“Any time women come together with a collective intention, it’s a powerful thing.”

—Phylicia Rashād
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A Message from the Director

As we approach our fifth anniversary, I am amazed at how quickly the Athena Center has grown in such a short period of time. My days are filled with inspiring students from Lacey Tompkins ’14 who worked to better accessibility for disabled persons to Sarah Esser ’16 who formed her own dance collective to Emily-Anne Rigal ’15 whose campaign to build self-esteem among teens was featured on the cover of Seventeen. For the first time this year, the Athena Distinguished Fellows have added their talents, experience, and gravitas to our programming.

In February, the Athena Film Festival, our signature event, was spectacular, exceeding all of our expectations. Nearly 5,000 film lovers came to campus to watch 40 features, documentaries, and short films that tell stories of women’s leadership. The weekend was filled with an awe-inspiring award ceremony, workshops for filmmakers, sold-out audiences, and a bit of glam. Don’t we love red carpets!

Our leadership development program has been doing groundbreaking work developing the Athena CORE10™ and a new methodology to inspire women as they become leaders in their communities and dedicate their energies to making the world a better place.

We also launched an ambitious program to level the playing field for women entrepreneurs, involving both students and women business owners from New York’s Silicon Alley. From our summer boot camp for Girl Scouts to our Mastermind Groups to the launch of the Athena Digital Design Agency, where Barnard students learn to code and develop websites for neighborhood organizations, women are making bold decisions and learning leadership skills that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

Many thanks to our donors and sponsors, the exemplary team of staff, fellows and consultants, dedicated members of our Advisory Board and Leadership Council, wise faculty, advisors, instructors, and our stellar students for helping us create these ambitious programs. We greatly appreciate all of you who have contributed your energy, vision, and financial resources to our work and look forward to working together to advance women’s leadership for years to come.

Kathryn Kolbert
Constance Hess Williams ’66 Director
The Athena Center for Leadership Studies

Established at Barnard College, a pioneering force in undergraduate women’s education since 1889, the Athena Center for Leadership Studies is dedicated to the advancement of women’s leadership across the globe. Our programs

- develop new generations of women leaders;
- create innovative approaches to leadership development;
- promote entrepreneurial spirit among women leaders;
- change cultural stereotypes of leaders; and
- foster public dialogue that expands our understanding of leadership.

Athena is building a world where leadership is constantly re-imagined to reflect the needs of women and society—where women obtaining and exercising power is both expected and commonplace.

Launched as a special initiative of Barnard President Debora Spar, Kathryn Kolbert, the Constance Hess Williams ’66 Director, joined as its founding director in fall 2009. Since then, the Center’s talented team has provided education, research, professional development, and public education programs, both in New York and across the globe.

WHY ARE WE COMMITTED to creating a bold, new vision of leadership? It is simple. When more women are leaders, we change society’s understanding of what a leader looks like, how they operate, and how they respond to social, political, and economic needs. When more women are leaders—particularly when they are powerful, visionary, and strategic ones—communities and organizations are more innovative, productive, and successful. When more women are leaders, we raise the aspirations of women and girls around the world.
Developing a New Generation of Women Leaders

ATHENA SCHOLARS PROGRAM GROWS IN 2014

Over 175 Barnard students participated in the Athena Scholars Program this year making it one of the more popular opportunities offered on campus. A curricular and co-curricular program, students are required to take five academic courses, complete three leadership development workshops, and fulfill a pre-professional practicum. There are also numerous opportunities which deepen scholars’ understanding of and involvement with their own leadership abilities.

The Athena Scholars Program is grounded at the nexus of leadership theory, gender studies, and an understanding of institutional power. As our students advance through their studies, they will

- construct a leadership narrative drawing on a wide-range of experiences;
- engage in highly advanced inter- and intra-personal and professional communication skills; and
- develop a heightened gender consciousness, attuned to larger social, economic, and political contexts.

Athena Scholars are exposed to academic, experiential, and reflective practices that allow them to integrate leadership skills with theory. Students are required to submit a series of papers based on the lessons learned from their leadership development workshops and their coursework and explore how they are using these lessons to maximize their internships.

Students also draw upon the lessons of the past three years when developing and implementing their senior social action project. As part of the Athena Senior Seminar, Scholars are required to create a social service, advocacy, or entrepreneurial project with a community partner. Throughout the semester, students present their projects to their peers, obtain both positive feedback and critical response, and then work collaboratively in teams to improve their projects.

Thirty-six seniors successfully completed their social action projects this year. For example, Carly Wertheim successfully spun her project, Culinary Wellness for Cancer, into a consultant position at the Comprehensive Breast Center at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital. Dianna Yau used the project to give back to her community. Yau partnered with the Queens Library to offer college guidance and mentoring to first generation students like herself at four Queens public high schools. Ashleen Wicklow worked to ensure pop culture reflects gender equality by advocating for more female representation in the comic book world, garnering the notice of DC Comics.

The Athena Scholars’ community has grown significantly since 2009, with a robust Athena Alumnae Network meeting regularly and returning to participate in social events like the Holiday and the Year-End parties. Current scholars connect to incoming students at our annual Ice Cream Social. Roughly half of our Scholars engage in our mentoring programs.

ATHENA OFFERS 35 LEADERSHIP LAB WORKSHOPS

Open to all Barnard students, the Athena Leadership Lab workshops enable students to explore and practice leadership skills. Taught by professionals in their fields, these interactive workshops provide training in seven areas: communications, entrepreneurship, risk-taking and resilience, negotiation, political and civic engagement, financial fluency, and technology. The Leadership Lab sessions, which are based on the Athena CORE10, include opportunities to network with others and share secrets of success in an informal setting.

This school year, 378 students registered for 35 workshops, with the majority taking more than one workshop. Some registrants attended three or more sessions in one semester. The bulk of students participating were seniors (35 percent), followed by sophomores (29 percent), juniors (21 percent), and first years (16 percent). This year, we successfully partnered with Barnard’s Career Development Office to explore where professional and leadership development skills intersect, providing workshops on networking and salary negotiations, and with the Residential Life and Housing office, to offer seniors one of the more popular sessions, Navigating Post-College Finances.

The Leadership Labs were well-received, with 86 percent of respondents describing the content of the Labs as “excellent” or “very good.” Students particularly valued hearing stories from inspiring and diverse instructors and appreciated the intimacy of the workshops.

ERIKA ESPOSITO ’14 created a project that provides free babysitting services for families battling cancer. Esposito screened over eighty volunteers to babysit for families at the Weill Cornell Medical College’s Pediatric Department. Over thirty-five hours of service were logged over a 6-week period, with more families interested in participating in Summer 2014. Esposito is expanding her project to the Boston area, where she is moving for a job at McLean Hospital. She is partnering with Bob Taube, Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Executive Director, to develop an interactive web portal that will enable pairings between families and caregivers. She will also continue the New York project by training student volunteers at The Young Women’s Leadership School of East Harlem.
SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS PROVIDE JOB READINESS

This year, in partnership with the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, Athena launched our fourth summer undergraduate fellowship program. This venture enables Athena Scholars interested in the Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian region to intern with local women leaders in private, non-profit, or governmental organizations. Our first fellow, Anastasia Rab ’15, interned in Romania at the Aspen Institute Romania’s Global Women’s Leadership Initiative.

Our three other summer fellowship programs, the Williams Program for Women in Politics, the Silberstein Public Service Fellowship, and the Athena Summer Fellowship Program continue to attract many of the best Barnard students. The Williams and Public Service Programs are aimed toward Athena Scholars. The three participating students this year interned at the Office of the Mayor (New York City), the National Organization of Women-New York City Chapter, and an outdoor leadership program for under-served children.

The highly competitive Athena Summer Fellowship Program is open to all Barnard juniors. During the ten-week program, the fellows live together on campus, intern with employers in the city, and meet weekly with the Athena Center Director and others professionals to reflect on their experiences. Selected from a diverse and competitive applicant pool, the ten participants are placed in a wide-range of companies and non-profit organizations throughout New York City.

ON OUR TERMS

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH JOURNAL EXPANDS

After launching last spring, On Our Terms: The Undergraduate Journal of the Athena Center for Leadership Studies, expanded its scope and, more importantly, its readership by creating new features highlighting women in such fields as academia, business, and media. The Student Editorial Board had the privilege of interviewing such luminaries as Anna Quindlen ’74, Jyoti Menon ’01, Anne-Marie Slaughter, Lexi Alexander, and Barnard College President Deobra Spar.

The journal was created to provide a venue for undergraduates to express their vision of women’s leadership and to recognize their scholarship. This year’s journal included articles on women in the punk scene, reproductive rights, and happiness, written by students from the University of Chicago, Michigan State University, Rutgers University, and Barnard College.

GALIA GICHON is an independent personal financial expert and the founder of “Down to Earth Finance.” In addition to her highly-rated and popular workshop, 3 Things Every College Woman Needs to Know to Keep Her $20s in Her 20s, this year Gichon offered a new Leadership Lab, Make Your Money Work for You, to introduce Barnard students to investing.
This year, to supplement our programming, the Athena Center launched the Distinguished Fellows Program which brings to Barnard renowned leaders from the most senior levels of the private and public sectors, including innovators in business, law, medicine, government and NGOs. Our first class of Fellows has demonstrated their commitment to the advancement of women, sharing their expertise and experience and advocating for women’s leadership within their respective fields. The fellows presented at the Athena Film Festival, Power Talks, and TedX Barnard College, met with students in Athena’s Senior Seminar and Women and Leadership classes, and developed programs that advance leadership. This initial class has agreed to stay with the Center for another year, as we bring on new Fellows in 2014.

Meet the 2013 Fellows:


2011 Nobel Peace Laureate and Liberian peace activist Leymah Gbowee joined Barnard as its inaugural Distinguished Fellow in Social Justice, a Distinguished Fellow at the Athena Center, and a Transnational Fellow at the Barnard Center for Research on Women. A trained social worker and women’s rights advocate, Gbowee is founder and president of the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, founder of the Liberia Reconciliation Initiative, and co-founder and former executive director of Women Peace and Security Network Africa (WIPSEN-A). She is also a founding member and former Liberia Coordinator of Women in Peacebuilding Network/West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WIPNET/WANEP). Gbowee’s leadership of the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace, which brought together Christian and Muslim women in this nonviolent movement, played a pivotal role in ending Liberia’s civil war in 2003. This experience is chronicled in her memoir, *Mighty Be Our Powers*, and in the documentary, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*.


A feminist leader and social entrepreneur, Marie C. Wilson has created and led women’s organizations for the past forty years. She is one of the five founding “mothers” of the Ms. Foundation, where she served as President for many years; she founded and directed The White House Project; and now chairs VoteRunLead. She co-created Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day® and authored *Closing the Leadership Gap: Add Women, Change Everything*. Wilson has been profiled by and appeared extensively in the national media, including the *New York Times Public Lives* column, *O Magazine*, *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *CNN*, *NPR*, and *BBC*. She also has received four honorary doctorates including, most recently, a doctor of divinity from the Episcopal Seminary in Boston.
Creating Innovative Approaches to Leadership Development

ATHENA DELIVERS CUSTOMIZED LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

The Athena Center offers a growing number of leadership development programs on a customized basis for Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. Based upon the Athena CORE10™ and utilizing a diverse network of experts, coaches, and speakers, our programs are tailored to meet the specific needs of each client. Our goal: to help women better understand and design their own path to advancement by improving the leadership skills needed for and valued in their environment, rewarded by their managers, and respected by their peers. Because we believe that it is not just women who are responsible for organizational change, Athena works with both male and female managers to stress the importance of gender diversity and to build new strategies that foster women's leadership into the organization’s mission and operational plan.

Last year, Athena’s leadership development programs provided customized professional development programs for emerging leaders and senior executive women from HSBC North America, for women in sales at ADP, and members of the Urban Girl Squad. Using a team of our professional coaches and leadership lab instructors as facilitators, these programs have received excellent reviews. On the non-profit side, we provided leadership trainings for curators at the Art Institute of Chicago and young professionals from Bossed Up.

KATIA ARIAS, an HSBC employee from Vancouver, British Columbia, credits her participation in Athena’s training program for her recent success rising through the leadership ranks. As she wrote to one of the program facilitators, “I have some good news... I have been applying to several internal positions for almost a year; I finally got... Senior Manager.” She continued, “I followed your advice. I prepared for the interview using power pose, I re-visited my notes from the conference, and thought about some good stories to tell (this was the hardest part), but I believe they were very useful [in convincing] my future manager that I was the right person for the position. Thank you again for your encouraging words.”
In Fall 2013, the Athena Center published The Athena CORE10™: Leadership Reimagined, a detailed report that analyzes ten attributes and skills that today’s leaders need to achieve, maintain, and maximize the impact of their positions. Based upon the best thinking of leading experts and Barnard’s 124-year history of promoting women’s leadership, this critical new initiative takes a fresh look at what effective leaders need to deploy with confidence, ease, and skill. The Athena CORE10™ includes:

1. **Vision**: Creating, defining, and motivating others with purpose.
2. **Ambition**: Striving for success, owning expertise, and projecting power.
3. **Courage**: Taking bold, strategic risks.
4. **Entrepreneurial Spirit**: Being imaginative, flexible, and persistent in pursuing opportunity.
5. **Resilience**: Learning and bouncing back from adversity.
6. **Communication**: Listening actively, speaking persuasively, and establishing authority.
7. **Leverage**: Identifying and optimizing the use of key resources.
8. **Collaboration**: Sharing diverse strengths and perspectives.
9. **Negotiation**: Bridging differences to come to a beneficial agreement.
10. **Advocacy**: Standing up for yourself—and for others.

The report includes a brief overview of how the attributes and skills contribute to effective leadership and analyzes how—and how well—women tend to apply them. Examples of how dynamic women have incorporated the attributes into leadership practices and suggestions on how others can do the same are also addressed.

Throughout the year, the Center’s staff has integrated the Athena CORE10™ into its leadership development programs, Leadership Labs, and the Scholars Program, receiving excellent feedback from program participants. In 2015, we will develop methodologies to teach the Athena CORE10™ and construct assessment tools that can be used by trainers and executive coaches.
Promoting Entrepreneurial Spirit

ENTREPRENEURS@ATHENA LEVELS PLAYING FIELD FOR WOMEN

This year Entrepreneurs@Athena grew to provide a wide range of programs designed to level the playing field for women entrepreneurs—both Barnard students and entrepreneurs in New York City. We were excited to launch the Athena Digital Design Agency (ADDA) and to spearhead the initiation of Women Founders@Columbia. We expanded our successful Mastermind Groups and the specialized Leadership Lab entrepreneurship track. We continued our popular summer camp for high school girls in cooperation with Barnard’s Office of Pre-College programs and our partnership with the Girl Scouts of Greater New York. Below are highlights:

Athena Digital Design Agency In 2014, Athena launched a pilot program that offers a new model for engaging undergraduate women in technology-driven fields and provides them with a practical entry point into computer programming. In collaboration with Skillcrush, an online tech training company, ADDA teaches Barnard students web development and digital design skills. Upon completion of the initial 10-week training, students have the opportunity to generate income by joining a student-run web design and development agency that will market low-cost web development services to local businesses. In future phases, the program will teach students advanced interactive web development skills and back-end programming, using Ruby-on-Rails.

ADDA STUDENTS designed and launched a website for The Malala Fund, the foundation supporting the advocacy efforts of Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani activist encouraging the education of women and girls around the world. “Partnering with the Athena Digital Design Agency guaranteed a quick set up of our website and YouTube channel,” said Eason Jordan of The Malala Fund. “It was a joy to work with students that are striving for a goal parallel to that of The Malala Fund, to empower young women through education.”

Through partnerships with Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center at the Columbia Business School and other community organizations, the first cohort of ADDA already counts seven satisfied customers. Our ultimate goal is to increase the number of women in technology and related fields through hands-on experience with web development.

Athena Mastermind Groups: Athena curated and supported three Mastermind Groups this year, two for student and adult entrepreneurs who are at early stages of their ventures and one for corporate women who are at mid- and senior-stages of their careers. The women meet monthly for dinner, provide support, and hold each other accountable for progress in their creative ventures. Participants in this year’s Mastermind Groups included a Tony-nominated Broadway Producer and the CEO of the tech education platform, Skillcrush.

High School Programs: Last summer, the Athena Center created two 10-day intensive summer programs for high school students that focus on entrepreneurship. In collaboration with the Barnard’s Office of Pre-College Programs, we developed Entrepreneurs-in-Training for juniors and seniors. The program guides teens through the development of an idea, customer research, product design and development, and marketing. At the conclusion of the program, the students pitch their product to successful leaders in the start-up community.

Our second program, The Girl Scout Leadership Institute–NYC, a partnership with the Girl Scouts of Greater New York, is designed to help Scouts in grades nine through 12 unlock their leadership potential. Scouts start the Institute in the summer and continue their participation throughout the school year. Last summer, 37 scouts were exposed to core entrepreneurial concepts, as they designed their own

In her senior year in High School
JADA HAWKINS ’16 and two other classmates, the only women in their school’s AP Computer Science class, were instructed by their teacher that coding was ‘a man’s sport.’ In Fall of 2014, as a Computer Science major and the president of Barnard’s Entrepreneurship club, Jada joined the 2nd generation Athena Mastermind cohort and came on board as a co-founder of Athena Digital design, a student-run business incubated by the Athena Center that teaches women to code and provides them opportunities to apply their skills, for hire, with local small business clients. In July 2014, Jada is also leading the Athena Center’s startup summer camp for High School Girls, Entrepreneurs-In-Training, co-created in 2013 with the Barnard Office of Pre-College Programs.
socially responsible ventures, and worked together in teams to develop the products, marketing plans, and financials. They also visited start-ups across the city and pitched their plans to respected investors from the start-up sector at the conclusion of the sessions. During the school year, the Institute includes leadership workshops that expose young women to dynamic role models and committed mentors. Athena hosted both the summer intensive training and several spring workshops.

Office Hours for Entrepreneurs: Athena held regular office hours for student entrepreneurs from Barnard and Columbia. Successful women entrepreneurs, alumnae, staff, and Barnard parents provide mentors and support for student through one-on-one informational sessions. Participants included patent attorney and startup advisor, Andrew Scheinman, producer of Girls Who Rock and co-author of Innovating Women: Past, Present and Future, Cynthia Hellen, and co-founder and CEO of Rank & Style, Sarika Doshi.

Special Events: The first ever cross-school Columbia entrepreneurship festival, #StartupColumbia, was held at Barnard in April 2014, hosted by the Athena Center. The event’s purpose was to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among students, alumni, and the broader community. Through our involvement, Athena ensured better representation of women and minorities at the festival. In addition, our continuing partnerships with Columbia Entrepreneurship, the Columbia Business School’s Eugene Lang Entrepreneurship Center, and Columbia Venture Network provide Barnard students and young women entrepreneurs a wide range of networking, support, and educational programs within the entrepreneurial world.

EMILY-ANNE RIGAL ’16 arrived at Barnard having already launched the award-winning anti-bullying YouTube platform, WeStopHate.org. In addition to being a viral sensation, the organization has secured celebrity endorsements from Lady Gaga and Meryl Streep. Emily-Anne spent her sophomore year balancing school work with the re-launch of her YouTube channel. During this year’s Mastermind Group, Emily-Anne shared her deep social media experience while also leveraging the group’s network to secure a book deal with Penguin’s Perigee Bookmarks, a cover story with Seventeen, and an important sponsorship from The Body Shop®.

Woman Founders@Columbia: Joining with the Eugene Lang Entrepreneurship Center and Columbia Journalism School—Women in Media, the Athena Center spearheaded the creation of Women Founders@Columbia, a curated network of highly motivated women entrepreneurs affiliated with the 21 schools at Columbia University. By tapping into their deep expertise and innovation with the explicit mission of women supporting women, this initiative is a way for women entrepreneurs to connect across and beyond campus. Members join an email list and agree to rules of engagement as they network with each other and support the growing community of women entrepreneurs across all academic sectors.

ADJOA ANAMAN, a sophomore at Repertory Company High School for Theatre Arts in Manhattan, joined the Girl Scout Leadership Institute last summer. Adjoa and her team developed Techrie, a company designed to provide refurbished computer hardware in Ghana, solving the real-life need of reducing waste in the United States and increasing the use of technology in Ghana.
The fourth annual Athena Film Festival, a celebration of women and leadership, held on February 6-9, 2014 was a true stand-out this year. An engaging weekend of films and panels that highlighted women’s leadership in real life and the fictional world, the four-day festival attracted a record audience of over 4,800 people from the region and beyond. The festival included 40 feature-length narratives, documentaries, shorts, and works-in-progress, in addition to four interactive panels and three Master Classes. We partnered with 35 organizations (reaching 560,000 people) to ensure that we attracted diverse audiences and over 350 volunteers helped us welcome them to Barnard. Here are our favorite highpoints from the 2014 Festival:

- Eight of the movies, including the opening film Belle, were sold out. Director of Belle, Amma Asante, flew in for the New York premiere of her stellar film.
- Grace Lee Boggs ’35 attended the screening of the bio-pic, American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs, and the post-film discussion lasted late into the evening.
- A fantastic panel followed our Centerpiece Film, Decoding Annie Parker, with Steven Bernstein, the film’s director, and a panel of scientists.
- Director Donna Zaccaro attended the screening of the closing film that she made about her mother, Geraldine Ferraro: Paving the Way.

This year, in an attempt to remedy the lack of strong female leads in the movies, the Athena Film Festival created the Athena List, an annual slate of 3-5 screenplays with strong female protagonists that have yet to be made into films. As noted by Lily Rothman at Time.com, “the Black List—a yearly list of great scripts that are circulating in Hollywood but have not yet become movies—has a new gender-conscious cousin.” The 2014 selected screenplays include:

- On the Basis of Sex by Daniel Stiepleman, the story of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s early years;
- The Good Years by Rachel Feldman and Adam Prince, the story of Lilly Ledbetter’s life;
- The Sky’s the Limit: The Story of the Mercury 13 by Maria Burton, Gabrielle Burton, Ursula Burton and Jennifer Burton, the story of the female astronauts who were denied the opportunity to go into space because of their gender; and
- Audrey’s Run by Emily Abt, a contemporary story of an African-American woman running for Mayor of Boston.

The Athena Film Festival Awards:
On Saturday evening, February 7, over 300 people attended the inspiring Athena Awards ceremony. We honored Callie Khouri, Kasi Lemmons, and Keri Putnam with Athena Film Festival Awards. Sherry Lansing, the former President of Paramount...
and the recipient of the 2014 Laura Ziskin Lifetime Achievement Award accepted her award at a party in her honor in Los Angeles in June. Sheryl Boone Isaacs, the President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presented the award.

Media Coverage: The festival received significant media coverage, both before, during, and after from such publications as Variety, Time.com, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Huffington Post, and more. Social media was buzzing with hundreds of mentions on Twitter, in blogs, and Facebook postings. The 2014 Festival garnered over 380 million media impressions. Between the Center, the Festival and Women and Hollywood, we had 600,000 unique web visits this year and more than 18,000 social media followers.

Many, Many Thanks: We were thrilled to have the an illustrious group of festival Co-Chairs: Julie Parker Benello, Debra Martin Chase, Dan Cogan, Diane Levin, Jon Levin, Mira Nair, Sheila Nevins, and Regina K. Scully and a diverse group of festival sponsors, honorary host committee members, and in-kind contributors. Many thanks to the festival’s Founding Sponsor, Artemis Rising Foundation, Regina K. Scully, Founder & CEO, the premiere level sponsor, the Ford Foundation’s JustFilms, and the numerous companies, foundations and individuals who have contributed their time and financial resources to the festival. A complete list of all sponsors and donors is listed on page 37.

Save the Date: Next year’s festival will be February 5-8, 2015.

The Athena Film Festival Stirs Conversations across the Globe: This year, the Athena Film Festival continued to house the website and provide leadership for the International Women’s Film Festival Network (IWFN), which supports and promotes women’s voices and leadership, both onscreen and behind the scenes. Membership in the network is open to any independent film festival that has staged at least one festival within the last three years with programs dedicated to screening films by or about women and girls. By June 2014, the Network had grown to include 53 festivals from 23 countries on six continents. Visit the site at www.iwfn.com.

The Athena Film Festival’s co-founder and artistic director, Melissa Silverstein, presented at seven film festivals and at other events in the 2014 fiscal year. In September 2013, she participated on the panel Forty Years On: Women’s Film Festivals Today co-sponsored by the Athena Film Festival and the IWFN at the Toronto Film Festival. On February 13, 2014, along with the Dortmund | Cologne International Women’s Film Festival, the Athena Film Festival convened Get Yourself Connected, a discussion on the status of women in the film business and gender equity, at Berlinale, the 64th Berlin International Film Festival. More than 200 guests attended the panel—including directors—and many called for a quota for women in public film funding. Throughout the spring, Silverstein’s travels on behalf of the festival brought her in contact with like-minded activists in Los Angeles, Newfoundland, Austria, Chile, Israel, and South Korea.

BELLE  The Athena Film Festival was honored to showcase the New York premiere of Belle as our 2014 Opening Film. Belle is inspired by the true story of Dido Elizabeth Belle (played by Gugu Mbatha-Raw), the illegitimate mixed race daughter of Admiral Sir John Lindsay, an 18th Century British naval officer. Raised by her aristocratic great-uncle Lord Mansfield and his wife, Belle’s lineage affords her certain privileges, but her color prevents her from the traditions of noble social standing. Yet, Belle uses her presence and intelligence to help inform the thinking of Lord Mansfield, as he deliberates the most pressing issue of the time—the abolition of slavery. Interview Magazine noted, “Gugu Mbatha-Raw’s Dido is graceful, fiercely intelligent and passionately driven—embodifying the Athena Film Festival’s ideals of female strength and leadership.”
YOUNG WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP: Three days prior to the symposium, six Barnard Global Fellows led the fourth annual Young Women’s Leadership Workshop at The High School Affiliated to Fudan University in Shanghai. Athena Associate Director Abigail Lewis worked with the Barnard Global Fellows prior, during, and after the Symposium. With more than 75 young women in attendance from 20 high schools, the students were encouraged to think in new ways about how they can use their existing leadership skills to make a positive impact. The Global Fellows worked with the students to identify problems that they see in their communities, develop solutions, and craft step-by-step plans to implement them. After coming up with a diverse group of plans, from solving community pollution to creating a program to rebuild schools in impoverished areas in China, the young women—both the high school and Barnard students—were able to practice public speaking, problem solving, collaborative planning, and reflect upon their own strengths.

At the YOUNG WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP IN SHANGHAI, one student group designed a plan for an after-school language program to help immigrant students learn and expand their Mandarin language skills. These peer tutoring sessions would allow immigrant students to excel in their standard coursework, connect to local Chinese students and develop a stronger sense of community. It would also serve as a great leadership development tool for the Chinese student tutors.

ATHENA GOES GLOBAL: WOMEN CHANGING CHINA

At our many events throughout the year, Athena showcases a new vision of leadership that is inclusive of women. On March 19, 2014, Barnard hosted its sixth annual Global Symposium, Women Changing China, in Shanghai and Athena played an important role in both the conference and a leadership workshop developed by Barnard students. With over 300 people in attendance, Women Changing China brought together some of China’s most prominent women leaders in business, finance, academia, media, and the arts. This event featured panel discussions, conversations on women’s leadership, and networking opportunities.

Women Changing China opened with introductory remarks from Barnard President Debora Spar, who then moderated a discussion with Yang Lan, chair of Sun Media Group and Sun Culture Foundation, and Wu Qing, activist and English-language professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

During the second panel of the day, Insights into Business and Finance, moderated by Athena’s Director, Kathryn Kolbert, the audience heard from Goldman Sachs’ Song Bing, Jiang Peizhen of the Golden Throat Group, Yuan Li of The Wall Street Journal, and Yunli Lou of Milestone Capital.

The event’s closing panel, Voices in Education, Media, and the Arts, led by Barnard Center for Research on Women’s Catherine Sameh, featured Julia Huang of ChinaEDU; Scarlett Li of Zebra Media; Danwen Xing, visual artist; and Tracey Trench from Oriental DreamWorks.

Fostering Public Dialogue on Leadership Worldwide

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ATHENA POWER TALKS FEATURE DISTINGUISHED LEADERS AT BARNARD

The Athena Center was pleased to welcome people from across New York to our five Power Talks in 2013–14. Featuring our Athena Distinguished fellows as well as other noted leaders in conversation on provocative topics of the moment, each talk was followed by a question & answer session with the audience.

Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, joined us for a Power Talk on September 24, 2013. Spencer oversees the federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service through its core programs—Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Social Innovation Fund. She also leads President Obama’s national call to service initiative, United We Serve. Professor Kimberly Johnson, director of Barnard’s Urban Studies program and a member of Athena’s Faculty Advisory Board, moderated the dynamic conversation. Spencer shared her experience working in government and the non-profit sector, as well as her ideas for improving community service.


On December 3, 2014, the Athena Center and Barnard’s Economics Department co-hosted a Power Talk with Sylvia Ann Hewlett, founding President and CEO of the Center for Talent Innovation. Hewlett discussed her most recent book, Forget a Mentor, Find a Sponsor. In a moderated conversation with Barnard President Deborra Sparr, Hewlett presented her research on the importance of women having sponsors in their professional lives and gave helpful advice to the audience.

On January 29, 2014, Athena welcomed Marie Wilson, an Athena Center Distinguished Fellow and member of Center’s Advisory Board. Wilson, who has dedicated her career to advancing women to leadership positions, spoke eloquently about the need for more women in political leadership and the strengths they bring to these roles. Wilson founded and serves as President of The White House Project and is a past president and honorary “founding mother” of the Ms. Foundation for Women, where she co-created Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day©. Wilson authored the critically acclaimed book, Closing the Leadership Gap: Why Women Can and Must Help Run the World.

On April 22, 2014, Jimmie Briggs, award winning journalist, educator, lecturer and social entrepreneur and Athena Distinguished fellow, delivered the last Power Talk of the academic year. He is the creator of the “Man Up Campaign” that mobilizes people in 25 countries to stop violence against women and girls. Briggs was selected as GQ Magazine’s “Better Men Better World” winner in 2010 and most recently received a Medal of Distinction from Barnard College. Briggs and Athena Director Kathryn Kolbert had a stimulating conversation about gender, race, and leadership.

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TEDxBarnardCollege

The Athena Center sponsored TEDxBarnard College on “Rethinking Failure” on November 2, 2013. The event attracted a cross-section of thought leaders who spent the day exploring the topic of failure from a wide range of perspectives. Our illustrious presenters included two of Athena’s Distinguished Fellows, Jimmie Briggs and Marie Wilson (see detailed bios on pp. 8 & 9) as well as the following:

Jovanka Ciares is a trilingual wellness expert and nutrition coach with a rare talent for making healthy living fun, simple and sexy. Her approach has earned her thousands of fans the world over—and regular slots on Fox News, NPR, CBS Radio, Telemundo, and more. Ciares is the author of three books, and the creator of a transformational online program, The Clean Foods Diet Method.

Barbara Corcoran’s credentials include straight D’s in high school and college and 20 jobs by the time she turned 23 years old. Her next job made her one of the most successful entrepreneurs in the country when she took a $1000 loan to start The Corcoran Group, a New York real estate firm which she sold in 2001. At that time, the firm had grown to 700 agents in nine offices in Manhattan and Brooklyn. As one of the “Sharks” on ABC’s hit TV show, Shark Tank, Corcoran has invested in more than a dozen businesses and shepherds them to success. Her newest book, Shark Tales, takes you behind the scenes of her life and business and her “seen on TV” venture capitalism.
women entrepreneurs. LadyDrinks, helps elevate circuit and her newest initiative, in India, is on the screening curable blindness in children justice documentary about December 2002. Her first social entertainment show, AVS, since CBS. She has also been host Bloomberg, NY1 News, and 15 years, including CNN, ABC, major networks for the last been a business anchor for been a business anchor for major networks for the last 15 years, including CNN, ABC, Bloomberg, NY1 News, and CBS. She has also been host of a popular Saturday morning entertainment show, AVS, since December 2002. Her first social justice documentary about curable blindness in children in India, is on the screening circuit and her newest initiative, LadyDrinks, helps elevate women entrepreneurs.

Joya Dass was one of the first South Asian women to be seen on mainstream television in the United States. She’s been a business anchor for major networks for the last 15 years, including CNN, ABC, Bloomberg, NY1 News, and CBS. She has also been host of a popular Saturday morning entertainment show, AVS, since December 2002. Her first social justice documentary about curable blindness in children in India, is on the screening circuit and her newest initiative, LadyDrinks, helps elevate women entrepreneurs.

Debora L. Spar became the seventh president of Barnard College on July 1, 2008 where she has been a vocal proponent of women’s education and leadership, spearheading such initiatives as the Athena Center and Barnard’s Global Symposia. Spar is the author of numerous books, including the recently published Wonder Women: Sex, Power, and the Quest for Perfection. Previously the Spangler Family Professor of Business Administration and Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development at Harvard Business School, Spar is a member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, a trustee of the Nightingale-Barnard School and a director of Goldman Sachs.

Award-winning Indian choreographer and artistic ambassador, Praeti Vasudevan, bridges cultures, continents and centuries as easily as other dancers might execute a plié. Vasudevan is a leading proponent of the classical Indian dance-theater Bharatanatyam, and she creates new provocative contemporary works based on this tradition. Original works performed by her New York City-based dance troupe, Thresh, have earned international acclaim for their fresh juxtaposition of traditional dance forms from her native India with modern theories of movement and expression.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, AND EVENTS

Principles of Feminist Leadership: On September 24, 2013, Athena co-sponsored a collaborative conference with the Institute for Women’s Leadership, Rutgers University, and Spelman College’s Women Resource and Research Center. India-based academic and activist, Sriathaa Batiwala, (2013-2014 Civil Society Research Fellow, The Hauser Center, Harvard University), delivered the keynote examining the intersections between practicing feminism and advocating for feminism. Athena Associate Director Abigail Lewis presented at the morning panel, Model Syllabi and Best Practices in Teaching Feminist Leadership Studies.

What the World Needs: Re-Imagining Leadership: On September 26, 2013, Athena staff, Tomika Rodriguez and Sara Angevine, presented a workshop to student delegates from the Women in Public Service Project on the challenges and opportunities women in public service expect to face over the next decade.

Athena in Romania: From September 25-27, 2013, Athena President Kathryn Kolbert traveled to Bucharest, Romania to present on a panel on women’s leadership at the Bucharest Forum 2013 and delivered a talk at the Aspen Institute Romania’s Ideas Fest. Kolbert offered her perspectives on women’s leadership and had an opportunity to meet women leaders from Romania and other countries in the region.

Resume Workshop with Levo League: On October 16, 2013, the Athena Center co-sponsored an interactive workshop with Levo League. The workshop included guidance on how to use the Levo Résumé builder and a panel of HR professionals talking about ways to stand out during the hiring process.

Rutgers-Newark Law School: On November 11, 2013, Athena Director Kathryn Kolbert reflected on the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade and the changing jurisprudence of abortion rights. The panel discussion was organized by student chapters of the American Constitution Society, the Law’s Women Forum, and Law Students for Reproductive Justice at Rutgers-Newark Law School.

Barnard’s International Education Week: On November 12, 2013, 30 students from Columbia and Barnard attended a screening of the Athena Global Shorts, an hour-long collection of shorts shown at the 2012 festival. The screening was followed by a discussion with documentary filmmaker, Therese Shechter, who screened a four-minute trailer of her upcoming film How to Lose Your Virginity, which recently played at DOC NYC. The students were also surprised with a sneak peak of a short film that premiered at the 2014 Athena Film Festival.

Feminism without Borders Panel: Athena Director Kathryn Kolbert spoke on a panel on global feminism on November 13, 2013, organized by Barnard’s McCa Multicultural Committee.


Women Leaders in Financial Services: The Impact Summit 2014: On Tuesday, February 4, 2014, Goldman Sachs and Black Rock hosted a conference for top-level women in financial services. The Athena Center joined as the educational co-sponsor of the event. Athena Director Kathryn Kolbert presented the findings of a survey created for the summit participants and Barnard President Debora Spar moderated one of the panels. Former Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton spoke
Conclusion

In our first five years, the Athena Center has learned a great deal about what women need to advance to positions of leadership, building upon Barnard’s 125-year legacy of providing extraordinary education to women. As we move forward, we will continue to provide inspiration, showcase wonderful women leaders who share their wisdom and creativity with us, and create new ways to advance women’s leadership within the Barnard community and beyond. We thank each and every one of you who has contributed to our early success and look forward to working together as we build a vibrant organization committed to expanding women’s leadership across the globe.

Claudia Goldin Talk: On February 27, 2014, the Department of Economics at Barnard, the Athena Center co-sponsored a lecture by Harvard Economics Professor Claudia Goldin. She discussed her new book, A Grand Gender Convergence: Its Last Chapter, as part of a series on Women at Work at Barnard.

SHE-E-O: A Woman’s Guide to Life after College: On March 6, 2014, Athena staff, Tomika Rodriguez participated on a panel at the New York Institute of Technology offering students advice on how to successfully transition from college to the workplace.

Symposium on African Women’s Rights and Resilience: On March 12, 2014, 300 people attended a day-long symposium with Barnard Distinguished Fellow in Social Justice and Athena Fellow Leymah Gbowee. In a series of three panel discussions, distinguished scholars and activists addressed key issues for African women’s movements, including the role of men in women’s social justice movements, the importance of inter-generational activism, and the stakes of transnational feminist engagements within and beyond the continent. The Co-Sponsors of this event included the Gbowee Peace Foundation USA, Department of Africana Studies, the Athena Center for Leadership Studies, the Barnard Center for Research on Women, the Consortium for Critical Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Office of the President. Athena Fellow Jimmie Briggs moderated one of the panels.

LEADERSHIP REIMAGINED ONLINE MAGAZINE

The Athena Center recently created a new online magazine, with over 600 readers, that includes a comprehensive collection of articles addressing gender and leadership. Pulled from a wide selection of newspapers, magazines and blogs ranging from the New York Times to Salon to the Women’s Media Center, the magazine serves to curate vital and contemporary information on women and leadership. Please check us out at https://flipboard.com/section/leadership-reimagined-bcLqzQ

with ABC’s Christiane Amanpour at a dinner for conference participants.

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Center Staff & Consultants

Kathryn Kolbert, the Constance Hess Williams ’66 Director of the Athena Center and Professor of Leadership Studies, has directed the Athena Center since its founding. In 1992, Kolbert argued the landmark case of Planned Parenthood v. Casey before the U.S. Supreme Court and has been credited with saving Roe v. Wade with what CNN’s Legal Correspondent Jeffrey Toobin has called “one of the most audacious litigation strategies in Supreme Court history.” Before joining Barnard, Kolbert was the President and CEO of People For the American Way and People For the American Way Foundation, two of the nation’s premier civil rights organizations. For ten years, she oversaw a program on law and American life at the University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg Public Policy Center, where she created the award-winning public radio program Justice Talking, and its educational website, JusticeLearning.org. From 1992 to 1997, she directed domestic litigation and public policy programs for the Center for Reproductive Rights, where she was a Co-Founder and Vice-President. She has also served as the State Coordinating Counsel of the ACLU’s Reproductive Freedom Project in New York and as a Staff Attorney with both the Women’s Law Project and Community Legal Services in Philadelphia. She has been recognized by The National Law Journal as one of the “100 Most Influential Lawyers in America” and by The American Lawyer as one of 45 public-interest lawyers “whose vision and commitment are changing lives.”

Sasha Hill is the Administrative Assistant of the Athena Center. A graduate of Wellesley College, where she majored in Psychology and minored in English, Hill continually tries to find ways to combine her passion for education and helping others. Through a partnership with United Way during the summers of 2011 and 2012, Hill developed and helped implement a mentorship program for underserved youth in New York. Hill keeps the Center staff organized, and oversees the Power Talk series and our newsletter.

Abigail Sara Lewis is the Associate Director of the Athena Center. She oversees the undergraduate programs: the Athena Scholars Program, summer fellowships, and the On Our Terms journal. Lewis teaches both the Women and Leadership course and the Athena Senior Seminar. She also advises all students in the Scholars Program, directs the Student Advisory Board, runs the Athena Mentoring Programs, and manages the interns. Prior to Athena, Lewis was Assistant Director of Pathways Advising at Douglass Residential College, Rutgers University. She taught in both the History and Women’s Studies departments at Rutgers, and at the School of Social Work at New York University. She also worked at the Scholars at Risk Network-NYU, the CUNY Graduate Center, and the NYC Department of Education. She received her B.A. and M.A. in African American Studies from Columbia and UCLA respectively and completed her Ph.D. in History at Rutgers in 2008. Her work on the YWCA’s Multiracial Activism in the immediate post-WWII era was published in the anthology, Freedom Rights: New Perspectives on the Civil Rights Movement (University of Kentucky Press: 2012).

Maria Perez-Martinez is the Operations Manager for the Athena Film Festival. She holds a Master’s degree in Publishing from New York University and a Bachelor’s degree in English/Drama from Northwestern University. Perez-Martinez is also co-founder of GoodChoiceReading.com, a book-reviewing and promotional website. In her spare time, Perez-Martinez is an avid reader and writer, currently finishing an adapted screenplay as well as a young-adult novel. In 2013, her short story entitled My Dearest Valentine was published in the anthology, Holiday Magick: 20 Holiday Stories with a Twist (Spencer Hill Press, May, 2013).
Tomika Rodriguez is the Leadership Development Training Manager at the Athena Center. Her primary responsibilities include managing the Leadership Lab and our non-profit partners. She also supports leadership development programs for corporations, assisting with the development, execution, and evaluation of Athena’s offerings serving high school girls through senior executive women. Rodriguez joined the Athena Center from DePaul University, where she created and managed successful academic programs for underrepresented students including an award-winning academic excellence program, six scholarship programs, and Women Empowered, one of few identity-based programs for college-aged women of color. Rodriguez earned her Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication/Public Relations from Wright State University and a Master’s of Education from North Carolina State University.

Sara Angevine is a research consultant specializing in gender, leadership, and institutions. A Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Rutgers University, she teaches sections of the Women and Leadership course and assists with various projects at the Center. She also teaches in the Department of Political Science at Brooklyn College, and has taught in the Departments of Political Science and Women’s and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. Prior to coming to Athena, Angevine was the director of the Douglass Residential College’s mission course, Issues in Women’s Leadership, Knowledge and Power (25 course sections per year), director of the Barbara Voorhees Mentor Program, and served as the PLEN coordinator at Douglass/Rutgers. She has presented her research in both Political Science and Women and Gender Studies at conferences around the world. Angevine holds her Master’s in Women’s and Gender Studies from the University of the Western Cape, South Africa and her Bachelors of Arts in Political Science, Communications, and Women’s and Gender Studies from Hamline University.

Nathalie Molina Niño spearheads our Entrepreneurs@Athena venture. A business consultant and playwright, Molina Niño is a consummate entrepreneur who launched her first tech startup at the age of 20. She also was involved in launching and growing a multinational business within Lionbridge (NASDAQ: LIOX) into a nearly $100M operation within 6 years. Molina Niño spent 14 plus years advising industry leaders in the public and private sectors ranging from multinationals (Disney, Microsoft, MTV), early stage startups (Cranium, Onvia) and non-profits (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, World Affairs Council, Seattle International Film Festival). She has conducted marketing campaigns and events for a variety of films including: My Week With Marilyn, The Iron Lady, Gloria Steinem: In Her Own Words, and was the founding project director for The White House Project, and the chief of Staff at the Ms. Foundation for Women.

Melissa Silverstein, the co-founder and Artistic Director of the Athena Film Festival, is the founder and editor of Women and Hollywood, one of the most respected sites for issues related to women and film as well as other areas of pop culture. Women and Hollywood educates, advocates, and agitates for gender parity across the entertainment industry. Silverstein recently published her first book, In Her Voice: Women Directors Talk Directing, a compilation of over 40 interviews that have appeared on Women and Hollywood. She has conducted marketing campaigns and events for a variety of films including: My Week With Marilyn, The Iron Lady, Gloria Steinem: In Her Own Words, and was the founding project director for The White House Project, and the chief of Staff at the Ms. Foundation for Women.

Erin Vilardi serves as the senior consultant for the Leadership Development programs. She focuses on developing Athena’s CORE10™, an innovative set of leadership competencies for 21st Century women leaders, as well as professional education programs and strategic partnerships. Prior to joining the Center, Vilardi spent 18 months traveling to a dozen international cities teaching leadership, from Cairo to Dublin to Mexico City. Formerly Vice President of Program and Communications at The White House Project, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to advance U.S. women’s leadership, she created the largest national political training program readying women for public office and civic life—that trained over 14,000 women. In 2014, she launched VoteRunLead a new non-profit, dedicated to women’s political engagement that grew from her work at the White House Project.
Many, Many Thanks

The Athena Center’s growth would not be possible without the generous support of its donors, the wisdom of its advisors and the dedication of its staff, consultants and instructors. We remain thankful to our founding donors, Francene Susnser Rodgers ’67, Constance Hess Williams ’66, and Lucille Zanghi and James Dow P ’10 who enabled us to start the Center and to Constance Hess William’s 2011 decision to endow a Chair for the Director of the Athena Center.

In addition, the Center is thankful for a number of endowment pledges and individual gifts that support the Center and its signature program, the Athena Film Festival. Over the last year, we have been fortunate to have the support of an active and dedicated Leadership Council, co-chaired by Claire Newman and Jyoti Menon ’01. Leadership Council members have given both their time and expertise, serving as mentors, professional development trainers, film festival volunteers and connecting with our Scholars and staff. The Athena Center also has been lucky to have the sound guidance of a committed group of faculty advisors who have shaped the direction of the Scholars Program and the advice of an illustrious Advisory Board from business, law, media, academia and the non-profit sector. And our Brain Trust of entrepreneurs, entrepreneurial mentors, and panelists have helped us deliver innovative programs for women entrepreneurs. We are also grateful to the dedication and hard work of the Center staff, consultants, instructors, mentors and others participating in making our programs successful. A full list of these wonderful women and men is listed below.

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