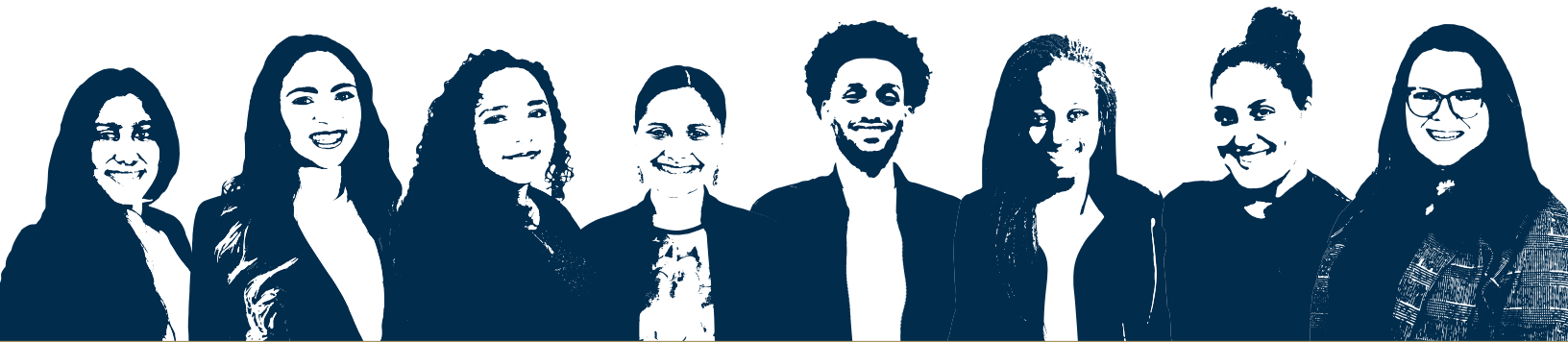




# ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

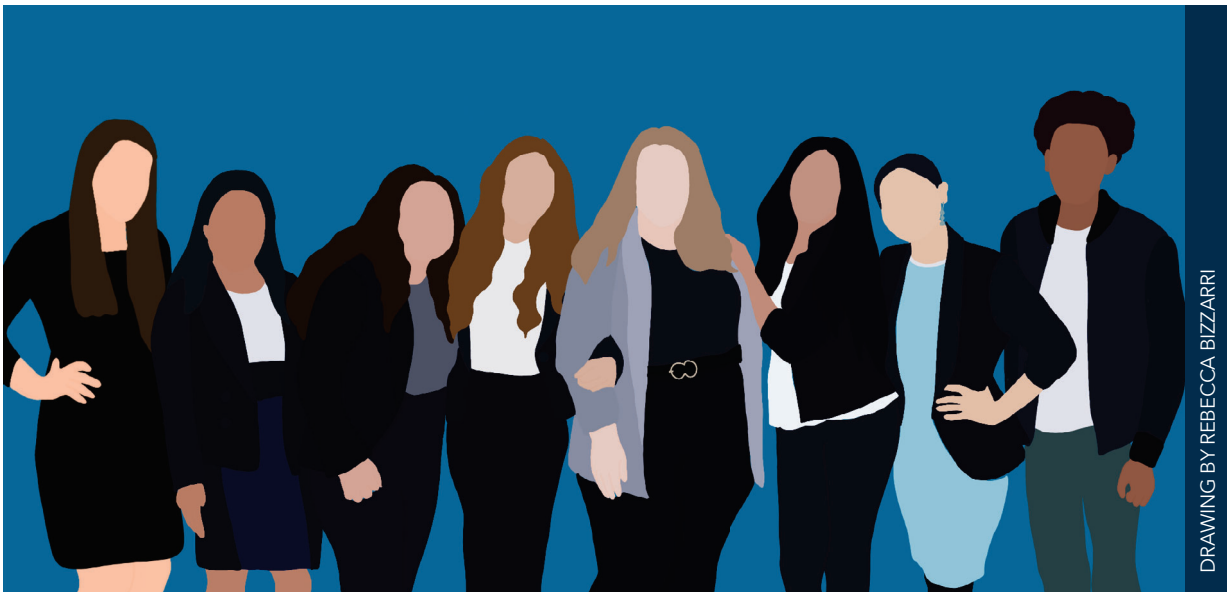


Presidential  
Fellowship

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# 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*  
Thomas J. LeBlanc



# Executive SUMMARY

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:

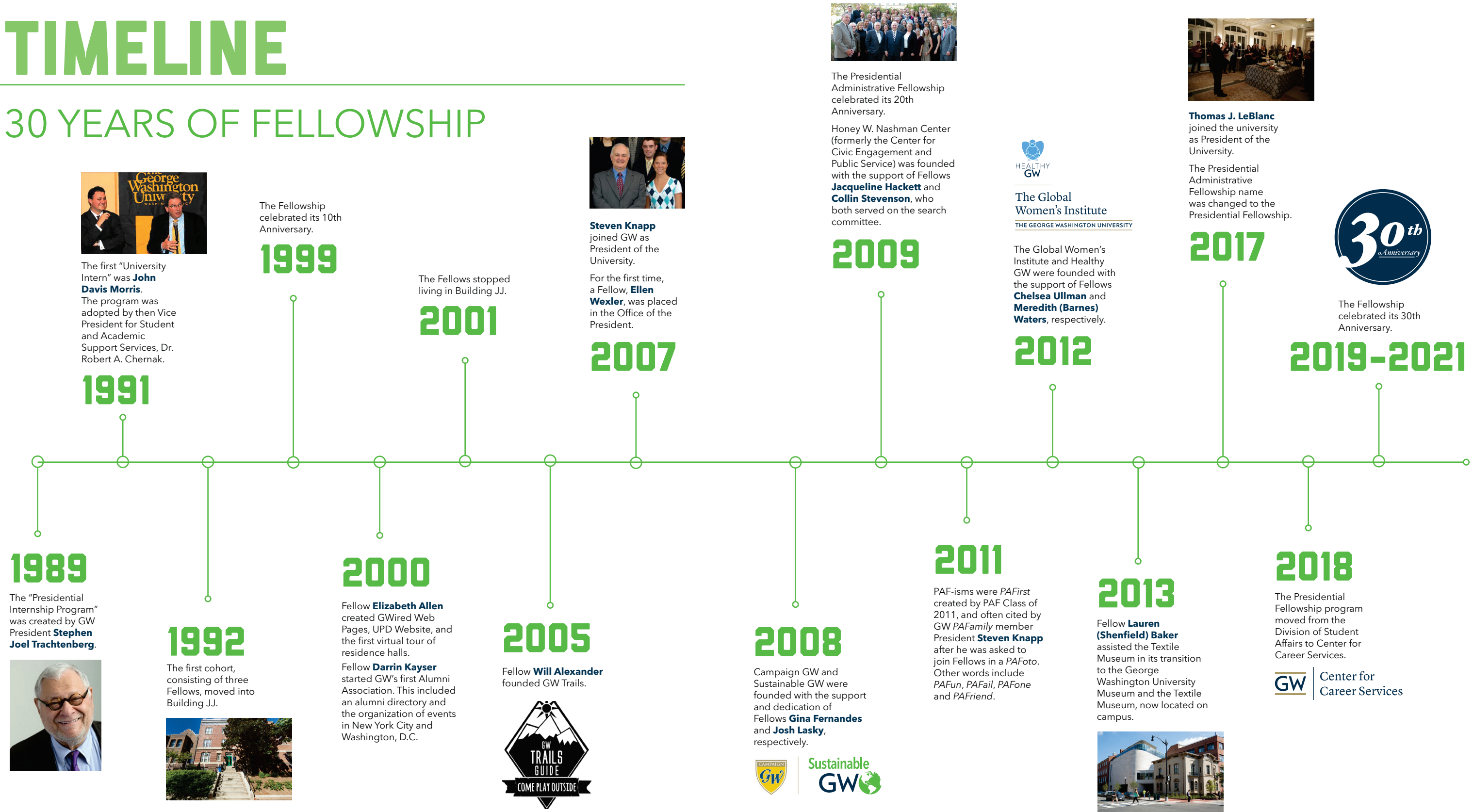
- Milken Institute School of Public Health - 2
- Elliott School of International Affairs - 2
- Columbian College of Arts & Sciences - 3
- GW School of Business - 1

**3.90 AVERAGE GPA**  
of current Fellows



# TIMELINE

## 30 YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP



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, Marva 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 Sonn, 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

## FIRST-YEAR FELLOWS



## 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



Kelsey Johnston



Khadija Lalani



Ashlynn Profit

## 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

## ADVISING TEAM



Toby

Marva

Kathryn

### 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 Fellows' 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."

### Marva Gumbs Jennings

Program Director, GW  
Presidential Fellowship  
Specialist, Interdisciplinary  
Career Services Initiatives

"Despite the upheaval of this very unusual year to include a shelter in place mandate, an entire virtual learning and meeting environment, the overall stress related to critical national issues, and video fatigue, I am so very proud of the Fellows for bringing their best. In addition to maintaining a good academic standing, I appreciate their onboarding of new University leaders, their invaluable placement site contributions, and their care and support of each other."

### Kathryn Newcomer, Ph.D.

Faculty Advisor, GW  
Presidential Fellowship  
Professor, The Trachtenberg  
School of Public Policy and  
Public Administration

"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 adviser 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!"



### 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.

*"I am 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."*



## 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 transition 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 now 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.

**Preceptor:** Dr. Jordan West  
**Title:** Director for Diversity and Inclusion Education

*"They tried to bury us...they didn't know we were seeds."  
Mexican Proverb*

*I tell Jacky on a regular basis that she is part of my dream team, and I mean it with all of my heart. Jacky is someone who gives more than I could ask for and is willing to be challenged in order to become the best person for herself and others. Jacky believes her work is in service to others and because she is so humble, I have to remind her at times: YOU DID THEAT! For each obstacle thrown Jacky's way or towards ODECE, Jacky remained ready to work towards a solution, support a student in need, or push us to do something we never thought about before. Jacky made ODECE a better place during her two-years. Jacky will blossom wherever she is planted to make positive change in this world."*







ABOUT REBECCA

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

**Hometown:**  
Salisbury, Maryland

**Fun Facts:**  
Rebecca's favorite part about GW is the Mount Vernon Campus - she's a true Vernie at heart.

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 Baños, 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 resurgence 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 two summers working full-time for her placement. One of her proudest accomplishments was helping to facilitate training on “Healthy Relationships: Building a Community of Care” for new student orientation in August 2020. Over the course of a week, Rebecca helped facilitate training sessions for nearly 2,000 incoming students, discussing topics such as healthy relationships, identity, sexual violence and prevention, and support resources for survivors.

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

“Rebecca approaches every meeting, project, and task with a community-centered and harm reduction approach. We have seen Rebecca continue to grow professionally and know that she will bring change and joy to any space/place her journey takes her next. We thank her for her contributions such as serving as a member of the mighty team of three within OAS, serving as a secretary for the University Committee for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, helping draft the campus COVID plan for the fall, incorporating thousands of comments from our community members, and most importantly for teaching us to remember the humanity of all those we serve and strive to do what Maya Angelou highlights so well: “Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.”



ABOUT CAROLINA

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

**Hometown:**  
Long Island, New York

**Fun Facts:**  
Carolina was born in El Salvador.

Carolina loves listening to new music, if you have a new song- send it over!

“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!”

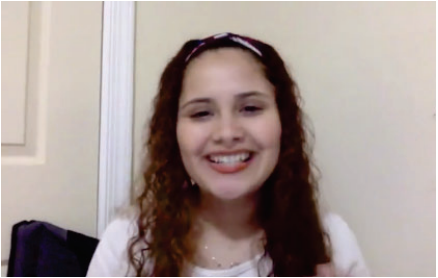


CAROLINA FUENTES

**Master’s Degree:** Anthropology  
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences



**FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**  
Carolina co-led the Alumni Initiative during both her years in the fellowship, partaking in the planning of the 30th 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 served as one of the student speakers and panelists for GW’s 2020 Graduate Welcome 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 fee 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 CustomViewbook, 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 Tweeterboard 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 serves as a valued member of our Marketing, Communications, and Recruiting 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 Cornfield on The Public Echoes Of Rhetoric In America (PEORIA) Project. We will miss Carolina and her contributions to our school.”





ABOUT HALEA

**Undergraduate Degree:**  
Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs;  
Spanish and Latin American Languages,  
Literatures, and Cultures

**Hometown:**  
Boulder, Colorado

**Fun Facts:**  
In undergrad, Halea studied abroad at the University of St Andrews in Scotland and at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid through GW Madrid.

Halea loves swing dance and big band swing music.

“This year has demonstrated how integral and valuable a sense of community is to a positive experience in graduate school. Through the Fellowship, I have felt that community with both current and past cohorts. I am fortunate that the Presidential Fellowship encourages collaboration, teamwork, and a strong sense of belonging.”



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 lead the Fellowship's visual branding and plans to highlight Fellow 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 networking 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, alumni, and staff 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 José Andres, environmental activist Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, and U.S. Representative Sean Casten.

**Preceptor:** Meghan Chapple  
**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 keen insight and unwavering 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 DC Climathon and Sustainability Summit. Through these events, GW increased awareness of sustainability, including the university's commitment to eliminate single-use plastics. Halea also 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.”



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 on her meetings and classes.

Renea is an avid gamer, from PC to Xbox to Nintendo and more!

“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.”



RENEA WILLIAMS

**Master’s Degree:** International Development Studies  
Elliott School of International Affairs



FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As part of the Fellowship's Academic Initiative, Renea oversaw the culmination of first- and second-year presentations on topics ranging from personal passions to academic capstone projects. She served as an additional resource to answer questions and provide insight into various presentation styles based on her own experiences and expertise in communicating ideas in academic and professional settings.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT

Through her placement, Renea collaborated with several university departments, including the Office of Sustainability and fellow PAF, Halea Kerr-Layton, to host a virtual film screening of the 2020 documentary, Gather: The Fight to Revitalize Our Native Foodways, in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day. Renea was able to combine her passion for sustainability, expertise in event coordination, and enthusiasm working with a fellow PAF to introduce new programming that was positively received by the GW and indigenous communities.

**PLACEMENT: MULTICULTURAL STUDENT SERVICES CENTER (MSSC)**  
Title: Graduate Fellow Program Coordinator for the Pan-Asian Community

**Job Description:** Renea directly supports 30 student organizations by providing identity-centered communication, leadership, programming guidance, scheduling coordination, and digital marketing support services to the MSSC and the greater student community. In addition to designing and managing two heritage months (SAHC and APIHC), Renea implemented new signature programming. She also supported an MSSC rebranding campaign, and remained connected with other GW departments and students as virtual platforms become more prominent to promote inclusion and diversity.

Placement Spotlight

Renea co-drafted a proposal for an Asian American Studies Minor (AASM) at GW and started a petition to amass student support. 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 committee allowed for a concerted effort to outline the program and illuminate its academic, social and cultural value to the university that has been recognized by many in the GW community.

**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 developer was an immediate bonus. While adjusting to telework and moving from constant student interactive programming to virtual programming, Renea's high achievement quotient, technical skill, writing, creativity, and cultural programming experience made the transition effortless. This 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 co-worker, 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 relational, welcoming, and affirming office on campus. The carryover from each year re-affirms Renea's interpersonal skills, producing high-level capacity for warmth, humor, and care for others while delivering excellent results.”







### ABOUT NANA

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

**Hometown:**  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

**Fun Facts:**  
Nana is a paint-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).

*“The Presidential Fellowship is exceeding my expectations in unexpected ways. I never imagined that during a virtual semester, I would be sitting in these rooms and at these tables. I am already so inspired by my preceptor, colleagues, cohort, and advisors, I can’t wait to see what is next.”*



# NANA ADDO

**Master’s Degree:** Public Health in Global Health Program  
Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation  
Milken Institute School of Public Health



### 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.



### SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT

This semester, Nana was 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 enjoyed the opportunity to stretch her skills by contributing to the website development of the nonprofit organization, Global Public Health Linkages.

### PLACEMENT: OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Title: Presidential Student Liason

**Job Description:** Nana works as a student liaison for the Office of the President to help with students’ concerns and identify opportunities for President LeBlanc 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.

### Placement Spotlight

The highlight of Nana’s time at the Office of the President so far has been the unique opportunities to engage with so many students and administrators at GW on a personal level during the time of COVID-19. She has had unique opportunities to be involved in meetings for special university projects that have taught her invaluable lessons about leadership, teamwork, project management, and public relations.

**Preceptor:** Aristide Collins  
Title: Vice President, Chief of Staff, and Secretary of GW

*“Nana serves as the Student Liaison in the Office of the President. While remote, she has worked hard to foster community between students and President LeBlanc. Nana is very smart, dedicated, and is empathetic to our students. She has excelled in balancing her classwork and her work in our office, and is organized and focused on any task at hand. Nana has addressed the complex uncertainty brought on by this remote period with clear vision and tact. She has been a great asset as we moved to virtual student office hours and roundtables. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know her this year, and we are very fortunate to have her as our Preceptor.”*



### 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.

*“I want to express my gratitude to the Presidential Fellowship family for all that they have done for me in the short time I have been a Fellow. The support and camaraderie I have received have come at a crucial time, and I hope to pay it forward soon.”*



# ADEL HASSEN

**Master’s Degree:** Business Analytics  
GW School of Business



### FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This year, Adel is part of the Communications Initiative where he supports the Fellowship’s social media activity as well as working on the Annual Report. Outside of this role, Adel is grateful to have created strong ties with the other Fellows and the Advising Team during his first-year.

### SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT

Adel was featured in one of the videos shown in GW’s Fall New Student Orientation. He touched on different aspects of life at GW including his time abroad. He worked with the Office of Study Abroad to share his experiences abroad, highlighting the impact of that experience in Paris on his growth as an individual, and also discussing how to weigh the benefits and challenges of study abroad. He also provided advice to the incoming class of First-Years who were faced with beginning their time at GW during a pandemic.



### PLACEMENT: GW ATHLETICS

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 ticket information.

### Placement Spotlight

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 works 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! Be sure to check them out at GW’s next home game!

**Preceptor:** Kate Southall  
Title: Director of Marketing, Strategy, and Fan Engagement

*“Adel has been an outstanding addition to the GW Athletics Marketing and Engagement team. Over the course of the past semester, Adel has assisted with GW Athletics’ efforts to engage with fans in a virtual environment. He oversaw the launch of our first-ever fan cutout program, and communicates daily with GW season ticket holders, alumni, parents, and students to ensure that their orders are fulfilled. Adel’s background in data and analytics has allowed us to take a closer look at key marketing and communications initiatives, leading us toward more efficient and direct practices. This has been a particularly challenging year for our office, and Adel’s flexibility and attitude have helped us keep up team morale and push forward to a brighter future!”*







#### 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.

“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!”



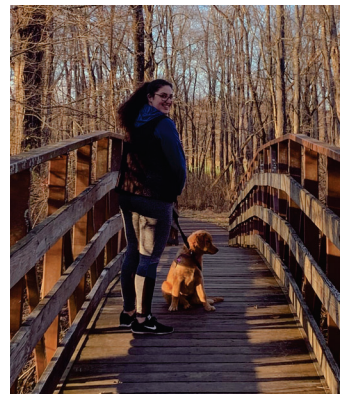
## RACHEL YAKOBASHVILI

**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.

**Preceptor:** Megan Dieleman  
**Title:** Director of Operations and Projects

*As the Student Research Analyst and Outreach Coordinator, Rachel is thinking creatively about how to help students engage in research at GW, leading planning efforts for our 2021 virtual Research Showcase, and providing valuable input from a student perspective. With all of the challenges, 2020 brought, Rachel has stood out as extraordinary due to her ability to adapt, to lead faculty and staff through significant change, to be innovative, flexible, organized, and thoughtful, and to keep it real as we engage in really tough conversations.”*



# Introducing the NEW COHORT

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



# LEGACY

## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS BECAUSE OF PAF



### Paul Mamalian

**Degree:** GWLS JD  
ESIA 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  
ESIA BA '06

**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:** MISPH MPH Community Oriented Primary Care  
MISPH 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, Twilio  
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).

# LEGACY

## STAYING CONNECTED WITH THE PAFAMILY



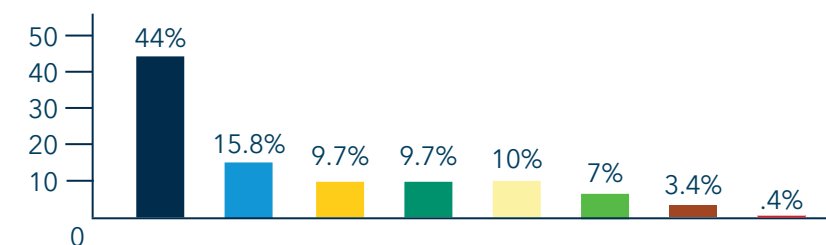
ALUMNI  
FACTS:

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%
- Milken Institute School of Public Health - 9.7%
- GW School of Business - 9.7%
- Graduate School of Education & Human Development - 10%
- College of Professional Studies - 7%
- School of Engineering & Applied Science - 3.4%
- Other\* - 0.4%

\* Other: GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences & GW Law

**TO STAY CONNECTED**  
WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL  
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM,  
**VISIT:**

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 | [Inkd.in/dkRErTY](https://www.linkedin.com/company/GWPAF)

 | [paf@gwu.edu](mailto:paf@gwu.edu)

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WASHINGTON, DC