

Meet the first BBLP Fellows, and more!



**Class
ACT**

Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program

July 2018

ClassACT proudly announces the first two Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program Fellows, Roohi Abdullah and Natasha Jehangir Khan

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Holly Weeks '73, Roohi Abdullah, Natasha Jehangir Khan, and Marion Dry '73

Natasha Jehangir Khan and **Roohi Abdullah** have just matriculated at the Kennedy School's Mason Program, under the auspices of BBLP. We are delighted with the outcome of our efforts: both are Pakistani women with substantive experience. After years of policy making, for Natasha in Pakistani government and for Roohi, in many countries for the World Bank, they can use the year in Cambridge at the Mason Program to prepare for return to Pakistan to transition into formal roles of authority.

Natasha Jehangir Khan has 15 years of experience in constitutional, administrative and regulatory work. Having received an LLM at University College London in 2001, she began her career in the office of the Attorney General of Pakistan, and later went on to join the Securities and Exchange Commission, the regulator of the corporate and financial sector of the country except banking, where she eventually served as the Head of Legislation and General Counsel Department. A licensed Advocate of the High Courts of Pakistan, she has worked creating performance manuals, structures and systems to contribute strength to the institutions employing her, a necessity in a developing country where power so often resides in individuals instead of institutions. Natasha has worked as a consultant with several Asian-based development organizations advising the Government of Pakistan on regulatory reforms and enhancement of the investment climate in the country, and was instrumental in developing legislation for transitioning Pakistan's electricity sector from a single buyer to a competitive market structure.

Natasha plans to use the year at the Mason Program to acquire the connections and skills to facilitate her transition to a role of authority.

Roohi Abdullah graduated from MIT In 1999, where she learned how “the creativity of an architect and the social thinking of a planner” can converge. With over 15 years of experience in international development within the larger scope of infrastructure—ranging from finance, poverty, institutional reforms, water utility management, housing, environment, and carbon finance—she has worked in Iran, Egypt, Jordan, West Bank and

Gaza, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Yemen, Albania, Romania, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Nigeria, among other countries. “Today I am a long way from Karachi but working in a sector that is largely male dominated, I am reminded that geography aside, women are constantly struggling to attain some level of legitimacy. I am proud to say, that currently I am working with a team developing water investment lending projects in Pakistan. Life has finally come full circle—my thesis work at MIT was on the water sector in Karachi.”

Both Fellows wrote to say that receiving a fellowship with Benazir Bhutto's name on it inspires them to the core. Roohi wrote in her essay, “As the first female prime minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto remains enshrined in our collective global consciousness as someone who forged a new trail for the daughters of Pakistan.”

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BBLP Steering Committee Welcomes Andrea Kirsh



BBLP Director Marion Dry recently wrote, “Our classmate, Andrea Kirsh, has agreed to join the BBLP Steering Committee. She has already proved an extraordinary member of the ClassACT team in helping us plan, shape and experience regional events in DC and Chicago. She has also been a valuable advisor to David Weeks and Yeou-Cheng Ma, both of whom had need of her services for the work under our Bridge Program. She will be helping with the nuts and bolts of creating the Weatherhead Symposium for Spring 2018. Please welcome her!” *Pictured: Andrea Kirsh, Image credit Rick Weil.*

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HR73 supports the Rama Mehta Lecture at Radcliffe

From Mark Graney of the Radcliffe Institute we received the following nice news: “29 classmates contributed a total of \$37,453.55 in support of the Rama Mehta Lecture. Congratulations!”

On behalf of all of us at the Radcliffe Institute, thank you for rallying support for the Mehta lecture during your reunion year. These funds will help to prolong the lecture series, thereby broadening public understanding of the challenges facing women in developing countries.”

The Mehta Lecture was established by John and Kitty Galbraith in honor of their friend, an influential Indian woman scholar, and the lecture was delivered shortly after its founding by Benazir Bhutto. Donations to the Radcliffe Institute in support of the Lecture qualified as gifts to the University in our 45th Reunion year and demonstrate a commitment to the BBLP through ClassACT.

NPR Africa Reporter as 2018 Rama Mehta Lecturer

This year's lecture, on Thursday, October 11th, at the very beginning of our Reunion, will be delivered by Ofeibea Quist-Arcton, National Public Radio's distinguished journalist reporting on Africa.

Quist-Arcton obtained a BA with honors from the London School of Economics and then completed a yearlong course in radio which included two internships at the BBC. She then joined the BBC in 1985. Pictured right: Ofeibea Quist-Arcton

Quist-Arcton was appointed the BBC West Africa correspondent in 1990, heading the regional bureau and covering 24 countries. In 1994 she returned to the BBC in London, where she served as a host and senior producer on the BBC World Service flagship programs, Newshour and Newsday, as well as a contributing Africa specialist for other BBC programming. Beginning in 1995 Quist-Arcton began work in the United States of America for the joint BBC-PRI production, The World.

Quist-Arcton joined National Public Radio in 2004 at the newly created post of West Africa Correspondent in Dakar, Senegal. She reports on all aspects of life and developments on the African continent. Quist-Arcton was awarded the 2015 Edward R. Murrow prize for her reporting on the 2014 Ebola epidemic and Boko Haram, which she shared with photojournalist David Gilkey.



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