Dear Presidential Fellowship Alumni, Fellows, and Friends:

Congratulations on achieving 30 years of service to GW! Given three decades of change within the university administration and evolving strategic plans, this is indeed a tremendous accomplishment. It is a true testament to the value and legacy of the Presidential Fellowship.

As a part of my third-year tenure at GW, I have had the pleasure of hosting a Presidential Fellow, Camila Tapas, in my office these past two years. She has been a role model for the Presidential Fellowship program as she maintained a high GPA, been a caring liaison to GW students, contributed to formats, which helped me hear directly from students, and has gained a great amount of professional development experience. All Fellows have provided the same type of service in their respective placement offices.

Through ongoing communication with all 10 Fellows throughout the academic year, I have appreciated their passionate efforts to better GW through their ideas and contributions.

The Fellows have actively participated in a number of events this year with the Board of Trustees and other university leaders. An example of note included their participation in my annual Lemonade Stand for incoming first-year students and their families, held at both the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses during first-year orientation; their onboarding meeting and discussion with our new Provost, Brian Blake, during the first few months in the office; participation in the Leaders to Leaders dinners with faculty, staff, and Trustees; and the Presidential Distinguished Event Series, which included Hillary and Chelsea Clinton and Nikki Haley.

Finally, I want to express gratitude to the Fellows during the COVID-19 pandemic. Several have been on the front lines in supporting the student experience, safety, and research efforts during this unprecedented time. All have been helpful in providing tips on adapting to a virtual environment to the GW community through their social media efforts.

Congratulations to the graduating cohort, who will join their PAF alumni peers in May, and I look forward to meeting the 2020–2022 cohort when we return to campus.

Thomas J. LeBlanc

Thomas J. LeBlanc
Executive SUMMARY

With its 30-year history, Fellowship priorities this year included a refinement of our mission and operating pillars (academic, professional, and ambassadorial excellence); the institution of five initiatives focused on key operational tasks; and the development of eight competencies designed around career readiness. Fellows continued their service on a number of strategic committees/task forces and met with university leadership to provide ideas and reflections as the university moves to adopt a new strategic plan. While the COVID-19 pandemic postponed our 30th anniversary weekend celebration, the following highlights the core strengths of the program:

Requirements to become a Fellow:

- **Undergraduate GW Senior**
  - In good academic and disciplinary standing with the university
  - Admitted into a GW Master's degree program by spring of senior year
  - Completed at least 55 credits in residence at GW
  - A minimum cumulative GW GPA of 3.25

- **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 committees, initiatives, ambassadorship, and service

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEES:

**Communications Committee**
- Engage alumni, stakeholder, and GW community through outreach:
  - Manage and brand social media content
  - Implement external communications strategies
  - Design and create an annual report

**Recruitment and Selection**
- Plan and implement a recruitment and selection process for the new Fellowship cohort:
  - Facilitate and prepare interviews and criteria for selection process
  - Evaluate and monitor application and interview process
  - Develop recruitment strategies to promote the Fellowship and engage with students

Five Initiatives:
- Academic | Service | Personal Development | Alumni/30th Anniversary Commemoration | Spring Training

CURRENT FELLOWS:
- **Schools Represented:**
  - Milken Institute School of Public Health - 2
  - Elliott School of International Affairs - 2
  - Columbian College of Arts & Sciences - 5
  - GW School of Business - 1

- **Average GPA** of current Fellows: 3.88
- **Hours of Service** to the GW community: 500
- **Hours of Service** to the wider community: 403
FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

The Fellows participated in various activities throughout the year, such as serving on the Student Experience Task Force, attending the “Leaders-to-Leaders” Dinner, and meeting with the Provost. These are some of the highlights:

SERVICE AT THE GROW GARDEN DURING SUMMER TRAINING

During Summer Training, Fellows and the Advising Team volunteered at the GroW Garden and worked to re-envision the Fellowship’s service efforts, specifically as they relate to university initiatives and improving the GW student experience. Further, the current Fellows were able to gain a deeper understanding of the Presidential Fellowship’s lasting impact on campus, as a Presidential Fellow along with a team of students conceptualized the GroW Garden.

PRESIDENT’S LEMONADE STAND

The President’s Lemonade Stand is an annual event at which the Fellows welcome the incoming undergraduate first-year class with treats. This year, our Fellows interacted with families and students both on the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses.

LINDSEY FERRIS INVITATIONAL

The annual Lindsey Ferris Gymnastics Invitational, held in memory of former PAF alumna and GW gymnast, took place Sunday, January 19th, 2020. Lindsey graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication in 2001 and earned a Master of Forensic Sciences degree in 2003. She fulfilled her dream of becoming a Special Agent for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and served as a Chief of the Detachment Threat Information Cell in Germany. This year, our Fellows attended the meet, helped with registration and witnessed the impact of The Lindsey Ferris Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund is awarded to an undergraduate student who shares many of Lindsey’s values, including high academic achievement, gymnastics, and a passion for GW.

GW BOARD OF TRUSTEES DINNER

The Fellows were invited to attend the GW Board of Trustees Dinner and were able to discuss undergraduate and graduate experiences while also providing recommendations to the Trustees. Two of our Fellows were recognized for their current involvement in serving on task forces: Camila, member of the Task Force on Naming and Haley, member of the Task Force on Strategic Planning.
**Toby Davidow, Ed.D.**
Program Manager, GW Presidential Fellowship
Program Associate, Strategic and Interdisciplinary Initiatives, Center for Career Services

"I loved being able to collaborate in the program’s milestone anniversaries (the 30th!) - I also guided Fellows’ self-directed learning of the 8 professional development competencies throughout the year."

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**Marva Gumbs Jennings, M.A.Ed.**
Program Director, GW Presidential Fellowship
Managing Director, Strategic and Interdisciplinary Initiatives, Center for Career Services

"I am so pleased to have been able to increase the career education and development support of the Fellows through one-on-one meetings, utilization of alumni and preceptors and other activities designed to ensure future job/career success for the Fellowship. In addition, continuing to guide program changes at GW and the program evolves has been invaluable."

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**Kathryn Newcomer, Ph.D.**
PAF Faculty Adviser
Professor, Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration

"I am very proud of the outstanding academic performance of our Fellows. They not only have earned incredibly high grades (3.88 average overall in the fall!), but they are academic leaders in their fields and always eager to expand their knowledge beyond their fields. And two are planning to pursue doctoral degrees. This all makes my role extremely rewarding!"

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About Inigo

Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs
Hometown: Manila, Philippines

Fun Facts:
- Inigo has a pineapple variety named after him.
- Inigo came to the U.S. knowing nothing about baseball and is now the biggest Washington Nationals fan. #2019Champions.

"I am very proud of the amazing academic and professional milestones I want to accomplish when I graduate. This includes writing a great thesis and executing GW’s first Research Showcase! I have also loved getting to know the amazing cohort of First-Year Fellows who will undoubtedly carry the Fellowship’s amazing legacy forward!"

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Special Highlight

Inigo continued to develop his connections with the Smithsonian Institution. He presented a paper entitled, “The Role of Crafts in Economic Growth in Southeast Asia,” at the Asian Cultural History Program’s Symposium on Kazakhstan’s Crafts and Creative Economy in October 2019. The paper will soon be published by Kazakhstan’s Museum of Fine Arts.

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Placement: Office of the Vice President for Research

Title: Graduate Assistant

Job Description: Inigo is responsible for leading the planning committee for GW Research Showcase 2020. He is also in charge of database management for GW Research Commons. He is undertaking a qualitative research project to obtain feedback for the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship training programs.

Placement Spotlight

The Fellowship allowed Inigo to travel to many different places for research, service and conferences. However, the highlight was getting the opportunity to return to the Philippines to do his research about the Del Monte pineapple plantation. It allowed him to dive into a topic he always wanted to learn more about and spend time with his wonderful grandparents.

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Inigo Acosta
Master’s Degree: Anthropology
Columbian College of Arts & Sciences

Fellowship Roles & Accomplishments

Inigo led the planning committee of the first GW Research Showcase to highlight the amazing student research at GW. Inigo also played a part in helping to develop GW’s new student Research Commons. On the academic front, Inigo received the Lewis N. Cotlow grant, which he used to travel to the Philippines last year to conduct ethnographic research for his thesis. He presented his findings in symposiums at GW and the University of Maryland. He was also chosen as a Learning Partner for the GW Alternative Breaks trip to Puerto Rico!

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Haley Gray

Master’s Degree: Accountancy & Certificate in Nonprofit Management
GW School of Business

FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
In addition to creating a set of metrics for the GW Board of Trustees, Haley was asked to be a member of the Strategic Planning Taskforce to represent the graduate and undergraduate perspectives during the process. The Taskforce meets throughout the year to look over the plans created by the four-pillar committees: World-Class Faculty, High-Quality Undergraduate Education, Distinguished and Graduate Executive Education, and High-Impact Research. Haley felt honored to be asked to represent students during this process and make sure their voices were being heard and understood.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT
Every semester, the Accounting Department offers free, open-hour tutoring for its students. This year, Haley served as the tutor for GW’s Accounting Department. She was able to support both undergraduate and graduate students on various accounting topics and coursework. Haley felt it was not only a rewarding experience working with the younger students and sharing her career path, but it also helped strengthen her skills in communicating complex accounting topics.

PLACEMENT: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT & BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES (CIBAS)
Haley worked with a team to assemble the Board of Trustees’ set of metrics and conducted an analysis on an area of improvement within GWU for an internal initiative of CIBAS.

Preceptor: Don Reagan
Title: Director of Continuous Improvement & Business Advisory Services
"Haley’s work in CIBAS promotes the continued organizational and process improvement efforts of the offices of Development, Athletics, Procurement, and the Registrar. She also devoted significant time to improving our office processes and recommending improvements, researching and benchmarking GW to market basket studies on various topics for stakeholders, and gathering data for the Board of Trustees."

Preceptor: Joanne Mahon
Title: Assistant Director of the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service
"Tereese’s engaging personality and work ethic have been a great addition to the Youthman Center this past two years and we are proud to have worked with her."

Tereese Smith

Master’s Degree: Public Policy
Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration

FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Tereese served as the Fall Chair of the Presidential Fellowship Recruitment and Selection Committee and was also on the Service Initiative. During the fall semester, Tereese successfully supported and facilitated meetings, and the committee was able to increase outreach to minorities and under-represented groups across campus. In the Service Initiative, Tereese helped to create and host an event with the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service’s Civic House, a first-year undergraduate living and learning community, which allowed the Fellows to engage with first-years, promote the Presidential Fellowship and determine potential service issue areas on campus.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT
Tereese’s capstone group worked with a nonprofit located in Colombia, Fundación Corona. Through the capstone, Tereese and her group members worked to provide research and promising practices to improve youth economic development globally. Further, these deliverables allowed Fundación Corona to assess their youth development efforts, evaluate and improve program management, and prepare for future program activities. Using the skills gained in the professional development sessions and encouragement from the Fellowship, Tereese challenged herself, while pursuing a new, career-defining experience.

PLACEMENT: HONEY W. NASHMAN CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE
Title: Coordinator, Database Management & Outreach
"Tereese oversees the internal, external, and departmental outreach for the GW/Serves site through Give Pulse. GW/Serves is a site, launched in August 2018 through the Nashman Center, that is aimed at increasing GW’s community engagement and creating mutual partnerships between GW and local community partners. As the Coordinator, Tereese overviews a variety of community partners across various causes since the site’s creation, Tereese has increased the site’s users and groups to over 13,000 unique campus users, 174 subgroups, and 195 local community partners. In her role, she collects and analyzes data about GW students, staff, faculty, and community partners to understand how GW is making an impact in the DC community."

Placement Spotlight
During the Nashman Center’s first annual Changemaker Week, Tereese collaborated with a First-Year Fellow, Jacqueline, to host a seminar entitled, “Changing MAKING it Work,” which allowed current undergraduate and graduate students to discuss ways to collaborate with people who have different perspectives, identities, and experiences while also encouraging students to acknowledge their gaps in knowledge and understanding about certain topics.

ABOUT HALEY
Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Human Service and Social Justice
Hometown: Nashville, Tennessee
Fun Facts: When Haley was a child, she lived in Geneva, Switzerland for four years.
Haley has been enrolled in three different GW colleges and schools: Elliott School of International Affairs, Columbian College of Arts & Sciences, and GW School of Business.

ABOUT TERESE
Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs
Hometown: Lawrenceville, Georgia
Fun Facts: Tereese is a huge fan of the Fast and Furious film series!
Tereese was a GW cheerleader all four years of her undergraduate studies!

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FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Camila really enjoyed the Presidential Fellowship retreat at the beginning of the school year. The retreat was a great opportunity to get to know each other and to set the tone for the year. She really liked cooking and bonding with all the Fellows and the Advising Team. All the conversations and activities were very helpful to learn from each other and to start the year on a high note!

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT
Camila truly enjoyed the GW Diversity Summit, especially the key note speaker, MJ Rodriguez. The theme of the Diversity Summit was “Be Bold. Learning. Unlearning. Relearning.” Camila felt that MJ Rodriguez’s speech was very inspiring and it demonstrated what it really means to be bold. In particular, understanding the challenges that many people face in a society where preconceived notions and stereotypes of what someone is or should be, may affect their ability to be successful and feel valued. This was a memorable experience that encouraged self-reflection and self-confidence.

ABOUT CAMILA
Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Sciences
Hometown: Bogota, Colombia
Fun Facts: Camila loves oil painting on canvas and has created multiple paintings since she was little.
Camila played on the GW Women’s Basketball team for four years and won the Atlantic 10 Conference tournament three out of four years (she has 3 rings!)

Camila Tapias
Master’s Degree: Public Administration
Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration

This year has been a life-affirming experience. It’s been a joy to learn with and from other Presidential Fellows, the Advising Team, and our Preceptors. I am so grateful for all the people who have challenged, inspired, and helped me become a better person and leader.

Placement: Office of the President
Title: Presidential Student Liaison
Job Description: Camila works to connect student organizations and students’ support offices to coordinate meetings, events, special projects, and build campus community. She assists the Office of the President with student inquiries and identifies opportunities for President Leblanc to meet with students. Further, she participates in monthly meetings with the Student Association and the President to stay informed of current events and serve as an ambassador. I am thrilled to finish off my GW career where she started.

Placement Spotlight
Camila organizes the “Leaders-2-Leaders” Dinner at the President’s house, which provides students with the opportunity to learn from and interact with many leaders in the community. The dinner and its discussion provide a unique opportunity to share different perspectives about leadership on GW’s campus and in the world.

FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Kalpana was involved in the 20th Anniversary celebration of the Women’s Leadership Program, in which she was featured as one of 20 graduates in the 20x20 Women’s Leadership Series. Kalpana was thrilled to finish off her GW career where she started. Kalpana was a member of the Science, Health, and Medicine 2014-2015 cohort of WLP during her freshman year and credits the program for giving her the tools to advocate for herself and the confidence to apply and become a Resident Advisor and pursue internships and fellowships.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT
Kalpana co-authored a manuscript, “Sleep problems are associated with academic performance among collegiate athletes,” by performing literature reviews, analyzing secondary datasets (NFL Players Care Foundation Study of Retired Football Players, NCAA), and supporting their personal and professional growth.

Kalpana Vissa
Master’s Degree: Public Health in Community Oriented Primary Care
Milken Institute School of Public Health

The Presidential Fellowship has been the trifecta for me. In no other post-graduate opportunity would I have been able to pursue a master’s degree, gain invaluable work experience, and serve as an ambassador. I am constantly amazed, but never surprised, by the work ethic and creativity of our Fellows and Advising Team.

ABOUT KALPANA
Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Science in Public Health
Hometown: Fort Collins, Colorado
Fun Facts: Kalpana’s name means imagination.
In her time at GW, she has attended speaking engagements for one U.S. President and three Presidential Candidates (President Barack Obama, Secretary Hillary Clinton (2x), Senator Bernie Sanders, and Senator Kamala Harris). She has a selfie with Bernie too!! #OnlyatGW

Placement: Department of Clinical Research and Leadership
Title: Research Assistant
Job Description: Kalpana wears many hats in her role as a research assistant. She oversees human subject research compliance through the GW Institutional Review Board (IRB) and coordinates logistics (i.e., recruitment, informed consent, compensation) for data collection for a National Institute of Health (NIH) Grant ($413K) on brain health and cognitive aging of Black male caregivers of persons with dementia. Kalpana also supervises research assistants by guiding their work navigating research databases and conducting literature reviews, and supporting their personal and professional growth.

Placement Spotlight
Kalpana was a member of the Science, Health, and Medicine 2014-2015 cohort of WLP during her freshman year and credits the program for giving her the tools to advocate for herself and the confidence to apply and become a Resident Advisor and pursue internships and fellowships.

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Kalpana Vissa
Master’s Degree: Public Health in Community Oriented Primary Care
Milken Institute School of Public Health

FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Camila served as the Student Liaison in the Office of the President. In her role, she serves as the primary point of contact for student outreach and communication. Cami is very smart, has high emotional intelligence, and is extremely organized and focused. Cami balances her coursework and her work in our office with great skill and ability. She makes students feel at ease, while she helps them navigate the structures of the university. Cami is a great problem solver and strategic thinker who has done solid work on behalf of our office and GW students. I am honored to know her and am proud of what she has accomplished.

PRECEPTOR: Araceli P. Colins, Jr., Ed.D.
Title: Chief of Staff, Vice President and Secretary of the University

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PRECEPTOR: Robert W. Turner II, Ph.D.
Title: Assistant Professor

“Over the past two years, Kalpana has been an amazing part of my journey here at the George Washington University. From the first day she walked into my office, Kalpana has always been eager to do whatever it takes to ensure we have a successful working relationship. It didn’t take long to see that she was extremely bright and enthusiastic, but what really caught my attention was her desire to make everyone on the research team feel welcome. Whenever Kalpana finishes a task, her next question is always, “what else can I do to help?” It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Kalpana’s mentor for the GW Presidential Fellowship. My only regret is how quickly the time has passed by. I look forward to seeing all that the future has in store for this talented young scholar.”
Jacqueline Baños
Master's Degree: Public Health in Health Policy
Milken Institute School of Public Health

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

Fun Facts: Jacqueline loves dancing, especially salsa and cumbia. Her nickname, Jacky Fuego, is inspired by her time as GW Fuego’s student body president. Jacqueline is inspired by her time as GW Fuego’s student body president. Her nickname, Jacky Fuego, is inspired by her time as GW Fuego’s student body president.

FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Jacqueline facilitated a productive Spring Training with Second-Year Fellow, Camila. Jacqueline’s work at ODECE is best described as working in three offices: the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement; the Office for Outreach and Engagement; and the Office of Student Life. Jacqueline’s work at ODECE is best described as working in three offices: the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement; the Office for Outreach and Engagement; and the Office of Student Life.

PLACEMENT: OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (ODECE)
Title: Presidential Fellow
Job Description: Jacqueline’s work at ODECE is best described as working in three offices: the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement; the Office for Outreach and Engagement; and the Office of Student Life. Jacqueline’s work at ODECE is best described as working in three offices: the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement; the Office for Outreach and Engagement; and the Office of Student Life.

There is no way that at 18 years old—or even half of my senior year—I would have expected to be privileged enough to be a Presidential Fellow. The Fellowship has given me an unexpected group of friends and experiences. I am thankful to go through this program with four other strong women in my cohort and grateful for the guidance of the Second-Year Fellows.

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

“From the beginning, Jacqueline shared her bold ideas about the ways in which she will contribute to making an impact at GW as a Presidential Fellow. Jacqueline imagines the possibilities, and each day I work to support her in making her ideas come to life. Jacqueline is someone who finds the silver lining, leads with a sense of hope and optimism, and understands that our work has the potential to change lives. Through telling the story of her work at ODECE, in creating a brand-new university-wide program, to facilitating educational workshops with audiences of 100+ people, and to constantly being sought out as a resource to students, Jacqueline’s impact is constant and real. Jacqueline embodies the words of Sister Johannel ‘Mercedes’ Douglas: “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Rebecca Bizzarri
Master’s Degree: Public Administration
Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration

ABOUT REBECCA
Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs
Hometown: Salisbury, Maryland

Fun Facts: If Rebecca ever got a tattoo it would say “I can and I will.” Sometimes she doubts herself or feels overwhelmed but she reminds herself of this powerful mantra: “I can and I will.”

Serving on the Recruitment and Selection Committee, Rebecca collaborated with Fellows and alumni to spread the word about PAF. She used relationships and skills developed as an undergraduate to recruit a diverse group of applicants. Additionally, alongside a Second-Year Fellow, Rebecca established a Personal Development Initiative, to incorporate opportunities related to financial literacy and other topics that are essential in post-grad life for all the Fellows. The spring, she served as the Weekly Meeting Facilitator and worked with the Advocacy Team to maximize efficiency and create strategy sessions to brainstorm ways to improve the Fellowship for years to come.

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

“Rebecca has been an outstanding addition to the Safety and Security team. She joined at a particularly dynamic time and has shown more maturity and poise than most people twice her age. She’s been calm, focused, innovative and ideas and the skill to implement them. She has learned from her fellow-Fellows and is an incredible resource to her team. ‘I can’t wait for the next six months. We can’t wait for the next six months.”

FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
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CAROLINA FUENTES

Master’s Degree: Anthropology
Columbia College of Arts & Sciences

FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Carolina is part of the 30th Anniversary Planning Committee, where she helped with logistics, programming, and execution. Last fall, she was part of the Alumni Weekend Planning Committee, which recognized the contributions of past Fellows, celebrated the continuous legacy of the Fellowship and became a place where past Fellows were able to interact with the current ones. This spring, she served as the Communications Committee Chair, and was in charge of planning the weekly agenda and facilitating discussion among the members. Within this committee, Carolina creates prototypes and oversees the engagement for the Facebook PAF Alumni Group.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT
Carolina served as the Service Learning Partner for the Alternative Spring Break to Puerto Rico held by the Organization of Latino American Students. In addition, she continues to engage with the Latino undergraduate community through different forms, including Student Speaker for El Poder de la Mujer Gala. Outside of Foggy Bottom, Carolina volunteers her time with organizations such as Movimiento Cultural Salvadoreño- DMV, Fiesta DC, and Clinica del Pueblo.

PLACEMENT: THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF POLITICAL MANAGEMENT
Title: Presidential Fellow
Job Description: Carolina is the primary point of contact for GSPM Social Media Ambassadors. She helps populate the CustomViewbook, which is an online platform that can be accessed by prospective students to learn more about GSPM’s resources. Further, she is a research assistant to Dr. Cornfield’s Public Echoes Of Rhetoric In America (PERIA) project.

Placement Spotlight
Carolina coordinates the weekly analysis for The Public Echoes Of Rhetoric In America (PERIA) Project for the 2020 Weekly Twitterboard. She collects data from Twitter about different topics and researches on Twitter to find a way to present the data to the Fellows. This exercise helps the student understand the different social media trends and habits of the followers.

ABOUT CAROLINA
Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs
Hometown: Long Island, New York
Fun Facts:
- Carolina studied Italian for five years.
- Carolina’s OnlyAGW moment was meeting Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor at Lisner Auditorium, where she discussed her journey to the nation’s highest court.

“<My first year as a Presidential Fellow has gone by so quickly! I am grateful for my cohort, Second-Year fellows, advisors, and the GSPM team. I am excited to continue to learn and enjoy my time at GW!>

HALEA KERR LAYTON

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

FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Halea served on the Fellowship’s Communications Committee and the Academic Initiatives Committee. She coordinated the Fellowship’s social media and strategic communications and took the lead on highlighting Fellow accomplishments on the Annual Report and Instagram. She also engaged with a PAF alumna, Michelle Yamin, who is also an alumna of the Global Communications program, to discuss career path resources.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT
This fall, Halea was among the Fellows invited to Secretary Hillary and Chelsea Clinton’s event discussing their new book “Gutty Women.” Additionally, she was able to attend the “In Defense of American Democracy” forum where Secretary Clinton spoke. Halea says that these opportunities felt like OnlyAGW moments as they were afforded to her by being here in DC at the apex of U.S. governmental relations. Further, because she interned for Hillary for America during her undergrad, these PAF experiences felt like a full circle.

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 supports established engagement initiatives in developing and executing communications and social media strategy for all Sustainable GW events. Halea works to socialize stakeholder engagement initiatives in developing and executing communications strategy and operations offices to organize cohesive events and unified messaging. She supports sustainable engagement initiatives in developing and executing communications and social media strategy for all Sustainable GW events.

Placement Spotlight
Halea organized this year’s annual DC Climathon event in partnership with the University of the District of Columbia and the District Department of Energy and Environment. Halea also organized GW’s 50th Anniversary Earth Day Summit for over 300 guests and into the university’s orientation and student engagement programs. Additionally, Halea represents student voices to university administrators to advocate for sustainability within the university’s orientation and student engagement programs.

Preceptor: Meghan Chapple
Title: Director of the Office of Sustainability
Senior Advisor on University Sustainability Initiatives

“Halea is an integral part of the Sustainable GW team working across academics, faculty research, and student engagement. Halea’s expectations for excellence and unwavering positive attitude improved our efforts to engage faculty, students, and staff in events to learn about the pressing issues of climate change, circular economy, sustainable food systems, and more. With her vision and leadership skills she built a coalition of student voices for sustainability in the student experience that has led to a positive impact on the GW community.”
ABOUT RENEA
Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs
Hometown: Queens, New York City, New York
Fun Facts: Renea LOVES sloths! Renea was captain of the South Asian fusion dance team, GW Chamak.

“After the first year of being in the Fellowship, I have grown so much, and so holistically, as an individual: academically, professionally within my placement, and as a leader both within and outside of my team. I am so grateful for the support this Fellowship has shown me, and the relationships I have made along the way continue to inspire me. This has been the #OnlyatGW experience I am most thankful for and I am excited to see what awaits me in my second year.”

FELLOWSHIP ROLES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Renea served on the Communications Committee and the Service Initiative. As part of the Communications Committee, she helped facilitate data collection for the annual report. Through the Service Initiative, Renea worked with a Second-Year Fellow, Teresawa Smith, to host dialogues as a Fellowship with The Civic House community, to identify areas of the GW community in need of improvement and brainstorm ways the Fellows could contribute to positive change. Furthermore, Renea demonstrated her commitment to professionalism and ambassadorship by serving on the final round interview committee, which is tasked with selecting the candidates for the next Presidential Fellowship cohort.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT
Through her placement, Renea implemented two new signature programs to be added to the MSSC’s annual calendar: a Diwali celebration in the Fall and a Lunar New Year festival in the Spring. Both events took place on the Mount Vernon Campus (MVC) in an effort to expand cultural programming to the greater student living communities, as well as faculty and staff. Renea formed a close partnership with the MVC special programs and academic experience department and advocated for greater representation of the diversity of Asian cultures through the MSSC. The Diwali celebration was the first of its kind at GW, where an official university affiliate brought campus-wide attention to an important festival in South Asian culture.

PLACEMENT: THE MULTICULTURAL STUDENT SERVICES CENTER (MSSC)
Title: Graduate Fellow Program Coordinator for the Pan-Asian Community
Job Description: Renea serves in several advisory, liaison, and project management roles to directly support 30 undergraduate and graduate student organizations. She provides 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, Renea implemented new signature programming and started a social media campaign to help shape the MSSC brand, support programming by other GW departments, and stay connected with students.

Placement Spotlight Renea was the project coordinator and lead designer for two of the biggest heritage months at GW: the South Asian Heritage Celebration (SAHC) in March, “Rooted in Culture: Made in the Diaspora,” and the Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration (APIHC) in April, “Broadcasting Ourselves.” She worked with 20 undergraduate student organizations and various GW departments to cultivate the students’ visions into two cohesive programs, celebrating the values associated with our shared humanity by bringing one of GW’s most vibrant and affirming voices on campus. We strive for excellence by focusing our operational efforts on results that impact ‘people before policy’ and ‘people before process.’ Renea also joined the team with a history of high achievement and continuously excellent results in everything she takes on. We were so fortunate that her interpersonal attributes showed the same high level of capacity for leadership, service, and care for others. She joined our team with all of the characteristics of a multicultural services professional, she just happened to have been part of the family for years.”

PRECEPTOR: Michael Tapscott
Title: Director of the Multicultural Student Services Center

“The Multicultural Student Services Center prides itself on modeling the values associated with our shared humanity by bringing one of GW’s most vibrant and affirming voices on campus. We strive for excellence by focusing our operational efforts on results that impact ‘people before policy’ and ‘people before process.’ Renea Williams joined our team with a history of high achievement and consistently excellent results in everything she takes on. We were so fortunate that her interpersonal attributes showed the same high level of capacity for leadership, service, and care for others. She joined our team with all of the characteristics of a multicultural services professional, she just happened to have been part of the family for years.”

NEW COHORT

Introducing the NEW COHORT

With much gratitude to current Fellows, alumni Fellows, faculty, and staff who spent innumerable hours during the 2019-2020 recruitment and selection process, the Presidential Fellowship welcomes the 2020-2022 incoming cohort.

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

About Renea
Undergraduate Degree: Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs
Hometown: Queens, New York City, New York
Fun Facts: Renea LOVES sloths! Renea was captain of the South Asian fusion dance team, GW Chamak.

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Fellowship Roles & Accomplishments
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1991

The "Presidential Internship Program" was created by GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg.

1992

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

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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

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

2007

Fellow Will Alexander founded GW Trails.

2008

Campaign GW and Sustainable GW were founded with the support of Fellows Gina Fernandes and Josh Lasty, respectively.

2009

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2011

PAF-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, PAFamily, PAFone and PAFriend.

2012

The Global Women’s Institute and Healthy GW were founded with the support of Fellows Chelsea Ullman and Meredith (Barnes) Waters, respectively.

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 Presidential Fellowship name was changed to the Presidential Fellowship.

2018

The Presidential Fellowship program moved from the Division of Student Affairs to Center for Career Services.

2019-2020

The Fellowship celebrated its 30th Anniversary.

Thank you to the advising team and 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 Sorens, Dr. Lisa Stephenson, Helen Cannaday Saulny, Michael Tapscott, President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, Pete Van Ripper, and all countless contributors who made us who we are today!
ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Rodney Salinas
Degree: B.A. ’97, M.A. ’99
Current Position: Market Leader, Fooda
“My time as a PAF not only taught me how to be a more effective leader and professional, I’ve also built lifelong connections to some of the most amazing friends and colleagues.”

David Burt
Degree: B.B.A. ’01, M.S. ’03
Current Position: Premier of Bermuda
“My favourite memory from my time as a PAF was learning life lessons from my Fellowship cohort. My PAF placement in the office of the Vice President for Student Services assisted in learning how to problem solve in the work environment which has been beneficial in my career in public service.”

Bianca Garcia
Degree: B.A. ’07, M.A. ’09
Current Position: Assistant District Attorney, Travis County District Attorney’s office
“PAF gave me the confidence and credentials to be successful in my legal career. I am grateful for the experience at GWU and PAF.”

Sarah-Jo Lawrence
Degree: B.A. ’08, M.S. ’10
Current Position: Athletic Academic Advisor, Clemson University
“The most rewarding thing about the PAF experience for me has been the lifelong friendships I’ve developed and sustained for over a decade. From the 10k runs together back in grad school to now bachelorette gatherings and baby showers, getting to live life with one another has been both meaningful and incredibly gratifying.”

Meaghan (Smith) Ransom
Degree: B.S. ’10, M.P.H. ’12, M.D. ’17
Current Position: Resident Physician, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt
“Being a PAF afforded me incredible opportunities for growth and career development through a variety of service and professional experiences. My mentor in the Department of Emergency Medicine exposed me to many areas of academic medicine I would not have been able to take part in if it weren’t for PAF. This June, I will finish my residency in Pediatrics at Vanderbilt and have been inducted into the Alpha-Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. In July, I begin a Fellowship training program in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine in the Division of Neonatology at Vanderbilt. This has been a long journey, but the accomplished people in my PAF cohort and the challenges we faced together taught me lessons that will last a lifetime and have tremendously helped me get where I am today.”

Ian Tang
Degree: B.A. ’17, M.P.P. ’19
Current Position: TMT Associate, Cornerstone
“Through the Presidential Fellowship, I learned how to operationalize my core strengths in my daily life, whether for work or play. Discovering insight into these abilities through StrengthsFinder, taking time to understand what each meant through weekly Professional Development workshops and practicing within a supportive community, sometimes in fun ways, enabled me to know how I can maximize my success in the workplace today. On every project I take on at work, I realize how I can best contribute because of my ‘connectedness’ and ‘input’ strengths and where I can challenge myself.”

STAYING CONNECTED WITH THE PAFAMILY

ALUMNI FACTS:

155 ALUMNI have given multiple times to the university
89% LIFETIME GIVING RATE
20% of Fellowship Alumni gave a total of $27,013

WHAT GRADUATE SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED?

0 10 20 30 40 50
0 10 20 30 40
Columbian College of Arts & Sciences - 44% Graduate School of Education & Human Development - 10%
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% 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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- [@GWPAF] lnkd.in/dkRErTY
- [paf@gwu.edu]

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WASHINGTON, DC