and current faculty.

Next year's meetings will be held in San Diego, CA on January 3-5, 2020. Please follow this link to learn more about the annual meeting: <https://www.aeaweb.org/conference/>

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We celebrated the retirement of Professor Julie Matthaei after 41 years of service, on April 24, 2019. Congratulations Julie!



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This year, the Economics Department Annual Senior Dinner was held on Thursday, May 2, 2019 in Tishman Hall with 89 of our 121 majors and minors in attendance. Award winners for 2019 were announced, and Patrick McEwan recognized Kristin Butcher for her hard work and dedication to the department during her six years as Chair.



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**2019 Economics Department  
Award Winners**

**The Wall Street Journal Award:**  
Esa Tilija

**The Peggy Howard Fellowship:**  
Angela Gu '15  
Kelsey Moran '17  
Ljubica Ristovska '13  
Micah Villarreal '15

**The Natalie Bolton Faculty Prize in  
Economics (Best 200-level Paper):**  
Donna Gan '20, Gabby Liu

**The Natalie Bolton Faculty Prize in  
Econometrics:**  
Donna Gan '20, Kyra Frye '20,  
Michelle Li

**The Natalie Bolton Faculty Prize in  
Economics (Best 300-level Papers):**  
Zohal Barsi, Chelsea Roston,  
Samantha Stewart

**The Natalie Bolton Thesis Prize for  
International Development Policy:**  
Radhika Menon

**The Natalie Bolton Thesis Prize for  
Domestic Economic Policy:**  
Emily Moss

**The Joseph Lambie Economic History  
Prize:**  
Lien Dao '20 and Alex Vu

**The Natalie Bolton Student Prize:**  
Vipasana Karkee

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2019 - 2020

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT FACULTY

**Ama Baafra Abeberese '04** enjoyed being on sabbatical this past year. She managed to be somewhat productive and was grateful to get two papers, one on firm responses to electricity constraints and the other on the impacts of place-based policies on informal firms (co-authored with Ritam Chaurey at Johns Hopkins) published. She had fun working with Radhika Menon on her honors thesis on a related topic on the migration impacts of place-based policies. She also enjoyed presenting at seminars and getting feedback on her work-in-progress. She is looking forward to going back to teaching trade and development in the fall. At home, she is still trying to match the energy of a rising kindergartener and a rising three year old.

**Kristin Butcher '86** completed her sixth, and final, year as Chair of the Economics Department! She is delighted to be going on sabbatical and leaving the Department in Patrick McEwan's capable hands! Kristin also served on the Committee on Faculty Appointments this year. This is the College's committee that oversees all reappointment, tenure, and promotion decisions for faculty. She comes away from that experience with renewed wonder at the quality of the faculty at Wellesley College, and she often wishes she could go back and be an undergraduate again. She also taught econometrics again in the fall –happily, teaching students how to pose important questions and to use data to try to answer them never gets old. She is absolutely delighted that two students for whom she wrote recommendations received National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships. This fall, Micah Villarreal will be beginning the PhD program in Economics at UC Santa Barbara, and Kelsey Moran will be beginning the PhD program in Economics at MIT. Kristin continues to work on her NIH funded investigation of the impact of immigration on the health and

well being of the elderly. She also received funding from the Russell Sage Foundation to examine the impact of state-mandated parental leave on women's workforce outcomes -- a project that is joint with Sari Kerr at the Wellesley Centers for Women. She looks forward to spending her sabbatical on these research projects. At home, she now has a 17 year-old, a 15 year-old, and a 13 year-old. The bat mitzvahs are all behind her, but the college tours and essays are ahead!

**Courtney Coile** came back to full-time teaching this year, after some years of doing more College service and teaching a bit less. She enjoyed adding a public speaking component to her Econ 101 course and updating her health economics course to reflect the always-evolving health policy landscape, while keeping her hand in at College service by serving on the curriculum committee. On the research front, she co-authored an article in the *Journal of Economic Perspectives* for a symposium on the problems of (not with!) men and co-edited the volume *Social Security Programs and Retirement Around the World: Working Longer* (University of Chicago Press.) Last summer was busy, as she gave four talks on four different topics in a one-month stretch! Her upcoming sabbatical is also shaping up to be heavy on travel, but she's looking forward to having more time for research in between the trips. On the home front, you can find her watching son Nathaniel (16) play baseball, ferrying daughter Meredith (12) to dance classes, and occasionally playing pickup soccer with faculty/staff colleagues.

**Dan Fetter** spent the year on sabbatical at Stanford, carrying out research on the historical expansion of social insurance in the United States and enjoying the sunshine with his family. His major news from this year is both happy and sad: along with his wife, Heidi, he will be joining the Economics Department at Stanford at the end of this year. Leaving Wellesley was a tremendously difficult decision for him, and

he will really miss his colleagues in the Economics Department and teaching at Wellesley, among many other things. But Heidi and Dan are also excited about the new chapter of their lives, especially the chance to be in the same department -- just a few doors down from each other, in fact. Dan is grateful for his time at Wellesley and all of the wonderful students he has taught.

**Eric Hilt** taught economic history, finance, macro, and the ERS this year, which he really enjoyed. There were five wonderful thesis students in the ERS, and he had a lot of fun working with them. Eric is working on many different research projects related to economic and financial history, including some related to the first credit ratings (introduced in 1909), the liberty bond drives of World War I, and the role of bankers in the economy in the Gilded Age, and presented papers related to that work in lots of conferences. This June, he's going to be a visiting professor at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences) in Paris, and he'll be giving a series of lectures based on his research projects to graduate students and faculty there. He's very much looking forward to spending an entire month in Paris. His family, including his five-year-old daughter, will be joining him for the second half of the month, and he can't wait to introduce her to that city.

**Erin Johnson** taught Principles of Micro and Industrial Organization in her third year at Wellesley. She continues to find the Wellesley economics students hard working and curious – a joy to teach! The student projects in Industrial Organization were a highlight again this year, with students applying the theory they learned in class to find and share insights into pricing systems, technology innovation, and firm competition. During the year Erin also pushed forward her research program, studying the decisions physicians make and how they impact health costs and patient health. She also enjoyed spending time

with her husband and three boys (4, 7 and 9).

**Joe Joyce** has been busy in the classroom and with his research. He taught classes on the principles of macroeconomics, the economics of globalization, and international macroeconomics. He also participated in the Madeleine Korbelt Albright Institute for Global Affairs 2019 program. In his research he deals with the causes and effects of financial globalization, and writes about these issues in his blog, [Capital Ebbs and Flows](#), which has been named one of the top 100 economics blogs for 2019. Last summer he presented his work at conferences held at Henan University in Kaifeng, China, and the Poznań University of Economics and Business in Poznań, Poland. In November he spoke at a workshop in international finance held at the Catholic University of Louvain in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. Both Joyce daughters have academic achievements to celebrate. Alison Joyce graduates from Connecticut College and Caroline Joyce receives a master's degree in public health from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Pinar Keskin** cannot believe that she has been lucky enough to teach at Wellesley for the past eight years! This year she taught two sections of Introductory Microeconomics, a 200-level seminar on Environmental Economics, as well as her signature 300-level elective on environmental issues in developing countries. Outside the classroom, Pinar continues to research the causes and consequences of domestic violence. Her paper with Bilge Erten, "Breaking the cycle? Education and the intergenerational transmission of violence" was accepted for publication at *the Review of Economics and Statistics* recently. On the home front, Pinar and her husband are trying to keep up with their two daughters: six-year old Maya, who blossomed from a tiny preschooler into a confident young girl and an avid reader in kindergarten; and three-year old Arya, who

wakes up with the biggest smile in the world every morning for no reason, and had her first dance recital in May.

**Sari Pekkala Kerr** took the last academic year off teaching to fully focus on her numerous research projects. Now she is excited to return to teaching the Women in the Economy class in the Fall 2019. Sari launched a series of new studies around gender career dynamics and household / family events with Claudia Goldin (Harvard), Claudia Olivetti (Boston College), and Erling Barth (Institute for Social Research). The project focuses on changes in household career and earnings dynamics around marriage, arrival and departure of children, and family migration. During the coming summer Sari will complete a research visit to the (Central) Bank of Finland in Helsinki to continue her work on immigration and entrepreneurship. The rest of the summer will be divided between the National Bureau of Economics (NBER) and Wellesley Centers for Women, as well as having some fun family trips with husband Bill, son Saku (8) and daughter Sara (6).

**Phil Levine** continued his efforts maintaining his position as a full-time faculty member and moonlighting by running a successful non-profit business. In the classroom, he taught his usual staple of classes: intro micro, intro stats, and his upper level social policy course. One rewarding aspect of his teaching is watching some of his students take the lessons used in these classes to focus on plans for higher-level training in economics and public policy (Helen Willis now at Berkeley, Amy Wickett now at Harvard, Victoria Lee and Emma Rackstraw, both starting at Harvard, and Victoria Angelova now a research assistant at Princeton). On the research front, he was excited to publish a paper in a *Nature* journal with his frequent coauthor, Melissa Kearney, and two developmental psychologists, integrating their common research focus on the role that high and rising income inequality plays in altering

outcomes for low SES children. His nonprofit, MyinTuition, continues to grow and have an impact on the lives on many prospective college students. Recently, all four campuses of the University of Massachusetts adopted Myintuition, adding to the 50 other schools already participating. Since its inception a few years ago, around a million students have used it! Stay tuned as it continues to grow. At home, Phil is proud to say that he is now the father of two college graduates! Noah graduated from Middlebury College this spring and accepted a position as a legal assistant at a Boston law firm. Jake still lives in Miami working for the Dolphins. It's a good job, but the Red Sox would be better!

**David Lindauer** did not teach any courses this year and instead focused on the expansion of the Calderwood Seminars in Public Writing program to other colleges and universities. The program, based on David's Economic Journalism course, offered a record 12 seminars at Wellesley in 2018-19 in everything from American Studies to Mathematics, Music to Sociology. This year also saw Calderwood Seminars introduced at Amherst, Bard, Georgetown, Middlebury and Wesleyan. David, the program's Faculty Director, works closely with professor's teaching their seminars for the first time, leveraging all the experience he gained teaching Wellesley students. Because of its success, the Calderwood Charitable Foundation provided one final grant to expand the program further, this time primarily to honors colleges and programs at public universities. David pitched the program at a number of institutions and next year Calderwood Seminars will be offered at CUNY, Smith and the Universities of Oregon, Texas and Washington. In 2019-20, he estimates close to 50 seminars enrolling about 500 students will be taught. As one Wellesley alumna put it, "This is Professor Lindauer's start-up", and it is off to a great start.

**Julie Matthaei** This is Julie's last newsletter blurb, as she will be retiring from teaching

at the end of June after 41 years! First on her post-retirement agenda is finally finishing her book long in progress, *From Inequality to Solidarity: Co-Creating a New Economics for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Julie thoroughly enjoyed teaching her (last) Feminist Economics and Political Economy of Gender, Race and Class courses this year, and will really miss her students. Their awesome final projects are on the [Wellesley Solidarity website](#) - including an [analysis of Wellesley's Freedom Project](#), a [children's book](#) illustrating the solidarity processes, and a new edition of the [Wellesley dis-orientation guide](#) which includes sections on disability, ethnic studies, and LGBTQ organizing history at the college. Also now on the website is a [series of interviews](#) with alums who have found ways to careers that “align with solidaristic values” which have already been inspiring the next generation of students in her classes. Last September, Julie organized and participated in a roundtable on “Radical Political Economy, Revolution, and the Solidarity Economy” at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference of the Union for Radical Political Economics. This spring, she spoke about her book in progress to Alpha Phi Sigma. A [roundtable](#) on her “Feminism and Revolution” article was published on the Tellus Institute website last June, as part of its “Great Transition Initiative” series, and the paper was published in *Development* and excerpted in [Common Dreams](#). Her retrospective on radical political economics, “URPE, Radical Political Economics, Social Movements, and Revolution—From Identity Politics to Solidarity Economics: Looking Backward, Looking Forward on the Occasion of URPE's Fiftieth Anniversary” was published in the *Review of Radical Political Economics*. Julie continues to serve on the board of the U.S. Solidarity Economy Network, and is looking forward to attending the World Social Forum on Transformative Economies next spring in Barcelona. Julie loves to hear from alums – former students or not – so don't hesitate to write her at [jmatthaei@wellesley.edu](mailto:jmatthaei@wellesley.edu) (she will keep the email after retiring!).

**Patrick McEwan** was on sabbatical this year. With his colleagues Kristin Butcher and Akila Weerapana, he continued to explore the determinants of college major choice and, in particular, why women's colleges are so successful at producing STEM and Economics majors. He also developed new projects on the impact of Honduran social policy on health and environmental outcomes. He continues to direct the Latin American Studies program, which has over 20 affiliated faculty across 14 departments. And, in 2019-2020, he will take over as Chair of the Economics Department from Kristin Butcher (a tough act to follow!).

**Robin McKnight** taught Introductory Microeconomics, Statistics, and an elective in health economics. She advised Sophia Zupanc's senior thesis, which showed that communication regarding care preferences between doctors, patients, and their families in an intensive care unit reduces the average length of stay in the ICU. She also advised Ling Zhou's independent study about the impact of HMO growth on health care provider salaries. Together with colleagues in the physics and environmental studies departments, she led an interdisciplinary reading group for about 15 students on the topic of renewable energy, with a particular focus on options for the College. This reading group grew out of her participation last year in a Trustee-led task force, Power4Women, which advised the College on addressing its aging cogeneration plant. More recently, Robin has joined the Board of Trustees' E2040 working group, which will advise the College on achieving its environmental goals and create an energy master plan for the campus. In addition, Robin served as the chair of the College's Faculty Research and Awards Committee this year. In the broader research community, Robin continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Society of Health Economists and was recently appointed as an Associate Editor at the *Journal of Health Economics*. This summer, Robin is looking forward to

making progress on several health-related research projects and taking a family trip to Quebec.

**Seth Neumuller** was excited to return to the classroom this spring after spending the 2018 calendar year on leave. While on leave, Seth made substantial progress on his ongoing research projects related to wealth inequality and consumer finance. In addition to teaching two sections of ECON 202 during the spring semester, Seth also gave a lunchtime lecture to the Economic Student Association on the economic importance of financial literacy. After spending part of this year on leave and part in the classroom, Seth is looking forward to returning to a normal schedule filled with teaching, research, and service during the next academic year!

**Kyung Park** enjoyed focusing on research in the past year while on sabbatical. He is happy to report that a paper with Suzanne Barth ('16) and Nikolas Mittag on the role of candidate race and ethnicity in voter choice has been accepted by the Quarterly Journal of Political Science. He has also been able to advance a few other projects along and is looking forward to their completion in the upcoming year. His daughter Yejin turned four years old and her little brother Jemin is now almost two. They are becoming quite adept at teaming up and finding new ways to wreak havoc (e.g. emptying the entire contents of the fridge onto the kitchen floor). Food storage – meh, overrated. Finally, he is very much looking forward to teaching again in the fall. On to Year 6!

**Casey Rothschild** is happy to be at the tail end of another fun – but long! – year of teaching, research, and service. Casey taught his usual suite of Wellesley courses: Micro Theory, Strategy and Information, and Contemporary Economic Issues. In addition, he moonlighted (moonlit?) at MIT, where he taught 14.01 (intro micro) in the spring. He finished up a third (and final!) year of chairing the College's Budget Advisory Committee. Casey and his family (Beth,

Adele (9), Mabel (6), and Lottie (3)) is looking forward to a summer in Madison, Wisconsin, where Casey will be visiting the Department of Risk and Insurance to teach a PhD mini-course and to work on a number of insurance-related research projects.

**Kartini Shastry** celebrated her tenth year at Wellesley College. This year, she taught three sections of Econometrics as well as her seminar on Development Economics. Kartini was delighted to advise Emily Moss '19 on her prize-winning senior honors thesis, "Why She Didn't Just Leave: The Effect of Nuisance Ordinances on Domestic Violence." On the research side, Kartini continued her work on school-based nutrition interventions to combat anemia; in addition to revising two papers on the topic, Kartini is working with Evidence Action, an NGO that supports the scaled-up implementation of research-backed programs to combat poverty, in its work with the Indian government on distributing iron and folic acid to schoolchildren. Kartini also drafted two new research papers, one evaluating the impact of financial literacy courses for domestic workers in Singapore and the second studying the long-run impact of the Green Revolution in India. Her work with Lotus Xia '18 and Olga Shurchkov '01 on gender differences in how people attribute negative feedback to luck and ability received press attention from the Boston Globe Magazine and Kartini's previous work on financial literacy received mentions in the New York Times and The Washington Post. Outside of work, Kartini's two little boys, Jai (6) and Samir (4), have helped her discover a latent love for Lego kits, melty beads and strategy games.

**Olga Shurchkov '01** had a fantastic year, juggling the typical workload in the Economics Department and the added responsibilities as the Director of the Knapp Social Science Center. In the fall, Olga had a course release and only taught her 300-level course on Behavioral Economics, but she more than made up for the lighter load in the spring, when she taught 83 students



across three sections of Principles of Macroeconomics. She also continued to teach Taekwon-Do as a part-time PE instructor, and was thrilled to promote her continuing students to green stripe in May. Directing the Knapp Social Science Center in its expanded role has been rewarding as well. This year the KSSC brought to campus high-profile speakers, such as Douglas Irwin – an expert on international trade policy hailing from Dartmouth College. The Center also introduced new programs that provide opportunities to faculty and students to collaborate on research and curricular development. On the research front, this year has been dedicated to writing papers. Olga's recent paper "Why female decision-makers shy away from promoting competition" was published in *Kyklos*, and her work with her colleague, Kartini Shastry, on gender differences in reaction to feedback has been submitted for publication. All is also well in the Shurchkov-Hencke household. Evan, who is 5 years old, is excited to start kindergarten in September, and we are all looking forward to some exciting travels coming up this summer, including Vancouver (for a conference), Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon (for an international instructor course in Taekwon-Do), Tanzania, and Bora Bora (just for fun!).

**Dan Sichel** had a terrific year. In the fall, he taught Econ 202 and his Macro Policy Seminar. In the spring, he taught a repeat of Econ 202 and, for the first time, a Calderwood public writing seminar. Dan took over the Calderwood seminar (Economic Journalism) from David Lindauer who developed the course and taught it for many years. Teaching the class was a lot of fun, and students made a ton of progress developing the skills to write about complex economic issues for a broader and non-technical audience. On the research front, Dan wrote a survey paper on Measuring Productivity that is coming out in the *Annual Review of Economics*. He also finished a paper on how to track and measure innovation that occurs within households and presented the paper at a

conference in Lisbon early in the summer. Dan continued writing for the blog EconoFact this past year, including a piece called "No Free Lunches: The Hard Arithmetic of Economics" that highlighted how key policy initiatives (such as Trump's tax cut and proposals for Medicare for All) are presented to the public in a way that ignores the invariable presence of budget constraints. Outside of Wellesley, Dan is looking forward to a New England summer of perfect weather for outdoor activities as well as workshop time to build a Stickley-esque breakfast table in walnut.

**Susan Skeath (van Mulbregt)** taught three sections of intermediate micro (Econ 201) this year and one section of her introductory game theory class (Econ 222). The Games of Strategy class was taught as a public speaking intensive course, incorporating public speaking instruction and three separate speaking assignments that all varied in length of speech and depth of research required for the presentation. Students were very receptive to the new format and Sue is planning to teach the public speaking intensive version of the course again next spring. This year, Sue served as Acting Director of the Quantitative Reasoning Program, a position she will continue to hold for at least another one or two years. She also has been working with her co-authors to bring to fruition the fifth (!) edition of the *Games of Strategy* text; the editing process has led to a new paper on "The Cuban Missile Crisis as a Dynamic Chicken Game" that will be presented by one of Sue's co-authors at two different conferences this summer. For those of you keeping track, Emily spent most of this year working with the rhino herds at The Wilds (safari park) in Ohio and is heading to Audubon Zoo in New Orleans for a summer with their primate collection. Pierce just (literally) graduated from Dickinson College with a major in Physics and a minor in Chemistry; he is headed back to Pasadena for a second summer in the Planetary Ices group at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab and will be

working and applying to graduate programs in chemistry next year.

**Corri Taylor** and three other women from Greater Boston are the subject of a 45-minute documentary. "Living," due out this summer, chronicles their lives with Metastatic Breast Cancer. Corri was diagnosed with the disease in June of 2015, and thanks to excellent treatments, is doing very well four years later. Academic year 2017/18 was her last year teaching in the classroom, but she continues to be an active member of the College community in other ways, including sharing her mixed media art. She recently donated two 24" x 36" paintings to Clapp Library for the QR Program and the Writing Program. Another of her works hangs in the living room of the Women's & Gender Studies Program (see below.)



**Ann Velenchik** is finishing her fourth year in the Dean's office, where she has been on a mission to incorporate more economic reasoning into College decision-making. She still misses teaching. It's a busy spring in her house: Becca (18) graduates HS and heads off to Pomona College in the fall. Nate (22) is finishing a senior thesis at Northwestern, under the supervision of Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, '95, before returning to Boston to take up a job at Analysis Group.

**Akila Weerapana** completed his stint at the PLTC and returned to teaching in Econ

this year. He enjoyed being back with his students and colleagues this year but he is looking forward to being on sabbatical next year for the first time since 2003! He hopes that this will be a year of productive leave.

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## FACULTY EMERITI

**Ann Dryden Witte** has had a good year. Ann continues to run a financial and economic consulting firm ([ADW Consultants, LLC](#)) that provides financial advice & financial education. On the personal front, Ann's grandson Basil is now eight and his little brother, Cyril, is a four. They live in [Aix-en-Provence](#). Ann is an active member of Wellesley Alums' Vero Beach Book Club and on the Board of both her condominium ([The Victoria](#)) and the [Melbourne Chamber Music Society](#). A book highlight was [Pachinko](#) and a music highlight [O Superman](#). Ann keeps up with many alums and would enjoy hearing from you.

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## ALUMNAE NEWS

**Tasneem Chipty '89** served as chief economist on the [Apple/Qualcomm lawsuit](#) which settled in April.

**Dee Dee Chen '03** welcomed beautiful new son George.

**Sarita Frattaroli '05** has been working on consumer finance policy at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, including working as a regulatory attorney on payday lending and payments issues. "It's been a great way to utilize my economics background and commitment to social justice," she writes.

**Sara Hess '08** was accepted into the UN Young Professional program and is stationed in Mexico City working for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

**Lauren Hurwitz '08** is the mother of Balthazar Isaac de Mierry, born this past January. Lauren works in London for Palantir Technologies.

**Priyanka Ramamurthy '08** and David Kelley are the parents of Lalitha Kelley, born this past March.

**Annie Zhou '09** lives in New York, She works for the International Rescue Committee, and has traveled to Nigeria, Uganda, Thailand, South Sudan, Kenya, and Ethiopia for work.

**Angela Gu '13** will enter UC San Diego's Economics PhD program this fall.

**Ljubica Ristovska '13** is currently pursuing a PhD in Economics at Harvard University.

**Lois Taylor-Kamara '13** is in the final semester of her MPA at NYU Wagner, working with a nonprofit that provides employment services to formerly incarcerated individuals across the US.

**Tijana Trkulja '13** is in her third year at McKinsey working on their Women in the Workplace project.

**Lena Cardoso '14** earned an MPP from Duke University and is starting a new job at Deloitte in the Government and Public Services practice.

**Cicia Lee '14** worked for two years as a faith-based organizer in Massachusetts after graduating; one of her campaigns won earned sick time for 600,000 workers in Massachusetts. Since then, she had been Training Director for Momentum, a progressive training institute and social movement incubator.

**Kate Lonergan '14** is starting an MBA at Cornell University.

**Emma Rackstraw '14** has received the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. She will enter the PhD program in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School in the fall.

**Michelle Surka '14** will be pursuing a Masters in Public Affairs, with a focus on social and economic policy, at the University of Texas in Austin this fall. Michelle worked for 4 years with the U.S.-Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) during which she focused on federal and state tax and budget issues, and released 7 public policy reports.

**Neha Doshi '15** will enter MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning MA program in the fall.

**Isabella Dougherty '15** is pursuing an MBA at Haas Business School at UC-Berkeley.

**Allison Leow '15** is the program manager of the Government Practice team at BlueLabs in Washington, D.C.

**Micah Villarreal '15** has received the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. She will use it to pursue a PhD in Economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara after a semester traveling around Mexico.

**Hui Li '16** is starting a Ph.D. program in biostatistics at Harvard University.

**Nhung Le '16** is enrolled in the master's degree program in data science at NYU.

**Mairead McAuliffe '16** is heading towards her third and final year at NYU School of Law where she is the Senior Notes Editor on the Journal of Law and Business and a mentor in Law Women's High School Mentoring program. Last summer she was a legal associate at Apollo Global Management and this summer she will be a

summer corporate associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore.

**Amy Wickett '16** is currently pursuing a PhD in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School.

**Francesca Guiso '17** is working as a Research Associate at Harvard Business School. She will be starting an MS in Data Science at New York University's Center for Data Science in the fall.

**Leigh Hunt '17** is a Research Associate at Harvard Business School.

**Vivien Lee '17** will be leaving her position at the Brookings Institution to enter Columbia Law School next fall.

**Mingfei Li '17** will enter the Management Science & Engineering program at Columbia University this fall.

**Kelsey Moran '17** has received the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. She will begin a PhD in Economics at MIT in the fall following two years as Research Assistant at the Federal Reserve Board.

**Heather Orta '17** enjoys her work at Microsoft as well as life in Seattle.

**Leah Plachinski '17** is starting law school at Stanford University.

**Victoria Angelova '18** is currently working as a Research Assistant at Princeton University.

**Sarah Nzau '18** is a Research Assistant at the Brookings Institution, where she works on issues related to middle-class America.