Maya Ajmera ’89 is the founder and president of the Global Fund for Children (GFC), which makes small grants to innovative community-based organizations that work with some of the world’s most vulnerable children and youth. Maya will talk about her career path from Bryn Mawr to GFC, and about the growing field of international social entrepreneurship.

After graduating from Bryn Mawr with a B.A. in Biology, Maya intended to become a pediatrician. However, when she decided she could help more children by supporting grassroots groups that work with children around the world, her career goals shifted to social entrepreneurship. She earned a Master of Public Policy degree from the Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University.

Since its founding in 1994, GFC has awarded more than 1,933 grants totaling $10.7 million to 323 community-based organizations in 66 countries, serving more than a million children. GFC is complemented by a dynamic media program that—through children’s books, documentary photography, and film—highlights issues affecting children and celebrates global diversity. Maya is the co-author of many award-winning GFC books, including Children from Australia to Zimbabwe and Extraordinary Girls.