



SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu

ZSOM Alumni Newsletter

December 2019

Greetings!

The holidays are almost upon us, and we are wrapping up a busy semester at the Zucker School of Medicine. This fall marked our 9th White Coat Ceremony in October, a visit by the LCME for accreditation, and many other events, including Scholarship Day and Diversity Night (see coverage below). I'm sure the students (and faculty) are ready for a break, and I hope you will be taking some time during the holidays to recharge as well.

Please keep your news coming, and for those of you in the NY area, stay tuned for info about our spring happy hour. There's also some regional faculty travel on the schedule, so don't be surprised if you see an email from me in coming months. You can always send in updates through our online **form**, or by emailing me at **SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu**. I'd love to hear about any fellowship matches on the horizon (hint, hint)!

I wish you a very happy holiday season, and hope that the coming year brings you peace, productivity, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Warmly,

Anne Dalgish Koestner
Director of Development and Alumni Affairs

News from the Zucker School

Alumni News:

Our fall happy hour at Novita was filled with lots of catching up - Dr. David Elkowitz was thrilled to see our alumni that evening! As always, I'm open to suggestions and thoughts about venue, guests, etc. so please don't hesitate to **email me**!



Our small but mighty Chicago alumni population had the opportunity to meet up with Associate Dean Jodi Langsfeld as well as Dean Smith and Dr. Louis Miller, our Assistant Dean for Career Advisement. As our regional alumni population grows, I hope to organize more of these, so please stay tuned!



Alumni Classnotes:

Class of 2015:

- Robert Metzler has taken a position as Attending Physiatrist at MidAmerica Orthopaedics.

Class of 2016:

- Luke Garbarino recently married Ashley Piazza - see the below photo for ZSOM friends who attended the wedding.



Class of 2017:

- Helen Pu, Tahyna Hernandez, and John Sadeghi recently published an article on cognitive behavior therapy for women living with HIV in the *Journal of Investigative Medicine*.

- Anna Marie Sonstegard completed the New York City marathon for the second time, not only running a PR, but also sporting some ZSOM pride!



Class of 2018:

- Benson Ku was an invited speaker at the Climate Psychiatry Panel at the Institute of Psychiatric Services, speaking on the implication of environmental policy on mental health, he also published an [article](#) in *Psychiatric Times* on environmental policy.
- Andrew Liu and Vinodh Mechery (2017) recently published an [article](#) in *JMIR Human Factors* on improving provider tool adoption with adaptive clinical support surveillance.

Class of 2019:

- Devora Lichtman was honored as Internal Medicine intern of the month for July of 2019 at the Cleveland Clinic.

Student News:

Diversity Night Highlights Student Backgrounds: On November 14, students came together to celebrate the school's inclusive community through food, panels, and performances, see the coverage [here](#)!

Scholarship Day Highlights Student Research: Almost 90 students presented their summer research projects at this year's Scholarship Day, see coverage and photos [here](#).

Alex, who is Benjamin Zhang?: A current first year student at ZSOM who participated in *Jeopardy!* on top of juggling medical school - see coverage and the *Newsday* article [here](#).

Faculty News:

Dr. Alice Fornari receives Corman IMPACT Award: Associate Dean of Clinical Skills Development, Dr. Alice Fornari was one of 2019's recipients of the **Corman IMPACT award** for the Mentoring and Professionalism in Training (MAP-IT) program which focuses on humanism and interprofessional mentoring.

Osler Society highlights humanism in medicine through opera and comedy: This fall, Osler Society events brought opera singer **Bárbara Padilla** to ZSOM as part of a program highlighting heart disease as an effect of cancer treatment, and **Will Lautzenheiser**, a quadruple amputee who spoke to the ZSOM community about his recent documentary, disability rights, and patient care through a lens of positivity and humor.

And speaking of running: Dr. Judy Brenner, Associate Dean of Curricular

Integration and Assessment, also completed her second New York City marathon last month, along with Dr. Karen Friedman, Associate Professor, who ran her first NYC marathon!



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What would you like to hear more about? Please email me at SOMAlumni@hofstra.edu with updates, suggestions, and requests, and don't forget to connect with us through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and our new LinkedIn group!



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