

The City College  
of New York

S Jay Levy  
Fellowship  
for Future Leaders

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# Alumni Newsletter

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*Happy New Year!*

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**D**ear S Jay Levy Alumni:

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and a great start to the New Year! As we enter another year of uncertainty and COVID19 challenges, we are immensely proud of your persistence and resilience. We wish you and your loved ones a healthy and joyful year to come.

We are excited to start recruiting our 8<sup>th</sup> cohort of the fellowship and prepare to welcome our current fellows into the alumni community. Thank you for continuing to be engaged and building our network, we look forward to continue serving you. We hope in-person activities will resume in the spring and we will keep you updated on planned events.

Huge thanks to our alumni who joined us during our Fall semester class as guest speakers, event guest, participated as Industry, Peer mentors, and stayed engaged in other ways. We are grateful for your support and hope to continue expanding our program to serve you best. You are the backbone of this fellowship, and we value your community building efforts and the generous support you continuously offer.

We strongly encourage everyone to take an active role in the alumni community, whether you are a new alum or finished your studies long ago, you can stay in touch with the fellowship community in many ways:

- Join us for our [information recruitment sessions](#) this year!
- Contribute to the newsletter
- Become a [Peer Mentor](#)
- Become an [Industry Mentor](#)
- [Run for Alumni Board of Advisors!](#)
- Coordinate and attend events
  - In the Fall semester, we hosted events for networking, professional and career development including a panelist from H2M Architects + Engineers, and Salary Negotiation Strategies with Lavie and Rachel Margolin.
  - We are hoping to resume in-person social events for our alumni in the Spring, if you have event ideas or would like to coordinate one, please let us know directly at [sjaylevyalumni@gmail.com](mailto:sjaylevyalumni@gmail.com)
- Post and interact on [LinkedIn](#)

We are grateful for the opportunity to work with you and follow along your path of success!

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*Well-done!*

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## Fellowship Highlights

- Congratulations to Jessica Chiu on graduating with a Master's of Engineering in Environmental Engineering from Manhattan College and on accepting a full-time role as a water engineer at Arcadis.
- Cheers to Netanel Kamel for being accepted to the Northeast Regional Honors Council 2022 Conference; Netanel wrote an academic paper on physical activity, mental wellness, and community during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Well-done Samiul Ahmed– amazing to hear that Samiul will start a new position as a data analyst at Bank of America. Good luck!
- Amazing accomplishment Mei Yolles– best wishes as Mei begins a new role as a full-time credit analyst at S&P Global.
- Congrats Kenneth Levy, Alan Samsonov and Rachelle Monteau on your presentations at the CUNY School of Medicine's Annual Research Day!
- The whole S Jay Levy Team– Carlo, Lavie, James, Layana, and Indrit & Elizabeth (Alumni Board President & Vice-President) – met for the first time in person during the fall. The team is excited and looking forward to meeting everyone else soon!
- Congratulations to Netanel Kamel on your academic plan proposal's acceptance to the NRHC - Northeast Regional Honors Council 2022 Conference!

## Recent Internship and Job Postings

- [Constituent Services Representative at NYS Assembly \(Queens, NY\)](#)
- [Research Opportunity at NYU \(Pipelines into Quantitative Aging Research Summer Program\)](#)
- [Manhattan Districting Attorney College Summer Program](#)
- [EN-POWER is Looking for Several Interns in Spring & Summer](#)
- [Film at Lincoln Center is hiring an Associate Director of Publicity & Communications](#)
- [Train & Earn Program Manager Opportunity at St. Nicks Alliance](#)
- [MSK Bridge Program, a 2-year post-baccalaureate biomedical research program for recent college graduates from historically underrepresented and underserved groups who intend to apply to PhD programs upon](#)

We ~~hope you will utilize our~~ [LinkedIn](#) group to share opportunities, interact with our community of fellows and alumni, and keep up with local news and events, and email [sjaylevyalumni@gmail.com](mailto:sjaylevyalumni@gmail.com) to get involved! We're also here to support you and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,  
Your Alumni Board

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*“The S Jay Levy program has prepared me with the tools I needed to succeed”*

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## **Featured Alumni**

### **Naomi Sukram, S Jay Levy Fellow 2015-2016**



I am a proud S Jay Levy fellow and a City College graduate. After graduation I worked as a full-time paralegal at a law firm in New York. In 2017, I moved to Boston to complete my Master's in Government at Harvard University. Upon completion of my Master's, I started Law School in Boston and have since worked for the Queens District Attorney and Greater Boston Legal Services.

The S Jay Levy program has prepared me with the tools I needed to succeed during undergrad and after. Being a part of this fellowship provided me with a community of like-minded individuals that made my undergrad experience enjoyable and a mentorship program that helped me succeed post-graduation. Because of the S Jay Levy student-mentor program, I met my mentor, David Wysoki, who would prepare me with the necessary skills to succeed. Years later, when I was confused about my career path, my mentor was one of the first people I emailed for advice. The resources that this program provided for me have greatly helped me on my way to success. Thank you!



## Elizabeth Little, S Jay Levy Fellow 2018-2019

Many of you may know me as Vice President of the S Jay Levy Fellowship, and Psychology and Biology student from City College. What you may not know is that I'm also an artist, and the last year has brought some accomplishments I am excited to share with you. The pandemic hit my senior year at CCNY, and I anticipated that there would be no quick fix. I felt like, as a recent grad, it was the worst time to enter the job market. I decided to further my education, so I applied to the MFA program at The New York Academy of Art, with a major in sculpture and minor in anatomy. I was fortunate to receive the President's Scholarship, awarded to one incoming student per year.

This intensive program has not only improved my technique as a sculptor, but has given me the confidence to see myself as a professional artist. I achieved a few career milestones this year. This summer, I was able to install my first public work in upstate New York

at the Cherry Valley Sculpture Trail, which was on view from June through October. The piece was purchased by a private collector, and now overlooks Otsego Lake. It was the largest piece I have sold, and I'm so glad it has a new home. I was also selected to participate in The New York Academy's fundraiser show, Artists for Artists, hosted by Sotheby's Auction House. It was an honor to exhibit among so many notable artists, including Tracy Emin, Peter Saul, and Tim Okamura. My piece was sold, and the proceeds go to scholarship funding at the New York Academy.

During summer, I accepted a position at the Studio at Corning Museum of Glass, as an instructor in the Make Your Own Glass program. This was my first full time teaching position, and I was grateful to be a part of such a supportive community. I returned to Corning this fall as a teaching assistant to the Senior Programs Manager Richard Whiteley. I look forward to assisting Richard again for the winter intensive, which is attended by glass artists from all over the globe.

The last milestone I'll share is a unique experience offered by my school, and something that really brings my education experience full circle. As an artist who works with the figure, having a deep understanding of human anatomy is key. I was a sculptor before I started at City College, and wanting to learn more about anatomy was actually what inspired me to enroll in a Bachelors program. My undergraduate classes in biology and anatomy really galvanized my enthusiasm for learning about the body. Now, I get to take my education one step further through the partnership with the New York Academy of Art and Drexel School of Medicine. Drexel welcomes the art students into their gross anatomy labs, and allows us to study from the same cadavers studied by the medical students. The program was actually featured in National Geographic a few years ago. This opportunity feels like a culmination of what I worked so hard for at City College, and I am so excited to see how this improves my skills sculpting the figure.



If you're interested in seeing more of my work, follow me on Instagram [@lizagrancelittle\\_sculptor](https://www.instagram.com/lizagrancelittle_sculptor) or check out my website, [lizagrancelittlesculpture.com](http://lizagrancelittlesculpture.com). (PS, my artist's pen-name is Liza).

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*“My experience at the S Jay Levy fellowship showed me how important peer support and professional support were as I changed direction in my own life.”*

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### **Zev Vel, S Jay Levy Fellow 2018-2019**

As an EMT, I discovered my compassion for and ability to work with people who are determined to succeed. My S Jay Levy Fellowship internship experience at the Lower East Side Harm Reduction Center allowed me to focus that and lead me to pursue Master’s in Social Work (MSW) degree at Hunter College. I now am interning with a Bronx Shelter Assertive Community Treatment team and look forward to continuing with them after completing my MSW.

My experience at the S Jay Levy fellowship showed me how important peer support and professional support were as I changed direction in my own life. Since graduating the fellowship, I’ve been working with current and past Fellows, supporting them through their internship interviews, helping them explore job opportunities in psychology, and even providing support after the fellowship period with graduate applications. This has been fulfilling work that has allowed me to provide support and guidance to students who are asking some of the same questions I did when I was in their shoes.

I look forward to continuing to work as an alumni to support fellows in developing their own career ambitions and taking steps to pursue them from fellowship to career.



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*“While the pandemic brought so much uncertainty into our lives, our fellowship and college showed tremendous resiliency as the world entered into virtual learning and working.”*

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## A Letter from Your President

My Fellow Alumni:

Hope you’re having a fantastic start to 2022. I am excited to have our second newsletter in circulation this winter. As the alumni board looks forward to planning our spring activities, we also hope to organize our very first in-person event soon. Of course, we’ve lived under a global pandemic for almost two years now, and during that time, our world dramatically changed.

While the pandemic brought so much uncertainty into our lives, our fellowship and college showed tremendous resiliency as the world entered into virtual learning and working. Thanks in large part due to Lavie, Layana, Carlo, and James, along with our fellowship’s amazing industry partners, the program stayed true to its mission. For those struggling with recent job search, to get into a graduate-level program, or meeting the right people to advance in your career, you are not alone. We are here to help, you should tap into that network that you built as an S Jay Levy Fellow, reach out to your fellow alumni, or get in touch with an old mentor. I, too, am here to help; feel free to contact me at any point via email or on LinkedIn.

I would like to end by thanking you for placing your trust in my stewardship over the alumni. It has been an honor serving as the alumni president, and I look forward to running again this spring. And with that note, I advise you to be on the lookout for our alumni town hall date; we had a very productive meeting last year, and we hope to see new faces this year as well. We need your input and ideas, afterall, our board’s success depends on your willingness to contribute. For this reason, we want to plan activities that you enjoy; so let us know of your expectations, and we promise to meet expectations by organizing fun and inclusive activities to your benefit and enjoyment.

Best wishes,

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*President*

S Jay Levy Fellowship Alumni Board  
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