“You can waste your life drawing lines, or you can live your life crossing them.”

—Shonda Rhimes
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What a glorious year. I am so grateful that each and every day, all of us at the Athena Center have an opportunity to work closely with talented Barnard women. Our programs provide these students with the skills they need to change the world and help boost their courage and confidence to become the women they want to be. There is perhaps no more satisfying a role than to mentor and counsel these wonderful young women and to see them grow in the four years they are with us.

This year’s Athena Film Festival was spectacular. When we started the festival we needed to convince our audiences that women have a difficult time making movies and receiving the recognition that their talents deserve. Today, there is little doubt that Hollywood needs to make structural changes to ensure the inclusion of women in all aspects of the industry. I am proud that the Athena Film Festival has been an important leader in the effort to bring this issue to the forefront. I am equally proud that in future years the festival can contribute to the development of solutions that ensure that women’s talents and voices will be both seen and heard.

In June 2016, we launched the Women in Leadership Program in partnership with the Columbia Business School. This new effort provides executive education, based on the latest research in the field, to mid-career women in the corporate sector. Thirty-two women from 11 countries participated in the program launch, which was met with great reviews. We look forward to our continued partnership with Columbia and to welcoming more women from across industries and around the world to participate in this innovative program.

While I am very proud of our successes, much more needs to be done to ensure that we continue to inspire women to be more courageous and audacious and to level the playing field for working women. I want to thank our exemplary team of staff and consultants as well as our Advisory Board and Leadership Council, wise faculty advisers, Distinguished Fellows, and our stellar students. I look forward to the year ahead and our continued work together to advance women’s leadership for years to come. Thank you again for your energy, vision, and financial contributions that makes it all possible. We are extremely grateful.

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

Established at Barnard College, a pioneering force in undergraduate women’s education since 1889, the Athena Center is dedicated to the advancement of women’s leadership across the globe. We are developing workable, scalable program models that improve the capacity of women to lead and that change organizations so that women leaders are more accepted and effective. Our innovative programs

- develop new generations of women leaders, particularly among Barnard students;
- change what leadership looks like in Hollywood and beyond;
- foster scholarship and public dialogue that expands our understanding of leadership;
- create innovative approaches to leadership development in the public and private sector; and
- level the playing field for women entrepreneurs.

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. In the past seven years, the Center’s talented team has provided a wide range of education, research, professional development, and public education programs.

WHY ARE WE COMMITTED to creating a bold, new vision of leadership? It is simple. With more women leaders, we change society’s understanding of what leaders look like, how they operate, and how they respond to social, political, and economic needs. With more women leaders, communities and organizations are more innovative, productive, and successful, and the aspirations of women and girls rise.
Developing a New Generation of Women Leaders

ATHENA SCHOLARS ENGAGEMENT CONTINUES TO GROW
During the 2015-2016 academic year, the Athena Scholars Program experienced robust engagement, with nearly 200 students participating in the program. Over a three year period, Athena Scholars commit to a rigorous curricular and experiential program that features five academic courses, three leadership development workshops, and a pre-professional practicum. They are also offered opportunities that deepen their understanding of their own leadership abilities and foster their involvement with a wider community, both within Barnard and beyond.

All of these lessons and experiences serve as a foundation for our Senior Scholars when constructing and implementing their senior social action project. Based on the student’s passion to contribute to the greater good, Scholars create a social service, advocacy, or entrepreneurial project with a community partner. Students present their projects to their peers, obtain both positive feedback and critical response, and then work collaboratively in teams to improve the effectiveness of their projects.

25 seniors successfully completed their social action projects this year. For example, Elizabeth Kelly and Emily Playfair co-founded Messy Feelings to support children dealing with emotional trauma related to grief and divorce. Elizabeth and Emily distributed workbooks to help children address their feelings through art therapy, guided journaling, and cognitive behavioral therapy. The team has applied for 501(c)3 charitable status and looks forward to growing the program and reaching even more children in need.

Through her social action project, Adrianna Aguayo committed to raising awareness around the critical need to supply homeless women in NYC with menstrual hygiene products. Adrianna worked with Care for the Homeless to run a tampon drive and collect supplies and donations. Athena Scholars generated positive impact across diverse issue areas while gaining real-world, hands-on leadership experience.

Additionally, Scholars gain professional experience in the workplace through their Athena Practicum placements. The practicum enables students to complete a pre-professional internship and engage in real-time reflection and assessment of their experience. During the practicum, Scholars are provided with the tools they need to network, engage in the workplace, and connect with other Scholars through an informal support group.

These programs enable Athena Scholars to graduate from college stronger and more prepared to become leaders and change-makers in the global workforce.
LEADERSHIP LAB WORKSHOPS
BUILD SKILLS AND EXPAND HORIZONS

Open to all Barnard students, this year Athena Leadership Lab workshops enabled students to discover, explore, and practice a variety of leadership skills. Taught by professionals in their fields, these 24 interactive sessions provided hands-on training based on the Athena CORE10™, a set of leadership attributes and skills that are particularly important to women: ambition, vision, courage, communication, entrepreneurial spirit, leverage, collaboration, negotiation, resilience, and advocacy. Included in this year’s offerings was a special 4-part series Running for Yourself, developed by Athena Distinguished Fellow and founder of the White House Project, Marie C. Wilson. The Athena Leadership Lab workshops continue to give students opportunities to sharpen their skills, hone their passions, and acquire an edge for success.

Jiyun Lee ’17 is a rising senior who attended a number of Leadership Lab workshops on communication and management, reported that the Leadership Labs empowered her to express herself persuasively, clearly, and boldly.

“I’ve always had trouble with the question ‘what’s your story?’ and I believed I didn’t have enough ‘unique’ experiences,” JiYun says. “However, [The Power of Story] workshop taught me that every story can be powerful if told in the right manner.”

Reflecting on her experience attending Hard Earned Leadership Lessons with Tiffany Dufu, Chief Leadership Officer of Levo League, JiYun adds: “Leadership is a process, not an end goal—women’s leadership is not only about breaking through external barriers but also fighting internal struggles...I must believe that I am qualified to lead.”
SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS ENABLE STUDENTS TO DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN THE WORKPLACE

This summer, the Athena Center sponsored 13 summer fellowships through three programs. The Athena Summer Fellowship is the largest program: 10 juniors from across the campus were placed in paid internships throughout the city, lived together throughout the summer and met weekly with Athena Center Director, Kathryn Kolbert, and other distinguished guests. Student placements were at a wide range of companies and not-for-profits from New York Musical Theater Festival to McGraw-Hill Financial to the Families and Work Institute. We also had three students interning at the Columbia Medical Center, two in research labs and one in their Office of Development. Three other Fellows in the Silberstein Non-Profit Fellowship and the Williams Fellowship for Women in Politics spent their summer at Child Advocates in Philadelphia, the U.S Attorney’s Office in the Southern District of New York, and The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs. The Fellowship Program gives students a greater understanding of their growing skill sets, and a better understanding of what work and life will be like following graduation.

“When asked why I chose a women’s college if the world is co-ed, I often point to my experiences with Athena to validate my choice. What we learn in the classroom has limited scope but in conjunction with our leadership labs, our practicum, [and] a network of goal-driven career-oriented women (just to name a few) — that together is the special sauce of Barnard women out in the professional world. The Athena Center and its programs give me the tools and the armor to go out into the workforce and not just be a valuable asset to any team, but also advocate for myself and my worth.”

—Pooja Pandey, Barnard ’17
On Our Terms: the Undergraduate Research Journal of the Athena Center, published its third edition this spring. The Journal continues to receive submissions from college students around the globe, as well as work with engaged faculty reviewers in setting high standards for the Journal’s research and writing.

In the 2015-2016 academic year, the student-led On Our Terms team worked to expand its reach and increase the number of submissions received. In a testament to the commitment of the student leadership, this year, the journal received double the submissions of previous years — in addition to building relationships with new universities and academic centers. The On Our Terms editorial board is gearing up for publishing in the 2016-2017 academic year, revealing its brand new website and revamped features.

Created to provide a venue for undergraduates to express their vision of women’s leadership and to recognize their scholarship, this year’s submissions provided essays on such topics as the lack of female choreographers in the dance world to the representation of women in the marines. Thanks to Mark Newton and Kerri O’Connell at the Center for Digital Research and Scholarship, Columbia University Libraries and Charlotte Price, Meredith Winser, and Alexis Seeley at the Barnard Library for help on the journal.
In the past year, the Athena Center has developed and delivered customized programs for a range of clients that not only increase the leadership capacity of talented women, but also generate insights about how workplace culture, policies, and internal dynamics affect women’s advancement. These insights inform our recommendations about ways to improve leadership development programming and create a culture that supports a robust pipeline of women leaders at all levels of an organization.

We continue to generate enormous insights from the results of the Athena Appraisal, our unique leadership assessment tool that allows clients to measure the perceptions of women employees and compare the women’s own view of their talents and capacities with the qualities senior leaders admire. These insights guide the development of customized training programs through our growing Athena Edge program.

The Athena Edge, our structured approach to leadership development for corporations, provides organizations with the knowledge and tools they need to enhance their organizational structure to attract, advance, and retain talented female employees. We are thrilled to see a growing number of organizations and corporations acknowledging the importance of this mission. This year, we partnered with the global healthcare company Novartis and Sun Media on Athena Edge programs.

Also this year, we launched an exciting partnership with Columbia Business School Executive Education to host a three-day intensive program entitled, *Women in Leadership: Expanding Influence and Leading Change*. This program brought together more than 30 mid- to senior-career professionals for a series of intensive workshops and coaching sessions designed to elevate the impact of women leaders — enabling them to navigate the business landscape, develop and leverage their talents, and step into roles of greater influence. We look forward to building on this momentum and hosting additional Women in Leadership programs in the coming year.

“The WIL program is a great reminder that you’re not alone in your professional struggles, you can overcome them, and there is a powerful support system there to help you succeed”
— June 2016, Women in Leadership program participant
Sparking Ambitions
and Entrepreneurial Spirit

Entrepreneurs@Athena is an innovation lab within the Athena Center designed to level the playing field for women entrepreneurs — both Barnard students and entrepreneurs across the globe. From our Entrepreneurs-in-Training Summer Boot Camps to the Athena Digital Design Agency, Entrepreneurs@Athena has created innovative models that measurably help female entrepreneurs.

High School Programs: Last summer, the Athena Center once again partnered with Barnard’s Office of Pre-College Programs to lead Entrepreneurs-in-Training, a 10-day entrepreneurship bootcamp for high school students. The program guided 29 rising juniors and seniors through the development of a business idea, customer research, product design and development, marketing, branding, and most importantly, storytelling. At the conclusion of the program, each team pitched their product and business plan to a panel of distinguished leaders in the start-up community. The program was a resounding success and we are grateful to our talented team of instructors, mentors, and pitch competition judges for their support. A special thanks also goes to our friends at Hanky Panky, Levo League, and Etsy who each hosted the students for on-site tours of their offices and facilities. We look forward to following our students’ entrepreneurship journeys through college and beyond!

Athena Digital Design Agency: Founded in 2014, the Athena Digital Design Agency (ADDA) was created as a way to simultaneously furnish students with technology training alongside tangible entrepreneurial experience. Since its inception, ADDA has made huge strides, graduating five introductory classes that have trained 191 young women in introductory coding (HTML and CSS). 51 of these students have gone on to take more advanced classes in JavaScript, JQuery, and/or Ruby, and 45 of them have joined the student-run agency which launched in Spring 2014 with The Malala Fund as its inaugural client.

To date, the agency has completed nine projects and will continue to design and build websites and apps for small business and nonprofits, earning income for students, giving them experience running a business and providing a much needed service. Practical, efficient, and tailored to the modern college student, ADDA is a perfect example of how women can learn coding skills, immediately apply them in the real world, and get paid for their talent.
2016 Athena Film Festival: Creating a New Vision of Leadership

The sixth annual Athena Film Festival, held February 18-21, 2016, was a true highlight of our year. This engaging weekend of films and panels, a pioneer in the effort to advance women both in front of and behind the camera, attracted an audience of over 5,000 people from the NYC region and beyond. The festival screened 34 films including 10 features, 12 documentaries, and 12 shorts, in addition to interactive panels and master classes. We partnered with 45 organizations to ensure that we attracted diverse audiences, and over 200 volunteers helped us welcome them to Barnard.

Here are some of our favorite highlights from this year’s celebration of women and leadership:

Inspiring Award Winners: The Friday Night Awards reception was filled to capacity with an engaged and happy crowd. The Laura Ziskin Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to prolific filmmaker Mira Nair, who joined us for the ceremony and gave us a sneak peek of her new film, Queen of Katwe.

At the reception, we also announced the winners of the 2016 Athena List, an annual slate of screenplays with strong female protagonists that are ready to be made into films. This year’s winners were A Noble Affair by Anil Baral and Kathryn Maughan, In the Land of Fire and Ice by David MacGregor, Ride the Wind by Denise Myers, and Virginia by Bess Wohl.

One of the standout moments of the festival was on Saturday afternoon when Kate McKinnon from Saturday Night Live and Ghostbusters presented the inaugural Athena Leading Man Award to director Paul Feig. The Columbia Marching Band started by marching in to the theme for Ghostbusters. Paul and Kate then joined Belinda Luscombe from Time Magazine for a discussion of their work.

Later that evening, Barnard College President Debora Spar presented the inaugural Athena Ensemble Award to the cast and crew of Suffragette. Sarah Gavron, the director of the film, came in from London to accept the award and join the audience for a Q&A.

Great Movies: This year, the festival included a wonderful lineup of films and a host of directors, producers, and film subjects who joined us for Q&A sessions.

- The festival opened with a screening of Trapped, a documentary about abortion clinics in the south fighting for their survival. This moving film
was followed by a panel with director and writer Dawn Porter, abortion clinic owner Renee Chelian, and festival co-founder Kathryn Kolbert, moderated by MSNBC’s Irin Carmon.

- Director Andrea Meller joined us for a Q&A about her film Now En Español, an entertaining portrait of the five dynamic Latina actresses who dub Desperate Housewives for Spanish language audiences in the U.S. as they fight for a more diverse and visible portrayal of themselves and their community.

- Director Jessica Edwards came to talk about Mavis!, a documentary that chronicles the inspiring career of music legend and civil rights icon Mavis Staples and her family group, The Staple Singers.

- Jessica Cox, the subject of documentary film Right Footed, joined us via Skype to discuss her work as a mentor and advocate for persons with disabilities.

- We closed the festival with a screening of Codegirl, a heartfelt documentary that follows high school girls from around the world as they try to improve their communities by competing in the global Technovation Challenge. The film and festival ended with an engaging panel featuring four women in tech, moderated by founder of Entrepreneurs@Athena Nathalie Molina Niño, as they encouraged, inspired, and engaged up-and-coming female coders of all ages.

Panels and Workshops: This year’s Athena Film Festival hosted four master classes on television writing, composing, documentary filmmaking, and directing, seven panels, and eight special events. Notably, the Festival hosted a Mini-Lab for female screenwriters conducted in partnership with the Black List, a lively karaoke sing-a-long on Saturday night, and a student luncheon with delegations from across the Northeast including male and female cadets from West Point, and both high school and college students from...
Princeton, Berklee School of Music, and more.

**Media Coverage:** The festival received significant print and online media coverage from such publications as *Variety*, *Hollywood Reporter*, *New York Magazine*, *Forbes Woman*, and more. Reaching hundreds of thousands on social media — through Facebook, Twitter, and blog postings — the festival garnered more than 500 million media impressions.

**Many, Many Thanks:** Thanks as well to the illustrious group of festival Co-Chairs: Amma Asante, Julie Parker Benello, Debra Martin Chase, Dan Cogan, Ana DuVernay, Susan Fales-Hill, Sherry Lansing, Diane Levin, Jon Levin, Dylan McDermott, Sheila Nevins, Gina Prince-Bythewood, Lisa Garcia Quiroz, Susan Rovner, Regina K. Scully, and Rachel Weisz. Many thanks to the festival’s Founding Sponsor, Artemis Rising Foundation, Regina K. Scully, Founder & CEO, as well as the platinum level sponsor, HBO Documentary Films, the Honorary Host Committee, and the numerous other companies, foundations, and individuals who contributed their time, financial resources, and in-kind gifts to the festival.

**Save the Date:** 7th annual festival will be February 9–12, 2017.
Fostering Dialogue on Women’s Leadership

DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS PROGRAM BRINGS RENOWNED LEADERS TO CAMPUS

The Distinguished Fellows Program brings to campus renowned leaders from the most senior levels of the private and public sectors. Athena Distinguished Fellows, each of whom have a demonstrated commitment to the advancement of women, share their expertise and experience with the Barnard community. This year, the Fellows presented at the Athena Film Festival and Power Talks, met with students in Athena’s Senior Seminar and Women and Leadership classes, and developed programs that advance leadership. We are excited by the growth of the Distinguished Fellows program and for the cultural enrichment it brings to the Barnard community. Welcome to our newest cohort of Fellows:

2015-2017 CLASS

Joan Fallon

Founder and CEO of Curemark, Fallon is a visionary scientist who has dedicated her life’s work to championing the health and wellbeing of children worldwide. Curemark is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of novel therapies to treat serious diseases for which there are limited treatment options. The company’s pipeline includes a phase III clinical-stage research program for Autism & ADHD, as well as three preclinical programs focused on Parkinson’s disease, schizophrenia, and addiction. Joan holds 46 patents worldwide, has written numerous scholarly articles, and has lectured extensively across the globe on pediatric developmental problems including autism and ADHD.

On September 29, 2015, we welcomed Fallon to campus for a Power Talk, in which she told the inspiring story behind Curemark and shared insights from her groundbreaking research. Along the way, Fallon taught us some important lessons about leadership and finding the motivation to persevere when faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges. “When there are setbacks and problems,” she said, “the need of the kids gets to me every time...[but] you need a lot of resilience. You need to know that if today’s not a good day, tomorrow can be a better day.”
Nely Galán

Nely Galán is a quintessential maker: She is a Latina media mogul, an entrepreneur, a teacher, a speaker, an Emmy Award winning producer, and an advocate for gender parity. Above all, she is SELF MADE. Dubbed the “Tropical Tycoon” by The New York Times Magazine, Galán is one of the entertainment industry’s savviest influencers. Galán, a Cuban immigrant, worked her way up to become President of Telemundo’s Entertainment Division. Throughout her career Galán produced over 700 episodes of television in English and Spanish. After becoming self-made on her own terms, Galán has made it her mission to teach women—regardless of age or background—how they too can become entrepreneurs.

Galán is also the founder of the nonprofit The Adelante Movement (“Move it forward!” in Spanish), which kicked off in 2012 and seeks to train and empower Latinas to become entrepreneurs. Soon, not just Latinas, but women of all backgrounds began showing up to her events, a clear signal to Galán that all women, and particularly multicultural women, were leading a new economic women’s movement. The revolution around financial self-reliance had already begun. Her book, Self Made, published by Spiegel & Grau/Random House is already a New York Times best-seller.

Galán joined us on March 23, 2016 to talk about women’s leadership, entrepreneurship, and other provocative topics of the moment. Through a series of captivating anecdotes about failure, success, heartbreak, mentorship, and life as a first generation Cuban immigrant, Galán revealed what it takes to become “empowered, self-reliant, and rich in every way.”
“Becoming self-made does not have to be a grandiose feat,” Galán reminded the audience. “You don’t have to look up to find a self-made woman. Just look around you.” Some of our favorite pieces of advice from Galán are: “Be the architect of your life. If you can see it, you can be it” and “Don’t buy shoes, buy buildings! It’s a fun catchphrase, but it’s no joke...ask yourself: What is the vision I have for my life and what am I willing to sacrifice to make that vision a reality?”

2014-2016 CLASS

Linda Basch
The former President of the National Council for Research on Women (now Re:Gender), a network of more than 100 leading academic research, policy and advocacy centers, Basch has held diverse leadership positions in higher education, at the United Nations, and in the non-profit sector. An anthropologist, she has written numerous books and articles for scholarly journals, been featured in major media outlets, and has served as an Advanced Leadership Fellow at Harvard. Her next chapter includes executive coaching to high potential leaders.

Angela E. Oh
Currently serving as an Attorney Mediator with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, Oh gained national prominence in 1992 as a mediating force for Asian Americans during the Los Angeles riots. In 1996, she was appointed by President Bill Clinton as one of seven Advisory Board Members to the President’s Initiative on Race, which was charged with engaging the nation in an unprecedented dialogue on race relations. Oh, whose lectures have taken her across the globe, is also an ordained Zen Buddhist priest.

Sallie Krawcheck
As a senior corporate executive and research analyst, Krawcheck spent years as the guardian of such brands as Smith Barney, Merrill Lynch, U.S. Trust, and Sanford Bernstein. She is currently the owner of the Ellevate Companies, a network of 34,000 professional women across the globe. Recently Ellevate Asset Management has partnered with Pax World to launch the Pax Ellevate Global Woman’s Index Fund, which invests in the 400 highest-rated companies in the world for advancing women.

Jeanne M. Sullivan
A Co-Founder of StarVest Partners which was created in 1998 with $400 million under management, Sullivan has spent 30 years in the technology sector providing extensive operating and investing experience to technology companies. Sullivan serves on the board of the New York Venture Capital Association and as an advisor for many organizations that “fund and fuel” women entrepreneurs. Forbes Magazine cited Sullivan as “one of the women VCs changing the world – grooming the next generation of female entrepreneurs.”
Conclusion

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 want to particularly thank the wonderful leaders who share their wisdom and creativity with us, creating new ways to advance women’s leadership within the Barnard community and beyond. Each and every one of you has contributed to our continuing success. We look forward to working together as we build a vibrant organization committed to expanding women’s leadership across the globe.
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 its Foundation. 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 NPR radio program Justice Talking, and its educational website, justicelearning.org. From 1992 to 1997, she directed domestic litigation and public policy for the Center for Reproductive Rights, where she was a Co-Founder and Vice-President. 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,” Kolbert 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.

Skye Cleary, Ph.D., MBA, is an Adjunct Lecturer at the Athena Center for Leadership Studies, teaching Women in Leadership. Skye is a philosopher and author of ‘Existentialism and Romantic Love’ (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015). She also teaches at the City University of New York, and previously at the New School of Psychotherapy and Counselling (London), and the New York Public Library. Skye is an advisory board member of Strategy of Mind (a global executive learning firm), an associate editor of the American Philosophical Association’s blog, a certified fellow with the American Philosophical Practitioners Association, and co-founded the Manhattan Love Salon. Previously, she was an international equity arbitrageur and management consultant. Her work has been published with TED-Ed, The Huffington Post, The Conversation, Business Insider, New Republic, ABC Radio National, YourTango, Aeon, Actualise Daily and others.
Amy Giddon, Director of Leadership Development, spearheaded the Athena Center’s partnerships with corporations and non-profits to support and develop their current and future women leaders. Amy joined the Athena Center after holding executive roles in the financial services industry and consulting to industry leaders in a wide range of industries on strategy and performance. Most recently she was the President of RushCard, a private-equity backed company founded by entrepreneur Russell Simmons. Prior to that, Amy was the Principal of her own Strategy Advisory firm, creating strategic roadmaps for clients and helping them align their organizations to their strategies. She has also held senior management roles during her nine-year tenure at American Express in Strategy, Marketing, and Sales, led brand strategy consulting engagements for Brand Asset Consulting at Y&R, and began her career as a Management Strategy Consultant at Bain and Company. Amy left the Athena Center in December 2015 and is now developing game-changing brand strategies as a management consultant at Martellus and Debra Stern & Partners.

Victoria Gordon is the Chief of Staff at the Athena Center for Leadership Studies. Victoria has nearly ten years’ experience in operations, development, and event management working for organizations including The Resolution Project, Room to Grow, Community Renewal Team, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. She has a background in international relations and a passion for working with young people committed to social change and social progress. Victoria holds an MSc in Democracy and Comparative Politics from University College London and graduated with honors and an MA in International Relations from the University of St. Andrews.

Erika Guzman is the administrative assistant at the Athena Center for Leadership Studies. Throughout her career, she has gained extensive experience providing high-level administrative support to senior management. Prior to Athena, she served as the Coordinator of Corporate Security at Forest Laboratories, where she provided a wide range of administrative services including management of logistical details, investigations/due diligence analysis, project management, and handling of sensitive and privileged information. Since joining Athena, Erika’s passion for women’s leadership has only grown, and is strengthened every day through her interactions with the students and staff at the Center. Erika has a BA in Culture and Deviance Studies from John Jay College of Criminal Justice.
Heather McKee Hurwitz, Ph.D., is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Athena Center for Leadership Studies and the Department of Sociology. Her goals are to research and change how gender processes and social inequalities matter to the development of contemporary mixed-gender social movements, tactics, strategies, organizations, culture, and women’s advancement. She teaches Women and Leadership (ACLS 3450) and seminars on Gender and Organizations and Global Activism. Currently, she is writing an article about women and leadership in Occupy. She is revising her dissertation project for publication as a book to be entitled, *The 51%: Gender Conflict and Feminist Mobilization in the Occupy Wall Street Movement.*

In June 2015, Heather completed the Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB). She also holds a M.A. in Sociology from UCSB and a B.A. in Sociology from The George Washington University. She was the first American to earn a M.A. in Women and Development Studies from the University of the Philippines Diliman.

Abigail Sara Lewis is the former Associate Director of the Athena Center. Among her many duties, Lewis oversaw the undergraduate programs: the Athena Scholars Program, summer fellowships, and the *On Our Terms* journal. Lewis taught both the Women and Leadership course and the *Athena Senior Seminar.* She also advised all students in the Scholars Program. 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).

Kristin Molloy is the Operations Manager for the Athena Film Festival, a joint project of the Athena Center and Women and Hollywood. Kristin has spent the past several years producing, managing, and otherwise working numerous film festivals and series including Rooftop Films, Slamdance Film Festival, the Montclair Film Festival, and the Hamptons International Film Festival. Most recently, she programmed films for the Northside Festival — a music, innovation, and film festival that takes place in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Kristin has also produced live concerts and worked on independent TV pilots. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Culture and Media Studies from Eugene Lang College The New School for Liberal Arts.
Tomika Rodriguez was the Leadership Development Training Manager at the Athena Center. Her primary responsibilities included managing the Leadership Labs and our non-profit partners. She also supported 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. Since leaving the Athena Center in November 2015, Tomika has taken on a role as Director of Program Development & Partnerships at the Girl Scouts of Greater New York.

Sarit Abramowicz is currently overseeing the Athena Scholars Program.

Before working with the Athena Center, Sarit directed the Women’s International Leadership Program at International House for seven years. In this role she was responsible for curriculum design, student advising, organizing logistics and facilitating workshops and panels. Topics included, Cross-Cultural Communication and Awareness, Working in Multicultural Teams, Managing Conflict with Dignity and various themes related to women and leadership and career development. Sarit has a Master’s degree from New York University in International Education and a Bachelor’s degree from Binghamton University in Philosophy, Politics & Law and Spanish.

In 2015–2016, Sheida Jafari served as the Leadership Labs Director at the Athena Center. Sheida embodies the digital nomad, traversing the globe as a “fixer” who loves to solve problems. A design thinker and strategist, she has structured marketing campaigns for numerous sectors and has facilitated strategic guidance for Fortune 500 companies by creating immersions and spaces for discovery. As cofounder of Ladybits, she spurred the first technology media company to focus on the industry through an inclusive lens. Sheida is also long-time activist focusing on civil liberties and conservation, co-creating notable events at the Brooklyn Bridge, Times Square, Lafayette & Houston, The New School and the now-historic United Nations Hunger Strike of 2009. Most recently, she led a task force in Greece that formulates education modules for refugee camps neighboring Thessaloniki. An external, practical systems builder, Jafari strategizes for companies and initiatives that value joy, human dignity and curiosity. Miss Jafari holds a B.S. in Political Science and B.A. in African American Studies from the University of Rochester (NY).

Nathalie Molina Niño, the founder and director of Entrepreneurs@Athena, the CEO of SELF MADE and an impact investor focused on making a catalytic impact on women in the world. A technologist and coder by training, she’s a consummate entrepreneur, and a storyteller at heart, passionate about telling the often untold stories of women change-makers. She also was involved in launching and growing a multinational business within Lionbridge (NASDAQ: LIOX) into a nearly

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$100M operation within six 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’s passionate about supporting women entrepreneurs and believes that the single most important skill in business is storytelling. In 2015, Molina-Nino joined the startup Power to Fly as its Chief Revenue Officer. Nathalie now serves as Co-Founder and CEO of Brava Investments.

Michaela Murphy served as the Lead Instructor for the 2016 Entrepreneurs in Training Program. Michaela is a writer, storyteller, teacher, and speech coach. As a writer and storyteller she has been featured on NPR, TheMoth Radio Hour, TEDx, and at the White House. Her work has been featured in The New Yorker and produced Off-Broadway. She is a directorial consultant to the wildly popular sketch comedy, Blogologues and works with storytellers and comedians to hone their stagecraft. Michaela is also an educational consultant working with students and educators across the US to integrate the arts into their classrooms. Michaela lives in NYC and is a widely sought business consultant, speech writer and coach by c-level executives, technology startups, and individuals who seek to tell their stories with distinction.

Melissa Silverstein, the co-founder and Artistic Director of the Athena Film Festival, is the founder and editor of Women and Hollywood, which educates, advocates, and agitates for gender parity across the entertainment industry. An early voice for more women directors, Silverstein speaks widely on women and Hollywood in popular media and at events around the globe. In 2013, she 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, was the founding project director for The White House Project, and the chief of Staff at the Ms. Foundation for Women.

Elana Weinstein served as the Director of Women in Leadership at the Athena Center in Spring 2016. She managed the execution of the Women in Leadership Program in conjunction with Columbia Business School. Prior to this role, Elana served as the Head of Diversity at Bloomberg, where she was responsible for the development and oversight of the company’s diversity and inclusion strategy. Prior to joining Bloomberg, Ms. Weinstein was a Vice President in Global Leadership and Diversity at Goldman Sachs, where she managed the firm’s diversity initiatives, and directed women’s initiatives and women’s leadership development.

Naomi Wolf, the author of eight nonfiction books, all of them New York Times bestsellers worked with Athena in 2014-15 to develop our multi-media offerings. Educated at Yale and Oxford and a Rhodes Scholar, Wolf wrote the feminist analysis of the beauty industry, The Beauty Myth, in 1993, which has been translated into fourteen languages and been called one of the most important books of the Twentieth Century by the New York Times. Her most recent books, The End of America and Give me Liberty, deal with democracy and civil rights in America. She also writes essays for major news outlets and has been a regular columnist for the Guardian, Project Syndicate, and the Sunday Times of London. She co-founded two nonprofit organizations and has launched a democracy-building tech startup, DailyClout.com. She received a doctorate from Oxford University in 2015.
Many, Many Thanks

Our tremendous growth would not be possible without the generous support of our donors, the wisdom of our advisors and the dedication of our staff, consultants and instructors. We remain thankful to our founding donors, Francene Sussner 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 Williams’s 2011 decision to endow a Chair for the Director of the Athena Center.

We extend our gratitude to our dedicated and engaged Leadership Council, co-chaired by Claire Newman and Jyoti Menon ’01. These Leadership Council members donate both their time and expertise, serving as mentors, professional development trainers, film festival volunteers, and connecting with our Scholars and staff. We are stronger because of the time and talent they donate and we remain deeply grateful for their continued and loyal support.

We continue to consider ourselves profoundly lucky to have the sound guidance of a committed group of faculty advisors who provide insights and support to the growing Scholars Program and for the invaluable advice we receive from an illustrious Advisory Board.

To everyone who supports our mission to advance women’s leadership and to foster a stronger, more empowered generation of Barnard students, we extend our deepest thanks. Our growth and continued success would not be possible without your dedication and loyal participation.

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