

WIL MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2021



SHEROES OF HEC
PARIS

Women Who Make a Difference

WIL MAGAZINE

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WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

HEC Paris MBA

WIL is an official professional and social club within the HEC Paris MBA.

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FROM THE EDITOR



Dear readers,

We are excited to share the first edition of the Women in Leadership Magazine for 2021 with the theme of "She-roses of HEC". We feature strong women of our community and from around the globe who have uplifted our spirits throughout some challenging situations. We hope you enjoy reading this magazine as much as we did creating it. Come uncover their greatness. We are off to a good start - join us in our journey.

*Empower
Women*

Lalaine
LALAIN INUMERABLES
EDITOR IN CHIEF



AN INTERVIEW WITH MONIQUE LEWIS

A LIFESAVER TO ALL MBAS, EVERYONE KNOWS MONIQUE!

BY LIZA SAHA & KATRINA LAM



Tell us more about yourself - not the Monique that we know from the administration, but the Monique that you would like us to remember even after our time at HEC.

I would like students to remember the hardworking go-getter who doesn't take no for an answer. I was told no when I asked for a promotion; I kept asking until I got it. I was told no after multiple interviews when I was looking for my first journalist job. I worked my way up from covering local politics to covering M&A on Wall Street in NYC. My former employer said I couldn't relocate to France. I gave myself two years to do it without them and it took three. When you are told no, fight harder until you get a yes.



You have been an integral part of our MBA journey. What motivates you to go above and beyond your duties at HEC for the students?

When I moved to France from the U.S., I confronted various challenges as a foreigner lost in translation. This is the second time I've lived abroad; I was a student in Vienna, Austria in 2003.

Given my experiences both as a student and as a working professional living in a foreign country, I see myself in the MBAs, as most of them are not from France. I haven't forgotten what it's like trying to navigate life as a student and in a foreign country. Knowing you can go to someone to help you makes a big difference.

How has COVID-19 affected your day-to-day duties and responsibilities? If there were one change to your day-to-day that you would like to continue even after COVID-19, what would it be?

I have fewer distractions and can get more work done. It also means I work later, and I already have a bad habit of not taking breaks. I miss having co-workers who would pull me away from the desk to enjoy a meal together. Since COVID, I've placed more energy on finishing my book of short stories, *Looking for Mr. Wrong*. My goal is to become more disciplined with writing my book every day.

What would your advice be to current students to brave the current confinement and restrictions?

Talking to my family and friends back home has really helped me. We grow closer to people the more we talk to each other, and we begin to understand others even more. It also helps you to feel less alone. I also advise students to find creative ways to stay connected with each other. Even though our usual activities are on hold, we can still have fun in a safe way. Last week, I did a virtual escape game with my co-workers and it was amazing. I laughed, cheered, and didn't want it to end.

“ I also advise students to find creative ways to stay connected with each other. Even though our usual activities are on hold, we can still have fun in a safe way. ”

MONIQUE LEWIS



Imagine you could take an entire day off and be anywhere you'd like. Where would you be and what would you do?

I would return to Peru, where I have felt the most comfortable and free in my spirit. I went hiking in the Amazon rainforest years ago and visited remote villages. There was something about the people, the land and their culture that made me feel as if humans have lost something living in a fast-paced, high-tech world. No other country has left such a strong impression on me.

What has been your best, happiest, and most important moment at HEC so far?

The happiest moment is part of many moments. Whenever students tell me that I've helped them or made things easier, it's the most meaningful part of my job.

If you weren't in this role at HEC, what would you be doing as a career instead?

I would be writing novels, editing manuscripts and teaching writing workshops. After I got an MFA and MA in Creative Writing, I taught beginners' fiction workshops in Brooklyn, New York when I sat on the board of the New York Writers Workshop. I also still edit manuscripts from time to time, but not as often as I'd like. I hope to publish my first book in two years.

Please share your secrets with HEC students as to how you maintain a cheerful disposition every day while working so hard!

During my 20s, I used to complain often about my job as an M&A journalist to my best friend. Her response was always, "Monique, it's only a job." Over the years, I learned what she meant by this. I can't let office challenges steal my joy when there are more important things in life. To me, the most important thing is helping people. If I see that something isn't working, then I need to find a better solution so that things are easier for both my colleagues and students.

RAPID FIRE ROUND

Five most important items in your handbag:

Phone, debit cards, lip gloss, Chloe rollerball, pocket mirror

Favorite drink (non-alcoholic & alcoholic):

White wine and orange juice (I'm lame like that!)

TV Show you are currently watching:

Lupin

Favorite way to relax:

Dancing in my living room to either pop or salsa music

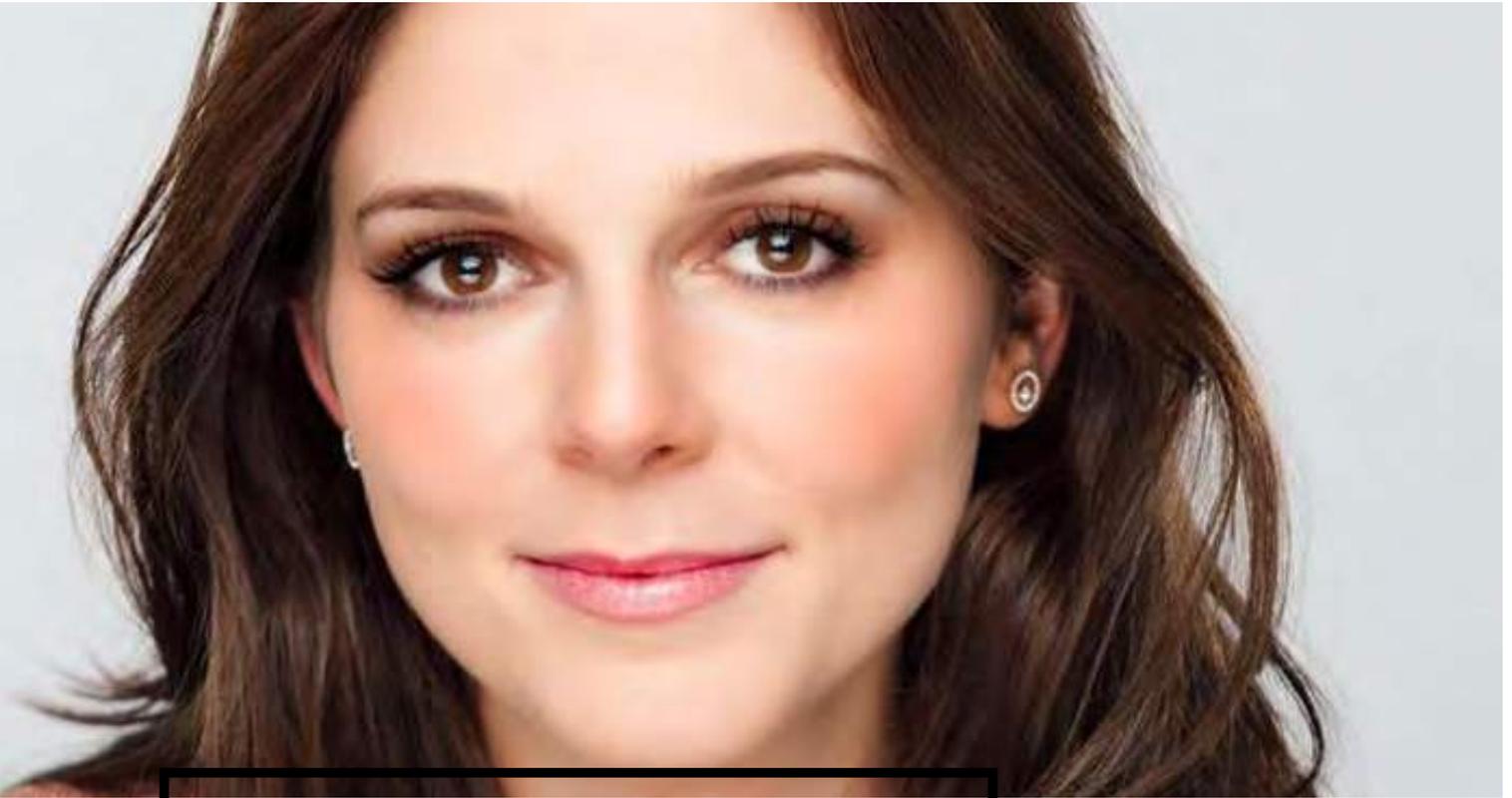
Name one song that you think best describes you/your outlook on life:

"The Middle" by Jimmy Eat World



[Monique Lewis](#)

IF YOU'VE EVER STRUGGLED AS AN MBA STUDENT, JOHANNA IS ALWAYS THERE!



AN INTERVIEW WITH
JOHANNA
ABOUT **BOUL**

BY LIZA SAHA & KATRINA LAM



Tell us more about yourself - not the Johanna that we know from the administration, but the Johanna that you would like us to remember even after our time at HEC.

I would like you to remember how much I love my students and how hard I work to make their MBA journey at HEC unforgettable. Even on my off days, my students are my priority.

You have been an integral part of our MBA journey. What motivates you to go above and beyond your duties at HEC for the students?

What motivates me most is the “human” aspect of my job and the chance to get to know students of different nationalities and backgrounds. It’s like discovering the wealth of other cultures of the world. In addition, seeing my students happy motivates me a lot!

When students from previous batches graduated, I stayed in touch and became friends with many of them. Some even asked me to quit HEC and to work with them in their company!

How has COVID-19 affected your day-to-day duties and responsibilities?

At the beginning of confinement, it was very hard for me not to be on campus and not to be in direct contact with students. Even though I continued calling students regularly to check on them, I think I lost a bit of the “human” relationships I had with them. Now that I am back on campus for a few days a week, I am very happy that students sometimes come back to visit me. Honestly, my only wish is for our lives to get back to normal so that I can see my students happy on campus.

What would your advice be to current students to brave the current confinement and restrictions?

I know that the situation is very stressful and frustrating, but I would like them to know that the administration is here for them and that I am here if they need to talk about anything. Please don't hesitate to contact us, and stay united in fighting this crisis together. While it is important to respect the sanitary protocol on campus for everyone's interests, you don't have to be alone in spirit.

Imagine you could take an entire day off and be anywhere you'd like. Where would you be and what would you do?

I would visit my dad in Marseille, the city where I was born. He is the biggest inspiration in my life and my model.

What has been your best, happiest, and proudest moment at HEC so far?

It was when I won the award for the best MBA staff. I have won it every time ever since I began working in the MBA program. Students of all batches are the ones who vote – it's proof that I do a great job for my students! :)

“ We must stay united in fighting this crisis together. You don't have to be alone in spirit. ”

JOHANNA ABOUTBOUL

If you weren't in this role at HEC, what would you be doing as a career instead?

My dream was to be a ski instructor. When I was younger, I used to ski competitively and always loved it. Unfortunately, I had a bad accident and had to stop. When you are young, you take stupid risks!

Please share your secrets with HEC students as to how you maintain a cheerful disposition every day while working so hard!

When you go through difficult times, you realize how important it is to see the people you love the most happy, and how precious life is. Life is too short to be sad. No matter how our lives are going, we can always choose to be happy and to take care of ourselves.



[Johanna Abouteboul](#)

RAPID FIRE ROUND

Five most important items in your handbag:

My wallet, tissue, keys, and my 2 mobiles!

Favorite drink:

Coca-Cola!

Book that you are currently reading:

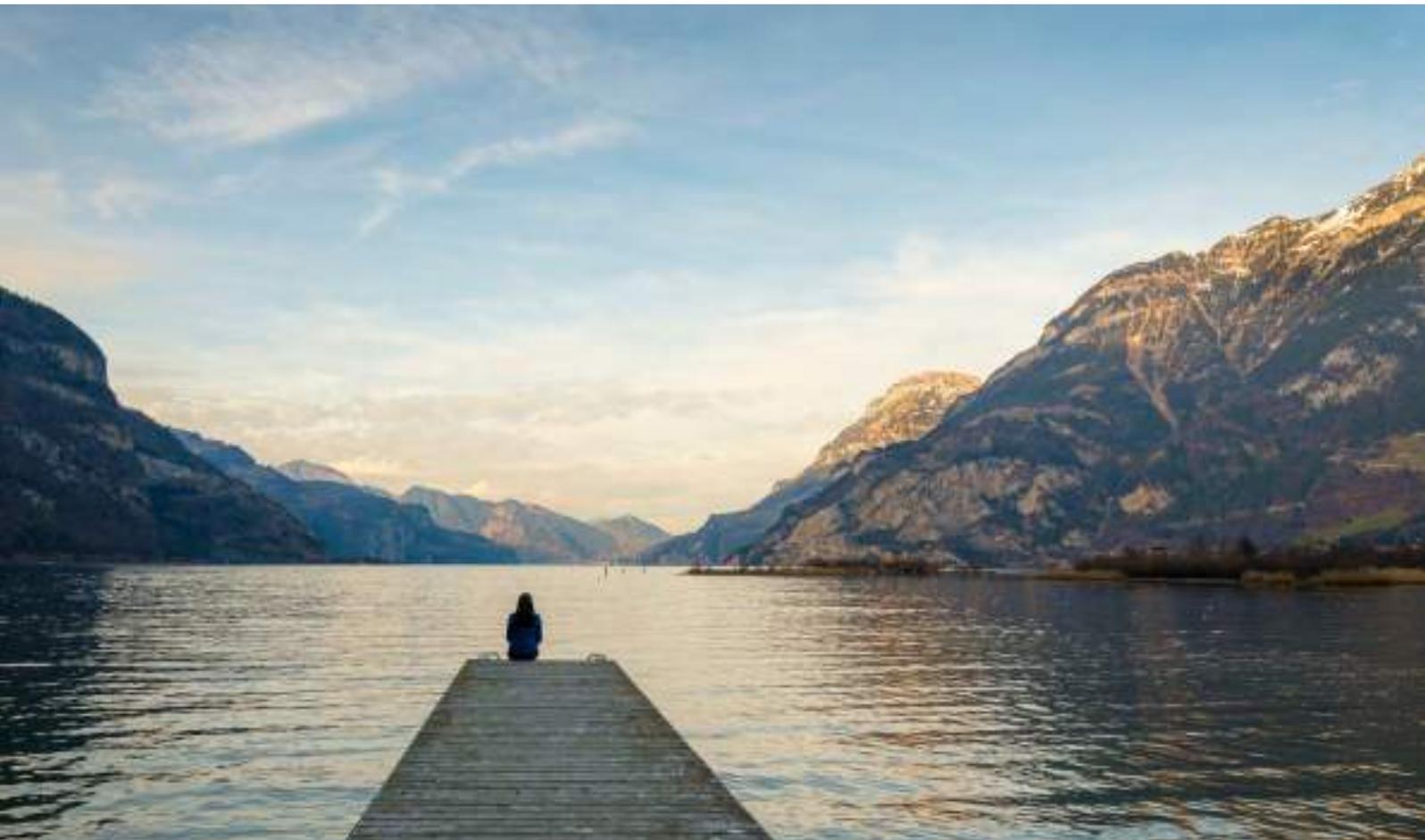
"Enquête Etrusque au Louvre" by Carole Declercq

Favorite way to relax:

RPM (indoor cycling)

Name one song that you think best describes you/your outlook on life:

Caruso by Pavarotti





AN INTERVIEW WITH SURI YANG

SURI IS THE EX-WIL PRESIDENT AND
A TRILINGUAL EXTRAORDINAIRE

BY LALAIN INUMERABLES



Hello Suri, we hope you are enjoying your last term at HEC! First question, could you tell us a bit more about yourself, and what is something not a lot of people may know about you?

Hi everyone! My name is Suri Yang, and I am originally from South Korea, although I have been living abroad since I was 15. I have a Bachelor in Communications and Art History from Waseda University, Japan. After my Bachelor's, I worked for an American art gallery company as a gallery Director. At HEC, I specialized in Sustainable and Disruptive Innovation, and am now doing an exchange at Wharton. In my spare time I travel, go to

art museums and watch K-dramas.

Something that most people don't know about me is that I trained professionally as a dancer for 7 years... but now I am here!

Do you have a motto you live by?

"Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today" - Benjamin Franklin

I have this as my phone background. It isn't the motto that I love the most, but it's something I need to constantly remind myself of since I procrastinate a lot. I am working on overcoming this habit!

What was your favorite part of the HEC MBA journey?

During the first confinement, I had a personal project called *SuriSalon*. The idea came out of nowhere (well, I did see quite a few bad hairstyles around campus during that time...). We were allowed to have 2 people in a room, so I thought it was a good way to interact with other students. In exchange for a haircut, I requested for wine or dinner! It was really fun experience. And of course, house parties pre-confinement were really fun as well.

What was your favorite WIL event and what did you enjoy the most about leading the team last term?

My favorite event was the Paris Herstory tour. Due to COVID restrictions and an unfortunate event in Paris, we had to reschedule it once but I feel very fortunate that were able to do it before reconfinement happened. It ended up being one of the few events that took place physically, so it became even more of a precious memory for me.

For as long as we've known you, you have always been cheerful and calm. Could you share some tips with our fellow MBAs as to how to handle stressful situations?

"There is always a strong man behind a strong woman." Just kidding.

I just want to say, "Find your pace". Many of us are subject to social pressure to perform the best and be the quickest. We all have different goals and different ways to achieve them, so we should all learn to be easy on ourselves. Pushing yourself to match other people's paces or ways is not sustainable in the long term. I think if you take things step by step at your own pace, you learn to appreciate the process more instead of them merely being things to check off your list.

“ I think if you take things step by step at your own pace, you learn to appreciate the process more instead of them merely being things to check off your list. ”

SURI YANG, J20



Imagine you could take an entire day off and be anywhere you'd like. Where would you be and what would you do?

I would like to be in the middle of the ocean on a cruise ship. (I am not fantasizing or trying to be fancy - this was literally what I did for a living!)

In the evening, I would lie on a sunbed on the deck enjoying the sea breeze and watching stupid YouTube videos with extremely expensive satellite Wi-Fi.

What would your advice be to current students to brave the current confinement and restrictions?

Don't beat yourself up for playing Candy Crush or shopping on Ebay during online classes. We are all learning! And, there are class recordings.

I also think it's important to find new hobbies that are suitable for indoors. I was a gym maniac before the MBA and now I am at my heaviest weight since high school. It hasn't reached the point where it is harming my health, so I am not stressed about it. Anyway, I found a new hobby called Assassin's Creed!



[Suri Yang](#)



RAPID FIRE ROUND

Five most important items in your handbag:

I usually don't carry one, but if I do, then: Debit card, 2-3 Euro coins, lip balm, earphones

Favorite drink (non-alcoholic & alcoholic):

Ginger beer (not ginger ale), red wine

TV Show you are currently watching:

K-Drama called "Cheat on Me, If You Can". The actress from the movie "Parasite" is in it!

Favorite way to relax:

Half-body bath

Name one song that you think best describes you/your outlook on life:

Great question! I'm not too sure, but I like the title of this song: Pink Youth by Yuna, Little Simz

A portrait of Kamala Harris, the 49th Vice President of the United States. She is smiling and wearing a light blue blazer over a white top, with a necklace and a small American flag pin on her lapel. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with large, faint letters spelling 'WOMEN' behind her.

MADAME VICE PRESIDENT

BY ELA DEFNE AYDIN

Early in January 2021, I was out on my habitual daily walk in Paris when my eyes locked onto the front page of a weekly French magazine, displayed prominently on the window of my neighborhood tabac. It had a picture of Kamala Harris in a pale teal suit, with the title, “La Femme La Plus Puissante du Monde” (The Most Powerful Women in the World). Ms. Harris had just been sworn in as the 49th Vice-President of the United States of America. She is the first female and first black Vice-President, and also the first Vice-President of South Asian ancestry to hold that title.

Born in Oakland, California to a Jamaican father and an Indian mother, Harris and her

sister Maya were raised primarily by their mother Shyamala, a single mom. In Harris’ own words, her mother felt that it was important to raise her daughters as “strong, powerful women”. After earning a law degree at the University of California Hastings, Harris worked as a courtroom prosecutor before being appointed as San Francisco’s first black District Attorney. She became well-known for her style of prosecution, a balance of toughness and empathy. In 2010, she moved on to politics, becoming California’s first female and first black Attorney General. Ten years later, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden chose then 55-year-old Harris as his Vice-Presidential running mate.

The significance of the year of Harris' inauguration is not lost on women's rights supporters: it came exactly 100 years after the enactment of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which finally gave American women the right to vote, after being first introduced to Congress in 1878. But what does Harris' appointment signify for all women across the globe?

As a young woman myself, I know that we are in dire need of role models to look up to. In a society that is 50% female, examples of strong, powerful women in positions of influence and authority are too few and far between. Women who have been given the responsibility to affect change and make a fundamental difference to the world, at large, inspire and encourage other women that there are no limits to what we can achieve. "You can do anything, and you can do everything," Harris said in a 2017 speech delivered to graduating students at her alma mater, Howard University, where she graduated with a degree in political science and economics.

Harris is also the daughter of highly educated parents, an economist (and Stanford University professor) father and a scientist mother. And there is no doubt that her own schooling had a



large role to play in propelling Harris to where she is today. I believe education is, and will continue to be, the greatest solution to true gender equality. And so, as we continue our own journeys as MBA students here at HEC, I feel it is important to take a moment to express our gratitude for the undeniable privilege to be able to receive a world-class education, and to feel excited about the future impact we can make as the next generation of business leaders.

Despite the advancements we have made since the women's suffrage movement, UNESCO estimates that

16 million girls will never set foot in a classroom. Without education, we have no freedom, no voice, no independence. Robbed of their capacity to have a say in the fundamental choices that shape their daily lives, these women are only slightly better off than the blinded and the maimed. Yet despite leading lives that may seem worlds apart, what unites us with these disadvantaged women is the ability to hope. To hope that our actions and achievements, both individually and collectively, will result in a

brighter future, a kinder world for our children to grow up in. Harris' inauguration gives hope for all aspiring female politicians, scientists, doctors, CEOs, and other leaders-to-be, no matter where they are in the world, that our dreams are within reach. Often touted as "the lady of firsts", I am reminded of Harris' own iconic comment on making history as the first in all her career roles: ***"I may be the first, but I will not be the last."***



ELA DEFNE AYDIN IS A GUEST EDITOR FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE WIL MAGAZINE. SHE IS FROM THE MBA CLASS OF 2022 AND IS A FORTÉ FELLOW.

SHE IS ALSO THE VP OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE FRENCH CONNECTION CLUB AND IS AN EXTERNAL ADVISOR FOR THE CONSULTING CLUB.

SHE LOVES TANGO DANCING AND TRAVELLING AND ASPIRES TO BE A POLYGLOT IN SIX DIFFERENT LANGUAGES – ENGLISH, FRENCH, KOREAN, SPANISH, ITALIAN, AND JAPANESE!



[Ela Defne Aydin](#)





*When day comes
we step out of the shade,
afame and unafraid,
the new dawn blooms as we free it.*

*For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

- AMANDA GORMAN,
AN EXCERPT FROM "THE HILL WE CLIMB"

[READ THE FULL POEM](#)



WIL Recommends

THOUGHT-PROVOKING AND WORTH THE BINGE.

01



Podcast: Dare to Lead

Review: Brené is witty, wise, relatable, and overall just gives the right amount of pep talk! She's a joy to listen to. Her most recent guests include Simon Sinek and U.S. President Barack Obama.

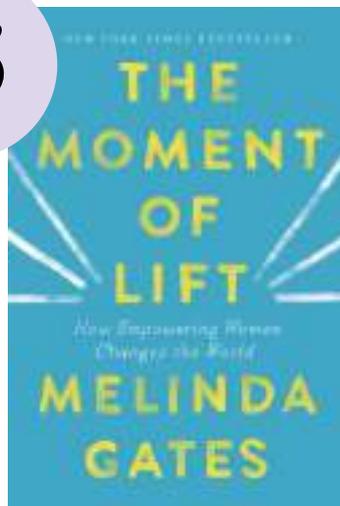
02



TV Series: Bir Baskadir (International Title: Ethos)

Review: Arguably one of the rawest and most insightful depictions of Turkish society and diversities at play.

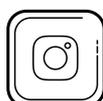
03



Book: The Moment of Lift

Review: Great read with a powerful message and an emotional telling of the injustices faced in developing countries. Melinda incites a strong call to action to help lift societies up, most especially women around the world.

[Have some ideas? Send them our way here.](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2

WIL X GMLC PRESENT:
MBA TO AMAZON PANEL DISCUSSION

5:30PM - 6:30PM CET
OPEN TO MBA STUDENTS

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Jennifer Dingley
Senior Account Manager
in London



Ai Lin Tan
Senior Product Manager
in Munich

FEBRUARY 9

SPEAKER SERIES: DELPHINE O,
THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR
FOR WOMEN

6:30PM - 7:30PM CET
OPEN TO ALL HEC PARIS STUDENTS

[REGISTER HERE](#)



FEBRUARY 11

ALUMNA JOURNEYS
(BOCCONI, LBS, HEC, ESADE)

4 AMAZING WOMEN, 4 TOP MBAS

7:00PM - 8:30PM CET
OPEN TO HEC MBA STUDENTS

[REGISTER HERE](#)

