



ANNUAL REPORT | 2014-2015



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FROM THE PAF ADVISING TEAM

Dear PAFamily,

In honor of the 25th anniversary of the PAF program, we are pleased to share our reflections on this significant milestone in the program's history as a prelude to the recap of the past year by the current PAFs throughout this annual report.

A committee comprised of current PAFs, PAF Alumni, and PAF Advising Team members created the following three themes for the silver anniversary celebration of the PAF program. These themes, coupled with the outcomes listed below each, speak to a bright future ahead, and one that is made possible by the strong commitment to the program we see from current PAFs, PAF alumni, Preceptors, and the university's senior administration.

Living our Legacy: Recognizing the program's robust history and achievements.

- The PAF program was established in 1989 and continues to serve as a model program for interdisciplinary collaboration and service to the university.
- The smallest PAF cohort was 1 in 1989, while the largest cohort was 9 in 2011. Today, the cohort size is consistent at 6 per class, thanks to the recommendation of the PAF 2020 Task Force.
- The evolution of PAF cohorts living together on-campus in Building JJ to living independently across the Washington, DC area.
- PAFs continue to be instrumental in leading and supporting the establishment of new initiatives at the university, including most recently The GW Museum and The Textile Museum, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service, Global Women's Institute, Sustainability Collaborative, Healthy GW, and many others.

Celebrating our Community: Celebrating the wonderful friends, mentors, and alumni network that have been cultivated over the last 25 years.

- The PAF alumni network is 117 strong (and about to grow by 6 with the graduation of the PAF Class of 2015!). A testimony to this strength is the PAFs were able to exceed their goal of engaging with at least half of PAF alumni this year, with a record 53% of PAF alumni engaged with the program and the university in meaningful ways such as networking with current PAFs at receptions and other events, participating in career-related programs, and serving on the Board of Trustees, GW Alumni Association board, and other constituent groups.
- We honor the memory of PAF alumna Lindsey Ferris, CCAS BA '01 MA '03 through continued

support of the scholarship that PAF alumni and friends established in her name and also through participation in the annual Lindsey Ferris Invitational hosted by the gymnastics team.

- Preceptors remain committed to the advancement of PAFs and the program by hosting placements with their departments, providing mentoring to PAFs, and participating in the PAF program's professional development activities.
- A strong culture of service continues within the PAF program. This year PAFs supported Freshman Day of Service and MLK Day of Service, PAFs served as learning partners for Alternative Breaks, and the PAFs hosted the first-ever PAF Alumni Service Day.

Focusing on our Future: Empowering current and alumni PAFs to work together and ensure the program continues to be successful.

- Establishing the PAF Professional and Academic Development Fund to provide essential financial support to PAFs pursuing career and professional development activities such as conferences, trainings, and study abroad. This year the fund supported two PAFs participating in study abroad programs and five PAFs attending professional conferences.
- Formalizing the PAF Advising Team model to support and guide the current PAFs and the program. The strength of the Advising Team is our collective experience at the university and longstanding commitment to the program, including Peter's 18 years first as program director and now administrative advisor and Kathy's 25 years of service initially as program director and now faculty advisor.
- Renewing the program's commitment to its core pillars of academics, professional development, service, and ambassadorial roles, with PAF committees, weekly meetings, and outreach structured around these pillars.

To every member of the PAFamily, we thank you for your contributions to the PAF program that have made it what it is today and, with your continued support and advocacy, will ensure its future.

Sincerely,

The PAF Advising Team

Toby Davidow
PAF Program Coordinator

Peter Konwerski
PAF Administrative Advisor

Sara Melita
PAF Professional
Development Advisor

Kathy Newcomer
PAF Faculty Advisor

Robert Snyder
PAF Program Director

Living our LEGACY

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PAF

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SERVICE LEARNING: IMPACT AT HOME AND ABROAD

BY KELLY BARTZ, PAF '16



As a learning partner, first-year PAF Kelly Bartz (middle) spent the week serving alongside GW students as they worked on various community development projects.

Each year, the GW Alternative Breaks program sends students on 6 winter and 11 spring break trips. Each trip has its own service area, ranging from sustainable development to labor rights to youth engagement. The PAF program is proud to be a part of service at GW.

Four first-year fellows, Ashlynn Profit, Chelsea Lenhart, Khadija Lalani, and Kelly Bartz, volunteered as Learning Partners (LPs) for GW Alternative Breaks. Each fellow spent a little over a week serving alongside GW students and faculty working on everything from building schools out of sustainable materials in Guatemala to tutoring minority and at-risk youth in LA to cultivating sustainable coffee plants in Costa Rica. Kelly Bartz describes her experience in Nicaragua and the impact it had on her.

It was truly a privilege to spend ten days serving alongside 18 GW students and local community members in El Manzano #1, a town on the western coast of Nicaragua. Our nonprofit partner, Waves of Hope, prioritizes community engagement and ownership.

When Waves of Hope first entered the community, they were overwhelmed by the requests for improved access to quality education. Our primary service opportunities thus involved restoring schools in the area with tasks ranging from painting to building playgrounds to breaking-up clay flooring. No matter the task, we worked alongside local contractors and volunteers, many of whom will one day be students at these schools. It was inspiring to watch these kids actively invest in their education - even during their summer vacations.

This trip marked a new type of service for me. As a learning partner, my focus was not only directly serving members of the community but also encouraging GW students to consider ways they could learn from and empower the locals we worked alongside. This role extended into helping students reflect on their personal gifts and abilities and how they might be uniquely positioned to impact the world around them. Surprisingly, these conversations began the moment we boarded the shuttle to the airport and continue to this day.

I am grateful for these students' willingness to let me into their lives and I look forward to watching their passion for service evolve, while continuing the tradition of PAFs serving as learning partners. Our collective experiences as learning partners truly impacted us for the better, and allowed us to serve others while contributing to the growth of current GW students.

THE GW MUSEUM AND THE TEXTILE MUSEUM GRAND OPENING

BY LAUREN SHENFELD, PAF '15

March 21, 2015 was the culmination of my PAF experience: the grand opening of the George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum. During my two years as a Fellow, I had the privilege to pursue my M.A. in Museum Studies while working under a master museum director, my preceptor John Wetenhall, to open a new museum on the Foggy Bottom Campus. The opportunity to open a museum during one's career in the museum field is rare; the opportunity to contribute to the conceptualization, development, and opening of a new museum while still in graduate school and at the start of your career happens once in a lifetime.

GW's expanded commitment to the arts has shined a light on my own academic and extra-curricular involvement at GW and as a PAF. For me, the arts, specifically museums, have always been central to my personal and professional development. Nearly six years ago, while visiting an exhibition on the Civil Rights era Freedom Riders, I was moved to consider how I (then the Riders' age) was working to make a difference in my own community. This is what museums do: they can create common threads between the visitor and others' cultures or ideas, or encourage the visitor to reframe previous conceptions.

The GW Museum and The Textile Museum does just that: the new museum offers an opportunity for the public, students, faculty, staff, and alumni to consider their own world schema. Without question, it has been a challenge to reconcile, curate, market, and program around the museum's eclectic collection of nearly 20,000 textiles, maps, and prints that chronicle the evolution of D.C. It was not an easy feat to move the 90-year-old Textile Museum, the anchor of the new museum, to Foggy Bottom, either – as a team, the museum staff (including me!) packed and moved every object in the collection, all archival files, and furniture.

While accomplishing these Herculean tasks, however, it became clear that GW is the ideal home for this new museum. GW students' appreciation for public service (offered by a mission-based organization like a museum), and embrace of today's global society (which is represented through this museum's collection and programming), set an ideal stage for one of the largest university museums in the country.

Through my contributions as a PAF to assist with the museum's transition to GW, to improve internal and external communications, support grant proposals, and expand partners and audiences for programming, among other projects, I hope to have helped prepare the new GW cultural institution to grow as a treasured resource. My efforts to involve students, faculty, and



Top: John Wetenhall, PAF Preceptor and The GW Museum and The Textile Museum Director, greets museum patrons on opening day.

Bottom: An exhibit inside The GW Museum and The Textile Museum.

staff in envisioning the museum's programming, outreach, and academic missions will ideally solidify the museum as a place that embraces students' creativity and leadership, spotlights their own cultural heritage, and serves as a learning laboratory for all who are interested in pursuing a career or personal passion in museums, history, or the arts and humanities more broadly.



PAF ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

BY KHADIJA LALANI, PAF '16

Kelly Leon

CCAS BA '08 MA '10

PAF alumna Kelly Leon, CCAS, BA '08 MA '10, has served as a preceptor for three different PAFs in the GW Office of the President. She now serves as the Confidential Assistant for the Acting Assistant Secretary for Post-Secondary Education.

In retrospect, what was the most valuable lesson you learned from you PAF experience?

As a PAF, a preceptor, and a member of the GW community, I was exposed to many different perspectives within my cohort, and within the university staff and administration. I learned to leverage the strengths and viewpoints of many strong and talented professionals working toward common goals. My cohort was very engaged and interested in bettering the GW community, but we all had different ideas about how to accomplish that goal. Small and large cohort projects brought all of us as professionals around the university together to achieve common goals. Learning to draw on the divergent perspectives and unique strengths of my fellow cohort members was an important developmental experience.

What advice would you give to current PAFs? What is something you know now that you wish you knew when you were a PAF?

It is never too early to build relationships and learn from people who are involved in different fields of study, different areas of practice, and have different experiences. So much of what you will work through and achieve as a professional hinges upon what expertise you can draw from the collective knowledge of your network. It is never too early to form meaningful and sincere relationships with people. The cohort is a great way to start doing that, but also the staff, leaders, administrators, and PAF and GW alumni. Solidifying the groundwork for those connections will prove valuable at every stage of your career.

What is your favorite PAF memory?

During my second year as a PAF, my cohort was excited about the idea of adding "PAF" to the beginning of lots of words, so we talked about the PAFamily a lot, and wanted to engage in PAFletics. I, along with another cohort member, ordered t-shirts that said "PAFletes" on the front, and the entire group wore these t-shirts to a flag football tournament for graduate students at the

Mount Vernon Campus. The funny thing is that these t-shirts were a little too light blue and a little too short for some of the men. I got a number of eye rolls about the color and the snug fit. But, the PAFletes team was successful in the tournament, and we had some good laughs in our t-shirts. This memory had nothing to do with our placements or project goals, but was a good time all around. These shirts are still comical to us, but I might be the only person who still has one.



PAF Alumni (And PAFletes) Jordan Evert, Collin Stevenson, Chris Brooks, Ryan Evans, Jacqueline Hackett, Kelly Leon, and Sandra Perez Hawthorne.

Anything you want to mention that we didn't cover, or any final thoughts?

My PAF cohort is very special to me. I am so very pleased not just for the fantastic professional experience and the academic enrichment, but I am really pleased to have known such great people that I care about, and can only hope that future cohorts are able to achieve such a strong connection amongst one another. Finally, I would again just like to thank so many members of the university community. I was able to learn at all stages of my time at GW, and am so very appreciative of the support so many at the institution offered me to me. I continue to be grateful to the GW community.

 Please visit our blog, <http://paf.gwu.edu/blog>, for the complete interview with Kelly!

FIRST-YEAR PAFS ATTEND THE 15TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

BY KELSEY JOHNSTON, PAF '16



The GW Women's Leadership Conference participants, including first-year PAFs Ashlynn Profit, Yuxuan Shen, and Kelsey Johnston, took part in workshops and activities on Friday, March 27, 2015.

Fellow first-year PAFs Ashlynn Profit, Yuxuan Shen, and I had the great privilege of attending GW's Women's Leadership Conference, "Charting a New Course," sponsored by the Women's Leadership Program on the Mount Vernon Campus. With sessions devoted to personal finance, self-care, and marketing for business, there was a wide array of topics and speakers to choose from. In addition, professional women from GW and the DC area shared their expertise and the challenges they have faced, and overcome, in their careers.

As the first cohort comprised of all women, the first-year PAFs found it important to support the conference and further our professional development. Women continue to face unique challenges in the work place, and developing the skills to grow from these experiences is imperative.

Through our informal and formal experiences as PAFs, we have developed a unique bond as emerging professionals. This conference demonstrated the importance of maintaining personal and professional networks. It was inspiring to hear Mount Vernon Women's College alumnae discuss how close they still remain and how events such as the Women's Leadership Conference keep them connected to Mount Vernon. I hope in the years to come we reflect on similar experiences from the PAF program and continue to rely on the strong bonds formed within this year's cohort.

The PAF Professional and Academic Development Fund provided financial support to cover the Women's Leadership Conference registration fees for Kelsey, Ashlynn, Yuxuan as an opportunity to further their professional development.



PAF PRECEPTOR SPOTLIGHT

BY KELLY BARTZ, PAF '16

Chris Megill

Associate Director of Technology Services,
Division of Information Technology

Chris Megill, Associate Director of Technology Services, has worked for GW for almost 15 years and joined the PAFamily this year as a preceptor for the first time. Chris' involvement marks the first placement partnership with the Division of Information Technology. He is well respected both within and outside the Division and we are grateful for his contributions to the PAF program.

What helped you transition from an English major to an IT professional?

I had two passions in college, English literature and technology. I was curious about how technology could be harnessed to help me accomplish my academic goals. As I grew more knowledgeable with technology other people seemed to notice and were always asking me, "How did you do that?" and "Do you know an easier way to accomplish this?" These questions were coming from faculty, staff, and fellow students, many of whom I greatly respected. It seemed I had identified a previously unknown talent! I am able to use my communication skills to translate complex technology concepts and practices to others. This slowly developed into a part-time student job and then into a full-time job as Manager of Student Technology Services at Georgetown University. I still haven't found an end to this rewarding journey but I continue to enjoy each step along the way.

What do you appreciate about working for an institution of higher education rather than a corporation? What sets GW apart?

Working in academia, and especially at GW, provides me with a confidence that my efforts are contributing to the betterment of American society. Our fine institution contributes exceptional thought leaders, policy setters, educators, researchers, and professionals of all stripes to the world at large. Watching these scholars come in, develop and progress along their educational path, working beside them, or simply providing the access to technology they need to pursue their academic goals, allows me to take pride in contributing to the greater good of society at large and adds value to every day that I am at work.

What role does mentorship play in your professional life? What do you hope PAFs will get out of the program as it relates to mentoring?

I have been very fortunate to have some fantastic mentors in my life. People who helped me mature

and grow in both my professional career and in my personal life. In exchange for their efforts to help me along my path the one thing they all asked of me was that I "pass it onward" on to others in my turn. The PAF program represented an excellent opportunity to do just that. To share the insights that I had learned from my own mentors as well as those life lessons, career experiences, and from my exceptional colleagues and supervisors within the Division of Information Technology here at GW.

As you describe the PAF program to your colleagues, what do you share?

I have talked to my colleagues about the reward of working with a dedicated graduate student who has committed themselves to both their academic and professional development. I have talked about the larger PAF family and the teamwork and camaraderie I have personally witnessed between PAF preceptors, current PAFs, and PAF alumni. I have explained how rewarding it is to see such a dedicated group of people all come together to improve the university one aspect at a time all while building their personal toolbox of work tools and impacting each other's professional and personal lives in a myriad of ways.

What has surprised you about the PAF program? What have you appreciated about the program?

I have to admit I was surprised at how much I could learn through the program, both from my fellow preceptors, and through the PAF with whom I was fortunate enough to work. We challenged each other with creative and alternative approaches to accomplish pre-established goals. It was refreshing to be able to turn the mentorship program into a two-way street where we could both work to better each other and to abolish preconceptions through active questioning, open discussion, and working through varied approaches to the same goals. The interchange between preceptor and PAF was truly more rewarding than I ever expected it would be.



PAF
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Celebrating our COMMUNITY



The current PAF cohorts with PAF alumni at the PAF Reception during Alumni Weekend on Saturday, September 20, 2014. This year the PAF program celebrated its 25th anniversary.

PAFAMILY CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY DURING ALUMNI WEEKEND

BY ADAM BETHKE, PAF '15

You can attend fifty PAF alumni events, and no two are ever the same. The program is fortunate to have 117 alumni, each of whom brings a unique perspective and a wealth of experience. While each time the PAFamily gathers is special, Alumni Weekend of the program's 25th Anniversary was an especially powerful experience.

With over fifty current PAFs, PAF alumni, Preceptors, and PAF Advising Team members in attendance, the event featured toasts from six PAFs and PAF alumni to commemorate the anniversary and highlight our three major themes for the year-long celebration: Living our Legacy, Celebrating our Community, and Focusing on our Future.

Personally, the most vibrant moment of the night began as an innocuous question from John Morris, CCAS, BA '90, MPA '93 (the first PAF!) to me: "So, where are you from?" To make a long story short, it

turns out that I grew up across the street from our village's assistant city manager (and fellow MPA), who John had introduced to his future wife. I have had the privilege of watching the children of John's friend grow up over the years. Every time I go home, we talk about our newfound connection. On a night dedicated to celebrating the fantastic community of PAF alumni and friends, I am still struck by the odds of meeting an alumna who lives almost 800 miles away and finding such a personal connection. We talked about a number of topics - including the three elements of causal inference, a topic from a mutual class taught by PAF Faculty Advisor Kathy Newcomer.

All in all, the event connected alumni from eighteen different PAF cohorts for a night celebrating the impact that the PAF program has had on the university over the last twenty-five years and the family we have built along the way.

Focusing on our FUTURE



CURRENT LEADERS SHAPE THE PAF LEADERS OF TOMORROW

BY CHELSEA LENHART, PAF '16



The current PAF cohorts pose for a group photo with President Steven Knapp: (L to R) Front Row: Khadija Lalani, Chelsea Lenhart, Yuxuan Shen, President Steven Knapp, Lauren Shenfeld, Shirley Hsieh, Meredith Waters. Back Row: Kelly Bartz, Adam Bethke, Austin Frizzell, Kelsey Johnston, Ashlynn Profit, Chris Kim.

PAFs are always looking to grow as leaders, and as a part of our professional development, we had the opportunity to listen and learn from GW's own capable and empowering leaders. Throughout our interactions with university leadership, we delved into professional competencies such as dealing with ambiguity, problem solving, and creativity. Two meetings stand out in my mind as particularly enriching experiences. Each taught a valuable lesson that every PAF can carry with them in their future professional endeavors.

In October, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Steven Lerman joined the current PAFs for a session on quality decision-making. Prior to our meeting, Provost Lerman gave us a scenario, and each fellow was assigned the role of a specific stakeholder. We were tasked with proposing solutions from our assigned stakeholder's perspective, which was both informative and challenging.

After our discussion with Provost Lerman, I learned that it is critical to understand the multiple perspectives and interests that come into play when making decisions. A single decision can have a domino effect and critically impact many diverse groups. I have applied this lesson directly to my work inside the classroom when analyzing policy recommendations and their implications.

Our meeting with President Steven Knapp in February taught us another valuable lesson. The discussion focused on change and leadership, with President Knapp sharing personal anecdotes and calling upon the fellows to share our own personal stories. PAFs shared examples of how we have helped shape change in our classes, placements, and on university committees.

From the conversation with President Knapp, I learned that the mission and vision of an individual, or an organization, are foundations for success. In order to communicate strategies with stakeholders, recruit personnel, or raise money, an organization must have a clearly defined mission. In the future, I plan to use this takeaway in my conversations as a policy maker and political hopeful.

The PAF program grows stronger each and every time a leader, whether from the university or from our expansive alumni network, spends time with the current cohorts. We are grateful to those who are willing to share their experiences to help us learn. Hopefully, one day, members of our cohorts will share our experiences on leadership with future PAFs.

Milestones & Highlights

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

PAF COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST PAF ALUMNI SERVICE DAY

BY AUSTIN FRIZZELL, PAF '15

On a typical Saturday morning you won't find members of the PAF community laughing, chatting, and teaching each other to make paracord bracelets. March 28, however, was an exception when we held the first PAF Alumni Service Day. Nearly 30 current PAFs, PAF alumni, PAF Advising Team members, and friends came together to serve active duty members of the armed services and children hospitalized with chronic illnesses.

Through a partnership with local hospitals and the nonprofit Operation Gratitude, which provides support to members of the armed services, and with the

support of GW's Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service, we made 40 cards for service members and hospitalized children. The hit of the morning was a throwback to summer camp friendship bracelets. We made 120 paracord survival bracelets, which provide service members with up to 8 feet of rope that can be used for a variety of means in survival situations.

Due to popular demand by participants, plans are already in the works to continue this extension of the PAF legacy of service. We hope to see you there next year!

CURRENT PAFS AND ALUMNI DEDICATED TO OPPORTUNITY

BY ASHLYNN PROFIT, PAF '16



First-year PAFs Ashlynn Profit (left) and Chelsea Lenhart (right) attended the Opportunity Nation Summit, led by PAF alumnus Paul Kendrick, CCAS, BA '05, MPA '07.

First-year fellow Chelsea Lenhart and I had the opportunity to attend this year's Opportunity Nation Summit, led by PAF alumnus Paul Kendrick, CCAS, BA '05 MPA '07. We joined over 50 change agents from across the country in advocating on Capitol Hill to push Opportunity Nation's agenda of ensuring economic mobility for youth and closing the opportunity gaps in America.

Paul and other Opportunity Nation staff led training sessions to prepare us for our day on the Hill on topics including writing our elevator speech and putting together legislative plans. During the Summit, I met with representatives with both of Delaware's senators, shared my story with the attendees, spoke about opportunity with Governor Jack Markell, connected with some of the most inspiring and humble leaders in America, and made a tangible opportunity commitment to underserved youth in DC.

I am so proud that PAF alumni are dedicated to a campaign like Opportunity Nation, and I cannot wait to attend the Summit again next year!

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT REACHES RECORD HIGH IN 2015

One of the most special things about the PAF program is the people who are a part of it, past, present, and future. With the 25th anniversary of the program this year, we wanted to rekindle old connections and acknowledge the individuals who helped make the program as robust as it is today. We challenged ourselves to increase our alumni engagement this year from 27% to at least 50%. With the hard work of the cohort, PAF Advising Team, and our fellow alumni, we surpassed this goal, achieving 53% engagement! Here's how we did it:

- A new and improved, monthly alumni e-newsletter highlighting PAF events, alumni milestones, and guest speakers during weekly meetings.
- The first-ever PAF Alumni Service Day, where we supported Operation Gratitude and Ronald McDonald House.
- Five happy hours throughout the year, bringing in both local and long-distance alumni to catch up with the current cohorts.
- A new leadership development session as a part of MLK Day of Service, engaging PAF alumni and friends as panelists.
- The addition of professional development sessions, where alumni visited to talk about how the PAF professional development curriculum applies to real-life situations in the work place.
- A speed interviewing session conceived by PAF alumnus Darrin Kayser, CCAS BA '98, GSPM MA '00, where PAF alumni conducted mock interviews to provide the current cohorts with practice.



The PAF 2012-2014 cohorts and PAF alumni celebrate the Class of 2014's cohort of graduating PAFs and welcome the Class of 2016's cohort of incoming PAFs at the Annual PAF Commencement Reception in May 2014.

SERVICE



(L to R) GW undergraduates Rebecca Levy, Daniela DiGuido, Joanna Aguilar, and Julie Charpentier pose with first-year PAF Ashlynn Profit.

A NEW WAY TO SERVE

BY YUXUAN SHEN, PAF '16

Service is a PAF tradition, and in our 25th year, PAFs aimed to continue this tradition with an emphasis on reflection and creativity. The university restructured this year's MLK Day of Service by incorporating a learning component, and the PAFs wanted to be a part of it.

Current PAFs facilitated a workshop on stakeholder engagement, entitled "Organizing for Peace." The topic came up for two reasons. First, PAFs just learned about the importance of utilizing different stakeholders from university leaders, such as Provost Lerman. Second, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. used stakeholders to achieve his goals, so the PAFs wanted to combine his legacy with a topic still relevant today," said first-year fellow Chelsea Lenhart.

We discussed the challenges and benefits of organizing diverse stakeholders with our student participants. We then worked through a 15-minute scenario stimulation and led a reflection. Finally, PAF alumni Natalie Kaplan, CCAS, BA '09 MPA '11, Paul Kendrick, CCAS, BA '05 MPA '07, Jeff Marootian, CCAS, BA '01 MPA '03 and GW's Executive Director of Housing and Financial Services and PAFriend Seth Weinschel joined us for an informative panel discussion to close the workshop.

The workshop was a success and a great learning opportunity for the PAF service committee in terms of how to creatively continue the PAF program's tradition of service and bring out PAFs unique contributions to service.

SERVICE



(L to R) First-year PAF Ashlynn Profit, and Raul, a current Greenbuilder at Long Way Home.

- Kelsey served as a mentor for the GWISE student group and student staff in Summer and Conference Housing.
- Chelsea served as a volunteer tax preparer for low-income individuals and families in Washington, DC.
- Meredith worked with her church to deliver over 300 turkeys to needy families in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood of Washington, DC a week before Thanksgiving.
- Kelly, Chelsea, Ashlynn, and Khadija served as Learning Partners with GW Alternative Breaks.
- Khadija volunteered with After-School All-Stars in her neighborhood in Northeast Washington, DC.
- Ashlynn mentored two GW undergraduates through the Sister2Sister mentoring program.
- Austin tutored GED students in Washington, DC.
- Lauren is facilitating a collaboration between ArtReach, a Corcoran School program focused on art education serving a role for children in low income neighborhoods, and the GW Museum and The Textile Museum to expand arts-focused service at GW.
- Chelsea worked with Restore Rhode Island Avenue to replenish natural foliage coverings in Washington, DC.
- Kelly used her photography skills as a volunteer photographer for Freshman Day of Service.
- Ashlynn volunteered to take school pictures for preschoolers enrolled in JumpStart.
- Austin worked with an environmental service organization on a project with youth in drug rehabilitation in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Meredith went to Lucknow, India to work with the faith-based organization Compassion International to support families in rural villages and promote the gospel in unreached areas.

ACADEMICS

MY LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM

BY KELSEY JOHNSTON, PAF '16

During the spring semester I interned at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History as a part of my graduate program. When a call for interns was sent to all students, I couldn't pass up the experience of working with the Object Project exhibition.

Object Project is a hands-on, learning and activity based exhibition that is slated to open this July, and will remain open for the next 20 years. For the past three years the team has worked to make Object Project a reality through research, implementation, design, and collaboration with outside vendors and stakeholders. As such, I was given tasks that were vital to the completion of the exhibition on time. My degree concentration is in new media and digital technology within museums, so I helped test the interactive components of the exhibition, while also creating social media plans and web content to help further engage visitors.

Playing a role in what Americans will experience for the next 20 years when they visit the American History Museum has been an extraordinary experience. I can only imagine how proud I will feel when I can bring my own kids, relatives, and fellow PAFs to this exhibition as it thrives in this dynamic space for generations to come.



First-year PAF Kelsey Johnston works at her internship at The Smithsonian Institute's American History Museum in Washington, DC.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE ABROAD

BY SHIRLEY HSIEH, PAF '15



Second-year PAF Shirley Hsieh in Istanbul, Turkey during her summer abroad trip.

Second-year fellow Shirley Hsieh spent her winter break with Istanbul, Turkey as her classroom, supported by the PAF Professional and Academic Development Fund.

The focus on academics and the emphasis of being "students first" has always been values strongly embedded in the PAF program. I had the opportunity to participate in the GW short-term winter study

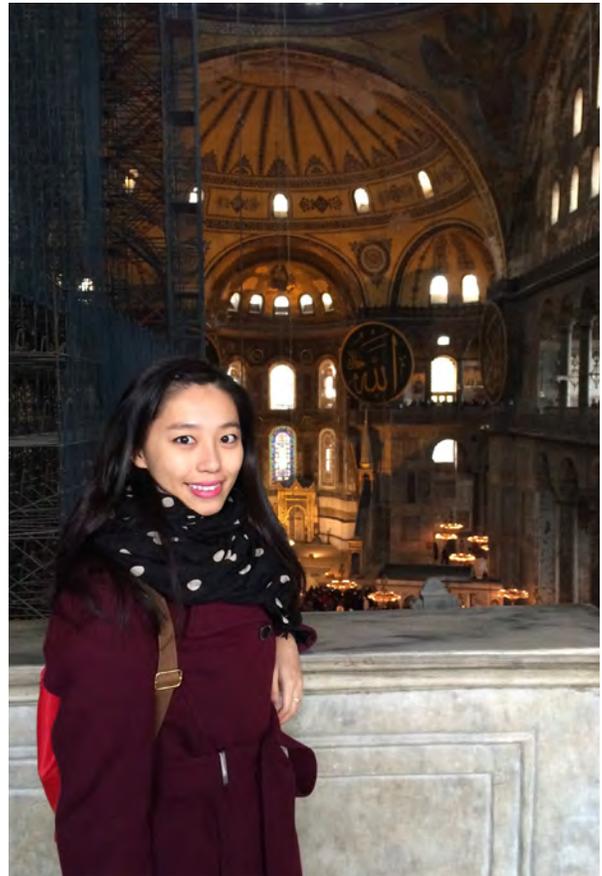
abroad program, "Business Implications of an Evolving Emerging Economy: The Case of Turkey," which consisted of corporate site visits with local experts in the retail, banking, and real estate industry in Turkey. The course was a valuable and unforgettable opportunity for me to learn about the Turkish economy, one of the fastest growing emerging economies located in a geo-strategic sensitive region.

By being on the ground and hearing from local experts, I gained better understanding about the real estate and retail market in different regions and geographic areas. The consumer behavior differences between Turkey and U.S. served as a reminder to be fully cognizant of local trends and cultures as well as potential areas of growth in the Turkish market. Another takeaway that resonated with me was the importance of understanding the know-how of the local market and selecting a suitable management team on the ground.

My study abroad experience was a valuable opportunity to learn about international business first-hand and grow my network of connections with experts in the industry across the world.

ACADEMICS

- For his capstone project, Chris assisted the Center for Economic Development and the Workforce Intelligence Network to improve labor force matching in the Southeast Michigan area, including Detroit.
- Austin surveyed public health professionals in Washington DC on their impressions of nonprofit advocacy for his graduate thesis.
- Lauren was selected as a fellow with the American Alliance of Museums and won the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums' Bruce Craig Fellowship.
- Austin traveled to Cape Town, South Africa last summer to study social entrepreneurship.
- Ashlynn is designing a program evaluation of an early childhood education grant for the National Governor's Association as a project for her program evaluation course.
- For her capstone, Shirley conducted a study on Global Infrastructure Investment for her client, Centennial Group International.
- Yuxuan is participating in a Strategic Management in the EU study program in Paris this summer, supported by the PAF Professional and Academic Development Fund.
- Adam received academic credit for serving as a teaching assistant with first-year fellows Ashlynn, Kelly, and Khadija among his students.
- Kelsey was accepted to the Hertog Foundation's Summer Institute on the Political Thought of Abraham Lincoln.
- Ashlynn traveled to Madison, WI for a conference on Race, Class, and Inequality in Education that highlighted local practices that close the achievement gap.
- Austin created a public health communication campaign to reduce out of school suspensions in DCPS to combat the school to prison pipeline for class.
- After taking the Regulatory Comment Clinic course, Khadija found her passion and changed her concentration to regulatory affairs.
- Adam conducted a program evaluation and feasibility study for the nonprofit organization, CollegeTracks, for his capstone project.



Top: Second-year PAF Shirley Hsieh in Istanbul, Turkey.

Bottom: Second-year PAF Austin Frizzell in Cape Town, South Africa.

RESEARCH

PAF ADVOCATES FOR SURVIVORS OF MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT

BY AUSTIN FRIZZELL, PAF '15

I didn't think a class project would lead to a meeting in the Pentagon. Yet my six public health classmates and I represented GW at the Department of Defense to learn about the power of advocacy.

We developed and began to implement an advocacy plan for class to remove the decision to prosecute military sexual assault cases from the chain of command. The GW Hatchet featured our work in an article that the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office picked up. They invited us to meet and we jumped at the opportunity.

We met with an Air Force two star general and 21 members of her staff. Our proposal was not met with enthusiasm, but I hope this was just one many conversations between the military and the public health community. We may have not agreed on the specifics, but we all shook hands at the end over the idea of a better future for sexual assault survivors.



Second-year PAF Austin Frizzell and other Milken School of Public Health students meet to discuss advocacy plans.

- Meredith worked with the Office of Sustainability to research promising practices for winter break office closure and its effect on energy use.
- Kelly completed interviewed 39 managers in the Division Information Technology to develop valuable metrics as a part of her placement.
- Chris assisted his professor with the Center for Real Estate and Urban Analysis report on conflicts of interest in commercial leasing transactions.
- Kelsey conducted research on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln for GW Magazine.
- Ashlynn researched the Department of Education's proposed regulations of for-profit colleges and their impact on nontraditional students.
- Adam contributed to the Handbook for Practical Program Evaluation with his professor and PAF Faculty Advisor, Kathy Newcomer.
- Yuxuan researched promising practices in supporting international students' experiences at American universities with the GW Committee on International Student Success.
- Kelly worked with PAF alumna Jordan Chaffin, ESIA, BA '11 MA '13 to discuss the research behind utilizing local partners for youth development.
- In his placement, Austin has done extensive research for the DC Homeland Security Commission.
- Shirley completed a business plan for a new university-wide technology system.
- Meredith analyzed CDC reports on college student health as a part of her placement.
- Austin conducted a community health survey for a clinic in South Africa.
- Adam presented a session titled "Benchmarking: What, Why, Who, and How?" with his preceptor and PAF Program Director, Robert Snyder.

COMMUNITY & DIVERSITY



Second-year PAF Chris Kim gives an inaugural tour to distinguished guests of GW's newest building, Science and Engineering Hall.

A HEALTHY CAMPUS

BY MEREDITH WATERS, PAF '15

The Healthy GW Initiative officially launched on January 14, 2015 in tandem with the grand opening of the Colonial Health Center, a nearly 18,000-square-foot student wellness hub in the Marvin Center that unifies medical services, mental health services, health promotion and prevention services and the parenting initiative. The Center's aim is to promote programs that encourage physical, mental, and social well-being at GW.

Healthy GW moves beyond general awareness and passive education in order to secure and sustain real engagement by each member of the GW community. The initiative is aligned closely with the Partnership for

a Healthier America's nationwide effort to encourage college students to make healthy meal choices and engage in exercise and other wellness activities. GW was one of 20 schools selected to participate in this initiative, which is the foundation for the student health and wellness aspects of Healthy GW.

Second-year fellow Meredith Waters is placed with the Healthy GW Initiative, a partnership between the divisions of Human Resources and External Relations and the President's Office.

- Shirley served on the International Students panel and as an alumna mentor.
- Chelsea was elected Co-Chair of the Trachtenberg School Diversity and Inclusion Committee and has organized recurring luncheons on race issues in America.
- The PAFs participated in a workshop on microaggressions presented by the Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service. Kelsey organized a similar training for the Division of External Relations.
- Chris is a member of Capital Funk and also advises the student group.
- Ashlynn is organizing and leading a training with over 200 DC Reads tutors on incorporating college access in their tutoring of DC Public School students.
- Khadija is working with the Honors Program to increase alumni engagement and organized an Honors Young Alumni Career Panel.
- Meredith served on the Healthy GW Task Force and worked with GW Students for Recovery to integrate their activities with Healthy GW.
- In his placement, Austin worked to recruit professors who conduct research on social justice to be involved with the GW Sustainability Collaborative.
- Yuxuan initiated an English workshop that focuses on "daily English" for International Students with the Language Center and English for Academic Purposes program, which is slated to begin next year.
- Shirley led a session on email etiquette for the staff at her placement.
- Kelsey served as a member of the Commencement Speaker Committee, which selected Tim Cook, Apple CEO, as this year's speaker.
- Chelsea serves on the Committee on Sexual Assault Preparedness and Response.
- Khadija and Ashlynn served on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Steering Committee and helped incorporate the learning component of the day.
- Austin advised undergraduates interested in a Sustainability minor at GW.
- Adam digitized over 15 years of PAF photos!



First-year PAF Chelsea Lenhart promotes a healthy campus during GW's Safety and Security Fair.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? CATCH UP WITH THE PAF CLASS OF 2014!

BY CHRIS KIM, PAF '15

May 2015 not only commemorates the graduation of the latest PAF cohort, but also symbolizes an important milestone for the PAF Class of 2014 - one year since graduation. Since their departure from PAF, they have had the opportunity to live in new places, and begin new careers, and embark on new adventures.



Class of 2014 PAF cohort (L to R), Tim Savoy, Michelle Suarez, Allison Rohde, Chelsea Ullman, Jessica Fern, and Cameron Smither.

JESSICA FERN

Jessica Fern works as a Policy Analyst with the Colorado Health Institute in Denver. She conducts research and writes on improving community health, school-based and healthy eating, and active living initiatives. Jessica also participates in statewide stakeholder and collective impact strategies, by offering a data-driven, evidence-based perspective. Recently she and her boyfriend and fellow GW alumna, Sam, bought a townhouse and have been enjoying getting to know their new neighborhood and Denver at-large.

ALLISON ROHDE

Upon graduation, Allison Rohde began working as a middle school math and science teacher for a DC public charter school, KIPP DC: WILL Academy.

TIM SAVOY

Tim Savoy affiliated with Coldwell Residential Brokerage as a full-time Realtor in the Washington, D.C. area. Tim has been featured as a real estate columnist with the Washington Blade, and has given market advice to various news outlets and publications. In the coming years, Tim hopes to continue his passion for public health by giving back to research around how location affects our health. Tim lives in Washington, D.C. with a fellow GW staff member and his two adorable Labrador retriever rescue dogs.

CAMERON SMITHER

Cameron Smither is enjoying his new job as a Research Associate at the American Institutes for Research. He works with the higher education team to engage in relevant policy discussions occurring in college and university systems today. He gives credit to PAF for preparing him "to learn on the fly." He stays involved with GW and the Trachtenberg School through his TA position in an econometrics course. In his spare time, Cameron plays Dungeons & Dragons, learns to read sheet music, and began learning Spanish to better communicate with his partner's grandparents.

MICHELLE SUAREZ

Michelle Suarez started working at the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana, Mexico as a Vice Consul last fall. She works within the Non Immigrant Visa section and is assisting in the planning of the 75th anniversary of the consulate. In her position, she has the opportunity to support the Ambassador to Mexico to liaise with the Mexican President, his cabinet members, and several Mexican governors. Between graduation and her assignment in Tijuana, Michelle road-tripped across the country with her dad.

CHELSEA ULLMAN

Chelsea Ullman had the unique opportunity to stay with GW's Global Women's Institute (GWI) as a Policy Associate. As one of the original staff members, she has seen the organization grow from three staff members to nine in the past two and a half years. Chelsea synthesizes research conducted by GWI and offers policy recommendations in the domestic and international policy spheres. She recently decided to begin a Ph.D. in the Trachtenberg School with a focus on Gender and Social Policy. In her spare time, Chelsea started training for her first marathon. You can likely see her running around Meridian Hill Park.



Meet the FELLOWS

SECOND-YEAR FELLOWS



Adam Bethke

Adam Bethke is placed in the Division of Student Affairs and pursuing a Master of Public Administration, concentrating in Program Evaluation. He is currently managing the program review process for the Division, which he developed during his first year in the placement. As part of his placement responsibilities, Adam also advises and supports departmental assessment activities. In addition to supporting assessment in the Division, he supports programmatic and administrative activities of the Presidential Administrative Fellowship. Outside of school and work, Adam is an avid cyclist, and enjoys exploring the DC area on its many bike trails.



Austin Frizzell

Austin Frizzell is pursuing a Master of Public Health in Health Promotion and placed in the GW Sustainability Collaborative, where he assists with the creation of the infrastructure for this new department. In the previous academic year, Austin held a placement in the Dean's Office of the Milken Institute School of Public Health, where he helped coordinate the transition to the school's newly constructed building. The building has a LEED Platinum certification and his sustainability work there reinvigorated his interest in the intersection of health, equity, and sustainability. Outside of school and work, Austin enjoys seeing live music and being outdoors.

SECOND-YEAR FELLOWS



Shirley Hsuan Hsieh

Shirley Hsieh is pursuing a Master of Arts in International Trade and Investment Policy, concentrating in International Business, and placed in the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR). As part of her responsibilities at OVPR, Shirley supports project management activities of existing initiatives and new multidisciplinary fields. In addition, she helps with international research projects, the Autism Initiative, and the Advisory Council for Research. One fun fact about Shirley is that she has been to six continents and 16 countries.



Christopher Kim

Chris Kim is pursuing a Master of Public Policy, concentrating in Urban and Real Estate Policy, with a placement in the Office of Planning, Development, and Construction (PDC). Chris primarily works on projects related to GW's acquisition of the Corcoran School of Arts and Design and the Flagg Building in which it resides. He also helps manage various real estate development projects around campus. Chris spends his spare time dancing and choreographing for Capital Funk, DC's premier hip hop dance crew based at GW.

SECOND-YEAR FELLOWS



Lauren Shenfeld

Lauren Shenfeld is pursuing a Master of Arts in Museum Studies, concentrating in museum leadership and nonprofit management, and placed in the GW Museum and The Textile Museum. In her placement, Lauren assisted with the historic move of The Textile Museum to GW's Foggy Bottom Campus and the grand opening of the new GW Museum and The Textile Museum. Lauren's efforts at the museum have also focused on communications, visitor services, and outreach programming, including student, faculty, and staff engagement. Outside of school and work, Lauren experiments in the kitchen with new baked-goods recipes, creating sweet treats of all kinds!



Meredith Waters

Meredith Waters is pursuing a Master of Healthcare Administration and placed with the Healthy GW Initiative in the Division of Human Resources. Meredith works to promote the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of the GW community through the Initiative. In her placement, Meredith is developing a comprehensive education and communication campaign for staff, faculty, and students to promote positive health behavior and improve the overall health of the GW community. One fun fact about Meredith is she's an avid gardener and uses the front yard of her Capitol Hill row house to grow sunflowers that are over 10 feet tall.

FIRST-YEAR FELLOWS



Kelly Bartz

Kelly Bartz is pursuing a Master of Public Administration, concentrating in International Development and Non-Profit Management, and placed in the Division of Information Technology (DIT). She is particularly passionate about youth leadership development and she looks forward to parlaying the work in her placement with her desire to equip and challenge local non-profits as they serve their communities. As part of her placement responsibilities, Kelly is helping to develop various program evaluations within DIT in order to help increase efficiency and accountability while highlighting the team's successes. Outside of school and work, Kelly enjoys photographing special events for her family and friends.



Kelsey Johnston

Kelsey Johnston is pursuing a Master of Arts in Museum Studies and placed in the Office of Media Relations. Kelsey assists with media outreach for a wide variety of programs and initiatives at GW. Outside of school and work, Kelsey enjoys running and experimenting with vegetarian and vegan recipes.

FIRST-YEAR FELLOWS



Khadija Lalani

Khadija Lalani is pursuing a Master of Public Administration, concentrating in Government and Regulatory Affairs, and placed in the Office of the President. She serves as the office's student liaison, working to strengthen communications between President Knapp and the student body. As part of her placement, Khadija drives the office's student engagement efforts by maintaining dialogue with student leaders, addressing relevant concerns, and coordinating opportunities for students to interface with the President and the Board of Trustees. Outside of school and work, Khadija enjoys exercising, exploring the city, traveling, and baking.



Chelsea Lenhart

Chelsea Lenhart is placed in the Office of Safety and Security and pursuing a Master of Public Administration concentrating in Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Systems Engineering. Through her placement, Chelsea continuously engages with the primary offices that keep GW students, staff, faculty, and friends safe. She coordinates with the Office of Emergency Management, the Office of Health and Safety, and the GW Police Department to help ensure that program initiatives are best fitting the evolving needs of the GW community. One fun fact about Chelsea is that she is a licensed DC tour guide and gave Segway tours of the District throughout her senior year at GW!

FIRST-YEAR FELLOWS



Ashlynn Profit

Ashlynn Profit is pursuing a Master of Public Administration, concentrating in Education Policy, and placed in the Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service. Through her placement helping to expand GW's role as a model institutional citizen, Ashlynn is working with DC Reads to track the program's impact and on a new VISTA in schools project. She is also working to streamline the service certification process and supports various signature events and initiatives in the Center. Outside of school and work, Ashlynn volunteers with local youth and is an avid fan of ABC's hit television show, "Scandal."



Yuxuan Shen

Yuxuan Shen is pursuing a Master of Arts in International Trade and Investment Policy, and placed in the Division of Finance working on the GW Global Operations Initiative. With the Initiative, Yuxuan helps with the creation of an administrative supporting structure as well as a web portal for the university's growing overseas initiatives. One fun fact about Yuxuan is she has studied in three countries, travelled to over 60 cities in 12 countries, and is adding one more to her travel profile this summer with the GW Study Abroad in Paris program.



PAF

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