

***Young GSFS Alums***  
***(AKA: Young Feminists Changing the World)***



What can you do with a liberal arts degree in GSFS? Our young alums prove that you can do quite a lot! With just a small amount of time since graduation, GSFS majors have been able to continue their passion for feminist action in a variety of settings.

**Kristina Hillarydotter '14:** Since graduating just this May, Kristina moved to Brooklyn, New York and began working at both the United Nations as an intern in the Peace Women Program and Planned Parenthood as a Sexuality Educator. Kristina understands that

healthy sex education is a key aspect in fostering a society free of sexual violence. By ending the stigma and silence surrounding sexual behavior, especially for individuals identifying as female, Kristina hopes to empower young people to have control over their bodies and their own sexuality.

**Shabana Basij-Rasikh '11:** During her time at Middlebury, Shabana co-founded School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA). SOLA is a nonprofit helping young Afghans to both access education opportunities abroad and to find employment in Afghanistan following education. Since graduation, Shabana has returned to Kabul and has turned SOLA into Afghanistan's first boarding school for girls. Shabana herself serves as the president of the boarding school. SOLA provides Afghan girls with access to college prep courses and aids them in applying to universities across the globe. The non-profit has helped Afghan girls access more than \$7.7 million in scholarship. Following graduation, these women are often the first to enter previously male dominated fields in Afghanistan.

**Addie Cuniff '13:** Addie spent her first year after graduation living in Burlington and serving as an apprentice to a local midwife. She attended home births in Addison and Chittenden Counties. This June, she has moved to Philadelphia to continue her midwifery studies at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She is part of an accelerated nursing program where she will graduate as an RN in Dec 2015 and eventually, gain her certifica-

tion as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and Certified Nurse-Midwife in 2018. Addie fostered a passion for supporting women's health needs and promoting the accessibility of women's healthcare while at Middlebury College and it is clear that she is continuing this important work post graduation.

**Veronica Coates '14:** While attending Middlebury, Veronica joint majored in Sociology and Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies. She was very active while at Middlebury, working on two student organization boards, including Women of Color and the African American Alliance. She also lived in PALANA House, the multicultural academic interest house, for three years, her senior year culminating with her as the Programming Assistant. Since leaving Middlebury, Veronica has moved to Boston, Massachusetts where she will be pursuing a Masters degree in Gender & Cultural Studies for the next two years. Her topics of interest include issues of inclusion and diversity at liberal arts colleges, race and gender in disability studies, activism—particularly online blogging—amongst minority groups, race and gender in education, and exploring Black feminisms. She hopes after completing the program in two years to move to California to pursue a PhD in Feminist Studies or Ethnic Studies. Fun fact: Veronica is looking forward to submitting a piece of her academic work, on digital feminisms aka blogging, for publication this year!

**Ashley Guzman '13:** Ashley is working as a Legal Advocate for the Bronx Defenders, a holistic public defense organization in the

South Bronx. As a legal advocate, she works on a team with lawyers, and with people who have criminal and/or family court cases. She works with people to help get and maintain their public benefits and food stamps and she also does shelter advocacy. Ashley's work includes helping clients to get their property back from the NYPD after they've been arrested, and helping clients get identification. Regarding her position Ashley writes "It's pretty amazing but also tough to see how the systems are basically set up to make poor communities of color fail. And to be honest, it's very difficult emotional work. I obviously am not going through the hardships that my clients are, but it does mean that at the end of a week, I've had about 30 daily reminders of how unfair and dehumanizing many institutions can be on a regular basis."

**Katie Willis '12:** Since graduation, Katie has worked on farms in New York and Minnesota. She describes her time as stirring up "much cognitive dissonance about my experiences romanticizing work that is often brutal, abusive, and unfair to laborers of color." She has written for a food blog out of Minneapolis, "Simple, Good, and Tasty," about these experiences farming. There, she writes that "she was able to flesh out some of my frustrations with the farming world." She also took an internship working for SNAP Outreach at a food bank in Minneapolis, connecting low-income families with assistance programs. She is currently working as a temporary program coordinator at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in a physical therapy research lab that develops rehabilitative programs for people post-stroke.