

EDITION NO. 1, 2026



WHERE WILL FRANKLIN TAKE YOU?

ALUMNI OUTCOMES



**FRANKLIN
SWITZERLAND**
U.S. UNIVERSITY & SWISS UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

“

A Franklin education is designed for a world defined by rapid change, growing interdependence, and increasing complexity.

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DR. DAVID M. MILLS

LETTER FROM

THE PRESIDENT



DR. DAVID M. MILLS
INTERIM PRESIDENT OF FRANKLIN SWITZERLAND

Every year, Franklin welcomes students from across the globe, each arriving with a different story already underway. They bring different languages, cultures, experiences, ambitions, and perspectives into a learning community that is intentionally small, radically international, and deeply human. A few years later, they leave in equally different directions. The pages that follow illustrate just some of those journeys: from diplomacy and entrepreneurship to journalism, scientific research, public service, the arts, and beyond. Together, they offer a glimpse of what becomes possible when talented people from around the world learn with and from one another.

A Franklin education is designed for a world defined by rapid change, growing interdependence, and increasing complexity. Students develop depth in their chosen fields while also learning to connect knowledge across disciplines, communicate effectively across cultures, weigh evidence carefully, exercise ethical judgment, and approach unfamiliar challenges with confidence. The defining questions of our time seldom have simple answers or belong neatly to a single discipline, profession, or nation. They call for people who can hold competing ideas in productive tension, navigate ambiguity with intellectual rigor, work constructively across differences, and continue learning as new knowledge and new perspectives emerge. That is the enduring value of a contemporary liberal arts education.

These alumni have built careers in many different sectors, countries, and professions. Their stories are impressive in their own right, but taken together they tell something larger about Franklin itself. They reflect the remarkable individuals who choose this university and the distinctive educational community that shapes their experience. No single alumnus or alumna can define a Franklin education. Together, however, these stories reveal something essential: when talented students from around the world learn with and from one another in a community that values curiosity, perspective, and human connection, they leave not only prepared for many different futures, but better equipped to shape them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Mills".





NICHOLAS HASKO '09
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA, USA

Nicholas Hasko entered the U.S. Foreign Service shortly after graduation from Franklin. His work focuses on the intersection of diplomacy, security, and commerce.

He began his career working on Iranian affairs in Turkey, then served in Afghanistan as a political-military officer covering the police and National Security Council. He returned to Washington in 2015 to work on U.S.-Russia relations, manage \$24 million in rule of law foreign assistance in Afghanistan, and obtain a graduate degree in public administration from Syracuse University. He went back overseas in 2020 to serve in U.S. Mission Somalia, helping Mogadishu successfully navigate its third peaceful transition of power via democratic elections. He returned to Washington in 2022 to serve as a special assistant to the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, coordinating contributions to the 2022 U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. He then played a key role in advancing the Australia-UK-U.S. (AUKUS) security partnership, a multi-billion defense technology initiative.

Nicholas currently serves as Political-Economic Chief at the U.S. Embassy in Tirana.



MAJOR: International Economics
MINOR: Concentration in Political Economy

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- State Department Office of the AUKUS Senior Advisor: Key role in advancing multi-billion defense technology deal with Australia and the UK
- U.S. Mission Somalia: Helped Somalia secure its third peaceful transition of power since its civil war
- State Department Office of Russian Affairs: Contributed to negotiated ceasefire in Syria, delivering a four-year low in violence

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

After a life-changing experience as a high school foreign exchange student in Russia, I knew that I wanted a life less ordinary. I sought a university experience that could blend the best of a U.S. liberal arts education with authentic overseas experience. I found that so many people interested in foreign affairs would do a semester or year of experience in another country, but effectively seldom leave their “bubble,” taking classes in English from American professors in a hermetically sealed capsule of their university’s design in some far-off city. I did my research, scrutinizing a lot of options and Franklin stood head and shoulders above the rest – small classes, international student population, a location at Europe’s heart, and academic travel that teaches students how to accomplish things in a diverse set of countries and contexts.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

Simply put, Franklin made my professional journey possible. I knew that I wanted to work in U.S. diplomacy and Franklin equipped me with the skills to test into the U.S. Foreign Service years ahead of my American peers. Thereafter, time and again, I’ve relied on the foundation that Franklin provided me – writing, critical thinking, and intercultural communication. Academic travel was also pivotal – it is seldom that someone coming out of the undergraduate level is going to be able drop into a foreign country where they may have little experience and work together with others to accomplish something. Indeed, the first week of my first assignment, my supervisor sent me to another city to lead a team that was evacuating Americans out of Lebanon – there is no way that I would have succeeded in that role without having practical experience under my belt from Franklin academic travel and leading a student government delegation to Egypt.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

Statecraft is a contact sport – the theoretical grounding is critical, but after so many years in the business, I look for the ability to work together with different groups of people and deliver. The world is a messy, confounding place where talking about what “should” be from a comfortable chair has little practical value. Seek out experiences to dig in, get your hands dirty, and make the world a little better, dealing with the realities as you find them. It’s humbling, edifying, and sets you up for success in a field that will endlessly show you that you have a lot to learn.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

If you are seeking a life less ordinary, do it. I realize the industrial education complex will tempt you with conventional options, but life is precious (and finite) - take the chance to be and do more. You will be surprised about how easy it becomes to be different once you take that first leap.

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Simply put, Franklin made my professional journey possible.
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ALYSSA WILSON '17
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, USA

Alyssa Wilson is a national security professional whose career spans multilateral diplomacy, defense policy, and international security cooperation. She currently serves as Country Director for Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia.

Alyssa joined the Department of Defense as a McCain Fellow in November 2021, serving as Russia Country Director and helping coordinate over \$150 billion in security assistance to Ukraine alongside more than 50 global Allies and partners as they stood up Ukraine’s Capability Coalitions. For this work, she received the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Award in 2024. Prior to this role, she served as Principal Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy at the NATO in Brussels, which she joined in September 2020.

Alyssa’s path into international security began after her 2017 graduation from Franklin, where she earned a degree in International Relations with minors in French Language, Italian Language, and History. She went on to complete a Master’s Degree in International Security Studies at Charles University in Prague, during which she worked part-time for a Czech think tank focused on asymmetric threats such as disinformation, energy security, and space security, and completed an internship with the U.S. Department of State. After graduating in 2019, she completed a rotation with the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, where she helped negotiate a Security Council Resolution on Children in Armed Conflict in Afghanistan.

MAJOR: International Relations
MINOR: French Language, Italian Language, History

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Country Director for Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania, U.S. Department of Defense
- Principal Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy, NATO
- Recipient of the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Award for 2024

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

I chose Franklin because of the opportunity to see the world from a myriad of perspectives. Coming from my hometown of Salt Lake City, I knew no other college would be able to take me to where Franklin could. Even then, I never expected it would take me from the Isle of Skye in Scotland, down to where the Indian and Atlantic Ocean meet in South Africa, all the way to the border of Thailand and Laos. The faculty, the student body, even the curriculum, all embody a spirit of hands-on learning and diverse cultural experiences that no other institution can offer. I knew Franklin would put my learning into a global perspective, beyond the four walls of the classroom, and expand my horizons to places I didn’t even know yet.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

When I chose Franklin, I knew it would provide me a once-in-a-lifetime education; the core modus operandi of life-long learning, cultural curiosity, and adaptability instilled from Franklin has followed me throughout my professional career. Franklin encouraged me to ask the tough questions, and question everything I think I know, while grounding myself in empathy and self-awareness as I seek to understand the perspectives and motivations from whoever sits across from me. I use this skillset daily in my job as I work to build a world with our Allies and partners that is better than the one we found. Without Franklin, I would not have landed my current job; my language skills, and generalized cultural awareness and sensibilities, I’m told are what made my applications stand out among the typical national security professional resumes. Franklin didn’t just provide me an education, it provided a whole new outlook on how to see the world.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

Never stop learning, and never stop applying. Defense and National Security are daunting with thorny bureaucracy no matter the country, but they flourish when faced with fresh thinking, and would benefit from the empathetic, thought-provoking leaders Franklin produces. Though opportunities seem few and far between, don’t get discouraged. One of my favorite Franklin professors said behind everyone’s resume is an anti-resume of all the opportunities that didn’t work out. This field changes rapidly; stay curious, keep up to date with current events. As you do, know that understanding the present is contingent upon knowledge of the history and legacy upon which it’s all built. Finally, never lose touch with your humanity. Lasting policies are made by people, and if you can’t walk the same path as the people beside you, try to tap into that shared experience that makes us all human.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

Do it. If you want an education that will force you out of your comfort zone, stretch your mind, and grow your perspective, apply. There is more in store than one brochure or advertisement could ever tell you; Franklin is the gift that keeps on giving, so apply and see what it might have in store for you!

“ Franklin is the gift that keeps on giving, so apply and see what it might have in store for you! ”



MARINA BURASCHI '21

MIAMI, FL AND LUGANO, SWITZERLAND

Since graduating from Franklin, Marina's journey has taken her first into the world of luxury and later of entrepreneurship. After earning a Master's Degree in Luxury Management & Guest Experience and gaining experience in renowned luxury houses, last November she launched her own brand: Marina Buraschi.

Marina's Italian and Peruvian roots combined with her passion for excellence are what motivated her to develop a brand focusing on fashion and home accessories crafted with the finest Peruvian fibers such as Alpaca, Vicuña and Pima Cotton. The brand is in fact a tribute to Peru, dedicated to bringing the richness of Peruvian culture to Europe through sophisticated, sustainable, and timeless collections. The skills Marina developed during university continue to shape the way she approaches challenges, opportunities, and entrepreneurship. Building the brand has allowed her to combine creativity, business, and her personal vision while creating meaningful relationships with local artisans and communities. She believes that true luxury lies not only in exceptional craftsmanship, but also in sustainability, human connection, and social purpose.

Today, Marina represents more than a professional endeavour; it is a reflection of her values, ambitions, and desire to create something meaningful. Looking back as an alumna, she is grateful for the foundation her university provided and hopes her journey inspires others to pursue their ideas with courage, creativity, and determination.



MAJOR: International Management with an Emphasis in Marketing

MINOR: Psychology and German Studies

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Founder, M.B.Lifestyle SA (the brand is called Marina Buraschi)
- Sales Associate at Loro Piana, Dubai Mall
- Professional Excellence Award at Glion Institute of Higher Education

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

I first came about Franklin as my mother is also an Alumni and has always had great things to say about her experience. Listening to her while also imagining my university experience in such an international environment, while being in a small school where tight relationships not only among students but also with professors are created is what I valued most in my decision. The student life is just as important as the academic one and I believed it was important to choose a school that valued both.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

My Franklin experience has shaped my professional journey through the friendships and connections made that have remained through the years. This has been important professionally as it has allowed me to gain invaluable insights on a worldwide basis while learning how to continuously adapt to new environments and situations. Teamwork and public speaking are also skills that I have learned thanks to Franklin through the several group projects and presentations that we were required to carry out.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

Gaining international experience is very important in the luxury industry and studying at Franklin already gives you an advantage. Communication skills are also crucial while learning to be a problem solver and flexible/adaptable. The luxury industry is highly competitive, I believe that building strong trustworthy relationships with the team and management while being proactive and motivated can go a long way.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

Studying at Franklin is a great way to immerse yourself in an international academic environment which is extremely enriching and one of the things that make FUS so unique. Through this sort of environment graduating at Franklin goes beyond obtaining a degree, it leaves a personal mark that cannot be studied/learned.

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...immerse yourself in an international academic environment which is extremely enriching and one of the things that make FUS so unique.

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SUMINDI PEIRIS '94

MARYLAND, USA

Great marketing creates the conditions for people to eagerly share an idea. For 30 years, Sumindi Peiris has built iconic blue-chip brands that earn a place in people's hearts and communities, finding the cultural truths moving behind them and bringing them into the zeitgeist.

She made Hennessy's roots in community and celebration its centre of gravity, proving it was never just an after-dinner drink. She gave Johnnie Walker Blue Label a language of gratitude, honoring those who walk with you on the journey to success. At Hilton, she brought Waldorf Astoria's True Waldorf Service to life as one globally aligned experience. As Time Out Group's first Global Chief Marketing Officer, she led brand strategy across 330 cities in Time Out Media and Time Out Market food halls on three continents, partnering on the award-winning "Time In" pivot when COVID closed the core of the business overnight.

Today she is Co-Founder of The Host Stand Agency, helping restaurant groups and hotels grow in a market reshaped by digital discovery and AI, pairing the cultural intelligence of a global CMO with hospitality know-how from the boardroom to back of house.



MAJOR: International Business Management

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Time Out Group | Reinvention under fire — Led Time Out's "Time In" pivot when COVID shut the business overnight, reimagining the platform around life at home; winner of international awards from Fast Company and Campaign (2020–2021).
- Hilton & Diageo | Global orchestration, record results — Led industry firsts at both companies: globally orchestrated brand stories that aligned markets to co-invest behind one guest-centric idea. Brought Waldorf Astoria's True Waldorf Service to life, and built Johnnie Walker Blue Label's "Gentleman's Wager" films (Jude Law, Giancarlo Giannini, Zhao Wei; director Jake Scott), run centrally across 22 countries and breaking industry benchmarks ninefold.

- Diageo & David Beckham | Commercial strategy, global alignment — Led the global launch strategy for Haig Club, an accessible Scotch whisky created with David Beckham, uniting business owners across markets behind one product positioning and securing their co-investment to launch it.
- Work featured on CBS 60 Minutes and in the Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, Advertising Age, and Brandweek
- Luxury Women to Watch honoree (Luxury Daily, 2018)

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

When I was choosing universities, I thought I wanted to study International Relations, and I was looking for neutral ground: a place built around the world rather than any single country. Franklin was exactly that. The student body came from everywhere, and the curriculum was culturally rich in a way that meant you learned from the people around you, not just from textbooks. Academic Travel was a core draw: the idea of studying a subject and then going to experience it in the place where it actually lives. The campus's diversity and the US accreditation sealed it for me, because I wanted a global education that would be recognized. I came in thinking I would work in international relations and left on a path I never expected, but the foundation Franklin gave me has carried through every step since.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

Plenty of schools have strong academics. What makes Franklin different is how it pairs that with real cultural immersion, and that combination shaped me more than any single course. Living and studying alongside people from across the world showed me how thin the cultural biases are that we absorb from family and media. Underneath them, we share the same human truths. That insight became the foundation of my whole career: finding the universal truth that makes a brand matter in one culture and resonate in another is exactly what I have done from Singapore to Dubai to New York. Franklin also gave me a like-minded global community I am still connected to today.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

Learn the business, not just the marketing. The people who rise are the ones who can connect a creative idea to how the company actually makes money, and get others to invest in it. Stay endlessly curious about people, because every brand that matters is built on a real human truth, not a clever tactic. Don't chase tools or trends; they change every year, but the ability to find what people genuinely care about never goes out of date. And go where the work is hard and the culture is unfamiliar, because that is where you learn the most and build a perspective no one can copy.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

Do it. What makes Franklin rare is the combination of real academics and a global, cross-cultural life, and together they build a foundation that holds up under any career you choose. You don't need your future figured out yet. That's exactly what Franklin helps you build.

“ Academic Travel was a core draw ”



GIAMPAOLO M. BONALUMI '95
LUGANO, SWITZERLAND

Giampaolo Bonalumi is a Swiss wealth management executive with more than three decades of experience advising international private clients and families. He began his career with UBS Wealth Management in 1994, holding senior roles in Private Banking across London and Lugano, where he developed extensive expertise in investment advisory, portfolio management, and international wealth planning.

Following his tenure at UBS, Giampaolo co-founded and served as CEO of a Swiss financial advisory firm specializing in the complex investment needs of U.S. persons, establishing himself as a leading expert in cross-border wealth management.

Today, he is the Founder and Managing Partner of Helvetia Investment Advisors SA, an independent Swiss wealth management firm based in Lugano, providing investment advisory services to U.S. individuals, families, independent asset managers, and institutional clients.

Over the course of his career, Giampaolo has advised clients across North America, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. Fluent in English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian, he brings an international perspective and a client-focused approach to wealth management.



MAJOR: International Business
MINOR: Finance

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- UBS Financial Advisors 1994 - 1998 Italian BU Lugano
- Financial advisors Swiss Clients Abroad in London Local Market Head NAM and LATAM Desks 2004-2008
- Financial Entrepreneur 2009 - at present

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

I chose Franklin because it offered the perfect balance between the traditionally rigorous Swiss academic system and a more modern, flexible Anglo-Saxon approach. This combination allowed me to benefit from strong academic discipline while also developing a more open, international mindset. Another key factor was the opportunity to study in English and significantly improve my language skills. Being able to do so just a short distance from home made the experience even more appealing. Overall, Franklin represented an ideal bridge between local roots and global exposure.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

My experience at Franklin played a key role in shaping my international and entrepreneurial mindset. Studying in a multicultural environment and in English gave me the confidence to work with clients and teams across different countries and cultures. The combination of academic rigor and a more flexible, discussion-based approach helped me develop both analytical thinking and adaptability—skills that proved essential in my career in finance. It also encouraged me to think independently and to pursue opportunities beyond traditional career paths. Overall, Franklin laid a strong foundation that supported my transition into international roles and eventually into entrepreneurship.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

I would advise anyone entering this field to build a strong foundation in both technical knowledge and interpersonal skills. Finance is ultimately a people business, so trust, communication, and long-term relationships are key. Be curious and stay open to international experiences, as markets and clients are increasingly global. It is also important to be resilient and adaptable, as the industry evolves constantly. Finally, don't be afraid to take initiative and explore entrepreneurial paths if the opportunity arises.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

I would encourage them to choose Franklin if they are looking for an international, open-minded environment that combines academic rigor with a modern approach to learning. It is a unique place to grow both personally and professionally.

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Studying in a multicultural environment and in English gave me the confidence to work with clients and teams across different countries and cultures.

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KARLA TADIC BOYERO '16 OSIJEK, CROATIA

Karla Tadic Boyero is a Supervision Analyst at the European Central Bank (ECB), where she contributes to the prudential oversight of some of Europe's largest financial institutions within the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM). Since joining the ECB in 2018, she has progressed through various roles in banking supervision, building expertise in financial regulation and supervisory oversight.

Prior to her current role, Karla gained experience in financial planning and analysis as a Vice President at Citigroup, complementing her regulatory expertise with firsthand exposure to the strategic and financial operations of a global banking institution.

A graduate of Franklin, she later earned a Master's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Her career reflects a strong combination of international education, regulatory expertise, and analytical leadership within one of the world's most influential financial institutions.

MAJOR: International Economics with an emphasis in Political Economy
MINOR: Political science

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Masters in EU Public Policy at LSE
- Policy Advisor in European Parliament for a Croatian MEP
- Banking supervision at European Central Bank

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

Franklin stood out because it combined a strong liberal arts education with an international community and the opportunity to learn well beyond the classroom. The small class sizes meant discussions rather than lectures, and professors genuinely challenged us to think critically. Lugano itself was another reason; I had spent time there before and knew it was a place where I could see myself growing, both personally and academically. Looking back, choosing Franklin shaped not only what I studied, but also how I approach the world.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

Franklin gave me the confidence to pursue opportunities in international institutions because collaborating across cultures already felt natural. More importantly, it taught me to look at complex issues from different angles. Studying economics alongside political science helped me understand that technical decisions rarely exist in isolation—they are influenced by institutions, people and policy.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

Careers are rarely linear, and some of the most valuable opportunities come from being willing to learn as you go rather than waiting until you feel completely prepared. Develop strong analytical skills, but invest just as much in your writing and communication—ability to communicate clearly, build relationships and work effectively with people from different backgrounds is more important than you think.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

Go for it. Embrace every opportunity as the friendships you will build there and perspectives you will gain will stay with you for life. On top, Lugano is a place so beautiful that it almost doesn't feel real.

“ The small class sizes meant discussions rather than lectures, and professors genuinely challenged us to think critically. ”



ASHLIE D. BUTLER, DNP, PMHNP '07
POTOMAC, MD

Ashlie Butler, PMHNP-DNP, PMH-C, Certified Doula, is a Nurse Practitioner in the division of Women’s Mental Health @Ob/Gyn at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Ashlie specializes in treating psychiatric disorders related to reproductive health, utilizing a mindfulness, holistic and social justice-based treatment philosophy.

In addition to her role within Ob/Gyn, she is an Assistant Professor at SUNY Downstate College of Nursing and an adjunct professor at Columbia University School of Nursing. She also conducts research related to developmental neuroscience, epigenetics, trauma-informed obstetric care and perinatal mood disorders within the Perinatal Pathways Lab. Ashlie is also a Board Chair for the Birthing Place Foundation, which is currently working towards establishing a birth center in the Bronx, New York. She is passionate about finding creative and innovative approaches to advancing psychiatric nursing, perinatal research and nursing education.



MAJOR: International Communications
MINOR: Italian

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Assistant Professor SUNY Downstate College of Nursing
- Adjunct Professor Columbia University School of Nursing
- Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Women’s Mental Health and Columbia University Irving Medical Center

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

I always possessed a penchant for learning languages and new cultures, but had never traveled outside of the U.S. prior to attending Franklin. The Academic Travel program is so unique, and an education in and of itself. It was the obvious choice for someone like myself, and it was an opportunity not only to see, but to engage with the world.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

Franklin taught me how to really travel not as a tourist, but as a respectful and curious explorer. My time at Franklin also shaped my worldview, one that is always thinking about the global impact of every personal and professional action. I even chose my nursing education based on global education offerings, leading me to incredible clinical experiences in Ethiopia and Rwanda.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

My advice is no experience is lost, and you do not have all of the answers in undergrad. It is okay to switch majors, minors and careers. The experience of college, particularly at an institution as unique as Franklin, can be the launching pad for leading you down a rewarding future career path. After Franklin, I started a career in fashion before turning to public health, birth work and eventually nursing. All of those experiences brought me to where I am today, and all of those skills still inform my current roles.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

Do it! Franklin offers a sense of community, autonomy and adventure unlike any other college experience.

“ Franklin, can be the launching pad for leading you down a rewarding future career path. ”



ISABEL GLUSMAN '15
NEW YORK, NEW YORK, USA

Isabel Glusman, MA '15 is a Ph.D. student in clinical health psychology at Yeshiva University in the Bronx, New York, where she is pursuing minors in neuropsychology and geropsychology. Her clinical and research work examines how people and their families adapt to trauma, serious illness, and loss. Isabel conducts neuropsychological evaluations at Montefiore Einstein Medical Center, trained in geriatric inpatient psychiatry at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell, and delivers grief psychotherapy to bereaved parents in a multisite NIH-funded trial at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Her doctoral research explores posttraumatic growth in older cancer caregivers. After Franklin, Isabel worked in high stakes litigation planning to become a lawyer, pivoted to a postbacc in neuroscience, then to clinical work.

Isabel was selected as one of eleven clinical psychology recipients of the U.S. Navy Health Professions Scholarship Program this year. She is now an officer in the Medical Service Corps, U.S. Navy Reserve, and will serve as a Navy clinical psychologist upon completion of her doctoral training. With the U.S. Navy, Isabel will provide clinical care at Navy medical centers and aboard ships, supporting operational readiness, performance optimization, and adaptation to injury and trauma among U.S. service members, their families, and U.S. allied forces.

MAJOR: International Relations
MINOR: Psychology and Economics

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Clinical Psychology (Health Emphasis) Ph.D. Student (3rd Year), Yeshiva University (Bronx, NY), with minors in Neuropsychology and Geropsychology
- U.S. Navy Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) recipient
- Ensign, Medical Service Corps, U.S. Navy Reserve.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

I was interested in high exposure to different perspectives than my own, and a curriculum that could train me to critically navigate these differences. The opportunities for learning completely matched my curiosity.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

Franklin fostered my self-sufficiency and ambition in a way that allowed me to be very intentional about my career and desired quality of life. There wasn't a psychology major when I attended, my minor alone inspired me to work towards a field where I will be able to effect individual behavioral (clinical practice) and systems level (research) change, and work for myself anywhere in the world. I derived so much meaning from my time at Franklin, I wouldn't settle after until I could somehow build a life where I was constantly having new experiences.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

While there are many types of degrees in mental health, the Ph.D. in clinical psychology in the U.S. is very particular about your qualifications. The shortest path is to major in psychology and to work in clinical research for 2–3 years after you graduate. Be very cautious about additional master's degrees, as this is usually acquired within the Ph.D. program and you will have to repeat coursework. Research opportunities tend to open up in the spring, when the current research assistants leave to begin their programs. Take advantage of conferences and professional societies to build and maintain your network in your chosen area of interest.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

Eleven years after graduation, I still regularly have conversations with people interested in knowing why I went to school in Switzerland. It has made me unique, provided me with friends and contacts around the world, and emboldened me to often walk the unexpected path in the pursuit of a meaningful life. Do it!

“ Franklin fostered my self-sufficiency and ambition in a way that allowed me to be very intentional about my career and desired quality of life.

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COURTNEY LOTFI '02
WASHINGTON, D.C., USA

Courtney Lotfi is a US-trained and qualified attorney with 20 years of experience in dispute resolution, specializing in international arbitration and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. Her practice spans a wide range of sectors, including energy, construction, industrial engineering, life sciences, automotive, aviation, and technology, alongside significant experience in corporate matters such as post-M&A, shareholder, and joint venture disputes.

Courtney began her career at Freshfields, where she represented a European energy company in a series of groundbreaking arbitrations. Her notable early cases include a market-leading price review that led to the rewriting of a purchase price formula to incorporate hub indexation in a long-term natural gas supply contract, a novel outcome at the time, that reset the upstream purchase price for natural gas in much of Europe. She also served as secretary to the sole arbitrator in a landmark case in which the Swiss Federal Supreme Court held for the first time that English-language arbitral awards need not be translated in order to be enforced.

In more recent years, Courtney has represented contractors in arbitrations related to the construction of LNG re-gasification plants, data centers, and blast furnaces, and has advised on post-M&A disputes in the energy and engineering sectors. Her work has also included joint venture disputes involving company management and accounting, as well as counsel on issues related to Russian sanctions and counter-sanctions.

Courtney brings a global perspective to her practice, having attended high school on three continents and university on two. She acts as arbitrator, mediator, and consultant in international disputes through her own Courtney Lotfi ADR Consulting GmbH since 2025.

MAJOR: International Relations
MINOR: Economics & History

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Landing my dream job
- Working on first-of-their-kind international arbitrations
- Launching my own practice

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

It was a mix of chance and fate. During my final year of high school, my family moved to Germany, and one weekend after taking the SAT II, I happened to walk past the guidance counselor's office and noticed a set of brochures for international universities, Franklin's among them.

This was still the early days of the internet, but I looked it up, liked what I saw, and decided to apply. At the time, my plan was simply to study abroad for a year and then transfer back to a university in the United States.

That plan changed the moment I set foot on campus during a spring break visit. Something clicked immediately, and I knew Franklin was where I would spend all four years.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

Franklin has influenced my professional journey in every way. It shaped me into a well-rounded individual and gave me a strong academic foundation, but just as importantly, it taught me how to engage with people from all walks of life.

I'm as comfortable speaking with senior executives as I am connecting with someone on a factory floor—an ability rooted in Franklin's emphasis on perspective: seeing both the big picture and its nuances.

Franklin also instilled a deep curiosity about people and systems—how history, culture, and context shape how individuals think, work, and make decisions. That mindset has been invaluable in navigating complex environments and building meaningful relationships. It also didn't hurt that many places I visited on academic travel later reappeared in my professional life as client locations or dispute venues, giving me immediate familiarity and reassuring clients.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

Be curious. Study more than “just” the law - it will make you a better lawyer and help you truly understand your clients. Take risks. Work hard. Stay open to learning from others, and don't hesitate to accept a helping hand along the way. And remember to take time for yourself, too.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

Go for it - you'll love your Franklin experience!

“ Franklin has influenced my professional journey in every way. ”



MIA MONTOYA HAMMERSLEY '13 FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA, USA

Mia Montoya Hammersley, J.D., M.S. is an environmental attorney and policy expert dedicated to advancing environmental justice, Indigenous rights, and sustainable natural resource management. Her work has focused on representing conservation organizations in protecting public lands from extractive industries, supporting Tribal Nations in defending and asserting their land and water rights, and advocating for communities disproportionately affected by environmental health harms.

Mia holds a Juris Doctor with dual certificates in Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy and Environmental Law, Science, and Policy, as well as a Master of Science in Water Policy from the University of Arizona. Her interdisciplinary expertise bridges environmental law, public policy, and water resource governance.

Recognized as a leader in the field of environmental justice, she was named a recipient of the 2021 Young, Gifted, and Green 40 Under 40 Award by Black Millennials for Flint. She is also the author of the chapter "*The Water-Energy Nexus and Environmental Justice: The Missing Link Between Water Rights and Energy Production on Tribal Lands*", published in *Indigenous Environmental Justice* by the University of Arizona Press.

Inspired by her Indigenous heritage as a member of the Guadalupe Pueblo and a Yoeme (Yaqui) descendant, Mia brings a deeply informed perspective to her work, advancing equitable, community-centered solutions at the intersection of environmental protection, public health, and Indigenous sovereignty.

MAJOR: Environmental Studies

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Director of Climate Justice, Public Health Law Center (present)
- Environmental Justice Clinic Director and Assistant Professor of Law, Vermont Law & Graduate School (2023-25)
- Young, Gifted, & Green 40 Under 40 2021 Award Recipient by Black Millennials for Flint

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

My journey to Franklin was serendipitous. I came as a transfer student at the beginning of my sophomore year. No one in my immediate family had been to Europe at all when I applied, including me! It was a leap of faith, but I ultimately decided to transfer because of the incredible opportunity that Franklin's academic travel curriculum provided. I knew that it would expand my horizons in ways that no other educational opportunity could.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

I fully believe that I am a better advocate because of my experience at Franklin. The curriculum and experience of living abroad and traveling to so many new places shaped my understanding of environmental and climate justice. My first academic travel with Professor Anne Gardiner, which focused on the historical and environmental significance of the Rhine River, left a lasting impression on me. Our trip concluded with a tour of the port of Rotterdam, which contained several square miles of coal that was going to be distributed throughout Europe. Learning about the environmental impacts of burning coal is one thing, but actually seeing the scale of the issue with your own eyes is another. At Franklin, I had the opportunity to do both.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

If you're interested in being a lawyer in the environmental or public health field, I recommend not rushing into law school. Take the time to gain other experience in the field, and if you're in the United States, focus on metrics that can help make law school more affordable, like higher LSAT scores. And, seek out the advice of other lawyers in your network (which includes me!). Your work in this area is so needed!

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

Choosing Franklin is life changing. I cherish the friendships and memories that I made there. My Franklin community is still an integral part of my life!

“ Choosing Franklin is life changing. I cherish the friendships and memories that I made there. ”



CHRISTINE JURZENSKI '13
LAKE TAHOE, USA

Christine Jurzenski is the co-founder of CRANEL, a science-backed cranberry formula brand focused on urinary and gut health. She co-founded the company in 2020 alongside Erica Schultz and has scaled it into a multi-million dollar business operating across the U.S. and Australia.

Since launch, CRANEL has generated over \$4 million in revenue, raised over \$1 million in seed funding, and built a loyal customer base driven by product efficacy and word-of-mouth. The brand has achieved over 50 million views across social media and has been featured in outlets including Daily Mail, The Zoe Report, and Better Homes & Gardens.

CRANEL has also been recognized through competitive founder programs, including selection into the SmartSweets Bold Beginnings cohort and the Briogeo Makers Mindset cohort.

Prior to CRANEL, Christine spent over seven years as an Investment Associate at Avenir Capital, a global equities firm. Her work was featured in Barron's, The Wall Street Journal, and Bloomberg, and presented at a U.S. Senate hearing.

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MAJOR: International Business
MINOR: Economics

- CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:**
- Co-founder, CRANEL (scaled to \$4M+ revenue in 3 years)
 - Raised \$1M+ seed funding from strategic investors
 - Selected for Shark Tank (ABC, 2026)
 - Investment Associate, Avenir Capital (8+ years)

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

I chose Franklin because of its international environment and the opportunity to study in Europe while being surrounded by people from all over the world. I wanted a global perspective on business, not just a traditional classroom experience. The small class sizes and access to professors also stood out to me. It felt like a place where you could really engage, ask questions, and think critically. Being in Switzerland also meant constant exposure to different cultures, languages, and ways of thinking. That experience shaped how I approach both business and life today.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

Franklin gave me a global lens early on, which has been incredibly valuable across both investing and building a business internationally. After graduating, I spent over seven years in public markets, where I developed a strong foundation in analytical thinking and decision-making. That experience has directly shaped how I approach building and scaling CRANEL.

The academic travel programs were especially impactful, allowing me to form a thesis, go to a new place, and engage with people and cultures outside my immediate circle. It expanded my perspective in a way a traditional classroom could not. Franklin made taking a non-traditional path feel normal, which gave me the confidence to start a company.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

Start before you feel ready and don't overthink the first version of anything. Most of what you learn will come from actually doing, not planning. Keep your idea close in the early stages so you can build conviction without too much outside noise. Often, you're seeing a gap or insight others won't recognize until you've actually built something.

If you want something, go after it directly — reach out to people, ask questions, and learn from those who have done it before. Grit and kindness are the most important things in building anything.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

If you want a global perspective and an environment that pushes you to think independently, Franklin is the place to be. It's a unique experience that stays with you long after you graduate.

“
Franklin made taking a non-traditional path feel normal, which gave me the confidence to start a company.
”



GEORGETTE CATRIONA BALIGA '16

NEW YORK, NY AND DENVER, COLORADO

Georgette is a Senior Manager in PwC's Sustainability Consulting Practice, with nearly a decade of experience advising global organizations on climate strategy and reporting. She has worked across industries to help companies assess the regulatory and policy landscape, identify and trace the data underpinning their environmental commitments - voluntary and mandatory alike - and design automated workflows that make sustainability reporting scalable. Her work spans double materiality assessments, data lineage analysis, and technology integration, with a consistent focus on integrating environmental performance and business strategy, so that sustainability isn't a compliance exercise but a source of operational value.

Sitting at the intersection of corporate sustainability and public policy, Georgette returned to academia to examine the systems that shape whether climate progress and (in)action across both the public and private sectors. She is currently completing a Master of Science in Environmental Policy at the London School of Economics, where her research investigates how policy design influences the success of renewable energy initiatives.

MAJOR: Honors Degree, International Economics and International Banking and Finance
MINOR: History

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Senior Manager, Sustainability Practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)
- Current Master's Student in Environmental Policy at London School of Economics (LSE)
- Research Officer at the Just Transition Finance Lab in the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

I chose Franklin because I was tired of an American-centric education and wanted to understand what it truly meant to become a global citizen. I wanted to be surrounded by different cultures, languages, and approaches to problems and Franklin delivered on all of that and more. From Malawi to Morocco, the former Yugoslavia to South Africa, Franklin's Academic Travel allowed me to explore a new sociopolitical/economic context every semester. These experiences fundamentally shaped how I see the world - I learned to appreciate the value of varied perspectives approaching the same problem, navigate unfamiliar contexts with curiosity rather than anxiety, and came home with a genuinely global outlook. But while I chose Franklin for the international experience, I stayed for the academics. The rigor of the courses, the small classes, and the ability to push further through Honors tutorials and independent study allowed me to develop my interests and skillset in ways I didn't anticipate.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

The Honors Program shaped how I approach every complex problem I encounter professionally. The program's emphasis on interdisciplinary, independent research instilled a curiosity that has never left me and gave me quantitative skills I still use a decade later. This foundation has proven invaluable in my consulting career, where I routinely bring together SMEs from business, data/technology, and climate domains to solve complex client problems.

Equally formative were the presentations required in Professor Pyka's history courses - learning to take a deeply complex topic, research and honor its nuances, and communicate it clearly in fifteen minutes or less is a skill I rely on constantly when advising senior stakeholders. That training also shaped my approach to bigger issues: climate challenges resist simple answers, and the ability to sit with competing interpretations - rather than flatten them - is what separates meaningful analysis from noise.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

Sustainability is one of the fastest-moving fields you can enter right now (even while the geopolitical landscape seems a bit tenuous) - which means the role you'll have in ten years probably doesn't exist yet. The best thing, in my opinion, that you can do is stay curious and resist the urge to over-specialize too early - build your soft skills, sharpen your quantitative/technical skills, learn to synthesize large amounts of information in a meaningful way (!!!). This field has moved beyond mission statements - employers want people who can work with data, understand regulatory frameworks, and translate complex findings into business decisions. Also, get comfortable with ambiguity. There are rarely clean answers in sustainability, and the ability to make sound judgments under uncertainty is what separates good team members from great ones.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

Do it! And throw yourself into every part of it. The Honors Program, Academic Travel, living abroad surrounded by people from so many different places - these aren't lines on your resume, they're the experiences that will make you adaptable, curious, and resourceful in ways that you won't get in any other setting.

“

I wanted to understand what it truly meant to become a global citizen.

”



ADAM MAKARY '06
CAIRO, EGYPT

Adam Makary arrived at Franklin in 2002 not entirely sure where he was headed. He completed his first year there, then followed a pull he couldn't quite explain to Cairo, initially as a study abroad student before transferring permanently. He still comes back to Lugano.

That first year turned out to be a launch pad. Over the two decades since, Adam has reported across the Middle East for Al Jazeera, CNN, ABC, Deutsche Welle and Thomson Reuters, covering the Arab Spring, the Gaza war, and the slow-moving tectonic shifts of a region that rewards patience. His reporting for Al Jazeera English helped the network earn several prestigious journalism awards, including the Columbia Journalism Award. His Gaza war coverage earned him a *Reuters Journalist of the Year 2024* nomination, followed by an Izzy award nomination for an article he wrote on covering Gaza as an Egyptian-American journalist.

He now splits his time between writing, rowing and teaching journalism at the American University in Cairo, trying to pass on the thing Franklin gave him first: that going somewhere unfamiliar and paying close attention can be a pretty good way to spend a life.

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MAJOR: Political Science
MINOR: Journalism

- CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:**
- USC MFA 2018 Film & TV Production
 - Izzy Award Nominee
 - Nominated *Reuters Journalist of the Year 2024* for Gaza War coverage

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

I wanted adventure. Being that young and studying in the heart of Europe sounded like exactly the kind of leap I needed, and it encouraged me to make it the first of many.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

Franklin was the first place that made me see how big and small the world could feel at the same time. It normalized curiosity about other cultures, and once that becomes your model for engaging with the world, your world view shifts in a permanent way. That environment made me hungry for more, and experiencing it meant I could never go back to thinking small.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

Show up, stay longer than everyone else, and care more about the story than the byline. The rest sorts itself out.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

You're going to be surrounded by people from everywhere, in one of the most beautiful places on earth, with nowhere to run. Say yes.

“ You’re going to be surrounded by people from everywhere, in one of the most beautiful places on earth... ”



DR. ZORA PISKAČOVÁ '17
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Zora Piskačová is a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University. After graduating from Franklin, she earned her MA in East European Studies at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich and her Ph.D. in Modern European History from UNC-Chapel Hill, where her dissertation won the 2026 Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Award.

Zora has taught History and elementary Czech at UNC and was a Visiting Researcher at Charles University in Prague. Her research on transnational urban history in East-Central Europe has been supported by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, and ZEIT-Stiftung. She has published in *Slavic Review* and *Central European History* and is completing her first book, *"The Last Habsburg City: Cieszyn and Český Těšín, 1918–1938."*

MAJOR: History

MINOR: Communication and Media Studies, Germanic Studies

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Academy Scholar, The Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies
- 2026 UNC-Chapel Hill Dean's Distinguished Dissertation Awardee
- 2024 Harry Frank Guggenheim Emerging Scholar

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

Although I grew up Czech speaking, I attended the German School in Prague (Deutsche Schule Prag), which brought together Czech and German students in a highly international environment. I found that experience along with mastering German very enriching, so when choosing my next step, I knew I wanted something similarly international. I was also eager to improve my English, and since family friends had children who attended both my high school and Franklin, I was confident it would meet that expectation. At the same time, I liked the idea of staying relatively close to home – rather than moving to the UK or the US – while still receiving a liberal arts education. As I wasn't yet 100% certain what I wanted to study, the flexibility to explore different fields, typical of the American system, was especially appealing.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

I didn't come to Franklin intending to become a professional historian or go into academia. I initially planned to study international relations, but it was the Intro to Global History course that truly captured my interest, and from that point on, my path became set. Beyond simply giving me direction, Franklin provided an excellent foundation for graduate school. Its small, seminar-style courses emphasized discussion over lectures, closely mirroring the structure of graduate education. Equally important was the hands-on mentorship from faculty, through which I developed skills that many of my peers only acquired later – such as critical reading and thinking, public speaking, and independent research. The Honors Program, in particular, was transformative. The thesis research and writing process, which required work approaching the level of a master's thesis, gave me an early understanding of the historical craft and academic work well before I began my PhD.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

If you want an academic career, follow your curiosity. Explore topics that excite you, but take courses beyond your immediate interests, and always think of larger significance. Find mentors who challenge you and invest in your growth, and learn to take criticism constructively. Put yourself out there – attend conferences, build a network. Finally, cultivate self-discipline. Academic work is independent, offering freedom but requiring accountability. Set your own deadlines and hold yourself accountable.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

Do it! Franklin is not just a school. It really is an experience! The faculty push you to grow, but the real magic is the community. You'll have friends across the globe. In a divided world, Franklin gives you a truly global family while at the same time challenging you to think outside the box and value difference.

“

If you want an academic career, follow your curiosity. Explore topics that excite you, but take courses beyond your immediate interests, and always think of larger significance.

”



JOSHUA NASSIRI GIRI '16
KOLKATA, INDIA

Joshua Nassiri Giri is Director – Sales, Communication, Artist Liaison at Experimenter gallery (Kolkata & Mumbai), with a background in art history and the global art market. A magna cum laude graduate of Franklin, he holds a Master’s in Art Market Studies from the University of Zurich and has interned at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and with a Swiss modern art dealer.

He oversees Experimenter gallery’s participation in international art fairs participation of Experimenter gallery, including Art Basel, Frieze London, The Armory Show, New York, Art Dubai, Art Basel Hong Kong, and India Art Fair, and works with artists from the gallery program and with leading institutions such as MoMA, Tate, Sharjah Art Foundation, M+ Hong Kong, and the Venice Biennale, among others. He also advises on exhibitions, acquisitions, and career pathways in the contemporary art world.

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MAJOR: Art History & Visual Culture
MINOR: Social Justice & Sustainability, Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies

- CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:**
- Director - Sales, Communication, Artist Liaison, Experimenter gallery, Kolkata & Mumbai
 - Gallery associate - Larkin Erdmann, Zurich
 - Internship program - Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

I was educated in the British system and completed my GCEs, then applied to universities in the US and UK, receiving several offers. I also applied to Franklin Switzerland with the plan to join in the spring. What drew me to Franklin was its liberal arts curriculum. I valued the flexibility to explore different fields before choosing a major. Its location in Switzerland was another strong factor, given its openness and central position in Europe.

On a personal level, Switzerland has always been meaningful to my family, particularly for my father because of its historical connection with Iran. Altogether, it felt like the right academic and personal fit for me.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

My experience at Franklin shaped me on a personal level. What stood out most was how much a genuinely personal approach to education can make a difference. Even now, I’m still in touch with students, faculty, and staff, which says a lot about the kind of community it creates.

What made it special for me was the lack of pressure or judgment. It gave you the space to figure things out for yourself but at the same time, if you wanted to push yourself and excel, the support was always there. It felt like the kind of environment where you could really go as far as you wanted to.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

My advice to someone interested in entering the art world while at Franklin is to fully immerse yourself in the surrounding art ecosystem. Visit galleries in Lugano and take advantage of Milan’s cultural scene, and if possible, attend Art Basel in June, one of the most important art fairs in the world. Being based in Switzerland offers unparalleled access to Europe, so make the most of it by traveling to see exhibitions and shows across cities.

Equally important is gaining on-the-ground experience: handling artworks, assisting with installations, and understanding how exhibitions come together in real time. Seek out internships at museums in both the US and Europe to build this practical knowledge. At the same time, reflect on whether you’re drawn to an academic path, commercial galleries, or auction houses, and start pursuing opportunities in that direction.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

You’d love it and make friends and networks for a very long time. The faculty are exceptional, deeply engaged, supportive, and invested in your development, and the on-campus housing fosters a close-knit, very international community from all over the world with very diverse backgrounds.

Lugano is truly picture-perfect, but more importantly, it’s a place that invites immersion. Embrace both Swiss and Italian cultures, engage deeply with the city, and let it shape your perspective. Opportunities are plenty: what matters is openness to the culture and a willingness to explore.

“ I valued the flexibility to explore different fields before choosing a major. ”



ANNA KIMMERLE
BERLIN, GERMANY

Anna Kimmerle Galerie in Berlin challenges conventional art norms by prioritizing works that provoke emotional responses over mere aesthetic appeal. Founded by a psychology graduate turned gallerist, the gallery's focus on extraordinary art aims to stir souls and expand viewers' perceptions. Influenced by its historic setting, the gallery seeks to push boundaries and enrich artistic experiences.

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MAJOR: Psychology
MINOR: History

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Founder & Director, AK Galerie Berlin
- Expanded AK Galerie internationally with a second location in Pietrasanta, Tuscany
- Presented ICONIC during Berlin Gallery Weekend 2026 at St. Elisabeth Church

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

Reputation

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

Global interaction

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

Bring a lot of strong nerves and consistency

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

Do it!



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Do it!

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ADRIENNE BLAINE GARCIA '13

SAN JOSE, CA, USA

Adrienne Blaine Garcia is an award-winning journalist and communications professional whose work has been recognized with a National Daytime Emmy, a James Beard Award, and an AAAS | Kavli Science Journalism Award.

Her Emmy-winning story, *"The Awful Truth About 'No Trespassing' Signs,"* and her James Beard-winning piece, *"What Everyone Gets Wrong About Farm Work,"* showcased her ability to turn overlooked topics into compelling, high-impact storytelling. Her AAAS Kavli Science Foundation Award for *"The Bizarre COVID Side Effect No One Is Talking About"* further cemented her reputation for making complex science accessible to broad audiences.

Adrienne's career began at Franklin, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper, The Franklin Voice, and completed two formative summer internships in San Francisco and Reykjavik, Iceland. Her San Francisco internship led to a freelance writing role with KQED Arts after graduation, while her international experience abroad helped her land a position as a video producer for Al Jazeera's AJ+ in its San Francisco newsroom. She later relocated with AJ+ to Washington, D.C., where she pitched, edited, and produced award-winning short documentaries for the food and culture series Eat This with Yara.

Following her career in journalism, Adrienne transitioned into communications, bringing her storytelling expertise to Blaine Tech Services, Inc., a woman-owned family business founded in 1985 in San Jose, California.



MAJOR: Comparative Literary & Cultural Studies/ Communications & Media Studies (Combined Honors Degree)

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Communications Director at Blaine Tech Services, Inc.
- 2023 Daytime Emmy Winner for Best Lifestyle Program
- 2022 James Beard Winner: Visual Media—Short Form

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

In high school, I wanted to travel as widely as I could, and Franklin's location in Switzerland combined with its academic travel every semester was like a dream come true. I remember flipping through the course catalog and wanting to take every class. It comforted me to know that even though I was going far from my home in California, I would be on a small campus with a close-knit support system of peers, faculty and staff. The opportunity to spend four years at the same American- and Swiss-accredited university was above and beyond the more common semester abroad offering. I knew every additional semester I spent at Franklin was an invaluable opportunity to expand my horizons academically and culturally. In retrospect, I was also influenced by the 1998 book, *Bloomability* by Sharon Creech. The story is about a girl from the U.S. who attends a Swiss boarding school inspired by the author's time as a teacher at TASIS in Ticino, which has strong connections to Franklin's origins. Maybe it's no surprise, but that book was one of my favorites!

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

Studying Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies combined with Communications and Media Studies gave me practical tools I have used in every workplace and phase of my career. Having an international education has made me a more competitive applicant for international media organizations. My time at Franklin helped prepare me to work in a diverse newsroom with colleagues who spoke multiple languages, had varied cultural customs and called many places home. This exposure to different points of view has also helped me in my current role as a Communications Director, where sensitivity informs my daily work.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

After I graduated, a skeptical relative asking how I was going to make a career with my degree. I knew that Franklin had made me a better writer, but ultimately it challenged me to live outside my comfort zone and to explore the wider world from multiple angles. Those skills are what propelled my career as an award-winning journalist and as a Communications Director. The professional landscape is rapidly changing, and Franklin can teach you the most important skills for navigating it: adaptability and critical thinking.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

If you are considering applying to Franklin, there is something inside you seeking a unique academic experience. What makes you feel singular now is what will make future Franklin peers feel like kindred spirits. You all have a home in Lugano.

“

My time at Franklin helped prepare me to work in a diverse newsroom with colleagues who spoke multiple languages, had varied cultural customs and called many places home.

”



JENNIFER ANDENMATTEN '16

SAAS FEE, SWITZERLAND

Jennifer Andenmatten is a Senior Manager at Discord and Co-Chair at the Digital Trust & Safety Partnership (DTSP). She will be a speaker at TrustCon 2026 in San Francisco.

With nearly a decade in tech, Jennifer has been at the center of complex content moderation challenges, including sensitive enforcement decisions at Meta, platform integrity during the 2020 U.S. election at Twitter, and building Discord's regulatory compliance function from scratch. She has collaborated with Europol and the FBI on investigations involving terrorism, school shootings, and other critical threats.

Today, as head of Platform & Product Compliance at Discord, her focus is minor safety, creating an age-appropriate teen experience while leading regulatory strategy across the U.S., EU, UK, Australia, and Brazil. She orchestrates risk assessments, transparency reporting, and compliance frameworks across 200+ jurisdictions.

Before Discord, Jennifer spent four years at Twitter as a Senior Program Manager in Trust & Safety. She began her career at the U.S. Department of State. Jennifer has worked internationally from San Francisco, CA to where she resides now in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

MAJOR: International Relations

MINOR: Political Science, Environmental Studies

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Senior Manager, Discord: Built global regulatory compliance function across 200+ jurisdictions (2026)
- Senior Program Manager, Twitter: Led platform health and safety initiatives across Trust & Safety (2023)
- Project Associate, U.S. Department of State: Strengthened foreign policy through international exchange programs (2016)

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

I originally started at a major U.S. university where I was unhappy. The classrooms were too big, engagement with professors was nonexistent, and I felt like just a number. I knew I performed better in smaller classrooms where I could prove my learning through essays, ongoing assignments, and discussions rather than a single exam at the end of the year. When I found Franklin, it checked every box. The ability to design my own major, the built-in travel experiences, and the intimacy of a small international campus all drew me in. I also knew that even though Franklin would be much smaller, my friendships would be all the bigger and more meaningful because of it. That turned out to be absolutely true.

HOW HAS YOUR FRANKLIN EXPERIENCE INFLUENCED YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY?

The international aspect has been the biggest influence. Even though I grew up as a Swiss American bouncing back and forth between Switzerland and the U.S., Franklin deepened my understanding of so many more cultures. With friends and classmates coming from Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Poland, and beyond, I spent Christmases and celebrations in places I never expected. That has massively influenced how I think at work. When I'm navigating content moderation decisions or analyzing how different regions approach tech legislation, having a genuine understanding of those cultures and the people in them has made me better at what I do. I understand how it all interconnects, and that perspective started at Franklin.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO HOPES TO BUILD A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?

I'll be real - a lot of ending up in the right field comes down to luck and timing. But you can create more opportunities for that luck to find you. Start as a generalist, try many things early and often, and don't pressure yourself to have it all figured out. Once you realize you enjoy something, lean in. There are more entry points into tech than people think. Free policy workshops, advocacy groups, and conferences like TrustCon and RightsCon are open to anyone curious about online safety and digital regulation. Go to one. If a session sparks something, introduce yourself to the speaker afterward. Connect with the people you meet. That one conversation can turn into a mentorship, an internship, or a role you didn't know existed. The path is rarely a straight line, and that's fine.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT WHO IS CONSIDERING APPLYING TO FRANKLIN TODAY?

Well first off, I'm jealous of you! I wish I could do it all over again. But more importantly, Franklin gives you the freedom to explore every major and interest without the pressure of having it all figured out. You don't need to know what you want to do yet; Franklin will help you find it.

“

When I found Franklin, it checked every box. The ability to design my own major, the built-in travel experiences, and the intimacy of a small international campus all drew me in.

”



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