

COLLEGE OF
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UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C. Alum Chapter

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

D.C. Alum Spotlight



Teresa Abraham '02
Director, External Partnerships,
Visby Medical (Diagnostics)

Why did you come to D.C.?

I was an AAAS Science and Technology Policy fellow in 2011. This was a complete change for me as I had mainly worked in a lab up to then (graduate student at UW-Madison and a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University). As a Science Policy Analyst and AAAS Fellow at HHS, I worked on international health security issues. The biggest upside was figuring out how to navigate the complexities of government. After my fellowship I transitioned to a prominent government relations firm in Washington, DC, where I advocated for Federal funding for biotech clients. This led to my current job as the Director of External Partnerships for a medical diagnostics company.

What are some exciting professional/personal projects that you've been working on?

The COVID-19 pandemic, devastating as it has been, was a key pivot point for my company to step in and support the public health response. In March, we decided to focus solely on developing a COVID-19 molecular diagnostic- and one of my tasks was to secure government funding to support manufacturing scale up of the COVID-19 test so we can eventually produce millions of devices. As you can imagine, my technical expertise in virology does not quite translate to implementing automated manufacturing! But I got to learn all about the manufacturing process and the intricacies with implementing automation. My job is to explain the scientific and technical details to folks that are not experts and get them excited enough to believe in our value proposition and fund us. As a company, we moved at breakneck speed to develop our COVID-19 test, and I'm incredibly proud to be part of the team to bring this important test to communities across the country.

What is your favorite quarantine hobby you've picked up or mastered?

We've been fortunate and are thankful that we remain healthy and employed through the pandemic. My husband and I ('01 SJU-Neil Bjorkman) are working a LOT, add to that mix 2 young kids, and remote learning - this is not a recipe for success! That being said, early in the pandemic, we got road bikes and it was one of the best decisions ever. We used to bike a lot in CA, and it was nice to get back into biking. My 7 yr old biked ~10 miles to the Capitol and back. Someday soon we'll be ready for even longer bike rides!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:

Another Successful Washington, D.C. Summer Study Program

This Summer, the D.C. Chapter welcomed 11 Bennie and Johnnie interns “virtually” to our Washington, D.C. community as part of our ongoing support and engagement with the CSB/SJU Political Science Department’s [Washington, D.C. Summer Study Program](#). The 2020 interns marked the 41st cohort program year! Internship sites ranged from the Federal Communications Commission, Jubilee USA Network, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), to the Air Conditioning Heating & Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) and the Nuclear Threat Initiative, to name a few.

It’s no secret that our engaged and active chapter plays a pivotal role in creating a successful experience in Washington, D.C. for these Johnnie and Bennie leaders of tomorrow, as Program Director Dr. Christi Siver notes:

“ Given that the rapid speed and competitive culture of DC can be disorienting for our students, the alums provide a crucial bridge that helps our students see how they can succeed in a wide variety of professions. No other DC program can boast of the rich networking and support that our alums provide to our students. ”

**D.C. CHAPTER
ALUMS SPENT
44+ HOURS!
WITH THE 2020
WASHINGTON D.C.
SUMMER STUDY
PROGRAM BENNIE
AND JOHNNIE
INTERNS**

THANK YOU to all the alums who gave their time to the program this year. Over the summer, our alumni devoted **more than 44 hours** of their time to the program and intern cohort!

ARE YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION IN A POSITION TO HOST A JOHNNIE OR BENNIE INTERN DURING THE SUMMER SEASON?

Please engage your Chapter Leadership csbsjualumnide@gmail.com to learn more about the Program and opportunities.

Additionally, we want to publicly extend our appreciation to those Johnnie and Bennie alums who hosted or sponsored an intern at their organizations this Summer. They include:

- **Jubilee USA Network**, a non-governmental organization advocating for debt relief for developing nations.
- **AHRI**, a trade association representing heating and cooling companies, working on global performance standards, certification programs and industry information including trade and tariff issues with U.S. and international agencies and foreign embassies.
- **Center for Strategic and International Studies**, a bipartisan nonprofit policy research organization that advances practical ideas to global challenges.

A special thanks to **SHEILA HELLERMANN**, Summer Study Program Coordinator, for her countless hours providing support to the program and its engagement with our Alum chapter. The DC Alum Chapter is looking forward to welcoming the Program back in Summer 2021.

WE GIVE BACK

A RECAP OF GIVE CSB DAY (OCT 2) AND
GET READY FOR GIVE SJU DAY (NOV 18)

The D.C. Chapter is the most supportive of our alma maters. 30% of alums donated to the schools in the July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 fiscal year. And we are off to a strong start in the current fiscal year. Give CSB Day 2020 happened October 2 and raised over **\$560,000 from 950 donors!** If you missed the giving day, you can still [Give to CSB](#). At Saint John's, [Give SJU Day](#) is coming up on November 18 with ambitious goals to support student scholarships.

GET INVOLVED

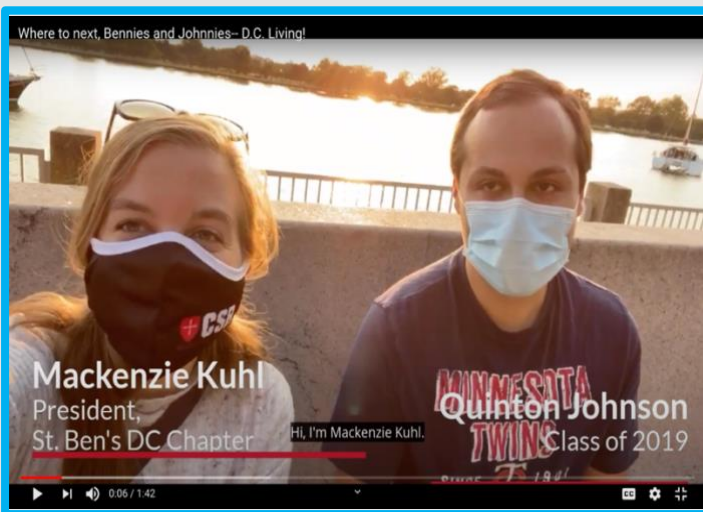
WHERE TO NEXT

**Project Partnership with the
Young Alum Committee (YAC)**

Share with us your neighborhood or
favorite parts of the DMV Area!



WHERE TO NEXT,
Bennies and Johnnies?



In partnership with the **Young Alum Committee (YAC)**, we are looking for you to share videos of your favorite places in your community and what it was like to move there. Tell us in **30-45 secs** about your neighborhoods, why you live there, or a must-go of the area. **Take your video selfie and some b-roll, and we will edit and caption it for you!** If you need inspiration or an example, Mackenzie Kuhl '19 and Quinton Johnson '19 share their [video submission](#) talking about their favorite parts of Southwest Waterfront, D.C.

For more detailed instruction or to submit a video, reach out to CSB D.C. Chapter President Mackenzie Kuhl '19 via email at csbsjualumnidc@gmail.com!

CHAPTER REMINDERS

- Don't forget to submit your [Alum Chapter Profile Update](#) Form to help us keep our records current.
- Stay up to date on the Chapter events and happenings by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
- If you are not yet a part of the Alum Offices' [Enrollment Partners](#) – a new program to match alum volunteers with CSB/SJU admission recruitment activities – make sure to sign up and apply today!

IN THE NEWS

D.C. Johnnies and Bennies



D.C. Chapter Johnnie Alum and NSA Director Gen. Paul Nakasone '86 Argues for an Aggressive U.S. Cybersecurity Strategy in Foreign Affairs Magazine - (8/25/20)

DC Chapter Johnnie Alum Gen. Paul Nakasone '86 – who serves as the current Commander of U.S. Cyber Command, Director of the National Security Agency, and Chief of the Central Security Service – penned [“How to Compete in Cyberspace”](#) for *Foreign Affairs* in August 2020. In the article, Gen. Nakasone '86 argues that the nation’s military is more prepared than ever to engage in an offensive cyberspace strategy, rather than simply repairing networks after they’ve been penetrated. “We learned that we cannot afford to wait for cyberattacks to affect our military networks. We learned that defending our military networks requires executing operations outside our military networks. The threat evolved, and we evolved to meet it,” Nakasone '86 writes.

Have you been featured by your organization or in the media and want to share the news? Please forward your updates to csbsjualumnidc@gmail.com so we can share your successes with the DC alum chapter network and the broader Johnnie/Bennie community.

Chapter Websites:

[CSB DC Alumnae Chapter](#)
[SJU DC Alumni Chapter](#)

UPCOMING DATES

November 18 - Give SJU Day

COVID-19:

**AN OBSTACLE
WE WILL OVERCOME
TOGETHER**

It’s no secret that COVID-19 has upended our lives this year. As we progress forward toward a vaccine, let’s reflect on the strength of our CSB/SJU community and double our efforts to attract the next generation of Bennie and Johnnie leaders to our nation’s capital region. Please remember to wear a mask to protect you, your family, and those around you.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
OUR JOHNNIE AND BENNIE COMMUNITY IN
WASHINGTON, D.C. – THE GREATEST PLACE
OUTSIDE OF COLLEGEVILLE AND ST. JOSEPH!**

The CSB/SJU Washington, D.C. Alum Chapter Presidents



[Jake Patrick Collins '16](#)
[Mackenzie Kuhl '19](#)
[Colin Frederick '12](#)