

The background of the entire page is a dark blue, semi-transparent image of a Gothic-style building facade, likely a part of Duke University's architecture, featuring several tall, pointed spires and intricate stonework. The text is overlaid on this background.

Duke
UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI AWARDS 2022

Forever Duke Awards

Charles A. Dukes Awards

Few-Glasson Alumni Society Awards

**Beyond Duke Service and
Leadership Awards**

October 1, 2022
Griffith Film Theater



October 1, 2022

Dear alumni and friends,

When I consider the accomplishments of this year's award winners, I am reminded of the extraordinary efforts of our global network of Duke alumni, who are committed to serving our great university and their communities worldwide.

I am grateful for your inspiring generosity, dedication, and Duke spirit, and I am honored to be a fellow member of the Blue Devil community. Together, we are Forever Duke.

Congratulations to our 2022 Duke Alumni Award winners!

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vince". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vincent E. Price

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Sterly L. Wilder '83

Senior Associate Vice President, Duke Alumni Engagement & Development

Recognition of the Forever Duke Award Honorees

Jack W. Boyd '85

Former President, Duke Alumni Association Board of Directors

Presentation of the Charles A. Dukes Awards

Sanders Adu '94

Presented by Darrell Spells '93

Mami Hidaka '88

Presented by Jennifer Spisak-Cameron

Senior Assistant Vice President, Duke Annual Fund

Aruna Inalsingh M.B.A.'95

Presented by Jack Boyd '85

Anna Gunnarsson Pfeiffer '77, P'08, P'10, P'12, P'15

Presented by Kristin Pfeiffer '08, Len Pfeiffer '10,

Lauren Pfeiffer Baker '12 and Jacqueline Pfeiffer Goodwin '15

Laura Meyer Wellman '73, P'11

Presented by Michael Marsicano '77, M.Ed.'78, Ph.D.'82, P'13

Recognition of the Few-Glasson Alumni Society Honorees

Sheila Patek Ph.D.'01

Presented by Suzanne Barbour

Dean of The Graduate School and Vice Provost

Presentation of the Beyond Duke Awards

Ari Ackerman '93

Presented by Dana Goldsmith Needleman '94

Steven D. Powell M.S.N.'19

Presented by Vincent Guilamo-Ramos M.S.N.'17

Dean, Duke University School of Nursing

Kristin Schroeder '01, H.S.'10-'16

Presented by Nelson Chao M.B.A.'00, P'09, P'15

Donald D. and Elizabeth G. Cooke Cancer Distinguished Research Professor, Duke School of Medicine

John Dear '81

Presented by Tommy Shen '23 with a musical tribute by The Pitchforks of Duke

Scott Barton '87, P'17

Manakin Sabot, VA

An alumni interviewer since 2003, Scott has served on the Duke Richmond leadership team and as chair of the Central Virginia AAAC. His volunteer service also includes Forever Learning events, the Advisory Committee for the Duke Institute for Brain Sciences and the Duke Program in Grand Strategy. Scott provides internship and job opportunities to alumni at his company, Second Order Solutions. Additionally, Scott extends his generosity to the community as an active participant in Duke Alums Engage, organizing mock interviews for previously incarcerated job seekers. In all that he does for Duke, Scott's thoughtful approach and care for his community lead the way.

Christine Proud Doeg '87

Nashville, TN

In 2017, Christine started the Duke Nashville Women's Forum Book Club. Gatherings have been held in backyards, living rooms and virtually throughout the pandemic. Drawing from her experience as an adjunct English professor and love of literature, Christine has set high standards for the club's book selections. She identifies and coaches new discussion leaders, ensuring many thoughtful and meaningful discussions. The club has since become one of the most popular and effective programs in the region, helping alumnae across several generations build relationships with each other.

DukeED

Washington, DC

Marta Perez Drake '92, Susanne Nobles '93

As co-founders of DukeED, Susanne and Marta set out to support deeper connections amongst Duke alumni, friends, and family who are practitioners, researchers, policymakers and leaders in the field of education. The group hosts formal panel discussions on a variety of topics, including school choice, education inequalities and the impact of student advocates on social and racial injustice. Many of these events are hybrid or livestreamed programs that make them more accessible to a larger audience. They also support students and alumni interested in working in the field of education. Thanks to these two exemplary leaders, DukeED has grown to become Duke's second largest industry group in the DC region.

DukeNY Career Conversations

New York, NY

*Mami Hidaka '88, Spencer Levy '20, Philip McKenzie M.B.A. '99**Leighanne Oh B.S.E. '15, M.S. '17, Patricia Parada M.Eng.M. '17**Dana Gottlieb Roffman '88, P'23, Catalina Villegas '17*

In an effort to support and strengthen the DukeNY community, and as a part of the regional board's COVID-19 Action Plan, the Career Conversations series was developed. The goal of the program is to help the community expand their professional networks, gain career path advice and inspire each other. Each event in the series consists of a thirty-minute virtual program that includes both a facilitated conversation and a moderated audience Q&A session. Programs showcase interesting local alumni across industries, highlight their exciting careers and the ways their Duke connections have helped advance their journeys. The program has served as a model for other regions who have since developed similar initiatives.

Duke Peloton

Worldwide

Jessica Serell Erenbaum '86, P'21, Nick Superina '03

During the pandemic, Peloton released a new feature that allows riders to add hashtags to their profiles and build fitness-based social networks. This new feature was shared with members of the Duke Peloton Facebook page, and the #ForeverDuke group was created. This led to alumni, friends, family and fans from all over the country riding together. Special guest riders have included Nina King, Vice President, Director of Athletics, as well as Duke Lacrosse Coach John Danowski, in an event that raised more than \$8,000 for the Ronald McDonald House of Durham. The Duke vs. UNC rivalry rides have logged huge output and engagement, along with a season sweep for Duke. Duke Peloton has become an incredibly positive support group with over 800 members.

Ricardo Duque M.B.A.'06

Boca Raton, FL

As co-chair of the Duke Hispanic/Latino Alumni board, Ricardo helped the group grow in strength, visibility and impact within the community. He also served as a member of the Duke Alumni Board of Directors and Fuqua's Alumni Council. One of his most notable contributions was his work with Fuqua's Development and Alumni Relations team, creating the virtual series "Hispanic and Latino/a/x Duke Alumni: Become Corporate Board Ready." The series was a three-part webinar with executive search experts and seasoned board directors that provided a personal tactical plan for becoming board ready. Ricardo was a driving force behind this initiative, hosting, moderating and securing top talent to present in the sessions.

Sara Cohen Fidler '97

Baltimore, MD

Sara has been a part of Baltimore's AAAC for nearly twenty years, becoming chair in 2013 and joining the Duke Baltimore board when it launched in 2016. She is deeply committed to both identifying prospective students who show the most potential and recruiting other alumni volunteers to further those efforts. When other committees were overwhelmed with applicant interviews, Sara personally volunteered to take on extra interviews herself in order to screen as many candidates as possible. She has played a key role in building the Duke Baltimore board and increasing alumni engagement through the social and family committee events and Duke Alums Engage. Duke Alumni in Baltimore can always count on Sara's presence and tireless support.

Claire Florian '09

New York, NY

Claire has been a member of the DukeNY Women's Forum since 2014 and has also served as co-chair of the Executive Committee. In that time, she has volunteered hundreds of hours to create successful and engaging programming. The Fall Forums, Winter Workshops, Spring Panels, and Neighborhood Conversations cover a diverse range of important topics and attract a wide variety of alumnae. One notable program, "Creativity as Career: A Evening with Duke Women in the Arts," showcased Claire's industry connections as well as her organizational and professional talents. Claire's enthusiasm and dedication make her a natural leader, and her contributions as a volunteer epitomize Duke excellence.

Jodi Berlin Ganz '94, P'25

New York, NY

Jodi's generosity and enthusiasm for supporting Duke are boundless, as evidenced by her many volunteer roles. Since graduating from Duke, she has served as co-chair for each of her milestone reunions. She is now a member of the DukeNY Women's Forum Executive Committee and is the secretary of the DukeNY board, serving as the DNYWF representative. Additionally, she acts as a Business Oriented Women liaison, DukeNY Women's Forum Winter Workshop co-chair, Neighborhood Conversation host and Affinity Group liaison. In 2021, she was also elected to the Annual Fund Advisory Board. In all of her volunteer service, Jodi brings organization, creativity and thoughtfulness.

Bree Arianne Gray Hailemariam '14

Brooklyn, NY

Known for her social media support for Duke Black Alumni and DukeNY LinkedIn, Bree went above and beyond to help launch DBA's mentorship program for students. As a board leader, Bree helped spearhead the Duke Black Alumni group in the Triangle and brought back the Durham Black Wall Street Conversations series, reviving engagement between Duke Black Alumni and the university. Since relocating to New York, Bree has remained active as an at-large board member for DukeNY and co-chair of DBA Tri-State. In 2020, she worked with DBA National to construct a message of solidarity and support for students and alumni in the wake of the uprising of police violence across America. To help DBA process the trauma, she co-hosted a mental health event and helped create an economic and social justice event, "The State of Black America Post-COVID."

Mike Hunnicutt '80, Ph.D.'84, P'15 & Sally Hunnicutt '83, P'15

Richmond, VA

As both Duke alumni and parents, Mike and Sally brought unique insights to their five-year term on the Graduate Board of Visitors. Mike provided perspective as a corporate industry representative and alumnus of Trinity College and The Graduate School, and Sally provided perspective from the viewpoint of faculty. In honor of Mike's mentor, they established the endowed Lochmuller Fund for graduate students studying chemistry. As mentors and volunteers, they support students' professional development. Both Mike and Sally are deeply passionate about making a difference in the Duke community and their generosity will impact students' lives for generations to come.

Valecia Maclin B.S.E.'92

Bowie, MD

As a first-generation black female engineering student in the early 1990's, Valecia experienced isolation at Duke. Typical of engineers, however, Valecia chose to focus on finding solutions. She is passionate about building the next generation of technology leaders and promoting diversity and inclusion in STEM. She has served on the Pratt Board of Visitors as a member of the Strategy Committee and Vice Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Working to help bring other minority classmates back to campus, she served on the Class of 1992 Reunion Committee. Not only investing her time and talents, Valecia has made a generous financial commitment to Duke in support of financial aid, the Annual Fund, and an endowed fund.

Page Murray '85

Los Gatos, CA

Page leads the Class of 1985 Facebook page and keeps up engagement with posts about Duke news and campus happenings. Unfortunately, the class's 35th reunion year happened to fall during the beginning of the pandemic. First, the reunion was postponed, then canceled, eventually rescheduled and celebrated virtually. Page knew he would have to be creative in order to boost spirits and keep his classmates connected. The reunion montage and the "Bohemian Rhapsody" lip-sync videos which Page produced were highlights of the virtual reunion. As a hardworking and innovative volunteer, Page has been the glue holding the Class of 1985 together over the years.

Mary Ruppe Nash '87, P'26

Washington, DC

First as a member, and later as chair of the Major Opportunity Events Committee, Mary consistently contributes innovative ideas to DukeDC programming. She is a skilled collaborator with a vast understanding of event planning that results in memorable experiences. In 2019, Mary conceptualized an event celebrating the impact of the Peace Corps on the communities it serves with keynote speaker Dr. Jody Olsen, Director of the Peace Corps. In 2021, she led the planning for a virtual panel discussion in honor of Black History Month with Ted Segal about his book entitled "Point of Reckoning, The Fight for Racial Justice at Duke University," which featured experts on the civil rights movement and student activists from the era. Mary exemplifies what it means to be an engaged volunteer and brings a high level of professionalism and energy to her work.

David Pahren '85, P'21, P'25

Henrico, VA

When it comes to running events, Dave can always be counted upon to create inclusive programming that will engage a wide variety of interests and attract diverse attendees. He is responsible for creating an annual wine tasting event that is one of the best attended and most educational events of the year. His service to Duke also includes volunteering with the Reunion Experience team and serving as an Annual Fund class chair. He is a fabulous ambassador for Duke, and a standout AAAC interviewer and happily takes on the most assignments. He encourages everyone around him to be their best and gives thoughtful guidance. The Duke community is made better by his unwavering support.

Laurinda Rainey '03, M.B.A.'08

Philadelphia, PA

Laurinda's service to the Duke community ranges from prospective students to alumni, and includes supporting admissions efforts, guest speaking, mentoring students, and board leadership. As an advocate for minority students, she participated in Fuqua's Yield Enhancement Strategy (YES) program and the Duke MBA Workshop for Minority Applicants. She spent six years on the Fuqua Alumni Council and is a member of the Duke Philadelphia board, acting as their Inclusion Advocate. It is clear from her extensive involvement and leadership that she genuinely cares about the success of the institution, students and alumni.

Sue Schwartz Rose '94, P'09

Hinsdale, IL

As a member of the West Chicago AAAC for more than two decades and a term as chair, Sue has led the group to reach very high completion rates. She has also participated in the Women's Forum, the WIN Athletics Leadership Council, Duke Forward in Chicago and as an annual fund class chair for her 20th reunion. Service to Duke comes naturally for Sue, who's first term on the Duke Alumni board coincidentally overlapped that of her father. Sue served on the DA Board of Directors from 2008 to 2012, and mostly recently as a leader for Duke Chicago from 2015 to 2019.

Steve Rosner B.S.E.E.'83, P'18

Brewster, MA

As chair of the Finance & Development Committee on the Pratt Board of Visitors, Steve brings energy and excitement to the world of fundraising and is tireless in his support of Duke Engineering. Whether that means speaking to a group or having one-on-one conversations, he always knows the right approach and infuses just the right mix of humor and sincerity. Most notably, Steve helped launch the Pratt New Parent Project, a program to welcome new parents and increase non-alumni parent giving, which resulted in a significant increase to the Pratt Annual Fund. Additionally, he led a campaign to increase gift planning among the board members and bolster support for Pratt for many years to come. Aside from his development efforts, Steve contributes his support to engineering students directly as a mentor and as an alumni interviewer.

Neil Roth '87, M.D.'91, P'21, P'22, P'25

Scarsdale, NY

During his nine-year term as an Annual Fund Advisory board member, Neil has done everything possible to help advance their initiatives. He brings a great presence to meetings, and in an effort to make sure the board doesn't lose track of real-world examples of student experiences, he has made a point to involve current students. He was previously the President of the Class of 1987, co-chairing their 10th reunion, and has continued to remain involved in subsequent undergraduate and medical school reunion committees. Neil also served for six years on the Duke Medical Alumni Council. In addition to his volunteer roles, he is the named sponsor of the market at the Karsh Alumni Center and is a Duke Angel Network investor.

Barry Safier B.S.E.'91

Getzville, NY

Barry has been a dedicated volunteer for the Buffalo AAAC for more than twenty years and has served as chair since 2011. Even though his group is a smaller one, they have been very successful at completing all of their submissions, even taking on additional interviews when time allows. Excelling in teamwork, Barry is always the first to welcome a new volunteer and hear what fresh ideas they have to contribute, and helps coordinate send-off parties in neighboring communities. Aside from his AAAC participation, Barry is also a long-time member of the Pratt Alumni Association.

Virginia Shannon '88, P'21, P'24

Concord, MA

As a Duke volunteer, Virginia is particularly focused on the student experience, both inside and outside of the classroom, with an emphasis on wellness and mental health. Her superpower is her ability to find the humanity in people and use that commonality to make deep connections and help young people find their passion and purpose. She takes initiative and approaches her volunteer work creatively and enthusiastically. In key leadership roles on the Trinity Board of Visitors and with the Boston Women's Forum, Virginia has been an invaluable resource for alumni, students and parents.

Karen Rosner Shapiro '88, P'19, P'21

Haverford, PA

As a member of the Duke Philadelphia Board, and chair of the Nominating Committee, Karen has demonstrated exceptional leadership and brought a strong and diverse group of alumni to the board. With her professional experience as a career and life coach, she has a real instinct for identifying alumni whose talents are well suited for helping achieve the group's goals. She often takes on multiple large projects and collaborations and has guided some of the board's most important engagement initiatives. Not only a board member, she has also volunteered on many committees, including Philadelphia AAAC, Duke Forward, Duke Futures and Duke Parents' Advisory Council.

Julien Steinberg LL.M.'11

Neuilly-sur-Seine, France

As co-chair of the Duke France alumni group, Julien was often referred to as the hub of Duke Law and Duke France. He regularly meets with community members who are new to the region and connects them with longer-term residents to help them adjust and make connections. Through these efforts, he developed a strong understanding of the regional alumni base, fostered deep relationships amongst members and generated greater interest in events. Julien brings an energy to his service that has translated into a strong and engaged Duke community in France.

John Tolsma '95

Knoxville, TN

Since graduating from Duke, John has served on the Duke Alumni Association board, the Trinity College Board of Visitors, the Annual Fund Executive Committee, and as Reunion chair. In advance of his class's 25th reunion, he stepped into the chair role with an innovative idea to shift the way in which the reunion committee works with top annual fund prospects. To build on the one-on-one conversations already taking place with gift officers, John began a series of communications with the group as a whole. He hosted and funded an intimate dinner during which he challenged guests to see themselves as leaders and to think about how the future success of Duke rests in their hands. John was ultimately responsible for driving 20% of the class gift, totaling 93% of their combined Annual Fund ask amounts.

Alison Vasan M.D.'16

Durham, NC

While she was still in medical school, Alison was chosen to represent her fellow students on the Medical Alumni Council. She is also a member of the Davison Club Development Committee, and the MED Young Alumni Committee and has been instrumental in leading record attendance at Young Alumni gatherings at reunion. She remains an active member of the Medical Alumni Council, even throughout her residency, and can always be counted on to contribute and help recent graduates stay connected.

David Williams D.P.T.'11

Denver, CO

Now the School of Medicine Representative on the regional board of Duke Colorado, David has long been a great resource to the Duke DPT community in Denver. He loves engaging with other Duke students and alumni and hosts his own social events to connect with them. As an additional resource, he created the Colorado Duke DPT Facebook group where he frequently posts about local open physical therapy positions and regional events. He assists current Duke DPT students by housing and unofficially mentoring them during their twelve-week terminal clinical experiences. He often volunteers locally and leverages his current role as a real estate agent to help young alumni purchase their first homes. Always eager to do more to engage alumni in the Denver area, David has helped build a vibrant Duke community.

Charlie Wright '78

Denver, CO

Charlie began his service to Duke by volunteering for the Duke Baltimore Club and supporting events in both Baltimore and Philadelphia. In 2001, he relocated to Denver and has been involved at every level in the growth of the Duke Colorado alumni community. He is a member of the regional board and a model leader in his role as nominating chair, ensuring a strong pipeline of board members. In 2020, Charlie became the board's Sanford School of Public Policy representative. As the CFO of the Denver Zoo, he has made the zoo available to Duke Colorado for several events over the years and has been instrumental in planning those and many more events. Charlie is incredibly generous with his time and talents and always shows up and supports Duke Colorado.

May Zhou M.S.N.'14

Houston, TX

As the Duke Houston Nursing School Representative, May is always thinking of new and creative ways to engage alumni from both the nursing school and the greater Houston group. She approaches her role with a quiet grace, is extremely reliable and shows great leadership and dedication. When events needed to shift from in-person to virtual, she used talents and skills learned in the ER to flex and transition easily to new ways to keep the community engaged. Her quick work resulted in compelling virtual sessions that appealed to a broad audience. May has creatively executed several engaging events which helped bring the Duke Houston community together during a very uncertain time.

**Sanders Adu '94**

Bowie, MD

As a Duke undergraduate, Sanders established himself as a leader and, since graduating, has continued to support the university tirelessly. When you want to connect with another alum, but aren't sure where to start, Sanders is the person to ask. This was particularly helpful in his role on the Annual Fund Reunion Class Gift Committee.

Sanders has made notable contributions to advancing the impact of Black Alumni at Duke and elsewhere, with his volunteer service on the 50th Commemoration Executive Committee, the Duke Proceed Committee, and the Duke Black Alumni National Board. Instead of retiring after his national board service with Duke Alumni, Sanders also served on the DukeDC regional board.

Most recently, Sanders acted as national co-chair of the Black Alumni Collective, a non-profit consortium of Black alumni organizations from colleges and universities across the US. The BAC empowers individuals and groups through civic engagement, economics and advocacy. Working in tandem with the Duke Black Alumni, the BAC 2022 conference was hosted in Durham.

Sanders is an exemplary legal and government affairs professional known for his acumen and integrity. Despite his brilliant mind and career success, he is humble, approachable and authentic. Sanders can always be counted upon to show up and listen, contribute innovative ideas and engage thoughtfully, and leads with grace, enthusiasm, humor and respect.



Mami Hidaka '88
New York, NY

A quiet and understated contributor with terrific ideas and the drive to execute them, Mami has made a huge impact in the tri-state area. As a member of several boards, including the DukeNY Board of Directors, the Annual Fund Advisory Board, and the Duke Asian Alumni Alliance Board of Directors, she has provided wise counsel and led with grace and a sense of humor.

As a member of the Career & Professional Committee, Mami was an early and ardent supporter of diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. She was also a part of the team that created and launched one of DukeNY's most successful initiatives, the Career Conversations, a weekly, virtual web series, and was the primary driver of the group's marketing. To understand and identify the areas in which DukeNY had the opportunity to improve, she encouraged a focus on analysis of the group's data and worked to facilitate the collection and presentation of that data. This allowed the group to pinpoint areas in which improvement was needed and allowed them to then make specific action plans to overcome those deficits. In order to identify and promote the next generation of leadership, Mami is also a mentor and inspiration to many.

When she isn't leading, she is cheerleading those who are and stepping in anytime help is needed. Mami is the kind of person who isn't afraid to roll up her sleeves and get to work, no matter how large or small the job may be. Even when issues arise that aren't her responsibility to solve, she provides encouragement and possible solutions. While she isn't the loudest person in the room, she is always the most present and invested.



Aruna Inalsingh M.B.A.'95
New York, NY

Aruna began her Duke volunteer service with the Fuqua NY Club and as a Fuqua Regional Alum Community Volunteer, where she quickly established herself as a leader and proved she knows how to get things done. She then joined Duke Alums Engage NYC and became a vital part of their efforts. She played an instrumental role in the organization of the group's annual Health & Fitness Day in central Harlem that provided free medical screenings, healthy living workshops, a full day of sports activities and healthy meals for more than 130 children and their families. To further help the community in Harlem, she established the group's relationship with Dunlevy Milbank, a local boys and girls club, and created the "Study Now, Play Later" program that fosters self-esteem through academics and athletics. Her willingness to do whatever it takes to make things happen made her a standout member in one of the largest communities of alumni outside of North Carolina.

In 2015, Aruna joined the Duke Alumni Association Board of Directors providing guidance, leadership and support for events and programs around the world. As someone who is frequently willing to step up and lend a hand, that role led to her two-year term as chair on the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Further demonstrating her commitment to supporting minority groups and unifying her community, she became a co-founder and board member of the Duke Asian Alumni Alliance. Aruna has contributed her skills and talents time and time again, whether that means recruiting volunteers, brainstorming ideas, or using her connections to plan an event and book speakers. She can always be relied upon to follow through. Her long list of contributions is proof she truly embodies the "One Duke" spirit.



Anna Gunnarsson Pfeiffer '77, P'08, P'10, P'12, P'15
Washington, DC

Anna is a model of exemplary volunteer service. While she is quite modest regarding her own achievements, she always supports the ideas and work of other volunteers and makes sure they are recognized for their contributions. She brings a warmth to all of her interactions that makes others feel special and appreciated. Her unique ability to wear many volunteer hats has made her excel at being a leader, mentor, connector, planner, organizer, worker, advocate and resource.

For more than thirty years she has served on reunion committees and as an alumni interviewer. A fantastic motivator for other volunteers, she often leads by example and offers her support by showing up to events early and staying until the last guest leaves. She has participated in numerous volunteer roles in the DC region including the DC Alumni board and DC Woman's Forum board which led her to a role on the national Duke Alumni board. When she organized the region's Women's Forum Neighborhood Coffee events she attended every single one and, as her own personal touch, brought gifts for the host each time. In order to serve a more diverse alumni population, she was especially diligent about making sure events were scheduled in areas of the city that would best serve younger graduates. Well known for her hospitality, Anna has also generously hosted many events in her own home.

Aside from her legendary organizational skills, Anna's vast network of artistic and cultural resources and venues has been a huge part of the success of the events she has helped produce. Anna has a knack for knowing what will appeal to the area's alumni base and a talent for procuring highly sought-after speakers. With her huge heart and consistent demonstrations of a deep level of care for those around her, Anna has been a tireless champion for her community.



Laura Meyer Wellman '73, P'11
Charlotte, NC

Laura has been contributing to the success of Duke for more than three decades in development support roles, advisory roles and board service. The scope of Laura's volunteer work includes supporting academic endeavors, with the Council on Women's Studies, the Trinity Board of Advisors and the Arts and Sciences Campaign. Like so many others, Laura has devoted many volunteer hours to local alumni activities, from AAAC to Women's Forum. She has also served as a Duke leader on the regional levels in both Charlotte and New York, as well as for several class reunion campaigns. On the national level, Laura's six years of service on the Duke Alumni board culminated with her two-year term as president. During her tenure on the university Board of Trustees from 2017 to 2021, Laura served on committees ranging from Governance to External Engagement and the Centennial Task Force.

Within her local community, she is engaged with international, cultural, and educational organizations and has served on the boards of the World Affairs Council of Charlotte and Opera Carolina. Most recently, Laura acted as Immediate Past President of the International Women's Forum Carolinas.

A natural leader with experience in marketing, investments, management, and business development, her skills have easily translated to her extensive volunteer work. Giving so much of her time and energy, her long list of experience and service is inspirational. Laura has blazed trails as an executive in the workplace and become a role model for both alumni and students.



Ayşe Gül Altınay Ph.D.'01
Istanbul, Turkey

Ayşe is a professor of anthropology at Sabancı University in Istanbul, where she has engaged in cutting-edge research and social-impact projects at the intersections of academia, activism, and well-being. Her Ph.D. thesis tackled the then-taboo topic of militarism in Turkey, resulting in a pioneering ethnography: *The Myth of the Military-Nation*. She has continued to research traumatizing experiences of the past and present, from genocide to gender-based violence. Since 2008, she has been volunteering at the Hrant Dink Foundation, contributing to the co-creation of the 23.5 Hrant Dink Site of Memory. In 2016, she signed the Academics for Peace petition in support of a peaceful solution to the Kurdish-Turkish conflict. She received a 25-month prison sentence for that, but was later acquitted. Her recent work focuses on transformative activism and feminist/queer re-imaginings of life and ecology.

Sheila Patek Ph.D.'01
Durham, NC

Sheila is the Hehmeyer Professor of Biology and a Bass Fellow at Duke. Sheila leads a research team funded by a Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative that currently focuses on the limits and principles of the fastest biological movements on the planet. She regularly presents internationally through both academic and public lectureships, including a mainstage TED talk about her work measuring the feeding strike of mantis shrimps. Sheila currently serves as deputy-editor-in-chief for the *Journal of Experimental Biology* and is Director of Muser, an open-source software application that Sheila and others developed to facilitate equitable and transparent access to research in academia. Sheila teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in animal physiology, biomechanics, introductory biology, invertebrate biology, and comparative evolutionary analysis. For five years, she led a Research Experience for Teachers program, which enabled teachers to integrate their research experience with curriculum development.

Steven Spoel Ph.D.'08
Edinburgh, Scotland

Steven is currently a professor of cell signaling and proteostasis at the University of Edinburgh. He has contributed major advancements to the understanding of how plants defend themselves from environmental threats, including pathogen attack and climate change. His unique work focuses on how the epiproteome—an array of chemical modifications that direct the function of all cellular proteins—generate phenotypical outcomes. This research has enormous potential to combat costly agricultural losses caused by plant diseases and provide future food security. He has received several prestigious awards and is one of the few individuals who has won two consecutive grants from the European Research Council. As one of only a small handful of Black professors in the UK, Steven has been a committed supporter of increasing diversity and inclusion, both through his role as head of the Institute of Molecular Plant Sciences and through a number of national and international mentoring programs for minority groups.



Ari Ackerman '93
New York, NY

Ari Ackerman is a successful serial entrepreneur, strategic investor and proud philanthropist. He is deeply dedicated to ensuring the safety, continuity and strength of the Jewish people and has made many contributions to those efforts. After the sale of the technology company he founded, Bunk1, he was elected to the voluntary service role of National Young Leadership Cabinet co-chair for the Jewish Federations of North America and devoted himself to it full-time. During his tenure, JNFA raised a record \$1.2 billion to provide critical and life-saving support, including food, medical and psychological care to those in need. He and his co-chair worked tirelessly day and night to plan more than 70 events in a single year. His non-profit support has also included serving on the boards of many other leading Jewish organizations, including the Jewish Community Relations Council, UJA, Hillel, OOI and Hampton Synagogue, and hosting fundraising events for the Israeli Philharmonic, The Algemeiner, Jewish National Fund, The Freeman Center, AIPAC, and the Jewish Community Relations Council.

To support the mission of bringing Judaism to unaffiliated Jews, he co-founded a flourishing synagogue in New York City, Soho Synagogue. As a passion project, he founded a Jewish dating app, Tribe, to help foster Jewish connections in the community. At Duke, Ari established the Ackerman Fellowship at the Freeman Center for Jewish Life, a program that funds allows Duke students to attend the AIPAC policy conference, the largest annual gathering of America's pro-Israel movement. As often noted by his peers, Ari always steps up for the Jewish people and supports any cause he can.



John Dear '81
Cayucos, CA

John is an internationally known author, activist and teacher of peace and nonviolence. He has written and edited more than 30 books, been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize by notable figures such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Senator Barbara Mikulski, and been arrested and jailed for acts of nonviolent civil disobedience against war, injustice, poverty, nuclear weapons and environmental destruction. In the pursuit of nonviolence, he has traveled the world to teach, lecture and organize hundreds of demonstrations. He has worked in homeless shelters, soup kitchens and community centers, as well as traveled to war zones including Iraq, Palestine, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, India and Colombia.

In his book "A Persistent Peace", John recounts his experiences as an undergraduate at Duke, where he began his transformation from a privileged youth into a relentless spiritual seeker. While volunteering at a local mental institution to gain extra credit for a psychology class, his eyes were opened to the suffering of this world. The curtain of his insular collegiate world was ripped off. By the time he graduated, John was ready to embark on a journey of priestly service.

Formally a Jesuit, he was ordained as a Catholic priest in 1993 and served for several years as the director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the largest interfaith peace organization in the United States. As part of a national Catholic peace movement, John worked closely with Mother Teresa and arranged for her to speak with various governors on behalf of people scheduled to be executed on death row. After September 11, 2001, John served as a Red Cross coordinator of chaplains at the Family Assistance Center in Manhattan, and personally counseled thousands of relatives and rescue workers.



Reuben Ogbonna '12
Brooklyn, NY

As an undergraduate, Reuben did not plan on a teaching career: he was interested in economics and finance, and was on the track to Wall Street. That all changed during a study abroad experience in Turkey when Reuben took a class on international financial collapses which examined data on the real-world effects of irresponsible policy decisions driven by greed.

Inspired by transformational experiences as a peer mentor in high school, Reuben applied for a position with Teach for America. Even though he comes from a middle-class background, with no personal experience with gang violence, Reuben was able to open the eyes of his students to the possibilities of a college education. Through these relationships and mentoring experiences, Reuben found his mission.

Utilizing his skills as math teacher and leadership instructor, Reuben co-founded the Marcy Lab School, an alternative college for low-income Black and Latinx recent high school graduates. Located in Brooklyn, the program consists of an intensive one-year computer science training program that teaches engineering expertise, critical thinking skills and leadership qualities. Those young adults are then placed in entry level corporate roles, positions of opportunity which are the first step in building their careers. Working alongside students from prestigious schools, Marcy Lab graduates also shape the way employers look at early talent.

Reuben is passionate about lifting up underserved communities, and he believes in teaching skills which motivate students to achieve more. Through Reuben's vision, service and leadership, the Marcy Lab School is transforming communities.



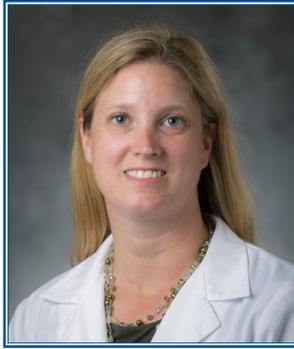
Steven D. Powell M.S.N.'19
Houston, TX

Steven is currently a nurse in the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at the Michael DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston and has a passion for both helping people recover from illness and injury and advocating for the nursing profession. He volunteers with the Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS) and was sent to provide medical care in New Orleans post Hurricane Ida, Puerto Rico following a 6.4 magnitude earthquake and Dallas in the wake of the uptick of COVID-19 cases. As a Hispanic male nurse, he often meets with students to encourage more racial, ethnic, and gender diversity within the profession and serves as vice chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force with the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses.

As an advocate for nurses, Steven not only raises awareness but also encourages action. As a member of a coalition of nurses in Texas, he works with local policymakers to address the critical nursing shortage and provide protection from workplace violence. He was recently appointed to the Board of Directors for the American Nurses Association, a political action committee which works on nurses' behalf to elect and re-elect nurses to public office. He often references the statistic that there are approximately six times as many nurses as physicians in the US, yet there are six times as many physicians in Congress.

At Duke, Steven is a member of the School of Nursing's Alumni Council and of the Bessie Baker Society, the school's annual leadership giving society. He mentors and shares his time and expertise with students, speaking to them about workplace violence and providing resources, education tips and solution-focused dialogue.

At a time when the underappreciated contributions of nurses are in the spotlight, Steven's volunteerism, advocacy and leadership are truly having a tangible impact.



Kristin Schroeder '01, H.S.'10-'16
Durham, NC and Mwanza, Tanzania

When Kristin was a resident working in a clinic in Cambodia, she met a four-year-old girl with a type of kidney tumor that, in the United States, is curable more than 90% of the time. However, where this child lived, there were no surgeons who could operate on such a young patient, nor were there facilities to provide additional cancer treatment after the surgery. This encounter had a huge impact on Kristin and ignited her passion for global oncology research and clinical care.

Today, Kristin is an assistant professor of pediatrics and global health at Duke who specializes in pediatric neuro-oncology. With funding from the Duke Global Health Institute, Duke Cancer Institute and NIH, she established a pediatric care unit at the Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza, Tanzania and spends six months out of each year there. The clinic works to improve cancer survival rates by approaching patient care more holistically. Before this, 50% of patients starting therapy did not finish and the survival rate for pediatric cancer patients was only 20%. With the support of mentors and colleagues from Duke, Kristin launched a non-profit called the International Cancer Care and Research Excellence Foundation (iCCARE) to help families with healthcare costs. Other contributing factors were delays in diagnosis and a lack of education and guidance about their diagnosis. Kristin and her team then launched a new patient navigator program, and today, survival rates are more than 50% and treatment abandonment has been reduced to 15%.



