

2019 GEM OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The GEM Alumni network held the “2019 GEM of the Year Awards Ceremony” during the GEM Gala on Saturday, January 25, 2020.

The nominees were chosen among the GEM Alumni involved in the development of GEM’s brand.

Through their career paths, these recipients have demonstrated that our school’s values, Technology, Management and Innovation, are tools that make extraordinary achievements possible.

GEM Start’Up of the year:



Céline Chung GEM PGE 2013

French with Chinese origins, she was the first in her family to pursue higher education. Upon graduating in 2013, she devoted the first 3 years of her career to consulting jobs before embarking on her entrepreneurial adventure. The most influential Business Angels in Paris supported her throughout the process and she launched Petit Bao, the first restaurant of the Bao Family group whose goal is to revolutionize Chinese dining. They aim to offer authentic cuisine and emulate the country’s effervescent atmosphere. As soon as it opened, buzz filled food critic columns and enthusiastic crowds of customers lined up to try it out.

Dedicated GEM of the Year:



Ugo Mahin GEM PGE 2015

He graduated in 2015 and immediately volunteered to be his Class Relay. That was the beginning of the story of his commitment to our network. Since then, he has regularly returned to speak to students during BootCamps or Recruitment Forums. A loyal participant in networking events, he offered to help us find a venue to host the 2019 GEM Alumni Convention. He went to bat for us at the highest level in his company, including the CEO. Thanks to him, the GEM Alumni Convention took place at Wavestone’s premises in Paris La Défense. The Convention featured 8 conferences led by fifteen experts from GEM, Wavestone and the GEM Alumni network.



Charles Yvon GEM IFC 2013

After graduating in 2013, he joined the family company, the “Véritables Parapluies de Cherbourg”, which he took over almost two years ago.

He brings new ambitions, affirming the brand’s position in export, for example in Japan, and has tripled the points of sale. His creed: the Made In France label that he defends at the multiple exhibitions in which he partakes. The company has earned an array of labels, including «Made In France», «Quality Tourism», an INPI Innovation Trophy, and most recently the Label “Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant”.

These distinctions recognize the company’s “savoir-faire” and expertise in handmade umbrellas. High-quality materials, an innovation policy with wind tunnel testing, and quality control at each stage have earned the brand a well-deserved place among luxury products. The boutiques of prestigious places and highend fashion brands charmed by the artisanal and tailor-made production, have chosen to work with the company.



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GEM Athlete of the Year:



Chun Wing Lam GEM IFC 2019

Born in Hong Kong, he began dancing at the age of seven. At 14 he was accepted to the Paris Opera's school of dance. He worked hard to learn French and took exams in the language. The hard work paid off; he passed his middle and high school exams on the first try. After a short pause, he chose to join GEM's high-level athletes program. He did all this while studying dance at the highest possible level, which was intense and physically taxing. Each year more than 550 children apply to enter the Opera school, only 30 to 40 are admitted, just over 10 finish the training, and only 1 to 4 are selected to join the corps de ballet. Now 23, he has been a member of the Opera Garnier Ballet Corps in Paris for 5 years.

GEM of the year:



Béatrice De Noray GEM PGE 1996

She is one of our school's Pioneers, the first ten graduating classes, who invented and built its student life. President of the Junior Enterprise, she has fond memories of her years at GEM. Her experience with associations anchors her to our network. Class reunions or Get-Togethers with the Junior Enterprise alumni are always among her priorities. She earned her stripes at Procter and Gamble where she worked for brands like Ariel, Pampers, and Gillette. Beginning with marketing and sales, she made her way through different departments all while climbing the corporate ladder, managing teams of 150 to 200 people, some spread over 3 continents. Her last position brought her to manage the group's luxury brands such as Dolce & Gabbana, Hugo Boss, and Lacoste. She then took over as head of Coty Luxury for France where she stayed for two and a half years. In April 2019, she was appointed to the General Management of Bel France, whose "core" brands are household staples: La Vache qui Rit, Boursin, Babybel... But like all players in the sector, Bel is faced with the challenge of feeding a growing population while preserving the resources of our planet. The group is committed to responsible and healthier eating and is embarking on a profound transformation of its model throughout its entire ecosystem: from milk producers, to consumers, to experts and distributors. A great challenge for its General Manager of France.

