Greetings from President LeBlanc

Dear Presidential Fellowship Alumni, Fellows, and Friends:

During an academic year marked by the unknown and change, the Presidential Fellowship has been a constant, and I remain proud of the ongoing contributions of our Fellows and the continued success of the program.

As we mark our bicentennial this year, we are celebrating the university’s past, present, and future—-and the many fellows and other members of our community who have played leading roles in GW’s development.

Over more than three decades, our Fellows have supported our university’s path to preeminence. As ever, I am grateful for the hard work of our Fellows, which this past year included leadership of #GWinSolidarity events, efforts to keep our campus healthy and safe, contributions to the Sustainability Summit, and initiatives to enhance the student experience, among many other accomplishments. I also am fortunate to continue to benefit directly from the work of a Fellow placed in the Office of the President. Nana Addo has provided invaluable insights and ensured I hear directly from our students, whether through office hours, small group discussions, or events.

I also want to offer my congratulations to the graduating Presidential Fellowship cohort, who in May will join more than 150 Fellowship alumni! You have shown great resilience, perseverance, and leadership despite the challenges of this academic year, and I wish you every personal and professional success.

To the many members of our community who support this important program: Thank you. Through your dedication, engagement, and generosity, you have made possible our university’s extraordinary trajectory toward becoming a top comprehensive global research university. I look forward to building on our successes together in our third century.

With appreciation,

Thomas J. LeBlanc

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2020-2021 PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL REPORT | 1
While the COVID-19 pandemic caused this year to be all virtual, the Fellows continued to dedicate their time and efforts to the GW community. Presidential Fellowship priorities this year included advancing our operating pillars of academic, professional, and ambassadorial excellence; completing operational tasks for the four initiatives; and developing skills around career readiness competencies. Fellows continued their service on strategic committees/task forces, met with university leadership to provide ideas and reflections on the student experience, and headed unique projects through their placements and free time. The following highlights the core strengths of the program:

**Criterion to Become a Fellow:**

**UNDERGRADUATE GW SENIOR**

In good ACADEMIC AND DISCIPLINARY standing with the university

Completed at least 55 CREDITS in residence at GW

Admitted into a GW MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAM BY SPRING OF SENIOR YEAR

**Presidential Fellows:**

Fulfill the 2 YEAR full-time Presidential Fellowship program

Receive GW tuition grant for MASTER’S DEGREE and a salary and stipend totaling $25,000

Work 20 HOURS PER WEEK in a GW office

Contribute 5 HOURS PER WEEK to Fellowship initiatives, ambassadorship, and service

**FELLOWSHIP INITIATIVES:**

**The Academic Initiative**

Support, complement, and enhance the Fellows’ academic experience:

- Equip Fellows with practices, tips, and tricks for academic success
- Offer a space to practice project presentations
- Provide academic advising and foster an environment for constructive feedback

**The Alumni Initiative**

Facilitate long-lasting relationships with Fellowship alumni:

- Host the 30th Anniversary Celebration
- Update Fellowship Alumni Directory
- Advise current Fellows on how to connect with PAF alumni
- Strategically plan future alumni engagement opportunities

**The Communications Initiative**

Engage alumni, stakeholders, and GW community through outreach:

- Manage and brand social media content
- Implement external communications strategies
- Design and create the annual report

**The Recruitment and Selection Initiative**

Plan and implement a recruitment and selection process for the new Fellowship cohort:

- Design an application and outreach strategy
- Prepare, review, and evaluate interview, application questions, and scoring rubrics
- Monitor application and interview process

**CURRENT FELLOWS:**

**SCHOOLS REPRESENTED:**

- Milken Institute School of Public Health - 2
- Elliott School of International Affairs - 2
- Columbian College of Arts & Sciences - 3
- GW School of Business - 1

3.90 AVERAGE GPA of current Fellows
30 YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP

1989
The “Presidential Internship Program” was created by GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg.

1991
The Fellowship celebrated its 10th Anniversary.

1992
The first cohort, consisting of three Fellows, moved into Building JJ.

1999
The first “University Intern” was John Davis Morris. The program was adopted by then Vice President for Student and Academic Support Services, Dr. Robert A. Chernak.

2000
Fellow Elizabeth Allen created GWired Web Pages, UPD Website, and the first virtual tour of residence halls. Fellow Darrin Kayser started GW’s first Alumni Association. This included an alumni directory and the organization of events in New York City and Washington, D.C.

2001
The Fellows stopped living in Building JJ.

2005
Fellow Will Alexander founded GW Trails.

2007
Fellow Jacqueline Hackett joined GW as President of the University. For the first time, a Fellow, Ellen Waxler, was placed in the Office of the President.

2009
The Fellowship celebrated its 20th Anniversary.

2011
FAP-isms were PAFirst created by PAF Class of 2011, and often cited by GW PAFamily member President Steven Knapp after he was asked to join Fellows in a PAFoto. Other words include PAFun, PAAsk, PAFone and PAFriend.

2012
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2013
Fellow Lauren (Shenfield) Baker assisted the Textile Museum in its transition to the George Washington University Museum and the Textile Museum, now located on campus.

2017
The Fellowship celebrated its 30th Anniversary.

Thank you to all our champions over the past 30 years who have helped make the Fellowship successful!

Over the course of this time, the following people worked with, and for, the Fellows on a day-to-day basis, providing guidance, mentorship, and/or program coordination, as well as strategic planning, in order to ensure the continual achievement of the Fellows and of the program:

Amy Aldrich, Rachel Brown, Mae Cooper, Dr. Robert A. Chernak, Dr. Aristide Collins, Dr. Toby Davidow, Laura Taddeucci Downs, Laura Finnegan, Dr. Michael Gargano, Dr. Joseph Greenberg, Marna Gumbs Jennings, Dr. Brian Hamluk, Dr. Steven Kelts, President Steven Knapp, Dr. Peter Konwerski, President Thomas LeBlanc, Dr. Forrest Maltzman, Sara Melita, Dr. Terry Murphy, Dr. Honey Nashman, Dr. Kathy Newcomer, Josef Reum, Geri Rypkema, Fred Siegel, Dr. Robert Snyder, Dr. Andy Sorrin, Dr. Lisa Stephenson, Helen Cannaday Saulny, Michael Tapscott, President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, Pete Van Riper, and all countless contributors who made us who we are today!
Meet the Fellowship

Fellowship highlights

The Fellows participated in various virtual activities throughout the year and the Fellowship was honored to have hosted many guest speakers including Vice Provost of Enrollment and Student Success Jay Goff, Vice President and Secretary of the University Aristide Collins, Director of Sustainability Meghan Chapple, Senior Associate Vice Provost for Research Gina Lohr, and Senior Project Manager for OVPR Megan Dieleman and other Fellowship stakeholders.

These are some of the highlights:

2016 COHORT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY SESSION: STRESS MANAGEMENT
Kelsey, Khadija and Ashlynn joined the current Fellows to talk about self-care and life after the GW bubble. They provided useful tips for managing burn-out and setting goals that are achievable for the season of life you are in.

Names and Degrees:
- Kelsey Johnston (Master of Arts in Museum Studies), BA’14, MA’16
- Khadija Lalani, BA’14, MPA’16
- Ashlynn Profit, BA’14, MPA’16

2020–2021 PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

FIRST-YEAR FELLOWS

SECOND-YEAR FELLOWS

2020 COHORT SESSION: WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?
The 2020 cohort came back to talk with current Fellows about what they learned while navigating the job search process, how they began their new positions virtually, and how they have used the skills they learned as Fellows in their jobs.

Names and Degrees:
- Inigo Acosta (Master of Arts in Anthropology)
- Haley Gray (Master of Accountancy)
- Tereese Smith (MPP)
- Camila Tapias (MPA)
- Kalpana Vissa (MPH)

(Left to right: Tereese Smith, Haley Gray, Inigo Acosta, Camila Tapias, Kalpana Vissa)
ADVISING TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

ABOUT JACQUELINE

Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Science in Public Health
Hometown: Smyrna, Georgia

Fun Facts:
- Last summer in her internship at Families USA, Jacqueline published her first article, an op-ed on the struggles facing mixed-immigration status families during the pandemic.
- Jacqueline’s favorite song is “La Bruja” by Los Tucanes de Tijuana, which talks about a witch that puts a spell on people who refuse to dance her Cumbia.

Jacqueline is in awe of the patience, compassion, and resilience my cohort has shown this past year. As a second-year, I have learned how to be open to asking for help and giving yourself space to make mistakes. I am grateful for the support network the Fellowship has given me.

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JACQUELINE BAÑOS

Master’s Degree: Public Health in Health Policy
Milken Institute School of Public Health

FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Jacqueline has spent two years on the Recruitment and Selection Initiative, and she emceed the 30th Anniversary Celebration where the PAFamily reminisced on the last 30 years. As a second-year Fellow, Jacqueline shared her identities as a first-generation college student, a Latina woman, and a low-income student to enhance the University’s iteration to a virtual learning environment.

Special Highlight

Thanks to PAF Alumni Eric Thibault, the Fellows were able to engage in thoughtful goal-setting and career planning throughout the year. Jacqueline reflected on how her experiences as an intern for a large church, government agency, non-profit, and current placement, all contribute to her personal and professional development goals. This activity helped Jacqueline specify her desired position and post-grad plans. She wants to be a policy analyst for a non-profit or government organization that addresses health disparities.

PLACEMENT: OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (ODECE)

Title: Presidential Fellow

Job Description: Jacqueline continued to work on ODECE’s Identity Development programming and education. She shared timely informational and educational resources, while promoting messages of diversity and inclusion. She piloted and ran the Deep Dive Conversation Series that provides a space for students to engage in meaningful, healthy dialogue with educational grounding and facilitated discussions on topics that impact the GW community. Jacqueline also facilitated unconscious bias workshops for student organizations.

Placement Spotlight

The 6th Annual Diversity Summit took place virtually this Fall and featured a discussion with scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw. After Crenshaw’s discussion, Jacqueline and a few other students, teachers, and staff had the opportunity to meet and talk more with Crenshaw and how her work has influenced them today. Jacqueline continues to explore how critical race theory will impact her future as a public health professional.

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Toby Davidow, Ed.D.
Program Manager, GW Presidential Fellowship Program Associate, Interdisciplinary Career Services Initiatives

“Shifting the Presidential Fellowship’s day-to-day activities from in-person to virtual has been a good opportunity for all of us to flex our personal leadership, teamwork, and creative problem-solving competency muscles. I have been very proud of the Fellow’s ability to pivot and adapt to this new environment so quickly, as well as pleased with the cohort’s persistence to learn from the many worldwide, teachable moments that have occurred throughout the year.”

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“It is always a pleasure to work with our Presidential Fellows as they are so inspiring in their commitment to the university, their work in various offices, as well as their academic pursuits. Serving as their faculty advisor allows me to continue to interact with our PAF alumni as well, as they are very active in our programming, and their long lasting commitment is also inspiring!”

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ABOUT REBECCA
Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs
Hometown: Salisbury, Maryland
Fun Facts:
- Rebecca’s favorite part about GW is the Vernie - she’s a true Vernie!
- Rebecca grew up in 3 different states: Maryland, Florida, and Kansas.

These past two years as a fellow have provided me with an unforgettable opportunity to close the GW chapter of my life. I’m thankful for all of the friends and mentors I’ve gained through this experience, and the wonderful memories we’ve shared together, through thick and thin.

REBECCA BIZZARRI
Master’s Degree: Public Administration, Certificate in Budget and Public Finance
Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration

FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Rebecca’s favorite part of the fellowship has been connecting with the amazing alumni community! This year, she co-led the alumni initiative, where she spearheaded strategic planning efforts on how to improve alumni engagement. Rebecca also learned a lot from her time as weekly meeting facilitator in her first year, and she loved participating in the recruitment and selection committee.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT
During the 2020 Diversity Summit, Rebecca co-hosted a panel with fellow, Jacky Butler, titled “Changing Policy That Leads to True Reform.” This discussion focused on the role that identity plays in policy work, how to build equitable policies, and the importance of coalition building. The panel also reflected on the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement in summer 2020, and how to grapple with the differences between reform and abolition in policy work.

PLACEMENT: DIVISION OF SAFETY AND SECURITY
Title: Program Analyst
Job Description: Rebecca collaborates with emergency management professionals on the university’s COVID-19 pandemic response effort. She champions students’ voices by leading the Student Advisory Board, a group of students and staff focused on improving campus safety and security. Additionally, Rebecca works within the Office of Advocacy and Support, where she helps the team explore innovative options of healing and justice for survivors of trauma, crime, and violence.

Placement Spotlight
In addition to her academic year commitment to the Division, Rebecca has spent the past year participating inRESTORE’s house of representatives. One of her proudest accomplishments was helping to facilitate training on “Healthy Relationships: Building a Community of Care” for students, faculty, and staff. Rebecca also facilitated training sessions for nearly 2,000 incoming students, discussing topics such as mental health, resilience, and bystander intervention.

The Presidential Fellowship has granted me the opportunity to meet students and faculty dedicated to making GW a better institution. Without their support, mentorship, and guidance, I would not have been able to stand where I am today. To all of you, thank you!

Preceptor: Kathleen Fox
Title: Assistant Vice President for Health & Safety

ABOUT CAROLINA
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- Carolina was born in El Salvador.
- Carolina loves listening to new music, if you have a new song - send it over!

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Carolina continues to grow professionally and know that when you know better, do better.

FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Carolina co-led the Alumni Initiative during both her years in the fellowship, participating in planning of the 50th Anniversary’s virtual celebration, as well as alumni outreach. Her goals are to continue with alumni engagement and build relationships among current Fellows and alumni.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT
Carolina serves as one of the student speakers and panelists for GW’s 2020 Graduation Ceremony. Within the Anthropology department, she serves as a graduate representative for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force, where she works closely to provide accessibility for GRE waivers and advocate for inclusive admissions processes.

PLACEMENT: THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF POLITICAL MANAGEMENT (GSPM)
Title: Presidential Analyst
Job Description: Carolina is a primary point of contact for GSPM Social Media Ambassadors. She helps update the Customtmysitebook, an online platform that can be accessed by prospective students to learn more about GSPM’s programs and resources. Further, she has served as a research assistant to Dr. Cornfield’s Public Echoes Of Rhetoric in America (PEORIA) project. In this role, Carolina coordinated the weekly analysis for The Public Echoes Of Rhetoric in America (PEORIA) Project for the 2020 Weekly Tweetboard leading up to the 2020 elections. She collected data from Twitter about presidential candidates using Crimson Hexagon, an online platform that tracks trending topics on social media. These data were used to evaluate how the electorate was engaging with information about their candidates. Currently, she translates tweets from Spanish into English to better understand and apply data on the traction of social media. Additionally, she supports and assists the Recruitment, Marketing, and Selection Team with data analytics, research, and events.

Placement Spotlight
During her initiative to support inclusivity at GSPM, Carolina centered her efforts on connecting the Latinx Heritage Celebration and GSPM's Master Class with Ivan Zapien, a lawyer, and leader within international and domestic governmental affairs. She coordinated with the Multicultural Student Services Center to bring forth this informative event.

Preceptor: Marie Rudolph
Title: Senior Marketing Strategist

Carolina served as a valued member of our Marketing, Communications, and Reporting team. Two of the research projects she’s undertaken this semester include researching (GSPM’s) competitor schools and programs and compiling GSPM student information to inform ongoing marketing efforts. Carolina continues to directly support Dr. Michael Cornwall’s The Public Echoes Of Rhetoric In America (PEORIA) Project. “We will miss Carolina and her contributions to our school.”

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Halea Kerr-Layton

Master's Degree: Global Communication
Elliott School of International Affairs & School of Media and Public Affairs

**FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Halea served as the chair of the Communications Initiative where she coordinated community engagement efforts, social media, and designed the Fellowship Annual Report. She led the Fellowship’s visual branding and plans to highlight Fellows’ accomplishments. Halea also was a final round interviewer for the Class of 2023 cohort.

**SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT**

During the summer of 2020, Halea was fortunate to have received the Walter Roberts Endowment Grant to serve as the first intern for the Training & Community Development Team at Global Ties U.S. at Global Ties U.S. Halea worked to implement and organize virtual events for members, administered training for virtual meeting sessions and events, and synthesized engagement analytics and key takeaways. Her work deepened her interest in diplomacy and intercultural collaboration and affirmed her desire to pursue a career in public diplomacy and global communication. Halea says it widened her understanding of what a career promoting global cohesion, understanding, friendship, and allyship can look like.

**PLACEMENT: SUSTAINABLE GW**

**Title:** Strategic Outreach & Engagement Coordinator

**Job Description:** Halea liaises with Sustainable GW’s research, academic, and operations offices to organize cohesive events and unified messaging. She leads the execution of communications plans and outreach strategies for all Sustainable GW events to elevate the visibility of sustainability programs at the university. She works to build a campus culture of sustainability by socializing and promoting projects including waste diversion, renewable energy, equity, and community service. Additionally, Halea represents student voices to university administrators to advocate for sustainability leading to the integration of sustainability into the university’s orientation and student engagement programs.

**Placement Spotlight**

Halea worked to put on the Sustainability Summit on February 11, 2021 which virtually brought together GW students, faculty, and staff to socialize and promote projects and initiatives with community leaders, policy experts, change-makers, thought leaders, and advocates. The Summit celebrated the role of the university in addressing sustainability in our nation’s capital and beyond and explored innovative solutions to motivate and inspire participants to take action. The event featured speakers such as Chef Jose Andres, environmental activist Temara O’Laughlin, and U.S. Representative Apex Caesar.

**ABOUT RENEA**

**Undergraduate Degree:** Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs

**Hometown:** Queens, New York City, New York

**Fun Facts:** Renea is a dedicated catmom to her two rescue Siamese-mix kittens, who are often found sitting in her meetings and classes. Renea is an avid gamer, from PC to Xbox to Nintendos and more!

**Placement Spotlight**

Renea co-directed a proposal for an Asian American Studies Minor (AASM) at GW and started a petition to name students as our own. Building off of advocacy as an undergrad, Renea’s placement allowed her to bridge the gap between students, faculty, and staff to progress the cause. Creating an AASM curriculum was challenging and required multiple rounds of feedback as we worked with faculty to rebrand and name the minor. Renea’s placement was an immediate bonus. While adjusting to telework and moving from an on-campus role, Renea’s placement allowed her to bridge the gap between students, faculty, and staff to progress the cause.

**Looking back throughout my years at GW, I am thankful for the Fellowship and the space it fosters for growth, reflection, and support. The Fellowship’s uplifting philosophies have allowed for personal and professional development I never thought possible, and helped shape me into the person I am today.”**

Preceptor: Meghan Chapelle

**Title:** Director of the Office of Sustainability

**Senior Advisor on University Sustainability Initiatives**

"In a year of significant disruption from the pandemic, and calls to address racial justice and climate change, Halea has contributed key insight and unsurpassable support to Sustainable GW’s programs. She helped us successfully pivot our events online, which was crucial to engage the GW community on and off campus. She was central to the successful virtual GW Climate and Sustainability Summit this spring. Through these events, Halea increased awareness of sustainability, including the university’s commitment to climate neutrality and zero waste goals. Additionally, Halea managed our cross-functional team in our efforts to develop a plan to better integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion into sustainable GW’s training and student programs.”

Preceptor: Michael Tapscott

**Title:** Director of the Multicultural Student Services Center

“Renea’s experience from her undergraduate years at GW as a performer, student organization leader, social media generator, and graphics designer was an immediate bonus. While adjusting to telework and moving from constant student interactions programming to virtual programming, Renea’s high-achievement quotient, technical skill, writing, creativity, and cultural programming experience made the transition effortless. It was especially evident in our office’s continued support of and Renea’s leadership in the South Asian and Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Celebrations. Renea is an ideal go-to, the staff person you never have to worry about from a manager’s perspective. One of our office’s strengths is the operating ideology and focus on values associated with ‘our shared humanity.’ We strive to be one of if not the most relationship, welcoming, and affirming office on campus. The carryover from each year re-affirms Renea’s interpersonal skills, producing high-level capacity for warmth, friendliness, and care for others while delivering excellent results.”
King of Nana’s great-great-grandfather was the 13th
of Ghana).

ABOUT NANA
Undergraduate Degree:
Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs
Hometown:
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Fun Facts:
Nana is a pant-by-numbers fanatic and
completed at least 9 paintings throughout
the quarantine.

Nana’s great-great-grandfather was the 13th
King of the Ashanti Kingdom (in present-day Ghana).

FELLOWSHIP ROLES &
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Nana really enjoyed getting to know
her cohort and the second-year cohort
during the virtual fall training. She says it
was a great opportunity to bond with the Fellow and Advising Team in preparation
for a virtual semester. This year Nana
served on the recruitment and selection
committee where she collaborated with fellows and advisors to plan the
new virtual recruitment format, field
questions from potential applicants, and
spread the word about the fellowship.

PLACEMENT: OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Title: Presidential Student Liaison
Job Description: Nana works as a student liaison for the Office of the President to
help with students’ concerns and identify opportunities for President and the Office to
meet with students. Additionally, she organizes and participates in monthly meetings with the Student Association and the President to stay informed about students’ concerns, initiatives, and engagement strategies, and to strengthen the relationship between the Office of the President and GW students.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT
This semester, Nana has been able to
participate in engaging discussions with peers as a part of the Black Public Health Student Network. Through this organization, Nana was able to speak with mentors, professionals, and peers about topics such as intersectionality in public health, health equity, social justice, and innovation. In her free time, Nana enjoys the opportunity to stretch her skills by contributing to the website development of the nonprofit organization, Global Public Health Linkages.

ABOUT ADEL
Undergraduate Degree:
Bachelor’s in Business Administration
Hometown:
Washington, DC
Fun Facts:
Adel has not one, but two cats.
Despite living in DC all his life, Adel is a big
fan of the New York Giants.

Job Description:
Nana works as a student liaison for the Office of the President to
help with students’ concerns and identify opportunities for President and the Office to
meet with students. Additionally, she organizes and participates in monthly meetings with the Student Association and the President to stay informed about students’ concerns, initiatives, and engagement strategies, and to strengthen the relationship between the Office of the President and GW students.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT
Adel has taken the lead in the fan cutouts campaign after the pandemic prevented GW
Athletics from allowing fans into sporting events this season. Adel worked closely with vendors to create cutouts and this project has also allowed him to learn new skills in Adobe Illustrator, which he uses to design and edit pictures for cutouts. He continues to work to fill Smith Center with fans!

“...Adel has been an outstanding addition to the GW Athletics
Marketing and Sales Assistant
Title: Marketing and Sales Assistant
Job Description: Adel splits his time at GW Athletics between the Ticket Sales & Operations office and the Sports Marketing office. He assists with the creation and implementation of promotional content designed to increase fan engagement, ticket sales, and sponsorship activation. Adel helped create the Men’s Basketball social media calendar, and compiles pictures for social media and recruiting purposes. Adel also had the opportunity to assist with NCAA Audits by generating a game-by-game breakdown of

Placement Spotlight
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fan of the New York Giants.
Rachel Yakobashvili
Master's Degree: Public Administration
Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration

FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Rachel facilitated a workshop on how to streamline Fellowship communications and, as part of the Academic Initiative, co-led the effort to ensure that Fellows had ample opportunity and support for academic success throughout the virtual learning period. Rachel also enjoyed contributing to discussions with University leadership about GW’s COVID-19 response and strategic planning initiatives.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT
Transitioning out of her role as Curator of TEDxFoggyBottom and into her role as a founding Director of the new DC Student Consortium on Women, Peace, and Security in October, Rachel used her placement experience to coordinate the research, advocacy, and event planning components of the Consortium. Also, due to the increased incidence of domestic and intimate partner violence during the pandemic, Rachel became an integral part of the communications and fundraising efforts of Dinah, a comprehensive nonprofit organization serving survivors in the Philadelphia area. She hopes that violence against women will continue to come out of the shadows after 2020.

PLACEMENT: OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH
Title: Student Research Analyst & Outreach Coordinator
Job Description: Rachel was primarily responsible for leading the planning committee for GW’s annual Research Showcase, previously called Research Days, which comprises many stakeholders across the University. This year, in particular, she was met with the added challenge of transforming a 500+ in-person event into a robust virtual experience. Additionally, Rachel was tasked with addressing areas of potential improvement and innovation in the GW student research experience.

Placement Spotlight
Rachel was able to assist the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship with a large grant project aimed at increasing funding and resources to entrepreneurs of color in the DC area. Specifically, she provided key stakeholder information and data management, which streamlined outreach efforts to entrepreneurs.

ABOUT RACHEL
Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs
Hometown: Philadelphia, PA
Fun Facts:
Rachel used to play chess competitively.
Rachel is a first-generation American from the Republic of Georgia and Moldova.

“I Although I did not expect to become a Fellow during a pandemic. I am incredibly grateful for the guidance and support of the advisors and Fellows who helped me lean into resiliency, innovation, and flexibility. I look forward to continued collaboration to accomplish unprecedented academic and professional heights!”

Preceptor: Megan Dieleman
Title: Director of Operations and Projects
On the Student Research Analyst & Outreach Coordinator, Rachel is thinking creatively about how to help students engage in research at GWâs annual Research Showcase, previously called Research Days, which comprises many stakeholders across the University. This year, in particular, she was met with the added challenge of transforming a 500+ in-person event into a robust virtual experience. Additionally, Rachel was tasked with addressing areas of potential improvement and innovation in the GW student research experience.

Placement Spotlight
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With much gratitude to current Fellows, alumni Fellows, faculty, and staff who spent innumerable hours during the 2020-2021 recruitment and selection process, the Presidential Fellowship welcomes the Class of 2023 cohort.

Skye Blanks
Master of Business Administration Candidate
Hometown: Keyport, NJ
Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs

Vivika Fernes
Master of Public Health in Global Health Program Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation Candidate
Hometown: Fremont, CA
Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Emily Akari-tun Lou
Master of Public Health in Health Promotion Candidate
Hometown: East Brunswick, NJ
Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Communications
Alumni Highlights

Because of PAF

Paul Mamalian
Degree: GWLS JD
ESA BA ’91
Current Position: EVP & General Counsel, HMS Host
In the early ’90s, GW’s basketball program began to gain notoriety and fans started looking for GW gear. My first PAF year, I was working in the Business Affairs office and was tasked with securing trademarks for all the GW marks and starting a licensing program (believe it or not, our marks and logos hadn’t been registered prior to that time!). So, over the last 30 years, each time I see a GW sweatshirt, hat or other licensed item, I know that I had a hand in making that happen, #BecauseofPAF!

Alec Nadeau
Degree: TSPPPA MPA
CCAS BA ’15
Current Position: Manager, Executive Initiatives & Policy, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Because of the PAF program’s focus on a competency-based professional development program, I was able to ace every interview I had coming out of graduate school.

Carrie Warick-Smith
Degree: TSPPPA MPP
ESA BA ’16
Current Position: Director of Policy and Advocacy, National College Attainment Network
Because of PAF, I was able to learn about the inner workings of a major university early in my career, which has been incredibly useful as a higher education policy professional. As an advocate for students, it’s helpful to see multiple perspectives.

Kalpana Vissa
Degree: MSPH MPH Community Oriented Primary Care
MSPH BS ’18
Current Position: Presidential Management Fellow, HHS Office of Inspector General
#BecauseofPAF I was prepared both personally and professionally to enter the workforce as a leader, even as one of the most junior members on my team.

Eric Thibault
Degree: TSPPPA MPA
CCAS BA ’07 Political Communication
Current Position: Head of Talent Planning & Assessment, Tesla
PAF was a really great training ground. It really helped me gain, and practice, the skills I needed to be successful early on in my career. As an alum, I’ve enjoyed working with this year’s PAFs on their own professional development!

Darrin Kayser
Degree: GSPM MA in Political Management
CCAS BA ’98 Political Communication
Current Position: Senior Vice President, DC Energy, Energy Right after graduation in 2000, I worked on political campaigns and had a knack for picking unsuccessful candidates. Thankfully, the network I developed through PAF and my placement at the Graduate School of Political Management helped ensure I was always able to quickly find the next opportunity (4 times).

Staying Connected With the PAFamily

Alumni Facts:

158 Alumni
105 Alumni have given multiple times to the university
89% Lifetime Giving Rate

What Graduate Schools Have Been Represented?

- Columbian College of Arts & Sciences - 44%
- Elliott School of International Affairs - 15.8%
- College of Professional Studies - 7%
- Milken Institute School of Public Health - 9.7%
- School of Engineering & Applied Science - 3.4%
- GW School of Business - 9.7%
- Graduate School of Education & Human Development - 10%
- Other* - 4%

* Other: GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences & GW Law
TO STAY CONNECTED
WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM,
VISIT:

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