

Please join Poughkeepsie AAUW and Vassar College's Campus Life ALANA Center, Career Development Office and Women's Studies Program for this timely and relevant panel discussion.

LEAN IN? OPT OUT? WHAT'S A WOMAN TO DO?

Thursday, March 8, 2018
7 pm to 8:30pm
The Aula (Ely Hall) at Vassar College

Moderator: Wendy Maragh Taylor, Director of the Campus Life ALANA Center, Vassar College; AAUW Member



Wendy Maragh Taylor

This program will attend to the challenges women face with having a range of "noise" around us, being pulled in various directions and having numerous possibilities. The program will be a moderated panel, which will feature three professionals and two students about to graduate. We will hear different perspectives on the state of things for women given the pressures in the current culture. Opportunity for audience participation will follow. The program will begin with a welcome and opening remarks by Vassar's eleventh president, **Elizabeth Howe Bradley**.

Panelist: Sophia Burns, Student, Vassar College; **Leah Feldman**, Director for the Center for Victim Safety, Family Services; **Cecilia Hoang**, Student, Vassar College; **Lubna Somjee**, Clinical & Health Psychologist/Executive Coach; **Shona Tucker**, Faculty & Chair of Drama Department, Vassar College



Dr. Elizabeth Howe Bradley

***Directions to Ely Hall (The Aula):** Enter Vassar by the Main Gate off Raymond Ave. Turn left in front of Main Building, take the first right and bear left immediately to Pratt Loop. Ely Hall is the first building on the right (#18 on a campus map). There is some parking before the building and some on a loop to the right after the building, otherwise the North Lot off College View Ave will be the next choice. Map which works on iPads and phones campusmap.vassar.edu

Biographies of Program Participants

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Moderator: Wendy Maragh Taylor received her Bachelor's degree in English and American Literature from Brown University, and Master's degree in Clinical Social Work at New York University. Wendy is currently the Director of the Campus Life ALANA Center (an acronym to include various communities of color) at Vassar College and a member of AAUW.



Panelists:

Sophia Burns is a senior Urban Studies major at Vassar College with concentrations in Political Science and Geography. She is a first-generation college student and a native of the Philadelphia area. During the spring semester of 2017, she studied social movements and political thought in Havana, Cuba. As a 2017-2018 fellow for "Young People For," Sophia is building the Resilient Youth Collaborative, a mentorship and community-building organization for children of incarcerated parents. She is also completing a senior thesis that seeks to create an understanding of the impact of mass incarceration on the local level through oral history. She will continue this project at the MDOCS Storytellers' Institute at Skidmore College during the summer of 2018. After Vassar, Sophia plans to pursue a career in social research.



Leah Feldman, MPA, has been working in the field of interpersonal violence since 2005 and began her work in Dutchess County at Family Services in 2009. Currently, she is the Director of the Center for Victim Safety and Support at Family Services, overseeing non-residential rape crisis, crime victim, and domestic violence services. In this role, she has been instrumental in partnering with the community to implement and manage evidence-based systems enhancement projects with multi-disciplinary teams. She was vital to the development of AAUW Court Watch and is a member of AAUW. She participates in numerous local and statewide committees and boards and has a certificate in Leadership Coaching through the Leadership Practices Inventory. Her areas of interest include leadership coaching and development for women and young professionals. Leah is a certified fitness coach and Girls on Guard self-defense instructor. Leah holds a BA in Psychology from Siena College and a MA in Public Administration from Marist College.

Cecilia Hoang (she/her) is a senior at Vassar College studying Sociology and Asian American Studies. Her family is from Vietnam and now lives in Arizona. During undergraduate years, she has taken on leadership roles on Vassar's house team and student government. Last year she served as the Vassar Student Association's first Chair of Equity and Inclusion and worked with students, administrators, and faculty to improve the college experiences of students of color, first-generation and low-income students, and survivors of sexual assault. This role has given her an inside look at the operations of Vassar College and inspired her to pursue a career in higher education. She is now applying to jobs in the field and hopes to one day earn a doctorate.



Dr. Lubna Somjee is an award-winning psychologist and executive coach. As an executive coach, she works to maximize professional or leadership growth, for those at all stages of their career, or business. She leverages insights regarding leadership, business, organizational life, change management, and human behavior and helps clients and teams shift to best practices. Additionally, Dr. Somjee is a licensed psychologist in New York State and provides evidence based individual and couple's psychotherapy, and has a specialty in health psychology. She speaks to audiences regarding the workplace, leadership and psychology, and has been featured in media outlets ranging from NPR to FastCompany to the Poughkeepsie Journal. She volunteers with organizations including but not limited to, leadership programs for the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and NYS Psychological association, sits on the executive board for the

Women's Leadership Alliance, the American Psychological Association, the Hudson Valley American Heart Association, and sits on the Committee of Trustees for Poughkeepsie Day School. In her down time, she enjoys international cooking, home renovation, and time with her family. www.lubnasomjee-phd.com

Shona Tucker is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Vassar College Drama Department. She is a professional actor, director and an award-winning playwright. As an actor, she was most recently seen at Yale Repertory Theater in the world premiere of Amy Hertzog's new play, *Mary Jane*. She also premiered Danai Gurira's, *Eclipsed* at Yale. Ms. Tucker has directed and performed in theaters across the country, including: New York Theatre Workshop, The Actors Center, The Public Theater, Circle in the Square, The Pearl Theater, Playwrights Horizons, Manhattan Theatre Club, and La MaMa, E.T.C., Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Williamstown Theater Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Stageworks/Hudson, Arena Stage, The Acting Company, Hartford Stage, American Conservatory Theater, and Half Moon Theatre Company. Her television and film credits include: James Franco's *King Cobra*, the FOX television series; *Lights Out*; *Walk the Fish* directed by Kathleen Man; *Preaching to the Choir: On the One, Third Watch, New York Undercover, Law and Order*, and *One Life to Live*. She is an AUDELCO Award winner, a Schomburg Fellow and Fulbright Scholar. She is currently writing her play trilogy, *Mississippi Mud* and hopes to have it produced this summer. Ms. Tucker earned her BS from Northwestern University and MFA at NYU/Tisch School of the Arts.



Questions: Monique Jones, 849-1692, myj712@aol.com or Sandy Lash, 227-4650, slash@optonline.net