

Spring 2022

SPS Academic & Professional Development Grant Recipients

The SPS Office of Student Support is pleased to announce its Spring 2022 Academic and Professional Development Grant Recipients.

Previously recognized as the Global Impact Award, the grant is intended to support students in pursuing tailored, hands-on learning experiences aligned with their academic programs that include, but are not limited to: graduate research, capstone projects, and experiential learning/professional development opportunities.



Naomi Haile

Human Capital Management

Naomi plans to use the funding and skills learned in the Human Capital Management courses to develop a four-part video series that showcases entrepreneurs, leaders, and creatives in New York. The video interviews aim to highlight leaders who are doing phenomenal work, educate the audience on important developments in the HR, technology, and entrepreneurial space, as well as share important resources in NYC that are significant to those who are business-building. This series is part of her ongoing podcast series Power of Why, which targets professionals who are committed to taking action in their lives and leading with purpose.



William Jay Hotaling

Construction Administration

As a proficient drone pilot and strong believer in drone technology's useful application in the construction industry, William will be attending the drone academy DartDrones in order to advance his training on construction-oriented flight safety and techniques, with the ultimate goal of earning his FAA Part 107 Certification to allow for commercial flight operations. His career aspirations blend construction with sustainable and equitable development, and he looks forward to representing Columbia University at the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Conference in San Antonio later this month, further educating himself on the intersections between traditionally blue collar/white collar positions in construction as well as educational opportunities led by female and minority construction professionals.



Andrew Moss and Megan Grzesiak
Sports Management

Both Andrew Moss and Megan Grzesiak represented Columbia University at the Sports Industry Networking Conference (SINC), a two-day event hosted at George Washington University that brings together students and professionals to learn about the latest innovative news and trends around the sports industry and network with each other. Due to COVID restrictions, Columbia's sports career conference was canceled; SINC allowed for both students to participate in roundtables, one-on-one interviews, and listen to and meet with keynote speakers. The conference also provided Moss and Grzesiak the opportunity to network with other sports professionals and students and expand their circle of connections.



Margaret Murphy
Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

Margaret will be completing an internship with the office of the Special Representative of Interpol to the United Nations, working on security issues related to human trafficking, counterterrorism, cybercrime, and organized crime. Using the skills that she has obtained in the Negotiation and Conflict Resolution program and her experience in past communications internships, Margaret hopes to use this opportunity to aid in her capstone research on Russian counterterrorism and negotiation tactics and bolster her understanding of more complex conflicts and communication structures.



Nan Wang

Enterprise Risk Management

Nan has received funding in order to take the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exam as well as Part I of the Financial Risk Management (FRM) exam. Both exams will supplement her studies in Enterprise Risk Management, help with her goal of working as an advisor in Resource Investment, and deepen her understanding of using data to analyze real-world problems.



Joanna White

Construction Administration

Joanna is interested in living architecture and how the incorporation of green roofs and walls in residential and commercial building projects here in New York City can improve quality of life. By participating in the Green Roof Professional Program presented by The Living Architecture Academy, she will gain proficiency in building techniques for design and construction of green roofs, green walls, and other living architecture components that will supplement her Construction Administration degree in a way that will lead to further hands-on research and experience in the field of green construction and living architecture.



Avery Young

Sustainability Management

Avery plans to use the funding and skills learned in the Sustainability Management courses to research the current perceptions of Environmental Justice in the chemical manufacturing sector, and what best practices framework would support businesses in their efforts to advance Environmental Justice in their local communities.



Yang Zheng

Enterprise Risk Management

Yang has been awarded funding in order to take the Financial Risk Management (FRM) exam and expand her professional goals. Including possible career benefits, the FRM certification will also build Yang's confidence in her understanding of risk management and the latest international standards.