



FELDBERG
FELLOWS

Dear Feldberg Fellows & Supporters,

Overview

2018 was a year of growth and change for the Feldberg Fellows community – our ranks grew by additions to the CBS Class of 2020 as well as through weddings and births, our board welcomed new members, our Masters in Business programming expanded to new industries and 30% of our Feldbergs joined / launched a business or switched roles / received a promotion at their current company. This letter includes a Brief History of the Feldberg Fellowship and details on 1) Our Board and Leadership 2) Membership Updates 3) Career and Family Updates 4) Our Financials & Giving 5) Events and 6) Looking Ahead.

A Brief History of the Fellowship

In 2005, Columbia Business School created the Feldberg Fellowship thanks to the generous support of Henry Kravis, Russ Carson, Ron Perelman, and many other sponsors in honor of Dean Meyer Feldberg's CBS '65 service to the school from 1989-2004. The Feldberg Fellowship replaced the school's full scholarship, the eponymous Bronfman Fellowship. There are currently 62 Feldberg Fellows with up to 5 admitted each year. The school selects the Feldberg Fellows based on their demonstrated leadership abilities and potential to be future leaders in business and representatives of the school. Feldberg Fellows receive a full tuition merit-based scholarship.

Our Board and Leadership

In 2014, Scott Asher '09 led the formation of a Feldberg Board whose mandate is to provide consistent and reliable leadership around our operations and community. A lengthy discussion period culminated in the selection of inaugural Board Members by the Fellows and approval by Meyer Feldberg in October 2014. The Board currently has 9 members, including one student (the presence of a student is required by our charter) and will expand as our numbers grow organically so that the Board represents 10-15% (but no more than 15%) of members.

Michael Kopko '09, after 4 years of formally serving as the Feldberg Fellows President and 5 years informally before that, handed over the reins to Lauren Surzyn '15 who began her term as President July 1, 2018. We thank Mike for his leadership and are thrilled he is staying on in the role of Alumni and CBS Development Chair. Scott Asher '09 is now the Treasurer. The Board thanks Jordan McNulty '18 for her service as she rolled off as the student representative. New additions to the Board are Garrett Jones '11, Ed Rayner '13 and student representative, Chi Achebe '19.

The current Feldberg Board for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year is below.

Lauren McKenna Surzyn '15 - President

Scott Asher '09 - Treasurer

Michael Kopko '09 - Alumni & CBS Development Chair

Chase Hagin '12 - Regional Chair

Daniel Rudyak '17 - Events Chair

Chi Achebe '19 - Student Chair

Jennifer North '14 - Member at Large

Garrett Jones '11 - Member at Large

Ed Rayner '13 - Member at Large

Board members are nominated by the Membership and elected by the Board. The next opportunity to join the Board will be July 1, 2019. You can contact Lauren Surzyn, Michael Kopko, Scott Asher or any Board Member if you are interested in joining or would like to nominate someone.

The Board currently meets quarterly in person in NYC and those who cannot make it may dial in remotely. We will be holding an extra Board meeting in Q1 '19 to review the mission and vision for the Feldberg Fellows and set the strategy for the coming years.

Membership Updates

We now have 62 Feldberg Fellows. 58 reside in the United States. Luis Huergo '07 lives in Argentina, Ira Trivedi '08 in India, Carmen Concha '13 in Chile, and Julia Winsaro Diez '16 in the United Kingdom. In the U.S., Feldbergs are located in New York/New Jersey/Connecticut (41), California (8), Alabama (2), Texas (1), the District of Columbia (1), North Carolina (1) Pennsylvania (1), Massachusetts (1), Illinois (1), and Tennessee (1).

Our Feldberg Students include:

Class of 2019: [Alexandra Abington](#), [Chi Achebe](#), [Dara Blume](#), [Patrick Griffin](#), [Greg Roberson](#)

Class of 2020: [Satoshi Endo](#), [Shayna Johnson](#), [Nathan Pilkenton](#), [Liz Spaulding](#)

Career and Family Updates

18 Feldberg Fellows have exciting professional updates. Some launched a business while others took on new roles at their current firms.

Raefer Gabriel '07 is now a Senior Manager at Amazon where he is focusing on AI Software Development for Alexa.

Omar Ritter '07 is now the Head of Tech Finance and Business Management for JPMorgan Chase overseeing the Chase, Business Banking and Auto divisions.

Matt Seto '08 launched Craftzman, a special situations emerging markets hedge fund in San Francisco.

Troy Scribner '09 launched a statistical arbitrage hedge fund called TS Bayes Capital, which utilizes times series analysis, machine learning / deep neural networks and reinforcement learning in Los Angeles.

Stephen Glass '10 is now the Director of Resort Real Estate in NYC at Thor Urbana, a Mexico City based real estate investment and development company.

Kevin Rogus '10 joined Smile Brands, a dental services organization, as the Vice President of Mergers and Acquisitions.

Mike Smeets '11 joined the family office, Summer Road, as an investment analyst.

Carmen Concha '13 joined AFP Provida Prime in Santiago, Chile as the Head of Research and Alternative Investments.

Luke Sandler '14 started Critical Reactions, a platform for launching and developing new media ventures.

Joe Brown '15 will be taking on a business development role at the NFL in Jan '19.

Bill Geist '15 started as a Director at Upper90, a technology focused private equity firm based in NYC.

Lauren Surzyn '15 took a new job at UBS in a start-up business called Data Solutions, which sells proprietary bank data to institutional investors.

Gairy Hall '16 is now a Vice President at JP Morgan Asset Management focusing on alternatives specifically for family offices, wealth managers, RIAs and institutional clients across the US and Latin America.

Eric Langerman '16 is now a Vice President at Ridgmont Equity Partners in Charlotte, NC.

Dzhuni Astor '18 moved to Chicago after graduation to join a long/short hedge fund, Anchor Bolt.

Jordan McNulty '18 moved to Boston after graduation to work for Fidelity as an equity research analyst focused on building products and coatings.

Louis Verdi '18 is developing a nutritional supplements platform, Nutrisolo, that helps select and deliver to consumers the highest quality supplements in daily-take packages.

Jill Wang '18 rejoined BCG after graduation focusing on the retail and consumer industries.

8 Feldberg Fellows got engaged or married this year.

Robbie Brown '15 got engaged to Briar Thompson in April

Jill Wang '18 got engaged to Justin Gaudenzi in April

Bill Geist '15 married Miller Hughes in April

Garrett Jones '11 married Nadia Kyne in July

Elizabeth Spaulding '20 married Sam Zakria in July

Ed Rayner '13 married Megan Spillane CBS'12 in September

David Johnson '17 married Jessica Krieger in October

Victor Eng '17 got engaged to Wilson McClelland in November

5 Feldberg Fellows welcomed children this year and we have a 6th to arrive in the next couple of days!

Akhil Subramanian '14 and his wife, Prianka, welcomed Siddharth in January

Mike Smeets '11, his wife, Lucy, and older daughter Celine welcomed Simone in January

Lauren Surzyn '15 and her husband, Tim, and older son Christopher welcomed William in May

Jen North '14 and her husband, Marc, and older daughter Emily welcomed Abigail in June

Simeon McMillan '14 and his wife, Glenne, welcomed Morgan in October

Kristen Keating Weeks '12 along with her husband, Brian, and sons, James and Owen are about to welcome another baby boy any day now.

Our Financials & Giving

We had an exceptional year on the fundraising and charitable contribution front. Our Feldberg community purchased a \$10,000 table at the CBS Annual Dinner at the Natural History Museum in May with contributions from 22 Feldbergs, including generous \$1000+ donations from **Meghan Baivier '10**, **Garrett Jones '11**, and **Scott Asher'09**. This fall we raised \$19,835 from 87% of our community (54/62 with 100% support from current students) to support our annual programming and we hope to reach 100% participation by January 15th like in the past.

We'd like to thank you all for your support and extend a special thank you to those who have given at our Founder's Circle Level¹:

Founder's Circle: Doug McCrary '08, Matt Seto '08, Michael Kopko '09, Scott Asher '09, Meghan Baivier '10, Garrett Jones '11, Chase Hagin '12, Lauren Surzyn '15, and Greg Roberson '19

Based on requests from several Feldberg Fellows to be more philanthropic as a group, we now are financially supporting a charity annually (possibly semi-annually) that is suggested by and meaningful to the Fellows. The first selected cause is the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. Doug McCrary '08 is a cancer survivor and sits on the UAB CCC Advisory Board and this cause is near and dear to him. Scientists and physicians are focused on eliminating cancer as a major public health problem - every \$1 raised for their upcoming ArtBLINK Gala in Feb '19 leads to an additional \$14 for the organization as parts of grants and other funding sources. Feldbergs Fellows are asked to email Lauren Surzyn '15 with an amount they would like to earmark from their Feldberg donation this fall so that we can collectively make a gift to UAB.

We currently have \$46,766 in our First Republic bank account. Our funds go to the following activities:

1. Building our community and relationships through excellent social, leadership, and career events.
2. Providing support and resources to recruit the best future Feldbergs.
3. Supporting Columbia Business School, its broader activities as well as philanthropic organizations meaningful to our Feldberg Members.
4. Production of our Feldberg Fellows Video and other necessary infrastructure for our community including our website: <http://www.feldbergs.com/>.²

¹ At or greater than \$1,000 if in NYC, \$700 outside of NYC, or \$250 for current students.

² The Board also created a Wyoming-based limited liability corporation (LLC) for the Feldbergs in order to properly house the management of our membership activities.

Events

We held a series of very successful events this past year (pictures at the end of the letter), including:

1. Masters in Business: Retail Discussion with Richard Collasse, President of Chanel Japan on 2/6/2018 organized by Lauren Surzyn '15
2. The Feldberg Annual Retreat in Nashville from 2/9/2018-2/11/2018 where 18 Fellows and Significant Others (and 1 toddler) attended organized by Daniel Rudyak '17 and Garrett Jones '11
3. The 11th Annual Feldberg Brunch held at Fig & Olive on 5/5/2018
4. Columbia Business School's 102nd Annual Dinner at the American Museum of Natural History on 5/7/2018
5. Masters in Business: Art and Culture Lecture at the Frick Collection, an exhibition and lecture on Canova's George Washington on 7/18/2018 organized by Scott Asher '09
6. Welcome Dinner for the Class of 2020 at The Milling Room on 8/16/2018
7. Back to School Dinner at Cascabel Taqueria in Morningside Heights on 9/12/2018 where 16 Fellows and Significant Others attended
8. The Board of Trustees Event hosted by Meyer and Barbara Feldberg on 9/26/2018
9. The Feldberg Holiday Party hosted by Luke Sandler '14 at his apartment on 11/30/2018 where 23 Fellows and Significant Others attended
10. Masters in Business with Dean Glenn Hubbard on 12/19/2018 organized by Mike Kopko '09

We are looking forward to another great line-up of events during the first half of 2019, including:

1. Masters in Business with Karl Dasher, Schrodgers CEO North America on 2/12/2019 organized by Marina Severinovsky '09
2. Masters in Business with Keith Banks, Vice Chairman of Bank of America on 3/20/2019 organized by Mike Kopko '09
3. Feldberg Annual Retreat in the Hudson Valley from 4/12/2019 to 4/14/2019
4. The 12th Annual Feldberg Brunch/Dinner in April or May 2019 (Date TBD)
5. Columbia Business School's 103rd Annual Dinner at the American Museum of Nature History on 5/6/2019.

Looking Ahead to 2019

As we look to 2019, we expect to continue delivering an excellent set of signature events. We will also continue to strengthen our career and professional development programming. We've now hosted 9 Masters in Business Series discussions and have 2 more planned for 2019. We hope to expand to other industries including Education and also secure women and diverse speakers. Please do let us know if you have thoughts or connections to impressive leaders who could facilitate another engaging discussion with our Feldberg community.

We hired Darin Quan, a videographer, last year to put together a tribute video showcasing the impact the Feldberg Fellowship and this community has made on our careers, our personal lives, the CBS community and the broader business community. Darin has interviewed some Fellows and has been shooting footage at some of our events and will continue in early 2019. Our plan is to finalize the video by mid 2019 and post to several websites (www.feldbergs.com, [LinkedIn](#) and CBS) to be used as a recruiting tool as well as a way to thank our donors.

As noted in the financial section above, we received requests from Fellows about beginning philanthropic initiatives. We will be supporting one or two charities financially each year, but also would like to support any Feldbergs who want to plan a volunteer day / service trip (in any city globally) for a group of us to give back with our time to organizations that are meaningful to us. Please reach out to the Board with any ideas you have.

In order to strengthen our Fellowship, we must focus on the quality, engagement, and support of our Members. It's critical that we mentor and support younger Fellows especially and play a significant role in attracting the best talent to our Fellowship. Our ask is that you please reach out to newly announced Fellows to offer guidance. And for those of you looking to make a career transition, please use this community as a resource for advice, connections and introductions – you can check out our website to see what everyone is up to currently: <http://www.feldbergs.com/thefellows/>

Finally, we will be reviewing the current mission and strategic direction of our organization at a board meeting in Q1 2019. Please reach out to any Board Member if you have thoughts about our current programming and what you'd like to see in the years to come.

Your Engagement

If the Board can ever be helpful professionally or personally, please reach out to us. In case this letter has moved you to increase your engagement, please:

1. Attend our events and bring your loved ones (children and significant others are always welcome!).
2. Offer to plan or host an event of your own, or volunteer to join our Board.
3. Support us and CBS financially and with your time.
4. Write a response to this letter!

It has been a true pleasure building this community with you. We look forward to many great years ahead for us!

Sincerely,

Lauren Surzyn & The Feldberg Board

Pictures

Masters in Business with Richard Collasse, President of Chanel Japan



The Feldberg Annual Retreat in Nashville





Masters in Business at the Frick Collection



Welcome Dinner for the Class of 2020 at The Milling Room



Back to School Dinner at Cascabel Taqueria



The Feldberg Holiday Party



Masters in Business with Dean Glenn Hubbard

