

Summer 2023

## SPS Academic & Professional Development Grant Recipients

### The SPS Office of Student Support is pleased to announce its Summer 2023 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.



#### **Saraya Ashley and Christina Kingsberry** *Negotiation & Conflict Resolution and Narrative Medicine*

Saraya Ashley and Christina Kingsberry will be traveling to Hiroshima, Japan as part of the course Clinic on Conflict and Collaboration in Natural Resource Management. This experience involves engaging with local public, private and civil society groups on environmental sustainability topics. They will study how International Sustainable Development Goals are being addressed and how conflicts arise in natural resource management.

This experience aligns with Saraya's longtime interest in environmental justice and wellness. She hopes to use the knowledge she gains to support environmental justice advocacy work in her community and towards building a more sustainable world for all.

Christina has a career interest in public policy, environmental law, and global health equity. She hopes that by participating in this course, her research will benefit as she learns how to incorporate the community's narratives and concerns when negotiating for policy implementation and change.





### **Tanya Deegoju**

*Construction Administration*

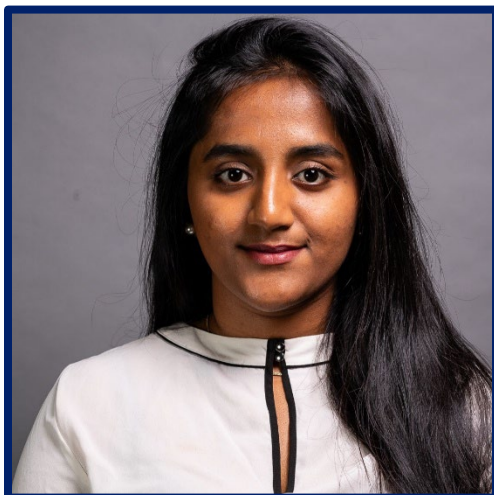
Tanya Deegoju will be taking certification exams for the Certified Associate Project Manager (CAPM) and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Associate (LEED GA) certifications. Success in these examinations demonstrates a person's understanding of best practices in project management and environmentally conscious solutions for construction projects. Equipped with these certifications Tanya hopes to develop more sustainable built environments in her career.



### **Valerie Gerstein**

*Nonprofit Management*

Valerie Gerstein has been invited to attend the NEXUS Global Summit in New York City to connect with philanthropists and social innovators from around the world. Valerie will attend keynote speeches, workshops, roundtables and networking sessions covering areas such as climate change, mental health, education and human rights work in the nonprofit sector. Valerie is excited to bring the knowledge she learns and the connections she makes back to Columbia through her role as the Director of Professional Development for the Nonprofit Management Student Association.



### **Sakshita Kasmurthy**

*Construction Administration*

Sakshita Kasmurthy will be undergoing multiple certification exams. Sakshita is taking the Certified Associate Project Manager (CAPM), the Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Associate (LEED GA) certifications. These development opportunities will instill efficient, sustainable and effective project management practices. With the certifications in hand, Sakshita will be qualified for a variety of roles in the construction industry and expand her future job prospects.



**Valentina Munoz Venezian**

*Sustainability Management*

Valentina Munoz Venezian will be attending the Green Biz Circularity Event in Seattle, Washington. Valentina has extensive experience working in marketing and e-commerce and taking coursework on Circular Economy, but hopes to bridge the gap between theory and practice. This conference will provide networking opportunities with government leaders, nonprofit advocacy groups and Fortune 500 companies. This opportunity will inform Valentina’s future coursework and propel her career in sustainability leadership.



**Juliana Mercedes Nociari**

*Narrative Medicine*

Juliana Mercedes Nociari will be attending the COMET conference at University College Cork, Ireland. Juliana will be presenting “*Not My Mother’s Eyes: Healing Intergenerational and Intersectional Selfhood in Illness Narrative*”. Her research focuses on the diasporic narratives of Latine populations dealing with mental health in the US. In attending this conference, Juliana hopes to connect with scholars and other stakeholders in healthcare. This experience will be instrumental in her larger efforts to create community awareness around consent education and healthcare advocacy.



**Mohammad Ahzam Quraishi**

*Sustainability Management*

Mohammad Ahzam Quraishi will be attending the UIA World Congress of Architects in Copenhagen, Denmark. This congress bridges sustainable development goals with the realities of building infrastructure to create modern, environmentally conscious infrastructure. Mohammad is most excited about the climate related topics, in particular the roundtable on Bio-architecture and Indigenous Wisdom. This complements his recent fieldwork on traditional sustainable housing techniques of the Haudenosaunee and will guide his future work as an aspiring sustainability manager.





### **Adith Shabarish**

#### *Sustainability Management*

Adith Shabarish is pursuing a Certificate in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Investing from the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute. Building upon his coursework, this certificate will deepen Adith's knowledge of sustainable finance and demonstrate this expertise to future employers. Adith's long-term goal is to lead the sustainable finance team at Blackrock and support climate investment in an effort to mitigate climate change.



### **Elizabeth Tiemann**

#### *Narrative Medicine*

Elizabeth Tiemann will be researching for her capstone *Disability Studies: Social Stigma and Its Effects on Quality of Life (QOL) and Lived Experience of Neurodivergent Individuals in Southeast Asia*. Elizabeth will be traveling across Singapore and Indonesia to collect fieldwork observations and interviews with neurodivergent healthcare providers and neurodivergent individuals. She hopes her research will help shift the social paradigm so that there is equitable accessibility, true inclusivity and justice for neurodivergent populations.



### **Yvette Tong**

#### *Applied Analytics*

Yvette Tong will be awarded funding to support her position as a Data Science Intern at the United Nations Headquarters, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance in the Business Transformation and Accountability Division. To meet the demands of this role, Yvette is enrolling in certificate examinations in PowerBI, AWS Cloud Practitioner and KNIME. As she will be developing and implementing analytical and visualization solutions in her internship, these certificates will strengthen her data visualization skills and allow her to excel.



### **Micki Weiner**

#### *Sustainability Management*

Micki Weiner will be attending the Future Fabrics Expo in London, England and the Interfilière in Paris, France. At these two conferences, Micki will attend a speaker series, research cutting-edge fashion materials and go to networking events. This will support Micki's start-up lingerie brand Petal + Ash which aims to support women through comfortable, non-toxic lingerie in an environmentally responsible manner.



### **Vittoria Zaniboni**

#### *Sustainability Management*

Vittoria Zaniboni is going to Panama City, Panama to attend the Latin America Climate Summit (LACS). Regional leaders, experts and policy makers are brought together at this conference to discuss carbon market trends and environmental policy. The keynote speeches and networking opportunities will connect with Vittoria's coursework, particularly her Climate Finance and Sustainable Development class. This experience will greatly inform Vittoria's future work investing in global climate solutions and transitioning society to a low-carbon economy.



### **Qingquan Zhang**

#### *Technology Management*

Qingquan Zhang will be going to Las Vegas, Nevada to attend this year's Las Vegas Licensing Expo. As a technology management entrepreneur, Qingquan will gain insights into industry trends, establish connections with major brands, and explore licensing opportunities. Qingquan works in cross-cultural marketing and is working on his capstone project NexGlobal which will use AI technology to bridge the gaps in multilingual content creation and management. This opportunity will help build strategic partnerships for NexGlobal and fully actualize the project.