Conference Leader Biographies

**Katy Allamong '11**, B.A. in political science, also earned the Batten Leadership Certificate. In 2013 she received an M.A. in urban education/policy and administration from Loyola Marymount University. She began her career as a Los Angeles Corps member through Teach for America and taught high school math at Opportunities for Learning in Hawthorne. She then became a curriculum specialist and in 2014 joined the school’s out-of-state implementation team as the professional development coach for Pathways in Education. Katy is chair of the Los Angeles alumnae chapter. She is the social chair of the Dog Haus Running Club in Pasadena and is involved with the Pasadena Pacers run club. As an avid hiker and runner, she loves finding new social groups while traveling.

**Lauren Bakst '11**, B.F.A./B.A. in dance and gender and women’s studies, is an artist whose work takes the forms of choreography, performance, video, and writing. Her performances have been presented throughout New York City in venues such as Pioneer Works, Danspace Project, and Abrons Art Center. Lauren was a 2014 danceWEB fellow at ImpulsTanz in Vienna, the fall 2014 research and development fellow at the New Museum, and is a 2014-16 open sessions artist at the Drawing Center. Lauren is the managing editor of the movement research performance journal and a contributing editor to *BOMB* magazine. She curates Knowing Dance More, an artist-driven lecture series at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Lauren lives in Brooklyn with her husband, Parker Gard ’07, and their dog, Finley.

**Kitty J. Boitnott M.A.L.S. ’87** earned her Hollins degree while working for Roanoke County Public Schools. She received a B.A. from Longwood, an Ed.S. from UVA, and a Ph.D. from VCU. She is the founder and owner of Boitnott Coaching, LLC, a professional coaching company dedicated to offering career transition and development advice. She is also an independent coach consultant with CareerHMO and a regular contributor to CareerHMO’s sister site, Careerealism, a leading career advice site with more than a million monthly readers. Kitty routinely speaks about stress management for busy professionals and the importance of creating work-life balance in today’s busy, information-overloaded world.

Sculptor **Betty Branch ’79, M.A.L.S. ’87** studied studio art at Hollins. Proficient in both painting and sculpture, Betty studied in Greece, Italy, and the Bahamas, reinforcing her skills in language, art history, and technique. Her interdisciplinary research on the image of women in Ancient Greece earned her a citation report from Hollins, and she was the only American exhibitor invited to the 1990 Salon International de la Sculpture Contemporaine in Paris. Over a 30-year period, Betty has focused on the female form and defined female rites of passage. She works out of her studio and gallery in downtown Roanoke, where she meets with clients and for private appointment tours. Her works, from small to monumental, are in many private, corporate, university, and museum collections across the United States and abroad. Her works can be viewed at www.bettybranch.com.
Punky Pamela Brick ’93, B.A. in Spanish (concentration in international relations), minor in economics, has spent her career at Wells Fargo and its predecessor companies in a variety of roles within enterprise marketing, retirement services, treasury management, and wholesale banking. She is a vice president and fraud product manager in the wholesale Internet solutions division. She served as her class reunion cochair (2008 and 2013) and participates in the Charlotte alumnae chapter. Punky is active in several tennis leagues, travels, and enjoys spending time with friends and family.

Brianna Beckstrand ’10, B.A. in sociology (summa cum laude; class of 2010 valedictorian), with concentrations in social work and social policy. After graduation, she got married and worked as the director of resource development for her local United Way chapter. Currently, she is the chief of development and external affairs officer for Sass & Science, Inc., based in Annapolis, Maryland. Brianna believes it is imperative to help young women realize their worth and potential in pursuing STEM degrees and careers. In her spare time, she is active in MOPS (Moms of Preschoolers) and raising her two daughters. She loves fitness, meal prepping, and running half-marathons.

Diane Brookreson ’00, double major in art history and religious studies, earned an M.A. in art history from American University. Diane is a human resources professional with 10 years’ progressive experience, including five years of employee benefits specialization. Her first job after graduation was as a recruiting assistant with the World Wildlife Fund. Since 2008, she has worked for Discovery Communications, currently serving as the benefits manager.

Helena Brown ’12, B.A. in music, received an M.M. in music performance from Manhattan School of Music. Her career is largely focused on operatic performance. She recently made her European debut as Serena and Strawberry Woman in *Porgy and Bess* with New York Harlem Productions, appearing in theatres such as Grand Théâtre de Genève, Chassé Theater, and Amsterdam RAI. In past seasons, she has performed with Chautauqua Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Bronx Opera, and others. In addition to operatic performances, Helena premiered new works/compositions such as *Feast* by Rebecca Erin Smith. She was a finalist in Opera Ebony’s Benjamin Matthews Competition and an alternate winner in the Eisenberg-Fried Concerto Competition. When not performing, Helena teaches privately and offers her budding expertise in administration/development to nonprofit organizations.

Jennifer Camden ’99, B.A. in English and theatre (summa cum laude), completed her Ph.D. at Ohio State University in 2005. She is an associate professor of English, assistant chair of the department, and director of the M.A. in English at the University of Indianapolis. Her research focuses on 19th-century British literature; she is especially interested in women writers, national identity, and the Gothic. Her book, *Secondary Heroines in the Nineteenth-Century British and American Novel*, was published by Ashgate in 2010. She has two wonderful children, Emma (3) and Edward “Teddy” (1), and is a little obsessed with smelly French cheeses and well-aged wines. She runs several miles each morning to compensate for the cheese and wine.
Blanche Capel '68, B.A. in English literature and art history, received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1989. Following her postdoctoral research in London, she established her own research laboratory in the department of cell biology at Duke University, where she investigates vertebrate sex determination. Blanche is an editor of Developmental Biology and Science. She has served on the boards of the Society for the Study of Reproduction and the Jackson Laboratory. She is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a representative to FASEB. She is currently president-elect of the Society for Developmental Biology. She is the mother of two and an avid cook.

Macy Anne Carman '13, B.A. in environmental studies, also earned a Certificate in Leadership Studies. She earned her M.P.A. in environmental science and policy at Columbia University. Macy Anne works in communication and development at the Southern Environmental Law Center in Charlottesville. She is very involved in the equestrian world and serves as a board member for the United States Pony Club. She is also an eventer and coach. She spends her free time taking photographs, running, cycling, or cross-country skiing.

Courtney F. Chenette '09 proudly employs her Gender & Women Studies major daily. She is currently a litigation attorney at Morris Duffy Alonso & Faley in Manhattan. Her legal experience ranges from high-profile municipal liability, civil rights, and constitutional claims – including police shooting deaths – to employment discrimination cases and federal class actions. She crafted several actions on behalf of same sex spouses and their children denied equal access to health insurance by Catholic hospital systems in New York State. In addition, Ms. Chenette’s practice also includes incorporating nonprofits and consoling schools on issues relating to Federal compliance and policies, particularly anti-discrimination laws and Title IX. She is a frequent lecturer in her practice areas. While at Hollins she and her GWS peers started the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) chapter; she was a counselor and Chair of the Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CASA), a Student Success Leader, and Phi Beta Kappa.

Tehra Coles '05 (political science), M.A.L.S. ’06 received her J.D. from Albany Law School in 2009. During her time at Hollins she participated in student government, residence life, and the Black Student Alliance. During law school, Tehra worked as a clinical extern at the Albany County Public Defender’s Office in criminal court, a law clerk at the New York State Defender’s Association, and as a judicial intern in the New York Supreme Court. After law school, she joined the Albany County Public Defender’s office as an assistant public defender. In February 2011, she became a staff attorney for the Center for Family Representation, where she represents parents in child neglect and abuse cases and other family court matters. She is a mother of one little girl and lives in Queens, N.Y.

Taylor Cook '04, B.A. in economics and political science, received her M.A. in economics and an M.P.A. from the University of Montana in 2008. She moved to Austin
to pursue a career in health-care policy and volunteered at farms and farmers markets to learn more about local agriculture and sustainable healthy food. Working in the office of the governor and then the Texas Health and Human Services Commission gave Taylor the opportunity to write grants, develop new programs, manage federal funds, and earn credentials as a project management professional. She continued her volunteer work and became a member of the Austin Food Bloggers Alliance, while completing a graduate certificate in public health from the University of North Texas. In 2013 her interests and skills converged in Farmshare Austin, a 501c3 dedicated to supporting new organic farmers and improving food access in Central Texas. Taylor is the executive director of Farmshare Austin and a health-care policy consultant.

Meredith Crowley ’94, B.A. in English, received her M.S. in philanthropy and media from Suffolk University’s Sawyer School of Management in 2002. Meredith began her film and television career as an editor of documentaries and television. She is currently a location manager and scout with credits on such films as Martin Scorcese’s Revenge of the Green Dragons; Rabbit Hole, produced by and starring Nicole Kidman; Friends With Kids; and Definitely, Maybe. Meredith has also worked on several television series, including HBO’s The Leftovers, Rescue Me on FX, and ABC’s Forever. Her most recent work is the upcoming film Wiener-Dog, written and directed by Todd Solondz. Between projects, Meredith volunteers with nonprofit organizations, creating documentaries to help further their mission. She has made trips to South Africa to produce films highlighting NGOs that serve children in Durban, Kimberly, and Cape Town. She lives in Brooklyn.

AnnaBeth M. Fish ’12, B.A. in communication studies, received her M.A. in organizational communication from Ball State University’s Letterman College of Communication in 2014. While in graduate school, AnnaBeth had a full assistantship, which included teaching a full course load of undergraduate classes in public speaking, senior seminar, and the comm seminar for newly declared majors. During her time as a graduate student, AnnaBeth presented papers at several regional and national conferences and completed a thesis on women in the military. She is now the executive assistant for the CEO of Affinity Apparel, one of the premier uniform companies in the country, whose clients include Delta, Toyota, and Virgin Airlines. AnnaBeth has served as 2012 class secretary since graduating from Hollins. She lives in Dayton, Ohio, with her fiancé, Matt, and their two dogs.

Heather Fitzenhagen ’95, B.A. in political science, received her J.D. from Nova Southeastern University Law School, where she was a member of Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity and associate editor of Nova Law Review. She is an experienced attorney, mediator, business owner, corporate manager, philanthropist, and community leader. She is the current State of Florida House Representative, District 78. Her mission is to support the growth and development of her district and the state. She is passionate about protecting the natural environment for the enjoyment of all Floridians and future generations. She supports the PACE Center for Girls, Fort Myers Women’s Community Council, Lee County Association of Women Lawyers, Tiger Bay Club, American Heart Association’s Circle of Red and Executive Leadership Tem, American Red Cross, Hope
Hospice, and Hollins University Alumnae Board. She enjoys the outdoors and being active with family and her two children, Zan and Olivia.

**Kathryn “Kate” E. Fort ’99**, B.A. in history, is the staff attorney for the Indigenous Law and Policy Center at Michigan State University College of Law, where she earned her J.D. She teaches an experiential learning class and traditional classes in federal Indian law, researches and writes on behalf of center clients, and manages administrative aspects of the center. Kate has written articles on laches and land claims, and has researched and written extensively on the Indian Child Welfare Act, with articles in the *George Mason Law Review*, *Saint Louis University Law Journal*, and *American Indian Law Review*. She co-edited *Facing the Future: The Indian Child Welfare Act at 30* and is currently writing the casebook *American Indian Children and the Law*. Before law school, she worked for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Democratic National Campaign Committee, and National Association of Letter Carriers. She and her family live in East Lansing, Michigan.

**Anna Brantley Fry ’95**, B.A. in sociology, received her J.D. from Vermont Law School in 2000. Brantley has 15 years’ experience providing leadership, management, and legal counsel to individuals, corporations, local governments, and federal agencies with a focus on environmental law and policy. Her career includes work on the Tennessee Valley Authority coal ash spill litigation and the BP oil spill litigation. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Brantley returned home in 2004 and is active in the community. She serves as chair of the board of trustees for the Altamont School, is immediate past cochair of the Smart Party 3.0 Planning Committee benefitting the Women’s Fund of Greater Birmingham, and is active in the parish at St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands Episcopal Church. Brantley and her husband, John Wilson, have a 12-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son.

**Alexia "Lexie" Arnett Gerczak ’00**, B.A. in psychology, minor in sociology, received her M.S.W. from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2003. She has spent most of her career working with children, adolescents, and families. She worked for nine years in the community mental health arena at Henrico Mental Health, first as a case manager and then as a clinician. When she got her LCSW in 2007, she began working part time at Dominion Behavioral Healthcare, a private practice. When her son was born in 2013, she left the community mental health arena and has been working solely in private practice with children, adolescents, families, and young adults. Lexie was a cochair of the Richmond alumnai chapter from 2006 to 2012. She is a member of PEO, a philanthropic organization that promotes women’s education. She is married and has a son; she likes to run, read, and spend time with friends.

**Leigh Ann Wood Gillis ’97**, B.A. in political science and economics, is founder and principal of the LAWGroup, Inc., a political consulting firm specializing in fundraising center-right candidates, committees, and causes. Named by *Campaign and Politics* magazine as one of the 50 most influential Republicans in Georgia, Leigh Ann has worked with clients at all levels of elected office. Over the last 14 years, her clients have included Governor Sonny Perdue, John McCain for President, U.S. Senator Saxby
Chambliss, as well as all major national committees. She served as director of executive appointments in the office of Governor Sonny Perdue. In 2008, she served as a presidential elector in Georgia. She and her husband live in Atlanta and have two elementary-aged children. She is an active volunteer at Pace Academy and Northside Methodist Church. She enjoys cooking, reading, and needlepoint.

Keslie Gonzales ’13, B.A. in business and Spanish, serves as a human resources representative for two hospitals, CHI St. Luke’s Health—The Woodlands Hospital and Lakeside Hospital in The Woodlands, TX, north of Houston. She has been an integral part of a two-year integration process and creating new standardized operating processes for the organization as a whole. She helped found an employee activities and events committee, which she now leads. While at Hollins, Keslie took advantage of the competitive J-Term internship program and completed two internships with UBS Financial Services and Wingo, Inc., in New York City. This past summer, she chaired the class of 2013’s two-year reunion. Keslie loves donating her time to charities as well as helping the hospital give back to the community.

Lucia Del Vecchio Gray ’98, B.A. in theatre, received her M.F.A. in theatre/playwriting from the University of Texas at Austin in 2002. In 2010 she helped launch the Magnetic Theatre, a nonprofit company devoted exclusively to new works for the stage, in Asheville, North Carolina. Four of her plays have received world premieres with the Magnetic, most recently in October of 2015 in the company’s newly opened performing space in Asheville’s River Arts District. She also acts and directs with the company and is the managing and associate artistic director. She lives with her husband and son in Asheville and is an avid home cook and excessive reader in her limited spare time.

Lindsay Little Gray ’08, B.A. in religious studies, minors in English and mathematics, developed a passion for writing and editing through her work as a peer writing tutor at Hollins. In 2012, after receiving her Master of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School, she joined the staff of The Upper Room. In her work as editorial director of magazines, she particularly enjoys collaborating with editors and writers to produce high-quality magazines for people of all ages who are seeking a closer relationship with God. As an editor, Lindsay particularly enjoys helping writers share their personal experiences through clear and relatable writing. Lindsay lives in Nashville with her husband, Dawson. Her hobbies include horseback riding, yoga, knitting, and playing board games.

Tiffany Price Gutshall ’05, M.A.L.S. ’08 joined the career development center at the University of Virginia Darden School of Business in September 2009. There she serves as an employer relations manager. Her primary focus is to develop and manage strong relationships with corporate recruiters from a variety of industries to expand employment opportunities for Darden students. She drives business development efforts to attract prospective companies to recruit at Darden by establishing connections with relevant company stakeholders, assessing recruiting needs, and positioning Darden as an optimal solution. In addition, she serves as the Darden lead in planning and executing multischool M.B.A. interview forums throughout the United States. Before
joining Darden, she was employed with Valley Bank, Guynn & Waddell PC, and Moseley Real Estate Schools, all located in Roanoke.

**Kaitlin Corinne Heath ’13**, B.A. in theatre, completed her first year of AmeriCorps service with YWCA Columbus as an aftercare specialist in a shelter that temporarily houses families experiencing homelessness in Columbus, Ohio. She completed her second year of AmeriCorps service with VCU AmeriCorps as a team leader in Richmond Public Schools, tutoring and mentoring K-3 students. She is currently enrolled at the American Institute of Healing Therapies in the massage therapy program.

**Kristin Jeffries Henshaw ’94**, B.A. in political science and economics, worked for two years as a recruiter in the Hollins admission office. She then moved to Richmond and has spent much of her career in benefits consulting. She is currently a principal at Mercer and works with clients on a variety of health and welfare benefits projects. Kristin has been a member of the Richmond alumnae chapter since moving to the area and has served as the chapter's alumnae admission representative (AAR). She has also served as class reporter, and since 2004 as her class's Hollins Fund cochair and reunion gift cochair. Kristin serves on the Central Virginia Board of the March of Dimes and is a member of the Leadership Metro Richmond class of 2014. She is the mother of two girls and looks forward to both of them attending Hollins.

**Antoinette Hillian '00**, B.A. in biology, minor in mathematics, received her Ph.D. (2009) in genetics from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Her dissertation focused on identifying functional genetic modifiers of cystic fibrosis pulmonary disease. She completed a three-year postdoctoral research fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute, studying the contribution of inflammatory pathways to the development of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. For the next two years, she worked at University Hospitals in the field of health policy, coordinating projects aimed at improving health care for children on Medicaid, and coordinating a clinical/research internship program for underrepresented students. In August, she started on a new career path as a clinical research specialist, which involves coordinating bone marrow transplant research trials. Outside of work, Antoinette remains involved with Hollins, volunteers with a local tutoring program, and makes stained-glass art.

**Bevin Valentine Jalbert '03**, B.A. in art history, received an M.F.A. in photography from Savannah College of Art and Design. She went on to found *Paprika Southern* in 2013, a magazine for art and style with a southern twist. As coeditor, she has developed a consistent brand and vision for *Paprika Southern*, as well as coordinating and styling photo shoots, conducting interviews and editing articles, and crafting the aesthetic and layout of the magazine. She also teaches photography and visual art at Armstrong State University and does freelance graphic design work. She lives in Savannah, Georgia, with her husband and cat.

**Sarah Jefferis ’95** (English), **M.A. ’96** (English) received an M.F.A. in poetry from Cornell University and a Ph.D. from SUNY Binghamton. She published her first book of

**Susan Woods Jennings ’73**, B.A. in art history, has more than 20 years of experience in arts administration, 14 of which she spent as executive director of the Arts Council of the Blue Ridge. She currently implements the City of Roanoke’s Percent for Art program and serves as staff to the Roanoke Arts Commission. She guides the implementation of the city’s arts and cultural plan and coordinates the city’s grant process in support of the arts and cultural organizations. She served a term as president of the Virginians for the Arts Foundation and is on the Carilion Healing Arts Advisory Committee and the President’s Advisory Council at Hollins. She received the Kendig Award for Outstanding Support of the Arts, Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau Tourism Ambassador Award, Chairman’s Award from Downtown Roanoke, Inc., and the Betsy Green Grubbs ’72 Award from Hollins. She is the mother of three children and has four grandchildren.

**Hannah Savino Koca ’07**, B.A. in English. Hannah’s senior thesis, a manuscript that became her first novel, won the Hollins fiction prize. Starting in the nonprofit world, she landed a job as a creative writer, then did a 180 into finance. Once established in her financial services career, she continued writing and has since self-published four novels under her own imprint, Silverwood Press. She lives in Richmond with her husband and her pet tree, Ives.

The Rev. **Ellen Kohn-Perry ’01**, B.A. in English, is a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, New Jersey. She earned her M.Div. from Drew Theological School in 2012. She worked in the computer and software industry for many years before entering the ordination process. During her training, she served as a chaplain and worked at several churches in the Diocese of Newark. Ellen now serves as the priest in charge at Christ Episcopal Church in Budd Lake, New Jersey. She is the president of the board of trustees of North Porch Women and Infants’ Centers, a nonprofit organization that provides emergency baby supplies to mothers with young children, and is a patient educator for the Pathways Women’s Cancer Teaching Project. Ellen lives in Morristown, New Jersey, with her husband, Duane, and 11-year-old son, Trystan.

**Evelyn Julia “Judy” Lambeth ’73** received a J.D. from Wake Forest University School of Law in 1977. Her legal career has included a wide range of assignments in corporate, commercial, environmental, and international law and litigation. Judy began her career with the DuPont Company in 1977, becoming assistant general counsel of its energy subsidiary, Conoco, in 1992. From 1997 to 2001, she served as an assistant general
counsel and managing director for DuPont Asia Pacific, residing in Hong Kong. In 2001, she rejoined Conoco, Inc. (and subsequently ConocoPhillips), as deputy general counsel and corporate secretary. In 2006, Judy moved to Reynolds American, Inc., where she served as executive vice president and general counsel until her retirement in 2010. Judy is currently the chair of the Hollins Board of Trustees.

**Erin Lavender-Stott ’10**, B.A. in psychology, earned her M.A. in psychology from University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She is currently working toward her Ph.D. in human development, with a concentration in family studies at Virginia Tech. Her research focuses on couples and families, with a particular focus on sexual minority couples and families. In addition to her research, she also regularly teaches large online courses in human sexuality and child development at Virginia Tech. She has provided service and leadership in student governance at each institution.

**Dr. Courtney S. Legum-Wenk ’03**, B.A. in biology, minor in gender and women’s studies, obtained her M.A. in bioethics from the University of Virginia in 2004 before proceeding to the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, where she received her D.O. in 2008. In 2012, she completed her obstetrics and gynecology residency training at Memorial Health Medical Center, through Mercer University in Savannah, Georgia. She obtained her board certification through the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is currently in private practice at Commonwealth OB/GYN Specialists in Richmond. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Andrew, and their two dogs.

**Elizabeth Liendo ’13**, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies (comparative literature), is a third-year student at Pennsylvania State University, pursuing a doctorate in comparative literature. Her languages include French, Italian, and basic Spanish/Latin. Elizabeth specializes in medieval literature, and in particular, sadomasochistic desire and queer fantasy from 1250 to 1550. As well as earning her M.A. in 2015, her professional experience includes a year as editorial assistant at the *Comparative Literature Studies Journal*, and a year teaching rhetoric and composition at Penn State. She serves as the graduate representative to the comparative literature department, and she is currently putting the finishing touches on an article about nakedness and male grief in Chaucer’s *Book of the Duchess*. She recently married a fellow Roanoker, and together they own three rats, a cat, and a puppy.

**Joy Liuzzo ’98**, B.A. in psychology, is a polymath with an eclectic 16-year career in marketing, product management, sales, analytics, and research. She attended Old Dominion University for her M.S. in psychology. Faced with paying rent or finishing her degree, she started working as an analyst for Ferguson Enterprises. While not the most exciting job, this started her down the analytics and research trajectory where she could apply her knowledge of data and psychology. She continued to tap into her education as she moved into product management, marketing, and sales roles at such companies as AOL, Amazon, and InsightExpress. A serial entrepreneur who launched her first business when she was 19, Joy leads Wave Collapse, a consulting team, and runs an apparel design company as well, which stretches all her product and marketing muscles. She’s also a quantum physics enthusiast and gamer.
Kismet Loftin-Bell '03, M.A.L.S. '04, B.A. in political science, is a political science professor at Forsyth Technical Community College and Surry Community College and a strategic consultant. Kismet earned a Master of Studies in Law with a concentration in civil rights/social justice from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2005. Her career in social justice began when she worked for the University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Minority Health. After returning to North Carolina to care for her son, Kenan, she continued her career in health equity, community engagement, and program management. She has worked with leaders from more than 200 local community agencies to develop strategies to address community issues. As the president of the Winston-Salem Urban League Young Professionals, Kismet led efforts to engage young professionals in community service and professional development, while supporting the Winston-Salem Urban League and the National Urban League.

Lynn Martenstein ‘74, B.A. in English, later obtained an M.B.A. in marketing from American University. Since then, Lynn has led corporate communications efforts for several major international corporations, primarily in the travel and tourism industry, where she has helped companies communicate their brands and business more compellingly—and less “corporately.” Lynn is vice president of corporate communications for All Aboard Florida, an express-passenger rail service that, when completed in 2017, will connect Central and South Florida. Previously, Lynn served as senior vice president and managing director for Golin Harris, one of the top-10 PR agencies in the U.S., where she started the firm’s travel practice. Earlier, she served as vice president of corporate communications for Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. and vice president of corporate communications for United Airlines. Lynn also consults and writes regularly for two lifestyle magazines. Lynn and her husband, Jorg Pawlik, live in Miami and Cape May, N.J.

Preston Martin-Lyon '03, B.A. in sociology, received her M.S. in sociology from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2005. She also holds a certificate in nonprofit management from VCU. She has spent her career in the nonprofit sector and is currently the program analyst for ChildSavers in Richmond. She previously worked as an adjunct professor for Bryant and Stratton College and the L. Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at VCU. She spends her free time with her husband and two children, perfecting their cosplay.

Taylor Alyssa Marun ‘09, B.A. in theatre, received her M.F.A. in stage management from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2011. She then moved back to New York, where she has been freelancing ever since. Off Broadway stage management credits include Iron Curtain, Working (Drama Desk nomination), Tamar of the River, The Underclassman (Prospect Theater Company); Film Chinois, Sayonara (Pan Asian Repertory Theatre); New York Times Critic’s Pick rogerandtom (Personal Space Theatrics); The Correspondent, and James Franco’s New York theatre directing debut The Long Shrift (Rattlestick Playwright’s Theatre). Other credits include Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Actors Theatre, and numerous readings and showcases. Taylor is a member of Actors’ Equity Association.
Lorrie Grace McCann '06, double major in English (concentration in creative writing) and film and photography, took a position after graduation in advertising and marketing with St. Martin's Press. She later moved to the editorial department of Thomas Dunne Books, where she worked on fiction and nonfiction titles, including several New York Times bestsellers. She left trade publishing full time in 2009 to work in TV production for MTV, Web production for Girls Scouts of the USA, and publications for Jacobs Engineering. She now works in email marketing for Royall & Company in Richmond. Her first novel, The Other Side of Gemini, was published in 2014. She still works as a freelance copy editor for fiction and nonfiction titles and professional articles. In her free time, Lorrie is working on her next novel and is a founding member of the nonprofit Village Structures International.

Shaun McCracken '99, B.A. in theatre and earned her M.F.A. in theatre pedagogy (with a dual focus in dramaturgy and theatre history) from VCU. She teaches theatre history (specialization in Irish drama) and Intro to Drama at VCU, and serves as the academic advisor for all theatre students. Shaun has done pre-publication editing for articles published both nationally and internationally. As a professional dramaturg, she has worked with a wide variety of artists. Shaun served as a research associate for Lynn M. Thomson (Rent) on her workshop production of the musical adaption of the Wilkie Collins novel, The Woman in White at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center. Most recently, she directed Frank McGuinness' Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme and Brian Friel's Translations at the Shafer Street Playhouse. She was the new play and production dramaturg for David Toney's Frankenstein: Dawn of a Monster. Shaun and David Toney are currently working on the upcoming Sad Christmas.

Cortney Phillips Meriwether '09, B.A. in English (concentration in creative writing), earned her M.F.A in creative writing (fiction) from North Carolina State University. Cortney works as a full-time freelance writer specializing in content marketing and continues to write fiction in her spare time. She lives with her husband, Jack, and their dog, Samson.

Sarah Mirseyedi '11, B.A. in art history, French minor, received her M.A. in art history from Williams College in 2013. She is currently a doctoral student in art history at Harvard University, where her research focuses on issues of materiality, mass media, globalization, and travel in 19th-century European and American art and visual culture. While at Williams, she was awarded the Clark Graduate Summer Fellowship prize for her qualifying paper, which explored a group of paintings the artist John Singer Sargent produced during a trip to Morocco and their relationship to travel photography. Before attending Harvard, she served as visiting lecturer in art at Williams College from 2013 to 2014, where she taught sections for a broad survey course of Western art.

An Online Artifact, and New York Quarterly. For her poem “Troublesome Creek” she received the 2012 Golden Nib award from the Virginia Writers Association. She was a finalist for the Hollins Lex Allen Literary Award in poetry 2006, 2007, and 2008. She presented a critical paper and poetry in 2008 at the First Annual Poetry Symposium at VMI, and was a Tennessee Williams Scholar at Sewanee in 2010. She received a scholarship for Aspen Summer Words 2014.

Rachel Nelson ’07 graduated from Hollins with a double major in theatre and English. She recently finished her M.F.A in intermediate studies at the University of Maine. After graduating from Hollins, Rachel worked as a writer, performer, and theatre maker at various theatres in Minneapolis. She is the founder of the performance art think tank APORIA and is a current artistic member of the theater company Savage Umbrella. Her plays have been produced at more than 15 theatres in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Portland, New Orleans, Salt Lake City, and Roanoke. She was featured on KFAI in Minneapolis as a “best new playwright” for the Queer Fruit Series, and her work was recently highlighted in BOMB magazine’s online series. Rachel is the founding director of The Artistic Home, a theatre company comprised of Hollins alumnae/i, and is the theatre department’s artist-in-residence for the Fall 2015 semester.

Bethany O’Neil ’13, double major in communication studies and gender and women’s studies, interned at Estée Lauder and jesGORDON/proper FUN. She was also an active member of HOP, HAB, ADA, and SGA, and was awarded the Annie Terrill Bushnell Award at commencement. Currently living in Portland, Maine, Bethany serves as both a corporate event planner with the Black Tie Company and as an automated logistics specialist for the U.S. Army. In January 2015, she began working toward her wedding and event coordination certificate at New York Institute of Art and Design.

Lisa Marie O’Quinn ’07, B.A. in studio art (concentration in photography), received an M.A. in commercial photography at Savannah College of Art and Design in 2008. She has a keen interest in the tangible and fine arts during a time in which digitally mass-produced and highly distorted images are in abundance. She has been recognized nationally and internationally for her minimalistic style, organic process, and passion for creating light-filled romantic images. Lisa Marie’s fine art background influenced her to start shooting with medium-format cameras at weddings, which has completely transformed her business. The owner of Sweet Tea Photography in Washington, D.C., she has photographed over 135 weddings over the past nine years and continues to love her career. Lisa Marie is also the cochair of the D.C. alumnae chapter.

L. Sage Otto ’13, B.A. in environmental studies and a minor in communications. Through her time at Hollins, Sage was heavily involved with both the Hollins Outdoor Program, where she served as a trip leader, and the Varsity Swimming program, leading as Captain for three of her four years in competition. Sage joined the Virginia National Guard in the spring of her senior year. She was commissioned as an engineering officer in August will six of the colder months to follow at Fort Leonard Wood, MO in order to complete her training. On the civilian side, Sage works with the Roanoke County Parks, Recreation and Tourism as a Program Support Specialist,
facilitating adventure programming throughout the county, from rock climbing to white water kayaking, teaching orienteering, environmental education, and the joy of learning through play.

Nicole D. Oxendine ’03, B.A. in psychology and dance, received her M.A. in dance/movement therapy from Columbia College Chicago in 2012. She is the dance teacher at Hillside High School. Her passion for dance, spanning 18 years, has inspired her to dedicate her life to teaching and mentoring children and teenagers. She has worked as program coordinator for A Long Walk Home, a program that uses arts to advocate against sexual violence; seasonal staff member for the American Dance Festival; and principal dancer for Bellan Contemporary Dance Theater. In her spare time she coordinates fundraising events for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Durham. In 2014, she was named Spectacular Magazine’s Woman of the Year in the category of Emerging Leader. She is also a board member at the Carolina Theater of Durham. This year, Nicole is excited to announce the opening of her own dance studio, Empower Dance.

Sara Pena ’11, B.S. in mathematics, has worked with the San Antonio Spurs front office as an assistant in sponsorship sales. Currently she is recruiter for the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas, and enjoys contributing to the community through the Girl Scout program. She also spends some of her time working at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts box office, and likes that she can still have a hand in the entertainment industry. Sara completed the Austin Marathon in 2013, and enjoys running on the weekends with friends and family.

While earning her B.A. in English, Amber Rambharose ’13 completed internships in the editorial, features, and Web departments of Cosmopolitan, Elle, Marie Claire, and Teen Vogue magazines. She is currently the associate editor and social media manager at xoJane.com, where she writes, designs, and shoots original content for the site, manages syndication partnerships, and edits articles. She has held positions as a freelance graphic designer, blogger, and assistant creative director for 10 MGMT and Rachel Hanel Photography in Chicago. Outside of the fashion industry, Amber also writes creatively and is an assistant editor at YesYes Books, an independent poetry press. Her work has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and Best New Poets and has been featured in Rattle, Linebreak, Tupelo Quarterly, PANK, and elsewhere.

Patricia “Trisha” Peace Rawls ’74, B.A. in art history, has served in numerous leadership positions for Hampton Roads area nonprofits for more than 25 years, including the Business Consortium for Arts Support, Norfolk Botanical Garden, Norfolk Botanical Garden Foundation, VisitNorfolk, Harborfront Garden Club, Norfolk Tourism & Research Foundation, Norfolk SPCA, Harbor’s Edge Foundation, Leadership Hampton Roads, Leadership Hampton Roads Alumni Association, and Norfolk Commission on Arts and Humanities. In 2013, she received the Julian Hirst Leadership Award from LEAD Hampton Roads and the Distinguished Service Medal from the Cosmopolitan Club of Norfolk, which recognized her as the 2013 First Citizen of Norfolk. Trisha is the president of the Hollins Alumnae Board of Directors.
Caroline Rocourt '08, B.S. in biology, received her master’s degree and doctorate in nutrition and food science from the University of Maryland at College Park. During her graduate work, Caroline conducted molecular nutrition lab-based research, primarily employing mammalian cell culture models to study the DNA damage response as it relates to cancer and metabolism. She briefly lectured in nutrition at the University of Maryland before accepting a position with Leidos as a biomedical life scientist, providing support for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). In her current position, she provides comprehensive program support for the CDMRP. She is also a competitive hunter/jumper rider and recently began breeding thoroughbreds.

Rebecca Scales '98, B.A. in history and French, received a Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University in 2007. After beginning her teaching career as a postdoctoral fellow at George Mason University, she is now an assistant professor of history at the Rochester Institute of Technology in western New York. A specialist in 20th-century French and European cultural history, she has written articles for French Historical Studies and Comparative Studies in Society and History. Her first book, Radio and the Politics of Sound in Interwar France, is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. She is currently at work on a new book that explores the cultural and social history of disability in 20th-century France. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, watching indie films, and reading crime fiction.

Puja Sharma ’11, B.S. in biology, minors in math and physics, is a fifth-year graduate student at the Virginia Tech-Wake Forest School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences. As a graduate student in the STEP lab, she has been investigating single/collective cell-nanofiber interactions to better understand how the biophysical properties of the cell microenvironment affect cell behaviors. Her projects have focused on cancer and wound-healing models. She is also interested in photography and painting.

Taylor Slaughter ’05, a double major in communication studies and political science, pursued a career as an equestrian athlete and continued to ride for a living until 2011, when life with lupus and fibromyalgia made a career as an athlete no longer possible. Now an entrepreneur, she focuses on marketing, writing, public speaking, and business development. She is the founder and editor of Sprouted Magazine, a vegan magazine she launched in August 2015. She and her boyfriend currently live in upstate South Carolina with their dog, Penny.

Pamela J. H. Slutz ’70, B.A. in politics, received her M.A. in Asian studies and political science from the University of Hawaii (1972), where she was also an East-West Center Fellow. She retired in 2012 with 40 years of public service with the U.S. Government, first as an intelligence analyst with the Central Intelligence Agency (seven years) and then as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State. During her Foreign Service career, Pam served as President George W. Bush’s ambassador to Mongolia (2003-06) and as President Barack Obama’s ambassador to Burundi (2009-12); she and her Foreign Service spouse also served tours of duty in China, Indonesia, and
Kenya. She is currently the chair of the North America-Mongolia Business Council. She is writing her memoirs and competes in American Paint Horse Association shows with her registered Paint mare.

Elaine Eller Stephenson ’83, B.A. in art history, pursued a second degree, in interior design, at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. After working for interior design firms, she started her own business, Elaine Stephenson Interiors, in 1998, located in Roanoke. She has worked extensively throughout the Roanoke Valley, including several installations at Hollins. She currently serves on the advisory board of the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum and is very involved in other civic boards and organizations. Elaine has been married to her husband, Bill, for 30 years and has two young adult children.

Shannan Staples Todd ’08, B.A. in business with a concentration in finance, minor in economics, has been with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) since 2008. She began her career working as a bank examiner in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Phoenix, Arizona. During her time with the FDIC, Shannan has served as special assistant to the deputy regional directors in San Francisco and presenter to bankers around the San Francisco region as a part of the FDIC’s Community Bank outreach. She was featured in the FDIC’s technical assistance video series on Troubled Debt Restructuring and the Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses. She is currently a case manager in New York City, where she oversees a portfolio of complex and large banks. Shannan has been married since 2011 and is an avid traveler.

Becky Hawke Wilburn ’05, B.A. in communication studies, minor in sociology, earned an M.S. in corporate and professional communication from Radford University. She is certified as a professional of human resources (PHR) and has a master’s certificate in human resources management from Cornell University. Becky has worked in local government administration for the past eight years and serves as the director of human resources and public relations for the Town of Christiansburg. In 2014, she was on the Rotary Group Study Exchange team from southwestern Virginia and northeastern Tennessee that traveled to New South Wales, Australia. She belongs to the Society for Human Resources Management, Public Relations Society of America, and Virginia Government Communicators. Becky is married and has three rescued dogs and three rescued cats.

Dr. Jessica K. Wootton ’00, B.A. in English, minor in theatre, received a B.A. in biology from George Mason University and is a graduate of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, where she received the American Association of Feline Practitioners Outstanding Senior Award. She is an associate veterinarian at NOVA Cat Clinic in Arlington, Virginia. Her professional interests include geriatric medicine and working with patients with challenging demeanors. Jessica currently serves as co-chair of the Recent Graduate Committee as well as Treasurer of the DC Academy of Veterinary Medicine.

Lucy Zimmerman ’08, a double major in English and sociology, began work with the consulting firm Accenture in Washington, D.C. after graduation. After moving to
Middleburg, Virginia, she started working in the finance and wealth management field. She worked for Handford Financial Strategies in Warrenton, Virginia, for four years, focusing on the five areas of financial planning (risk management, retirement, investments, estate planning, and taxes) for retirees and soon-to-be retirees. In December 2014, Lucy took a job as a wealth management associate with Wiseman and Associates Wealth Management Firm. In her new role, she focuses on client development and planning. She holds her Registered Paraplaner’s Certificate, Life and Health Insurance License, Series 7 and Series 66. While Lucy enjoys reading more than anything, you may also find her hiking or horseback riding in the area.