

Vassar



# WHERE SPARKS FLY



PASSIONS WILL CONVERGE

- BARRIERS

- BARRIERS WILL SHATTER

BARRIERS WILL SHATTER

- PERSPECTIVES WILL CROSS -

PASSIONS WILL CONVERGE -

- BARRIERS WILL SHATTER -

CREATIVES WILL CLASH -

PASSIONS WILL CONVERGE

IDEAS WILL COLLIDE

IDEAS WILL COLLIDE

- IDEAS WILL COLLIDE -

IDEAS WILL COLLIDE -

COLLIDE -

IDEAS WILL COLLIDE -

PASSIONS WILL CONVERGE

BARRIERS WILL SHATTER

PASSIONS WILL CONVERGE

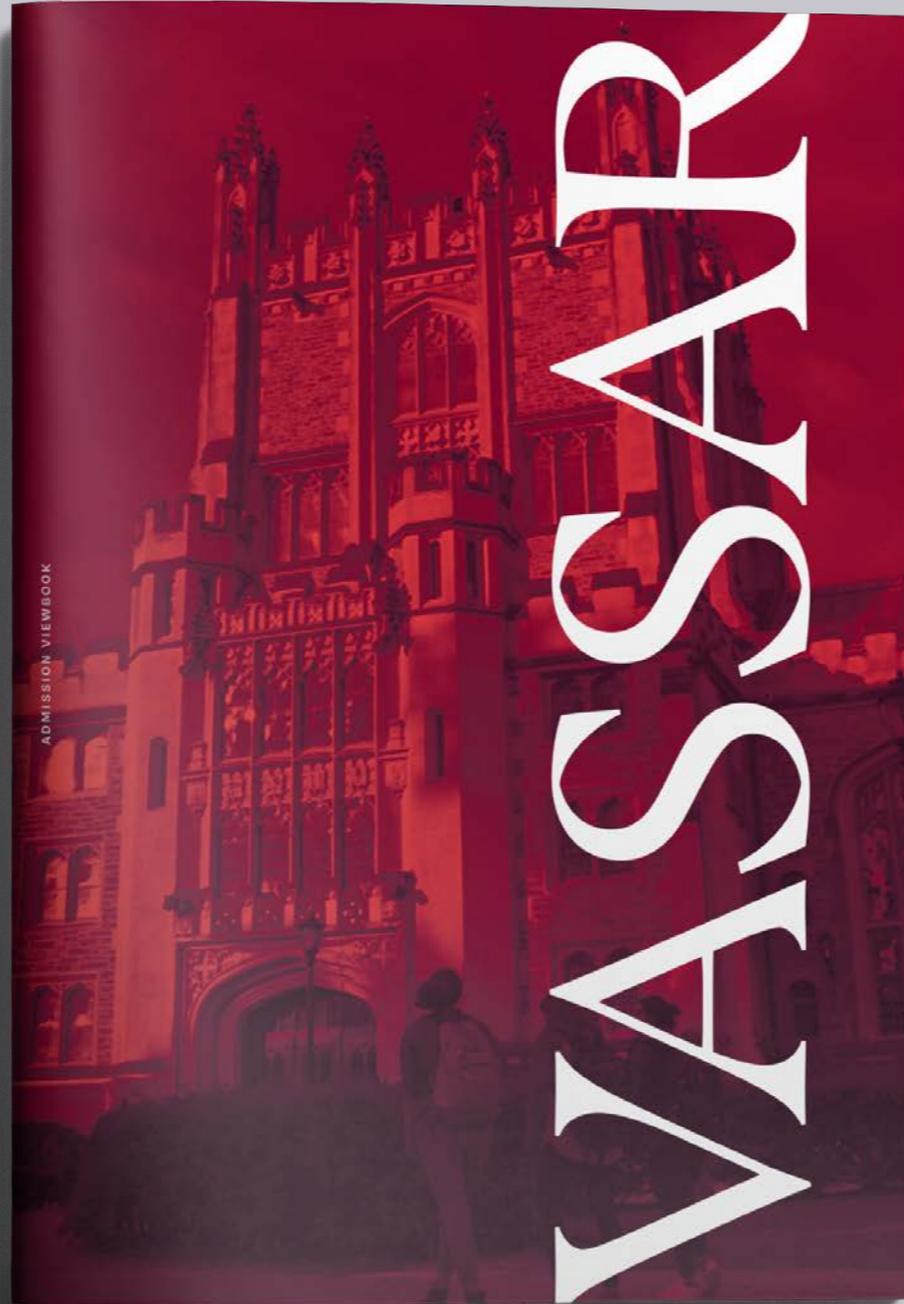
BARRIERS WILL SHATTER

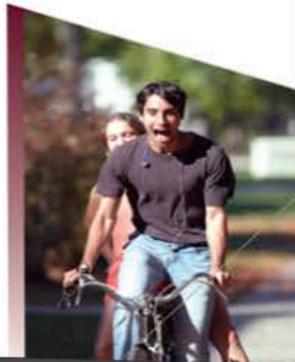
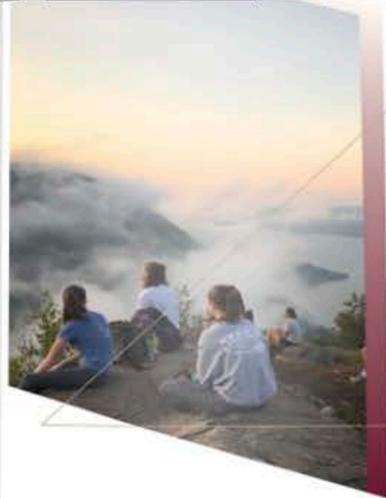
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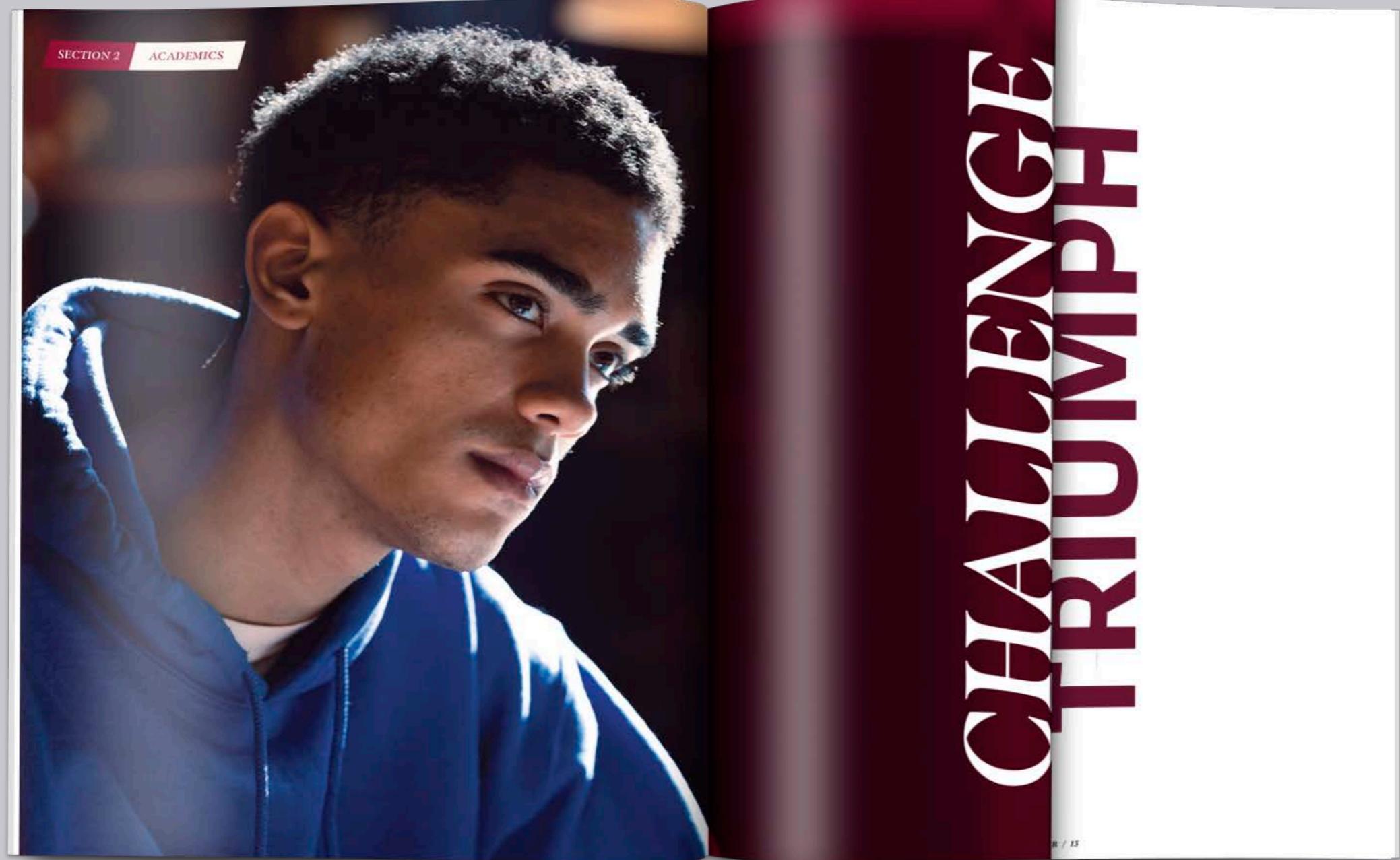
# VASSAR IS FUELED BY AN ABUNDANT ENERGY

**A CREATIVE FORCE, A CURIOUS SPIRIT, PROPELLING OUR PURSUITS, HOBBIES, STUDIES, AND ARTISTIC ENDEAVORS.**

As we feed off one another's energy, we further ignite our own fascinations. We can be uncommonly motivated and passionately inspired. We can also be laid back. But we are never just one thing. People who live out loud and introspective old souls. And no matter who we are, how we're feeling, or what we're doing, we share that universal spark that illuminates the world around us. We invite you to explore the things that spark our world and to discover something that sparks yours as well.







VASSAR FACILITIES

# WHERE HORIZONS MEET

ON OUR 1,000-ACRE CAMPUS, YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED. HERE, TIMELESS ARCHITECTURE BLENDS WITH CUTTING-EDGE FACILITIES. BOLD THINKING CONVERGES WITH BREATHTAKING NATURAL BEAUTY. CITY LIFE AND OPEN AIR COALESCE. AND THE SPARK OF SOMETHING GREAT BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE. THE BEST WAY TO KNOW IT IS TO EXPERIENCE IT YOURSELF, BUT TO GIVE YOU A HEAD START, ALLOW US TO SHOW YOU AROUND SOME OF OUR FAVORITE VASSAR BUILDINGS.

## THE MAIN BUILDING AND THE COLLEGE CENTER

The beating heart of campus life at Vassar. Main Building was completed in 1865 and, at the time, housed almost the entire College. Today Main Building is home to dining, the Palmer Art Gallery, a makerspace, and many student resources, with upper floors reserved for student housing.

## BUILDINGS AND BELONGING

Buildings and Belonging is a digital tool and self-guided campus tour that honors the contributions of African Americans to the history of Vassar College. Through the

lens of 13 campus buildings, we celebrate and remember the African American community members whose presence and contributions have shaped our college over the years.

Learn more at [vassar.edu/buildings-and-belonging](https://vassar.edu/buildings-and-belonging)

## BRIDGE FOR LABORATORY SCIENCES

Spanning the Fonteyn Kill wetland, our dynamic STEM facility is a bridge in more ways than one. Inside a glass exterior specially designed to reduce bird collisions, a network of interdisciplinary laboratories connects the integrated sciences with the humanities. One such laboratory, the interdisciplinary Robotics Research Lab, is the first of its kind at a liberal arts college, connecting researchers from biology, cognitive science, and computer science to explore topics like birobotics, artificial learning, and evolutionary robotics.

## THE FRANCES LEHMAN LOEB ART CENTER

Founded in 1864 as the Vassar College Art Gallery, the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center houses Vassar College's vast and comprehensive collection of artwork. Featuring more than 21,000 works that span art history, it was the first preplanned art museum at a college in the country. Some of its more notable collections include Matthew Vassar's own Hudson River School paintings, the Warburg Collection of Old Master prints, and works by Rembrandt, Pablo Picasso, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Francis Bacon.



## THE LIBRARIES

The Libraries at Vassar hold one of the largest undergraduate library collections in the United States with more than 1 million volumes. The rare book collection includes books important in women's history, first editions of English and American literary and historical works, examples of fine printing, cookbooks, children's books, and rare maps and atlases.

## PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

Since its completion in 1896, the President's House has been used as a space to host foreign dignitaries and dinners, but also as an open environment for students and faculty to gather and converse. Our current President, Elizabeth Bradley, hosts weekly office hours at her house on Sunday evenings, and has even been known to host students for hot chocolate in the parlor on snow days.

## GORDON COMMONS

Some of life's deepest connections are forged over a good meal. At Gordon Commons, our campus dining center, we make sure the food we bring to the table reflects our connection to the wider world, too. We offer a range of all-you-can-eat dishes, with options that account for a range of preferences, allergies, and sensitivities. Gordon Commons features deli, salad bar, and brick oven pizza stations, kosher options, and fresh vegetables from the Vassar Farm. And around campus you can find the Street Eats food truck with its weekly rotating menu.



Vassar becomes coeducational, the first all-women's college in the country to do so, after declining Yale's offer to merge in 1967.

40 veterans, Vassar's first male students, enroll under the GI Bill

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a college trustee, delivers the commencement address

Edna St. Vincent Millay '17 becomes the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry

Vassar hosts the first collegiate field day for women in the United States

Vassar Astronomy Professor Maria Mitchell and students travel to Iowa to observe solar eclipse

The Miscellany News is founded as one of the first independent student newspapers in the United States

Vassar College is Chartered

## A PLACE TO EXPLORE THE BIG QUESTIONS

"Progress is my motto," Matthew Vassar once wrote. As one of the most successful brewers of the 19th century, Matthew was a noted philanthropist, businessman, and community leader. His crowning achievement was the establishment of Vassar College in 1861. From the beginning, Vassar was committed to access, becoming the first institution of higher education in the United States to offer an education to women equal to the all-male Ivy League. Students were offered rigorous courses in subjects like art, history, biology, geology, mathematics, and music. We carried on our progressive legacy when we were the first formerly women's college to go coeducational in 1969, and continue our pathbreaking mission in pushing the liberal arts forward today.



34 African American students end 3-day occupation of Main Building; new Black Studies program granted, which then becomes Africana Studies, Vassar's longest-running multidisciplinary program



Meryl Streep '73 wins her first Academy Award for *Kramer vs. Kramer*

Rick Lazio '80 becomes the first Vassar graduate elected to Congress

Lisa Kudrow '85 begins her role as Phoebe Buffay on the hit NBC sitcom *Friends*.

Vassar becomes first institution of higher education in the nation to partner with Posse Foundation in recruiting and enrolling U.S. veterans

Vassar is awarded the inaugural Jack Kent Cooke Prize for Equity in Educational Excellence, a \$1 million prize awarded each year to a college that excels in enrolling and graduating low-income, high-achieving students

Admiral Grace Hopper '28, the "queen of code" and "mother of computing" is posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor, by President Barack Obama

Vassar opens the Bridge Building for Laboratory Sciences, one of the largest science teaching and research facilities in the United States



Vassar College pledges to go carbon neutral by 2030

### Maria Höhn

**Professor of History on the Marion Musser Lloyd '32 Chair**

In the classroom, Dr. Maria Höhn brings history to life with fascinating readings, discussion-focused lectures, big-name guest speakers, and stories from her own first-hand experience as a child growing up in post-WWII Germany. Her research and scholarship focuses on the American military presence in Germany; her book *GIs and Fräuleins* addressed the experience of African American soldiers there. She has received numerous awards for her research on how African American GIs energized the struggle for civil rights. On campus, Dr. Höhn looks to her knowledge of the past to help organize students to make an impact today. In the midst of the Syrian refugee crisis, Dr. Höhn helped organize the Vassar student response, *Vassar Refugee Solidarity*. To amplify that work, she founded the **Consortium on Forced Migration Displacement**, a month-long event series of panel discussions, photo exhibitions, and lectures to raise awareness of and money toward the crisis.



### Amitava Kumar

**Professor of English on the Helen D. Lockwood Chair**

If you want to learn how to write, learn it from the professor who wrote the book. Dr. Amitava Kumar's latest book of essays, *Every Day I Write the Book: Notes on Style*, provides practical advice and inspiration for academic writers about storytelling, organization, and cultivating good writing habits. His extensive body of work includes novels, non-fiction, reportage, and essays. **Dr. Kumar's latest novel *Immigrant*, Montana was named one of The Best Books of 2018 by the New Yorker and was included in President Obama's year-end list.** Dr. Kumar's courses often deal with reportage; the essay form in prose and film, cities, literatures describing the global movement of goods and people, war, and memory work through writing workshops, discussions, and vivid lectures.



### Mia Mask

**Professor of Film on the Mary Riepma Ross '32 Chair**

From the silver screen and beyond, Dr. Mia Mask's lectures explore the power of cinema at the intersection of popular culture, art, and identity. She teaches discussion-based courses on African American cinema, documentary film history, African national cinemas and seminars on auteurs Spike Lee and Ava DuVernay. **Her film reviews and commentary can be found across a number of publications and media broadcasts including National Public Radio, The Criterion Channel, CNN, CBS2 News, Bloomberg, and the Guardian.** Dr. Mask is the author of *Divas on Screen: Black Women in American Film*. She is the editor of *Contemporary Black American Cinema* and the co-editor of *Poitier Revisited: Reconsidering a Black Icon in the Obama Age*.





SECTION 5 STUDENT LIFE

VASSAR

COMMUNITY  
INDIVIDUAL



FIND YOUR SPARK

# LET IT FLY



Vassar students lead the Liberty League Conference in all-academic students each year.



Our athletes strive for excellence on and off the field. Over the past two years, we've graduated seven All-Americans, two Academic All-Americans, and a finalist for the NCAA Woman of the Year.

HOME OF  THE BREWERS

Athletics have always been an important facet of the Vassar experience, but these days, the Brewers are on the rise like never before. We field men's and women's varsity teams in the NCAA Division III Liberty League Conference as well as intercollegiate clubs and intramural teams. In 2018, the Women's Rugby club team won our first team national championship. And over the last few years Vassar has advanced three teams (Field Hockey, Women's Soccer, and Women's Cross Country) to the NCAA tournament for the first time in program history. There's never been a better time to be a Brewer.

In addition to our official team sports, we offer a robust set of activities for the entire Vassar community including intramurals, fitness classes, open recreation, and access to a spacious fitness center with state-of-the-art cardio and strength training equipment.

## VARSITY SPORTS

- M BASEBALL
- W M BASKETBALL
- W M CROSS COUNTRY
- W M FENCING
- W FIELD HOCKEY
- W GOLF
- W M LACROSSE
- W M ROWING\*
- W M RUGBY\*
- W M SOCCER
- W M SQUASH
- W M SWIMMING & DIVING
- W M TENNIS
- W M TRACK & FIELD
- W M VOLLEYBALL

W WOMEN'S M MEN'S

\* VARSITY CLUB SPORT

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

MEET JUST A FEW OF  
OUR ALUMNI WHO ARE

# SHAPING OUR WORLD TODAY



*Sherrilyn Ifill '84*

President and Director-Counsel,  
NAACP Legal Defense Fund

After receiving her B.A. in English at Vassar, Sherrilyn Ifill went on to become the seventh president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF). The civil rights legal organization, which was founded by Thurgood Marshall, secured its most celebrated victory at the Supreme Court in *Brown vs. Board of Education* – the landmark school desegregation case that transformed America. Today, Ms. Ifill helps the organization as it confronts urgent civil rights issues, including fighting against voter suppression, advocating for policing and criminal justice reform, and combating educational inequities, among many other initiatives. As a speaker and advocate, she is a sought-after voice on the complex issues of racial justice that our country still faces today.

**NAACP**



*Ethan Weiss '91*

Cardiologist and Associate Professor  
at University of California San Francisco Medical Center

Ethan turned his early passion for music – he played trumpet in the school's jazz ensemble – to medicine and today splits his time between seeing patients and researching metabolism, nutrition, obesity, and type 2 diabetes as they relate to cardiovascular health. When COVID-19 hit, he was compelled by his strong connection through Vassar to travel to New York City to assist hospitals in their treatment of patients. Ethan also played varsity lacrosse for all four years at Vassar.

**UCSF Health**



*Jason Blum '91*

Film Producer, Blumhouse Productions

Vassar drama alumnus Jason Blum is a three-time Academy Award-nominee for his work producing the films *Blackkklansman*, *Get Out*, and *Whiplash*. He is the founder and CEO of Blumhouse Productions, a multi-media production company that pioneered a new model of studio filmmaking, producing high-quality, micro-budget films. He has been recognized by *TIME* magazine's top 100 list of the world's most influential people.

**BLUMHOUSE**  
PRODUCTIONS



*Gregg Orton '08*

National Director, National Council  
of Asian Pacific Americans

Gregg is the National Director of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans where he leads the coalition in developing policy and communications strategy and advancing a joint agenda to address the needs of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community. He earned his B.A. in political science from Vassar.



*Geraldine Laybourne '69 P'93*

Nickelodeon, Oxygen Network,  
Child Advocate

Vassar art history alumna Geraldine Laybourne changed the face of children's television programming. She led the team that created Nickelodeon and Nick at Nite. She is an entrepreneur who co-founded Oxygen Media and Katapult Studios, and is working to make sure all of our youngest children get high quality early childhood education. In 1996, she was ranked No. 1 among the 50 most influential women in the entertainment industry by the *Hollywood Reporter* and named one of the 25 most influential people in America by *TIME* magazine that same year.

**nickelodeon**



*Darys Estrella '92 P'25*

International Consultant, Finance

Originally from the Dominican Republic, Vassar graduate Darys Estrella quickly found herself immersed in the world of global finance. Her Vassar Hispanic studies degree opened the door for a position in the international branch of Deltec Asset Management, where she began rising up the ranks and was quickly named Vice President of Fixed Income at just 27 years old. She later returned to the Dominican Republic to serve as the first female CEO of the Dominican Stock Exchange. Today she runs her own consulting business, giving conferences about leadership, women's issues, empowerment, and sustainability.



Bolsa de Valores de la  
República Dominicana

## AFTER VASSAR

**96%**

OF RECENT GRADUATES  
WERE EMPLOYED, IN  
CONTINUING EDUCATION,  
OR PURSUING A  
FELLOWSHIP OR  
VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE  
WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF  
GRADUATION.

**90%**

LAW SCHOOL ADMIT RATE  
FOR VASSAR GRADS  
NATIONAL AVG. 74%

**85%**

MEDICAL SCHOOL ADMIT  
RATE FOR VASSAR GRADS  
NATIONAL AVE. 43%-47%

**14 years**

VASSAR HAS BEEN  
RECOGNIZED BY THE U.S.  
STATE DEPARTMENT AS A TOP  
PRODUCING INSTITUTION FOR  
FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIPS



STUDENT EXPERIENCE



## VASSAR'S 150 YEARS ARE RICH IN TRADITION

and the College's spirit of continuous evolution guarantees new traditions are established all the time. Here are two particular traditions that have stood the test of time.

### Founder's Day

First celebrated in 1866, Founder's Day is Vassar's oldest tradition. It first began as a tribute to the still-living Matthew Vassar, but has now become a day of full-on celebration with food, music, concerts, and a fireworks display at Sunset Lake.



### Ring the Bell

Every year, near the end of Spring semester, students in the junior class make their way to the top of Main Building and ring the bell, marking their transition to senior year as the bell reverberates over the green treetops.



### Vassar Transitions

A four-year program supporting first-generation, low-income, and/or undocumented students. Transitions focuses on community-building and creating a sense of belonging for students on campus.



### The ALANA Center

Provides resources and programs to support students of color, and fosters cultural, social, academic, and creative expressions.



### The LGBTQ Center

Enhances the campus life experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer students and their allies by providing social, cultural, and academic programming on campus.



### The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and Contemplative Practices

Supports students of all faiths, beliefs, and spiritual callings by offering opportunities for observance on campus and connecting students to nearby places of practice and worship.



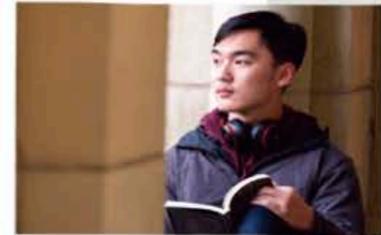
### The Women's Center

Supports and celebrates women's leadership; provides empowering spaces for women; takes action to address gender inequity on campus; provides programming and resources on local, national, and global gender issues; honors Vassar College's unique history.



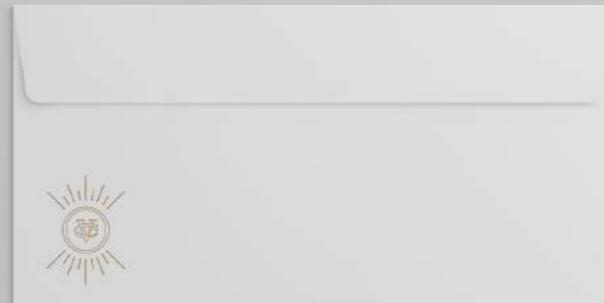
### The Office of International Services (OIS)

Offers a full range of resources for international students and scholars, including advice and assistance in visa, immigration, tax, employment, cultural, and general matters.



### CLUB SPORTS

- Ultimate (Open, Mixed, and Women's)
- Ski Team (USCSA)
- Polo Team (USPA)
- Cycling Team (ECCC)
- Quidditch
- U.S. Figure Skating Synchronized Skating Team



# VASSAR



## HISTORY IS MADE

### WHERE SPARKS FLY

MARIA MITCHELL American astronomer, and discoverer of Comet 1811

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Amazing Newspaper

VASSAR

WHERE  
A STAGE

BECOMES A  
PLATFORM

WHERE  
SPARKS  
FLY

IT'S OKAY TO BE  
**NUTS**

WHERE **SPARKS** FLY

At Vassar, **LEE ZALBEN '95** dreamed up the crazy idea to start a restaurant selling unique peanut butter sandwiches. Today, Peanut Butter & Co., is a nationwide grocery store staple.

**VASSAR**





VASSAR

HORIZONS MEET

WHERE SPARKS FLY



CROSS

INTERSECT

MEET

CONVERGE

CROSS

WHERE SPARKS FLY

VASSAR

WHERE SPARKS FLY

VASSAR

WHERE SPARKS FLY

PERSPECTIVES COLLIDE

DIALOGUES CROSS

HORIZONS MEET

CULTURES CONVERGE

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VASSAR

WHERE SPARKS FLY

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VASSAR

PASSIONS

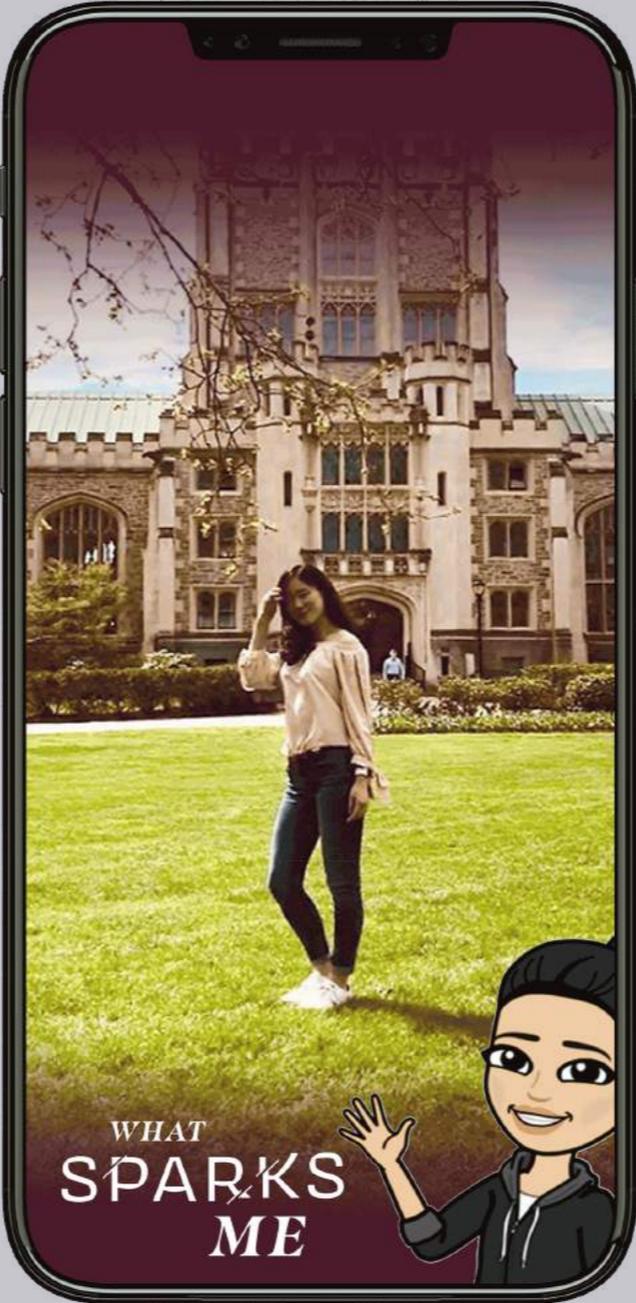
PERSPECTIVES

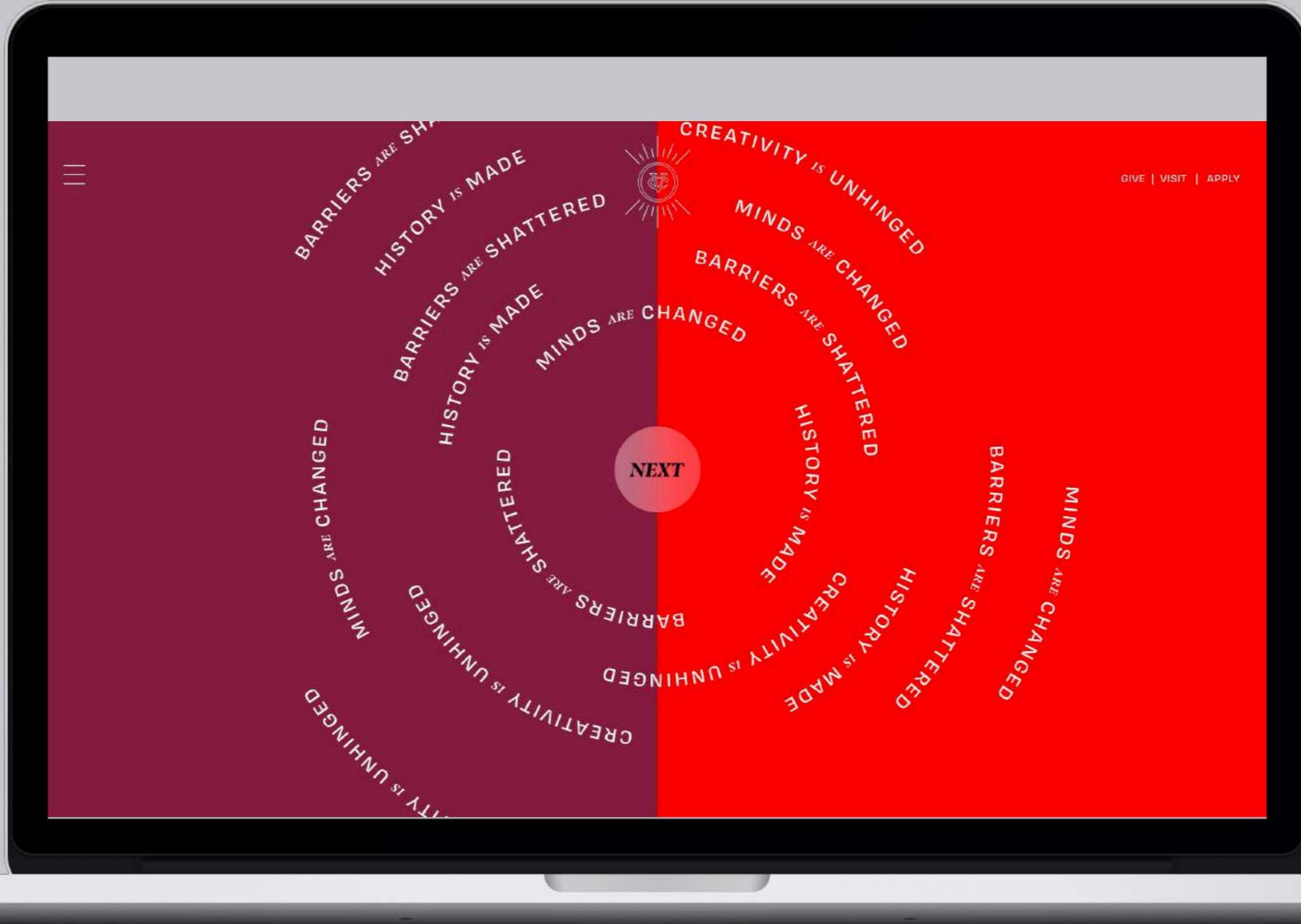
DIALOGUES

HORIZONS

CULTURES



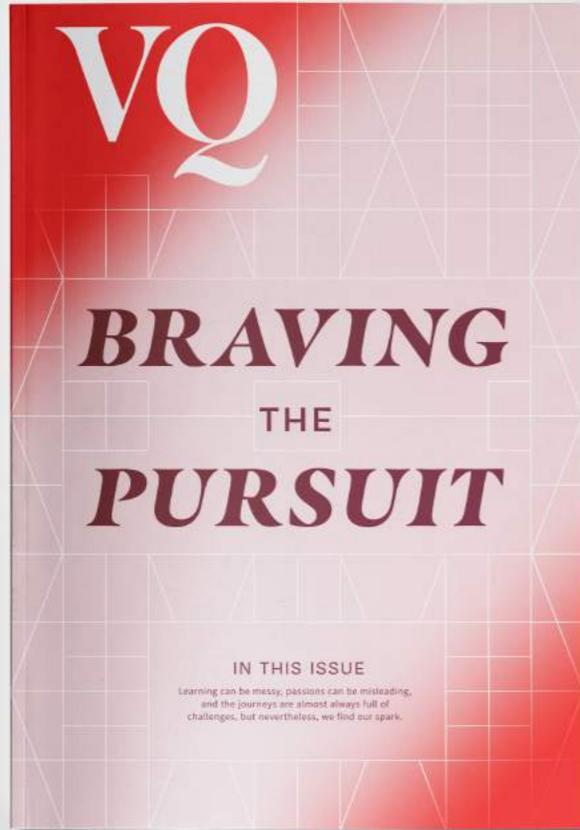




GIVE | VISIT | APPLY

NEXT

BARRIERS ARE SHATTERED  
HISTORY IS MADE  
MINDS ARE CHANGED  
CREATIVITY IS UNHINGED  
BARRIERS ARE SHATTERED  
HISTORY IS MADE  
MINDS ARE CHANGED  
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BARRIERS ARE SHATTERED  
HISTORY IS MADE  
MINDS ARE CHANGED  
CREATIVITY IS UNHINGED



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