### Undergraduate Universities of Matriculated Students

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<th>University</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amherst College</td>
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<td>Arizona State University</td>
<td>Rutgers University (2)</td>
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<td>Augustana College</td>
<td>Sciences Po Paris</td>
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<td>Barnard College (2)</td>
<td>Shippensburgh University</td>
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<td>Boston University</td>
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<td>Brown University</td>
<td>Swarthmore College (2)</td>
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<td>California Polytechnic State University San Luis</td>
<td>Tarleton State University</td>
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<td>Obiapo</td>
<td>Universidad Iberoamericana</td>
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<td>Colby College</td>
<td>Universidad de los Andes (2)</td>
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<td>Colorado College (2)</td>
<td>Universidad Latina de Costa Rica</td>
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<td>Columbia University (2)</td>
<td>University College London</td>
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<td>University of California, Berkeley (14)</td>
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<td>Dartmouth College</td>
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<td>Denison University</td>
<td>University of California, Los Angeles (3)</td>
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<td>Foundation for Liberal And Management</td>
<td>University of California, San Diego (3)</td>
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<td>Education (FLAME), Yashwantrao Mohite College (YMC), Bharati</td>
<td>University of California, Santa Cruz (3)</td>
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<td>College (YMC), Bharati</td>
<td>University of Chicago (2)</td>
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<td>Vidyapeeth University</td>
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<td>Georgetown University (2)</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2)</td>
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<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>University of Michigan (4)</td>
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<td>Independent University Bangladesh</td>
<td>University of Mumbai</td>
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<td>Institute of Business Administration Bangladesh</td>
<td>University of San Diego</td>
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<td>Lewis &amp; Clark College (2)</td>
<td>University of Southern California (2)</td>
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<td>Linfield College</td>
<td>University of Tokyo (2)</td>
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<td>Loyola University</td>
<td>University of Virginia</td>
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<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</td>
<td>University of Washington, Seattle</td>
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<td>Middlebury College</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth University</td>
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<td>Multimedia University</td>
<td>Washington University in St. Louis (2)</td>
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<td>Northwestern University</td>
<td>Wesleyan University</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania State University</td>
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### Class Summary

- Total Students: 91
- Male: 39
- Female: 52
- *International: 15
- CA Resident: 44
- Out-of-State: 32
- PPIA Fellows: 5
- Average Age: 26.8
- Average years of work experience: 3.8
- *Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, France, India, Japan, Malaysia, México, Pakistan, Thailand

### Underrepresented Students: 31

- African-American or Black: 3
- Chinese/Chinese American: 6
- Filipino/Filipino American: 3
- East Indian/Pakistani: 2
- Korean/Korean American: 1
- Latin American/Latino: 1
- Mexican/Mexican American/Chicano: 1
- Vietnamese/Vietnamese American: 1
- Other Asian/Asian American: 2
- Biracial: 11

### Major Fields of Matriculated Students

Maxwell Aaronson
Hi, I’m Max. I’m originally from the Bay Area but spent the majority of my life in the UK, most recently London. I did my undergraduate degree at University College London (UCL) studying economics and geography, graduating in 2012. Afterwards, I worked for UBS investment bank for two years within three differing roles in the Operations Middle Office. This year I worked with the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh doing a professional traineeship before interning with Kiva in San Francisco in Strategic Planning and Operations.

My main policy interests include poverty alleviation, inequality and economic development. In my spare time I enjoy playing/watching sports, reading, outdoor pursuits and travelling.

Sara Abarbanel
I am a dual degree JD/MPP student. I am originally from the San Diego Area, but moved to the Bay Area five years ago. Prior to coming to Berkeley, I worked as an Administrative Associate and Research Assistant at Stanford Law School. I am interested in criminal justice, housing, and reproductive justice policy. I enjoy detective fiction and exploring new areas (particularly food).

Vellore Adithi
A Midwesterner born and bred in Columbia, MO, I relocated to Los Angeles for college and graduated from the University of Southern California in 2013 with a double major in anthropology and linguistics, and a minor in gender studies. Since then, I have worked as a high school social studies teacher in Chicago Public Schools and nurtured my desire to pursue studies in public policy. In particular, my interests in criminal justice reform, racism and urban poverty, and the intersection of these issues with community organizing and citizen participation have brought me here to Berkeley. In my spare time—when not participating in heated conversations about contemporary feminism or analyses of color and costuming on the latest episode of Mad Men—I enjoy experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen, going to comedy shows and concerts, hiking, eating my way around town, and lounging in the sun reading comics.
KOMAL AGARWAL
Bio/Photo not received in time.

MEENA AIER
Hi! I'm Meena, and I'm from India. I was born and mostly brought up in Mumbai, India, which I suppose has influenced my policy interests (inequality, poverty) and my lifestyle preferences (a weird fondness for crazy big cities with unimaginable crowds!). As an undergraduate I majored in Economics, and minored in Literary and Cultural Studies. Post graduation, I interned with a few grassroots, niche organisations in various parts of India, working on themes related to skill development and urban poverty. For the past two years though, I've been with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) India. While at PwC, I focused on tech-led financial inclusion, and assisted clients with formulating strategy, assessing regulatory impact, and drafted policy whitepapers to help the industry conduct dialogue with the government and the sector regulator. At Berkeley, I'm hoping to delve further into the technology for development space, and explore tech-led solutions for education, healthcare, financial services and governance. Along these lines, I'd love to understand how behavioral economics can inform targeted policy-making and implementation of these tech-for-dev solutions. Seeing as Berkeley itself is a hotbed for start-ups and its proximity to San Francisco, I'm really looking forward to tapping into all of that start-up energy!

I'm also really excited about being in the Bay Area, with all of its gorgeous landscapes, wonderful weather, great hikes and in general, fun outdoors environment. Hopefully, in the coming years, I can explore whatever the Bay Area has to offer in terms of food, music, art and hiking trails!

SYEDA ALI
I am Syeda Zehra Ali from the largest city and financial hub of Pakistan, Karachi. I have studied business administration in my bachelors’ degree and have worked with Teach For Pakistan: a Teach for All project. I have spent the last two years teaching students from low-income communities and helping spread education across the country. Recently, I have also co-founded a project that aims to bring quality education to the street children of the country. Coming from a business academic and non-profit professional background, I have special interest in socio-economic policies and would like to play my part in bringing Pakistan back on the track of consistent growth and prosperity. I am a people’s person so I like to meet new people, learn from different cultures and make new friends. In my free time, I read articles on global affairs and watch movies and TV series.
CHRISTIAN ARANA

Christian Arana, originally from Van Nuys, CA, graduated from Georgetown University where he majored in International Politics. Following graduation, Christian served as a college counselor at Cristo Rey New York High School and thereafter performed research in higher education at the Aspen Institute. He recently served as the Senior Specialist at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute in Washington, D.C. where he worked with Hispanic members of congress and corporate representatives to develop the next generation of Latino leaders.

At GSPP, Christian plans to focus on policies related to higher education, specifically for high-achieving first-generation students. In addition, he cares deeply about Latino issues and will focus on policies and practices that have a profound impact on his community. On his free time, he enjoys reading, cooking, trying new restaurants, and hiking.

ELSA AUGUSTINE

I am originally from Georgetown, Massachusetts. I studied political science at Washington University in St. Louis and after graduating, spent 2 years in El Salvador as a Youth Development Peace Corps Volunteer. I've since been working domestically in immigration, first in DC and then at the US-Mexico border in Texas.

My hobbies include eating (& drinking & cooking), hiking and all other outdoor activities, and overzealous trivia.
SAHELIT BAHIRU

I was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia before immigrating to Los Angeles, CA with my whole family. I have gone on to live in San Diego and Chicago since then while serving two terms as an AmeriCrops VISTA volunteer. I was a VISTA member at the International Rescue Committee in San Diego working as a microfinance coordinator, and I am currently completing my second term at Holocaust Community Services in Chicago. These experiences have allowed me to meet and serve some of the most resilient people I’ve ever crossed paths with.

At Goldman, I am open to exploring different policy areas and I primarily plan to focus on strengthening my quantitative skills. I have general interests in international development and social enterprises.

One interesting fact about me is that I love latin dancing, and I usually am the only Ethiopian on the dance floor (at least from my experiences thus far...).

MONICA BALANOFF

Hello! I’ve been living in the Bay Area for the past three years working in a number of positions that aimed to create economic opportunities in low income communities. The first year I was here I worked with Prospera, an organization that helps low income Latina Women build cooperative businesses, but felt myself more drawn to youth development work. This prompted me to work with VOICES, an organization in the North Bay which focuses on foster and probation youth. I started out by running their employment and education program and most recently I’ve been doing youth led policy research to reconstruct extended foster care programs in Sonoma County. As part of the process, I hired seven current and former foster youth, who were talking with foster youth, social workers, county departments, and policy experts in order to propose changes to create better outcomes for youth who enter extended care. The idea behind the project is that foster youth are ultimately experts who will be able to build programs to maximize their utility within a similar population.

Prior to this, I did a great deal of work in the Middle East, primarily focusing on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Right after I graduated from college, I cofounded a conflict resolution and leadership program for teenagers from Israel and Palestine called “Seas of Peace,” a subsidiary of the non-profit Seeds of Peace. The program took place aboard a traditionally rigged tall ship, and in addition to learning to sail, students participated daily in a leadership dialogue. During the program participants were asked to examine the systemic causes of suffering and human characteristics that cause us to ignore, overlook or comply with the status quo. I ran the program for three consecutive years. It was perhaps the biggest learning experience of my life, and also what prompted me to shift gears and decide to focus on domestic policy issues. While at GSPP I’d like to focus on issues related to the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

In addition to these things I like to rock climb, dance, ski tour, sew, and cook. Looking forward to meeting everyone!
CASSANDRA (CASSIE) BAYER
I grew up in the mountains of Southern California: Mount Baldy. Therein, I became outwardly inclined - a love of the outdoors so to speak. Alongside my brother, I learned how to longboard, snowboard, and climb trees with the best of them. However, when I was not swinging from the arbors a la Tarzan, I was found a nose pressed deep inside a book. I have always, and still, love to read - mostly fiction, but my tastes vary. From early on as well, I developed a passion to save just about anything in need of saving. As I matriculated through Cal Poly San Luis Obispo on the Central Coast, I found my footing with social activism. Mostly environmental work, I spent a stint with Greenpeace headquartered in Washington, D.C. Alongside doing Mock Trial and Model United Nations, I also outlet my ambitions through Student Council and political groups on campus.

These pursuits led me to New York City. Following graduation, I accepted a bid from Teach For America and taught high school in a low income school in South Brooklyn. It was in this experience, spanning for the past two years, that I found my calling: education. After seeing the startling inequalities in public schools across the city, and understanding how they differed from my own public schooling, I become devoted to equalizing education. For this reason, I am thrilled to learn the skills necessary to pursue a career in public education reform.

JILLIAN BERKIN
My name is Jill and I’m so excited to be part of the GSPP class of 2017! I hail from Chicago originally but since graduating from college I’ve lived in Texas and Colorado. I’ve been teaching for the past four years (the first two with Teach For America) and my experiences in the profession have spurred my interest in criminal justice and the school to prison pipeline. I’m also generally interested in social policy and issues surrounding poverty. Outside of work, I enjoy eating, reading (in case that wasn’t obvious), baking/cooking, beer, hiking, and traveling. And I expect to become an expert on how to do all these things well on a budget over the next two years!
LEOPOLD BIARDEAU
Bio/Photo not received in time.

DANIEL BLAUSTEIN-REJTO
I’m Dan, originally from upstate New York. After earning my B.A. in Environmental Studies from Brown, I joined AmeriCorps VISTA where I helped farmers markets develop programs for SNAP (food stamp) recipients. My last job was as Policy and Research Assistant with the Farmers Market Coalition, a non-profit dedicated to strengthening farmers markets across the United States.

I’m interested in agriculture and energy/climate policy, and international development evaluation. I enjoy hiking, running, swing and blues dancing, volunteering, and cooking. Fun fact: I spent a semester in Denmark studying urban design and planning.

MAGALY CHAVEZ
Bio/Photo not received in time.

LILLIAN CHEN
Hello there! My name is Lillian and I hail from Sunnyvale, CA. I also went to Cal as an undergrad, so I’m a Bay Area native through and through. My background is in public health, so my policy interests range from education to welfare to early childhood. Prior to grad school, I worked for over 3.5 years as a research assistant at a social sector research and consulting firm in San Francisco, where I was able to explore and expand my love for data to my heart’s content. When I’m not working with data, I love to listen to music and go to concerts, try out new restaurants, read, watch movies, hang out with friends and family, and spend time outside when the weather’s nice. Interesting fact: I’m currently writing this bio from a city called Huancayo in the Peruvian Andes, where I’m spending the summer practicing my Spanish, volunteering in the community, and absorbing the Peruvian culture (including the food, of course!) before school/math camp begins!
KURSTON COOK
My name is Kurston Cook and I am a proud son of Pasadena California. I have had the privilege to have lived all over the United States—including Washington, Oregon, Michigan, North Carolina, and Washington DC. I am deeply passionate about labor issues and revitalizing the American labor movement.

My last job was working with the Center for American Progress. I served as the Special Programs Manager for Generation Progress focusing on economic challenges facing Millennials as well as developing new ways to increase youth voter turnout. On my free time I enjoy watching international soccer/football, traveling, and cooking.

PALOMA CORCUEREA
I studied a B.A. in Economics because it encompasses two of my main interests: the study of social behaviour backed-up by Mathematics. What I find relevant about the subject is the comprehension of the scarcity of resources and the challenge to better allocate them through the design of public policies in order to adjust their unjust distribution.

For the past two years I have been working at the Central Bank of Mexico focusing mainly on Financial Programming of Monetary Policy, analysis of Mexican economic data releases and participating in research projects on Public Spending and International Reserves.

My main policy interests are: Economics, Agriculture, Labor, and Education.

In my free time, I like to read, watch movies and practice yoga.
**Rebecca Crebbin-Coates**

I am pursuing a dual degree with the Energy and Resources Group and Goldman School of Public Policy (MA/MPP). I have a background in ecology, environmental policy, and public outreach, and hold a BA in Environmental Studies/Biology from UC Santa Cruz. Prior to graduate school, I was the Policy Director and Water Campaign Manager with the Planning and Conservation League, a statewide environmental nonprofit, working on policy and legislation around issues including coastal protection, stormwater capture, Bay-Delta planning efforts, groundwater management, drinking water, and the California Environmental Quality Act. I also worked on sea level rise and climate change adaptation for the Bay Area with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. At GSPP, I am focusing on environmental policy issues, particularly around water supply and use. I enjoy social dancing (swing, blues, ballroom, Scottish…you name it!) and exploring the great outdoors.

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**Caitlin Cusati**

I've had a lifelong interest in government and public policy. I was first exposed to the idea of a career in public service during my high school internship with the U.S. House of Representatives. I then decided to major in political science while attending VCU in Richmond, Virginia. After graduating, I spent time working on several state and federal political campaigns. I've lived in Washington, DC for the last three years. I work as a Legislative Analyst for Bloomberg, where I research and write about legislative and regulatory actions of the federal government.

I recently discovered I am also very interested in local government. For the last two years, I’ve been providing pro-bono legislative research to a feminist organization that lobbies the DC Council to advocate for policies that improve the lives of women in the District of Columbia. My academic interests include building upon this experience to research how public policy decisions can further the social, economic, and political equality of women. While at Goldman, I am also interested in learning to quantify the ways in which businesses are impacted by policy decisions and exploring how firms can implement social change in the private sector through policy research. In my free time, I enjoy reading, doing yoga, riding my bike, cooking good food, and drinking good wine. I look forward to meeting and learning from all of you over the next two years!
NEYAT DANIEL

Hello everyone! I am from Arlington, Texas originally but have bounced around a bit since. For the last two years, I worked for the Dallas Independent School District in partnership with Teach for America where I served as an Algebra 1 teacher and as the tennis coach. I am interested in poverty and inequity as a broad policy interest, and I am hoping to learn more about nonprofit management. In my free time, I love to travel and incorporate new flavors into my dishes. I look forward to joining and collaborating with the Goldman community!

GITA DeVANEY

After a nomadic childhood, I moved to Chicago to attend the University of Chicago where I graduated with a BA in economics in 2011. Since then, I have worked at Analysis Group, an economic and litigation consulting firm, in downtown Chicago, where most of my most significant cases involved financial and securities regulation and intellectual property issues. I'm most interested in international development, although I'm excited to take advantage of the wide range of topics covered at the GSPP.

I enjoy running (when Chicago has a rare spell of good weather the lakefront trail is great), the occasional art class (recent interests have been ceramics and figure drawing), and exploring new places (including spending the last three months traveling around Europe).

PAUL DIAZ

My name is Paul Diaz and I am from Bogota, Colombia. I studied economics (B.A. and M.Sc.) and creative writing (M.A.). For the last five years I've worked for the Macroeconomic Office of the Ministry of Finance of Colombia, mostly advising in the design of the policy to aid and repair the victims of the armed conflict and forecasting the fiscal accounts of the social security sector. I like writing fiction (I wrote a short novel called "The night that hangs from the rooftops"), playing capoeira (a brazilian martial art), traveling, biking and bar hopping. I love going to the movies if and only if I am very well accompanied.
SABHANAZ DIYA
I'm a social entrepreneur who was based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. I am deeply passionate about the empowerment of youth and women, and through our social enterprise, One Degree Initiative Foundation, support and mentor such groups. We work across technology, education and arts.

I'm interested to explore education policies as means of bridging gaps in diverse communities. Because I've worked extensively with very young groups, I believe classrooms are powerful spaces for creating positive change. I enjoy traveling, exploring startups, occasional cooking and good music.

MICHAEL DRANE
Hi All! My name is Michael and I'm originally from Pittsburgh but have been living in Davis for the past four years. As a result, finding a place to watch the Steelers and Penguins this fall will be one of my first priorities when I get to the Bay Area. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone and hopefully playing some music and board games together.

I'm interested in learning more about the intersection of housing and labor policy. I studied Land Use Planning for my undergrad and have been working for Mutual Housing California as a community organizer for the past few years.

KHULAN ERDENEBAATAR
Bio/Photo not received in time.
DANIEL FRIEL
I am a Philly native going on four years in the Bay Area. Berkeley is a paradise, and I'm thrilled to be going back to school here. I have been a competitive swimmer for nearly 20 years and look forward to enjoying the pools at Cal!

I am a first-generation college student and look forward to learning more about how public policy helps and hinders low- to middle-income students wanting access to better jobs and education.

MARTA GALAN
I am Marta Galan. My interests are varied, my experiences diverse but there are a few key pieces that are noteworthy. I am a proud local of Camarillo, California, though I have happily spent time living and growing in Seattle, Washington; Steamboat Springs, Colorado; and now a few years in Berkeley. I most recently moved to Berkeley to pursue the dual MSW/MPP program. This past year I completed the first year of the MSW program while simultaneously interning at Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance. I spent the majority of the summer continuing educational and professional development (and some recouping) in Medellin, Colombia, and am back for the beginning of the MPP.

This brings me to my policy interests; these have changed and adapted over the years but predominantly revolve around matters of child welfare, public assistance, and health. These interests have evolved out of various experiences and positions within youth shelters, a middle school counseling office, and advocacy work around California’s child welfare system.

Aside from my pursuits in work and school I am interested in outdoor activities, automotive repair, and traveling the world to visit a wide web of friends. People are the most important aspect of who I am and what I hope to accomplish—I am eager to learn how to better understand and serve people through this program!

Anxiously awaiting this new beginning.
MADELYN GELPI
Born in Slidell, Louisiana, I received a BA in sociology and music from Loyola University in New Orleans. As an undergraduate, I studied LGBTQ public policy as a Public Policy Associate for the American Foundation For Suicide Prevention in Washington, D.C. There I discovered my passion for LGBTQ public policy and used my experiences as a queer person to advise agencies such as The Trevor Project, a national mental health organization aimed at reducing suicide and mental health issues in LGBTQ youth across the country. As a member of their national youth advisory council, I was later elected to serve as Co-Chair of the Board and worked on nationwide efforts to reduce mental health issues among queer youth.

I continued efforts to serve LGBTQ citizens in southeast Louisiana and was later voted onto the board of directors for the Forum For Equality, Louisiana's largest LGBTQ public policy organization. There I worked on efforts to bring marriage equality to the state and create more cohesive queer communities in areas outside of New Orleans. Most recently, I moved to San Francisco to study a more progressive area of the country and further develop my abilities in LGBTQ public policy and mental health as a mobile mental health counselor at Seneca Family of Agencies.

I spent the summer hiking and teaching music at a camp in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Sequoia National Forest. In my free time I enjoy writing songs, biking, camping, playing music, and exploring the Bay Area.

BENJAMIN GOULD
I am a dual MPP/MS in Environmental Engineering student interested in addressing challenges related to climate change, energy, transportation, and air quality at the intersection of engineering and public policy. In particular, I'm interested in technologies to inform policy, and policies that drive technological change.

I grew up in Berkeley, and am currently a member of the city's Community Environmental Advisory Commission. I've worked at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and The International Council on Clean Transportation, and I lead a student organization on campus called Engineers for a Sustainable World, which implements local sustainability projects.
SARA GREEN
A New Yorker at heart, I grew up in a mostly Eastern European neighborhood in southern Brooklyn (both of my parents emigrated from Poland). I fell in love with local government after participating in the NYC Urban Fellows program after college. The fellowship led to a full time job implementing Department of Education programs for incarcerated youth on Rikers Island and in the juvenile justice system. After 5 years at the intersection of education and criminal justice, I became particularly interested in the injustices faced by immigrants within these systems. This gave me motivation to learn Spanish so that I could work on issues faced by people migrating from Latin America.

The year before starting my dual degree with social work at Berkeley in fall 2014, I was learning Spanish, teaching English and volunteering for an education organization in Lima, Peru. This past summer I spent interning at a social venture focused on education in Bogotá, Colombia. I have been able to embrace my love of fútbol, dance and warm weather these past few years living for a significant amount of time abroad. However, I will always have an infinite amount of passion and love for local government in NYC. I am excited to be returning for a few days in the fall to run my first ever marathon in the city I still consider my home.

SABRINA HAMM
I was born and raised in San Diego, CA. I majored in Peace and Conflict Studies at UC Berkeley. During my undergrad I was a 2010 PPIA Fellow. Additionally, I started a college-led student organization that aimed to empower high school students from under-resourced communities to pursue higher education. After undergrad I was an Emerson National Hunger Fellow for a year then worked as a preschool aide in DC Public Schools. Most recently, I worked at a before and after school program. My policy interests include education equality and child nutrition. In the past few years I have taken up American style boxing and really enjoy it. I even taught the kid’s class at my gym in San Diego. In my free time I like to cook, bake and crochet.
ANDREW HERRMANN
I grew up in the Bay Area but moved to Maine for college and have slowly been working my way back, with stops in New York, DC, and Kansas City, MO. In my professional career I've worked for a couple of public sector focused consulting firms, primarily on housing, education, and labor related research and training projects with federal agencies. My last project before leaving work for GSPP was with the U.S. Department of Labor.

In my free time I like to hike, snowboard, cook and eat spicy food, and cheer for Bay Area Sports teams, especially the Warriors and A's. I also have a strong interest in behavioral economics, prediction markets, and finding the perfect burrito.

KENNY HOFMEISTER
I grew up in Cincinnati, OH, though I’ve lived in St. Louis, MO for the past eight years. I attended Washington University in St. Louis, where I studied linguistics and was very involved in the student radio station. After graduation, I worked a number of jobs before taking a position as an AmeriCorps VISTA at inspireSTL, an educational access and leadership development non-profit that supports high potential, underserved students in the city. As a VISTA and a full-time employee, I worked as a fundraiser and a coach to some of the organization’s scholars. During this time, I became interested in the intersection between educational policy and philanthropy, particularly insofar as the latter creates, shapes, and limits the former. My experiences at inspireSTL strongly impacted my policy interests, and I am now looking to study the policies that guide philanthropy, as well as the relationship between philanthropy and policy.

In my free time, I enjoy playing drums, going to shows, bouldering, biking, reading, and drinking a lot of coffee.
JENNIFER HOGG
I am originally from DeWitt, MI, and attended the University of Michigan. I majored in Public Policy at the Ford School of Public Policy, focusing on education. During my time at UofM, I researched charter school effectiveness through the Michigan Charter School Research Project, and charter school management at the Education Trust-Midwest. After undergrad, I worked as an 8th grade math teacher in Kinston, NC through Teach for America. I miss my kids and plan on checking up on them often.

I want to continue to learn about education policy, and social policy more generally. I love being in a public policy school because you get to learn so much from your peers, who are budding policy experts in a variety of fields.

I love cats, being outdoors, and singing in choirs. I spoke German semi-fluently at one point, and am consumed by wanderlust.

REUBEN HOLOBER
Bio/Photo not received in time.

KEVIN HOWARD
Hello! My name is Kevin Alexander Howard and I hail from sunny San Diego. At Goldman, I’ll be focusing on Economic Development and Energy Policy. Since graduating from UC Davis in 2012, I’ve lived in Asia these past two years as an English Instructor sponsored by the Japanese government. Before that, I spent three months at the Brookings Institute researching economic impacts of various green initiatives and city projects and also taught high school math for one year. I’m also a former foster youth and advocate for underrepresented youth.

In my downtime, I enjoy discovering new trails, body-surfing waves, or relaxing next to a barbecue pit cooking and watching sports. I also have a habit of hunting down delicious restaurants, listening to good tunes at fun venues, and discovering hidden environmental gems and scenery. I’m looking forward to engaging with my classmates, faculty, and staff! Go Bears!
**Alice Hur**

My name is Alice Hur, and I've been in the Midwest pretty much my entire life. I was born and raised in Ann Arbor, MI, and attended college at the University of Chicago, where I majored in English and Political Science. After graduation, I joined Teach for America and later worked at a law firm in the Intellectual Property Litigation division. My policy interests lie mostly in social and urban policy. Primarily, I am concerned with improving the educational outcomes of youth in underserved communities.

In my free time, I enjoy dancing. Over the last few years, I've delved a little deeper into the street dance community and am excited to see what the Bay Area has to offer in this regard. In addition, I love music, particularly disco, funk, and house, and trying new foods. I am very much excited for the Goldman School, meeting some incredible peers, and perhaps never having to experience -20 degree weather again.

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**Karen Huynh**

Hello! I'm from St. Petersburg, FL and graduated from Columbia in 2011. I was a recent Education Pioneer Analyst fellow and currently work at Green Dot Public Schools in a financial strategy capacity. I hope to pursue education policy at Goldman. Looking forward to the many rich discussions we will have in the next two years and beyond!

In my free time, I like reading, picnicking, and conversing over a glass of wine.

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**Katsuhiiko Inoue**

Bio/Photo not received in time.
MARK JIMENEZ
I was born in Manila, Philippines and immigrated to Sacramento, CA with my family when I was four-years-old. I graduated with a B.A. in International Development Studies from UCLA. My experience as an undergraduate student working with low-income, immigrant, and at-risk youth piqued my interest in shaping policies that improve the lives of underserved communities. Post-graduation, I was a field organizer for President Obama’s reelection campaign in Las Vegas, Nevada where I registered, persuaded, and motivated thousands of voters to reelect the president. Most recently, I have served as a legislative aide for Congressman Ami Bera, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, advising on policy issues regarding higher education, housing, law enforcement, civil rights, voter protection, and Asian American Pacific Islander outreach.

RITTAVEE KEERATIWUTTHIKUL
Born and raised in Bangkok, Thailand, Ritt has witnessed his country’s economic and social progress and struggles over the years. Hoping to one day return to his home country and help improve the lives of her people, he is interested in understanding how a developing country can transform itself into a developed one. He is particularly interested in studying national development planning processes and implementation strategies.

Before coming to GSPP, Ritt spent thirteen years in the finance industry working as an investment banker, a private equity investor, and a hedge fund manager. He was most recently a partner at a value-driven hedge fund which he helped start. Ritt graduated from Stanford University and Phillips Exeter Academy, is an avid swimmer, and loves Thai food.

BENJAMIN KENIGSBERG
I’ve been a journalist and film critic in New York and Chicago for more than a decade. The job has given me a front-row seat for seeing the impact of the arts on city life. I can also help your trivia team with the Oscars category. Is butter-flavored popcorn topping sustainable?
TIRA KONGSAMUT
I am very excited to be joining the GSPP family from New Jersey. Originally from Madison, NJ, and a product of Rutgers University, I most recently lived and worked in Princeton. I served as a clinical research project manager for the CHDI Foundation, which focuses on Huntington’s disease research and therapeutic development. I am fascinated by private and public investment in rare disease research and have broad policy interests in health and healthcare generally. I also hope to explore other policy areas through GSPP’s practical and flexible curriculum.

My hobbies include running and rock climbing, and I also moonlighted as a fencing coach after over a decade of being a competitive fencer. I signed up for the California International Marathon in Sacramento as my first full marathon and I look forward to balancing training with schoolwork in Berkeley this fall!

NISHA KURANI
My name is Nisha Kurani and I come to GSPP with a special interest in the intersection of social inequality and access to health care. For the past two years, I have worked at the Kaiser Family Foundation researching, analyzing, and writing about the impact of federal and state policies on health and access to services for women. In the past, I have also worked in disease prevention and health education at the community level. My passions range from women’s rights and social justice, to using data analysis and data visualization to inform policy.

I was born in England and partially raised there before moving across the pond to the deserts of Southern California, specifically to the town of Lancaster. I received my bachelor’s degree from the University of California, San Diego, where I fostered my interests for health research, journalism and dance in my spare time. Outside of policy work, I enjoy dancing (anything from classical Indian dance forms to Western dance styles), hiking, painting, and exploring the culinary, art and music scene.
**SARAH LADERMAN**

I am entering the MPP/MS (Nuclear Engineering) program and I'm looking forward to being back on the west coast! I'm from San Diego, but I graduated from MIT in 2012 with a BS in Nuclear Science & Engineering and Political Science. Since then, I have been working as a contractor in the Pentagon for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Matters. While there, I conducted policy analysis in matters relating to nuclear weapons stockpile management and nuclear survivability. In my spare time, you can find me skiing or just hanging out in the mountains with my dog (an off-the-track greyhound).

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**ELIZABETH LAI**

I hail from a suburb outside of Detroit and am a proud graduate from the University of Michigan. That being said, I can’t wait to enjoy winters in California! In my spare time, I indulge in food and travel (I plan my trips around my meals), and enjoy jogging outside. I have spent the last few years working as a trade analyst and I'm looking forward to delving into the intersection of global and domestic economic issues at the Goldman School.

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**MEGAN LANDIN**

My name is Megan and I am from Tustin, California. I received my Bachelors degree in Political Science from UC Berkeley where I also completed an Americorps internship through the Bonner Leader Program. I graduated from Cal in 2008 and have been working in various positions on campus ever since.

I am thrilled to be a student again and I am interested in policies that aim to create equal access to societal benefits - especially higher education. In my spare time I enjoy reading the New Yorker (though I’m always at least 6 months behind), walking anywhere with a bay view, and spending time with family and friends. I am looking forward to meeting you all! Go Bears!
PAMELA LARSON

I biked to the library—where I'm now writing this—so already I'm telling you about two of my favorite things: bicycling and public spaces, especially libraries. Somehow, in Austin, Texas, I was able to combine these while working as an Urban Planner for the City of Austin where I encouraged and implemented policy for more complete communities, walkability and bikeability for three years. As deeply as I'm interested in transportation policy, I am connected to equality policy, energy/environment and security in the Middle East.

I left the challenges of being a local government bureaucrat to move to Beirut, Lebanon earlier this year where I further studied Arabic and learned more about refugee policy. I look forward to pursuing a dual Masters with the International and Area Studies program. School and work is keeping my away from my hometown of Naperville, Illinois, in the Chicago suburbs.

NOAH LEHMAN

My study of the stigmas and stereotypes faced by underrepresented minorities and other disadvantaged groups at UCLA solidified my desire to fight to overcome adversity and inequality. After I graduated in 2010, I spent a year in New York teaching test prep classes to economically disadvantaged students for Kaplan. Following this, I moved to Shanghai, China for four years teaching psychology and English at Shanghai High School International Division where I developed a love for teaching, but also became increasingly frustrated at my inability to effect real change within the Chinese school system. As a result of my desire to have a more meaningful impact, I have decided to pursue an MPP at Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy where I hope to develop the skills, contacts, and knowledge to effectively fight for social and economic equality.
SARA LITKE
I have been a proud Bay Area resident for the past four years, living in San Francisco until my recent move to Oakland. In SF I worked for an INGO called READ Global - most recently as Senior Program Officer, overseeing monitoring and evaluation efforts across Bhutan, India, and Nepal, as well as marketing and grant writing. Previously, I served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali, West Africa, where I helped launch an agricultural cooperative, build a grain bank, and dig a well. My other homes are Portland, OR, where I studied International Affairs at Lewis & Clark College, and Denver, CO, where I grew up. My policy interests are in international development and energy/natural resource management, and I hope to work long term in program evaluation for nonprofits. My main passions are the outdoors (hiking and backpacking), global travel, and good food. An interesting fact is that I've had both malaria and schistosomiasis, and lived to tell the tale.

LINDSAY MAPLE
Hi, I’m Lindsay! I am a California native, originally from San Diego, but Oakland is home. My background is in classroom teaching and education policy research. I have been a traditional classroom special education teacher with Oakland Unified School District and an education policy researcher with Parents for Public Schools and Leadership for Educational Equity. However, for much of the last year, I’ve spent my time traveling and building trails with tiny gypsies in Virginia. My interests focus on education policy - specifically regarding school finance, special education, and teacher quality - and income inequality, and I’m eager to learn more about sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

I enjoy traveling in all forms, hiking, cheering on the Oakland A’s, listening to podcasts, practicing yoga, reading fiction, and trying my hand at new things. I love trivia nights, am a member of three semi-secret societies (two of which I’m happy to talk about!), and have a mild case of synesthesia.
JANICE LEVY
I was born and raised in San Francisco but left the West Coast to go to school at Northwestern University. I graduated in 2011 with a major in Political Science and Urban Studies and a minor in Italian. Throughout my summers in college, I worked for the City and County of San Francisco at Camp Mather, a family camp just outside of Yosemite National Park. Little did I know that my summer job would be the start of a career in civil service.

After four years of Chicago winters, I was thrilled to return home and start working for the City and County of San Francisco once again. Through the City Hall Fellows program, then later as a full time employee, I worked for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission; first in Emergency Planning and Security, then in Real Estate Services. I love working in local government and I am always delighted when I can help coworkers or city residents navigate the massive bureaucracy of local government – I promise, it is not as bad as you think!

Over the past four years, I have truly enjoyed living in San Francisco. I'm actively involved in my local community, enjoy attending public meetings (seriously), and love heading up to Yosemite whenever possible.

JEREMY LEVY
Hello! I'm Jeremy - I'm 25, coming from Washington DC, and grew up in Highland Park, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago). I had been working at the Urban Institute Justice Policy Center for over two years, and prior to that I interned at Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Center for American Progress. Criminal justice is one of my policy interests, but more broadly, I am interested in issues related to poverty in the United States. Another major subarea of interest of mine is labor markets. On a different topic, I suppose I have also lately been thinking about public opinion and what actually causes it to change on key issues.

As for the non-policy stuff - I play drums and piano. I just went on a backpacking trip for the first time in a while in Glacier National Park, and am hoping being on the West Coast will help me keep it up with being outdoorsy. My brother and sister-in-law who live in San Francisco are having a baby in September, so I am currently welcoming any tips and advice about how to be a cool uncle! Otherwise, I'm excited to get started with the program and meet you all!
DYANA MARDON
I was raised in Fresno in California's San Joaquin Valley, did my undergraduate degree at Berkeley and lived for five years in Seoul, Korea (in my heart, Seoul is home!). I've spent the past 11 months traveling around South America, Asia and eastern Europe and have been fortunate to have seen some of the amazing things our world has to offer. I love being in nature, history and politics, and like to walk whenever I can so that I can see more.

I am a MPP/JD student and my main area of interest is environmental and climate justice. In Seoul, I worked for a grassroots organization focused on issues of governance and civil society, particularly in the context of nuclear energy, before working for an intergovernmental international development agency. I learned much from both experiences, and am excited to now learn even more at GSPP.

KAROLINA MASLANKA
I am from Chicago and I love it’s cultural diversity, an aspect of the city that inspired me to pursue a major in Global Studies as an undergraduate student. Deeply interested in environmental conservation I studied abroad in the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador, where I can proudly say I swam side by side with hammerhead sharks. Wanting to continue hands-on work with developing communities abroad, I served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama for two years. There I worked on environmental conservation, focusing primarily on improving waste management systems through education in the local school and collaboration with the nearest city’s Mayor’s Office and the national environmental agency on a number of projects. While working on these projects I became increasingly interested in the role of effective environmental policies, or lack there of, in the improvement of environmental conservation and community development. I hope to further expand my knowledge of these policy topics as a student at the Goldman School of Public Policy. In my free time I look forward to exploring the beautiful Bay Area and hiking in the spectacular parks surrounding it.
RYAN MILLENDEZ
I grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia and attended the University of Virginia for my undergraduate studies. Prior to coming to GSPP, I served for five years in the US Army, primarily in Colorado, Korea, and Afghanistan. I am interested in studying policy related to energy, sustainability, and infrastructure and I enjoy running, hiking, and exploring in my free time.

ROB MOORE
Rob Moore is a first-year MPP student who grew up in Columbus, Ohio. His policy interests are poverty & inequality, democratic institutions, and the politics of public policy. Moore comes to Berkeley from Omaha, Nebraska, where he most recently served as Planned Parenthood of the Heartland's regional organizer in Nebraska.

Rob is a graduate of the Omaha Backline Improv Theatre’s improvisational comedy program and he enjoys performing when he has the chance. He is also a registered parliamentarian with the National Association of Parliamentarians and is active in the Democratic Party and League of Women Voters. In his spare time, Rob enjoys film, live theatre, and new wave music.

TAYLOR MYERS
I am fairly new to the Bay Area, moving here from Chicago a year ago. Originally from Plantation, Florida, I attended the University of Florida for undergrad. My policy interests are focused K-12 education, especially teacher/student evaluations and measuring social-emotional learning. For the past four years I worked at a national education non profit organization called Spark, in the evaluation and research department. My hobbies include playing saxophone, painting and hiking. I'm also a podcast junkie - I'm currently subscribed to over 40 podcasts ranging from popular science to t.v. trivia to radical history.
MELODY NG
I'm a Southern California native, born and raised in the desert by Chinese-American immigrant parents. I had a very "small town" upbringing, having spent the first 18 years of my life living in Victorville, CA - a small city in San Bernardino County - and never lived anywhere else until I moved up to the Bay Area to attend college.

I'd always been interested in solving problems and improving the quality of life for all, and I developed an interest in law and public policy that became more nuanced with each class I took, each organization I became involved with, and each AmeriCorps term I completed. I developed and coordinated a volunteer program during my first term at an organization in San Bernardino, CA, and am now completing my second term as a VISTA with the Youth Policy Institute (YPI) in Los Angeles. At my current job, I serve as a member of the inaugural operations team for the LA Promise Zone Initiative (a community-development initiative spearheaded jointly by the LA Mayor’s Office of Economic Development and YPI). I'm helping to develop the systems/infrastructure for the initiative and to facilitate the initiative's Public Safety working group. For YPI, I also designed and am implementing a victim-offender restitution program for several high schools in the local area.

Policy Interests: At this moment in time, my policy interests are a bit hard to categorize, because they are both very broad and also very specific. They include policy-related to: participatory democracy/policy-making, place-based community development, restorative justice and conflict resolution as they figure into more rehabilitative-oriented criminal justice policy, and the application of conflict resolution in the policy-making and community development process.

Hobbies and Interests: I like watching movies, reading, art projects (very broadly speaking), cringe comedy, taking walks, and being outdoors generally (though not in a hardcore kind of way). I'm also fascinated by well-designed things--whether it's a water bottle, a chair, a living space, or public policy. I am also interested in conflict resolution.

Interesting fact: I hate having my picture taken.
MINH NGUYEN
I'm from Garden Grove, California, but have lived in the Bay Area for seven years. In the past, I've worked in housing and community development, and I'm also interested in international development. I was an AmeriCorps volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, and worked as a consultant for Habitat afterward. This past summer, I backpacked through Asia, starting in Tokyo and ending in Singapore. I love reading fiction (lately, Kenzaburo Oe), exploring cities, and hanging out on my deck—which officially has a view of the Golden Gate Bridge, but I have to lean far over the railing to actually see it. I have a younger brother who I'm very close to, and we are trying to plan a trip to Machu Picchu during an overlapping break from school. When I was younger, I used to write children's books and nobody in my family was candid enough to tell me they were not so good.

BEE CHIN OON
Bio/Photo not received in time.

ADAM ORFORD
I am returning to school after eight years as an environmental litigator in private practice. My research interests include environmental and natural resources public policy, regulatory development and enforcement, and conflict resolution, particularly in the areas of water resources and energy development. As an attorney, I represented public and private clients in complex environmental civil litigation and regulatory matters; conducted both trial and appellate litigation in federal and state courts across the country; and assisted with the environmental review and compliance aspects of numerous corporate transactions.

I will be working as a researcher at the California Public Utilities Commission during the school year. I received my B.A. in Italian (music minor) from Arizona State University, and my J.D. from Columbia University School of Law, where I was the Editor-in-Chief of the Columbia Journal of Environmental Law. I grew up in Southeast Alaska.
JOHNATHON PARKER
My name is John Parker, and I’m married with three beautiful daughters. I grew up as an “Army brat,” and so I lived in several places, but I call Killeen, Texas—and the Central Texas region in general—my home. I earned my Bachelor’s degree in History from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas where I also earned my commission as an officer in the United States Army.

I am an Adjutant General Officer, a Human Resources Manager in the Army. In that capacity, I’ve served as a staff officer and primary personnel advisor on battalion and brigade staffs and in combat while deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan in 2012. I also served as a mentor/advisor to several senior Afghan Uniformed Police while deployed, which allowed me the opportunity to work with a number of agencies including different Afghan ministries, the US Embassy in Kabul, and several multi-star joint commands. My most recent assignment was as a Detachment Commander at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Upon graduating from UC Berkeley, I will relocate to West Point, New York where I was selected to teach in the Social Sciences Department at the United States Military Academy.

My policy interests include foreign/defense/security policy, the prevention of suicide among veterans and active duty service members, education policy, and the implementation of national policy.

MARKO PECAK
I received my bachelors degree in economics from UC Berkeley. I was raised in Sonoma (wine country), but born in Croatia. My family history has a lot to do with my career interest which include social policy, poverty alleviation, public health, and overall improving the lives of disadvantaged communities/groups. After graduation I was an intern at a NGO in Hungary working on Romani education policy and communications. After that I was an AmeriCorps Vista working at the Colville Confederated Tribes on a health needs assessment and grant support. The tribe hired me on as a research coordinator to build their health research capacity, manage a suicide prevention program, and overall grant support.

Really love motorcycles and had done some amateur road racing. Being back in the bay area I am looking forward to racing again, exploring the California coast, spending time with family, and connecting with my GSPP peers.
PHILLIP PENA
I’m from Modesto, a small city about ninety miles southeast of Berkeley located in California’s Central Valley. I’ve spent the past 4 years working at Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services in various capacities, most recently as a Ratings Analyst in the Higher Education sector of the Public Finance group. My policy interests are varied and include mental health policy, economic development, housing policy, and public finance.
I went to Berkeley for my undergrad and am a big fan of Cal Football and Basketball; I’m really excited to see what our Men’s basketball team does with our #2 ranked recruiting class. I enjoy college football generally, but am also a big fan of the Oakland Raiders. Outside of sports, I enjoy learning about history and can spend hours reading and listening to any and all facets of history from any and all time periods. I love listening to all types of hip-hop; my favorite current artist is J. Cole. Beyond that I enjoy meeting new people and hanging out.

ZOHAR PERLA
I was born in Jerusalem, but grew up primarily in rural northern California (I still speak Hebrew though). I studied economics and psychology at Amherst College, worked for a while in economic consulting, and then recently became a data analyst for Reading Partners, a literacy nonprofit. I am primarily interested in education policy, though I have a strong interest in the related policy areas of poverty and inequality. In my spare time I dance (primarily swing and salsa), bake, and sing. I also love to travel and see new places!

IAN PERRY
Ian Perry is from San Francisco and originally Boston. He is interested in labor and health care policy. Before entering GSPP, he was a Research and Data Analyst at the Center for Labor Research and Education where he worked on minimum wage, low-wage work, and health care policy research. Prior to joining the Labor Center, he worked as a research assistant at M.I.T focusing on the design and implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and for an economic consulting firm. His hobbies include skiing, biking, hiking, and music.
TARUNIMA PRABHAKAR
I graduated with a BTech. in computer science from DA-IICT, India. After graduating I worked with several grassroots non-profit organizations in India designing technical solutions for low income communities. Through my work I developed a deeper understanding of the systemic inequities that result in neglect of needs of low-income and politically marginalized groups and the need for policy level interventions in addressing their interests. Immediately before coming to Goldman School, I worked as a research associate at Prayas, Energy Group, an energy policy think tank in India, on an Electricity Supply Monitoring Initiative. I am fascinated by reflexivity between technology and innovation and the social, political and economic contexts that these take place in. At Goldman School I hope to develop a more nuanced understanding of this reflexivity as well as acquire the requisite policy analysis and implementation skills that will enable me to engage in policy conversations; I hope that in the long run, my work will help in greater participation of people in ideating and designing technologies that impact their lives.

I have lived in several geographically and culturally distinct parts of India and find inspiration in the mind-boggling diversity and chaos of the country. In my spare time, I can be found reading, traveling or tinkering with my Linux machine and small electronics projects.

JUAN RAMIREZ
I was born in Cali, Colombia (South America), but have lived most of my life in Bogota, the capital city of Colombia.

Worked for 5 year at the Ministry of Agriculture, 3 years at the corporate social responsibility department of Alpina (dairy products company), and 2 years at a private sustainability consultant named conTREEbute.

My main policy interests are public-private partnerships, education, social development, and poverty reduction.

I like to run, swim, hike, and yoga.
WHITNEY RAMOS
I grew up in the mountains of Santa Cruz, California surrounded by redwood trees and attended college at UC Berkeley. There, after spending a year as an intended astrophysics major, I found a program that was perfect for me and earned my B.S. in Environmental Economics and Policy. I was drawn to renewable energy and enhanced energy systems as vital pieces of a more environmentally sustainable society, and to policy as an effective way to implement change. During school, I worked as a soccer coach and youth camp counselor, teaching young people to love being active and spending time outdoors. After graduation and a summer of working at the City of Berkeley’s Echo Lake camp above South Lake Tahoe, I completed the City Hall Fellows program working as an Analyst for the City and County of San Francisco’s Public Utilities Commission (SFPUIC) in the Regulatory and Legislative Affairs group. I’ve spent the last five years with the SFPUIC focusing on California’s electricity regulations, markets, and renewable energy programs. Outside of work I like spending time in nature, playing soccer when I can, and finding new podcasts to listen to.

ABIGAIL RIDLEY-KERR
I’m originally from Albany, CA—one, often overlooked, square mile between Berkeley and El Cerrito. I studied political science at Boston University and graduated in May of 2013. I’ve spent the last two years working as an Americorps volunteer with an education based non-profit called City Year down in San Jose. It was there that I developed a keen interest in education policy and reforms that address inequities in access to education. I’m particularly interested in the intersection of civic engagement and education. In my free time I love to be outdoors, hiking, running, and biking. My secret ambition is to develop my skills as a mountaineer and climb Mount Everest. I left Boston because the winters were too cold, so I’ll leave climbing to the experts for now.
HORTENCIA RODRIGUEZ

I am from San Juan, Puerto Rico and have been living in New York since graduating in 2010. Professionally, I have more than five years of experience conducting ethnographic and mixed-methods research in Puerto Rico and across the United States. I have conducted individual in-depth interviews, led focus groups in both English and Spanish, and developed surveys to assess the fidelity to program design and implementation. My research has primarily focused on studying innovative anti-poverty initiatives to understand the successes and limitations of different models that aim to address the cultural, economic, and structural barriers that enable individuals to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Most recently, I worked as a research analyst at The Intersector Project thinking critically about partnerships that span the business, government, and non-profit sectors in the United States. I graduated from Wesleyan University with a B.A. in Anthropology.

In my free time, I enjoy spending days at the beach, stumbling along on my new longboard and re-learning to play with clay.

GREG RYBKA

I am from St. Paul, Minnesota, I went to college in Pennsylvania, and I now live in the Bay Area. Most recently, I was a researcher in the Electricity Markets and Policy Group at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. While there, I conducted research and analysis on emerging issues in demand response, energy efficiency, and distributed energy resources. My primary domestic and international policy interests are in topics involving energy, climate, and social equity.

Prior to joining LBNL, I worked for Nexant (an energy consulting firm) where I led and supported projects on a range of demand side management projects using engineering, economic, policy, and market analysis skills for a variety of clients, such as USAID and the International Energy Agency. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, biking, climbing and making home brew.
LAURA SANCHEZ BOLANOS
I was born and raised in Costa Rica, where I did my undergraduate studies and majored in Economics in 2009. I began my professional career working in a global consultant firm called Copal Amba, a Moody’s subsidiary. At Copal Amba, I assisted the Equity Research department of Morgan Stanley as an off-shore associate for three years. In 2012, I had the opportunity to move to New York and work directly for Morgan Stanley, covering the Life Insurance industry within the Equity Research department for another three-year period.

After six years working on finance, I decided that it was time to go back to my roots and do a Masters in Public Policy, where my policy interests relate to environmental policy analysis, sustainable capitalism, and international development. I intend to combine the knowledge that I will acquire at GSPP with my experience in finance later on, and pursue a job where I can advocate for investments in long-term sustainable investments, either back in my home country or in a foreign location.

RYAN SAPINOSO
Greetings! My name is Ryan Garcia Sapinoso and I am excited to be a part of the MPP ’17 cohort at GSPP.

I was born and raised in L.A. and completed a double major in Ethnic Studies and Philosophy at UCSD. Since then, I’ve enjoyed working with nonprofits like LeaderSpring and Families In Schools (through a term of service with Public Allies LA) to deliver organizational and leadership development programs for local and statewide CBOs and social transformation projects. Most recently, I’ve worked as a middle school educator at the Carter G. Woodson South Elementary School in Chicago, where I launched a program resulting in an average of over 2 years of academic proficiency growth for students in grades 6-8 during our first year of implementation.

Given the confluence of my own upbringing in a low-income immigrant neighborhood and my consistent engagement with youth and parents working toward higher education goals, I am interested in analyzing and shifting policy plans, decisions, and implementations to close the gaps in educational opportunity/achievement and wealth potentials between affluent and low-income communities.

Outside of class, you’ll likely find me running the stair sets at Edwards, biking around Lake Merritt, experimenting in the kitchen with my partner, or driving down the 5 to make wookie noises and play chess with my siblings, cousins, and their babies.
**ALISON SILVEIRA**

A Los Angeles native, I have been drawn to big cities and places of natural beauty for as long as I can remember. My love of travel has taken me far, and I feel fortunate to have found myself at home in both New York City and Santiago, Chile over the last ten years.

While my address has changed more than a few times, my dedication to advocating for others has remained steadfast. I have explored this commitment through journalism, as the editor in chief of an English-language news outlet dedicated to covering human rights issues in Chile, and more recently, through impact litigation, as a paralegal for the ACLU National Office’s Racial Justice Program. Through these experiences and others I have developed a keen interest in criminal justice, education, and housing, all areas I hope to further explore during my time at GSPP.

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**ALISSA SKOG**

Originally from Olympia, Washington, I am happily returning to the "best coast" after working in DC for the past seven years. My career has been largely focused on international human rights & post conflict reconciliation. I was the Senior Program Officer covering East & Horn of Africa at Freedom House for the past four years, which involved extensive travel to the region. I am, however, interested in shifting my focus to domestic social policy issues. Right to housing is an area of interest, as I volunteered at a women’s homeless shelter for years, but I am interested in exploring & learning about other important issue areas.

I am an aficionado of both board and card games alike - cribbage is my current favorite. Exploring the camping and hiking areas near Berkeley is something I look forward to during any downtime we may have. As for an interesting fact, I attended a live taping of the Ellen DeGeneres show in 2008 & it is still considered the best day of my life. A close second is abseiling into New Zealand's Waitomo Caves (explains the picture).
NANCY STETSON
I was born and raised in a rural town in Vermont, studied economics and math in college in New York City, and then returned to my home state after graduation. Since then I’ve worked as a state legislative aide and as a research analyst at a nonprofit. My work in both positions has centered around a benefit-cost model, with a particular focus on the criminal justice system. In general, I’m interested in using technology and data to improve social policy in the United States. I’m also an avid knitter, potter, and mother of a one year old.

SATOSHI SUZUKI
Nice to meet you! I’m Satoshi Suzuki from Tokyo, Japan. I worked as an official at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Japanese Government for about four years before attending GSPP. I'm interested in the higher education policy and the science and technology policy. I studied biology at the Univ. of Tokyo and have master's degree in science. I love cooking, cycling, fishing, playing baseball and soccer, and traveling. My wife Eri, who was my colleague in the ministry, is also going to study public policy from this fall, but she is attending UCLA.
I'm looking forward to studying with you!

JASON TILIPMAN
My name is Jason, I was born and raised in Livingston, NJ. I went to college at Rutgers University, where I majored in Economics and minored in Mathematics. After I graduated, I began working as a Research Assistant in the Health Research & Policy department at Stanford University. My work in this field helped strengthen my interest in two policy areas: health and poverty & inequality.
In my spare time, I enjoy writing/performing stand-up comedy, cycling, playing guitar, and playing tennis.
**SARAH TING**

I am a native of Oakland, with a love for the bay and food! I previously worked in public policy research at the Urban Institute focusing on national health, education and employment, and anti-poverty program evaluations for the Department of Labor and Department of Health and Human Services. After UI, I worked in India for a year conducting food systems fieldwork and community-based participatory research with a grassroots women’s empowerment organization, Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA). I recently returned to my hometown to work on a district-wide farm to school initiative and garden education for Oakland Unified School District’s Farm to School program through FoodCorps. In 2014, I was honored for my service with an invitation to meet First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House and help plant the spring kitchen garden there. I currently serve on the Oakland Food Policy Council, the Executive Board of Acta Non Verba: Youth Urban Farm Project, and lead a community food storytelling project in Oakland.

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**MATTHEW VALETA**

My name is Matthew Valeta. For the past three years I worked in Denver, Colorado at the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, a consumer advocacy organization. I primarily focused on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the cost of private health insurance in Colorado. At Goldman I am especially interested in studying health policy, fiscal policy, and communications strategies.

I am excited to explore California and take advantage of the beautiful parks and hiking opportunities. In my free time I especially enjoy playing baseball/softball, basketball, biking, and playing jazz/funk trombone. I once finished second place in the Colorado College male beauty pageant and I've been chasing that feeling ever since.
**Brett Webster**

I was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and completed BAs in Philosophy and Environmental Studies at UC Santa Cruz. After college, I spent nine years working as a field instructor for the National Outdoor Leadership School. I specialize in glacier mountaineering, and have had the privilege of teaching in some of the world’s most remote, pristine, and spectacular places, mainly in the mountains of Alaska and Chilean Patagonia. My passion for environmental issues, particularly energy and climate change, has been central to my work in the outdoors, and I’m excited to pursue these topics from a new perspective at Goldman.

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**Keith Welch**

I am originally from Vancouver, WA and graduated from Linfield College, a small college in Oregon, where I studied International Relations and German Studies. A summer job at a fruit processing plant sparked my interest in immigration policy and over the years I’ve become interested in many of the policy areas that interact with immigration such as international development, education and criminal justice. I’ve spent the past year conducting an independent research project on the development of immigrant integration policy in Germany and have also worked with an immigration research institute at the University of Bamberg.

I’m a major proponent of the power of the social sector to make positive change happen so - in addition to the quantitative courses - I’m looking forward to learning about nonprofit management and policy advocacy while at Goldman. I’m also very much looking forward to the plethora of hiking, good coffee, craft beer and great food that the Bay Area has to offer.
**Daniel Willis**

I grew up in San Jose California and graduated from Berkeley in 2012 with a major in Environmental Economics and Policy and minor in Conservation and Resource Studies. During my undergraduate years I developed interests in energy and climate policy as well as impact evaluation as it relates to international development economics. For the past three years I have worked for the California Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco as a regulatory analyst in the Office of Ratepayer Advocates. There I represented residential and small business ratepayers as an expert witness in Commission proceedings affecting electric rate design for the state's major investor-owned utility companies. While at Goldman I look forward to improving my analytical and quantitative skills and exploring a range of policy areas, intending to focus on both energy and international development. In my free time I enjoy running, hiking, surfing, cooking and traveling whenever possible.

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**Andrew Wilson**

I am originally from San Diego, but I have lived in Berkeley for 7 years. I’m interested in housing, environmental, and urban policy, especially their psychological, economic, and legal dimensions. I come to GSPP after three years with Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco, where I managed construction crews, grew a community organizing initiative, and performed some rudimentary data and policy analyses.

Outside of public policy, I’m enthusiastic about almost everything, but especially constitutional law, mid-century Danish furniture, silent film, architecture, transportation planning, linguistics, cryptography, LGBT issues, folksy electronic music, cooking, swimming, and graphic design. I also have an enormous collection of fruit stickers. When I was young, I watched a revolution unfold in Indonesia and dressed as a ladybug every Halloween, things which shaped my hope for the future.
ERIC WILSON
I grew up in Portland, Oregon. I attended Middlebury College in Vermont. I majored in English, with a minor in Spanish. I also played for the soccer team, and sang in an a cappella group. I graduated in 2013. Between then and now, I worked as a researcher at a law firm in Washington, DC. I'm an avid skier and cyclist. My self-summary skills are little-used and inadequate.

RACHEL YOUNG
I am a Minnetonka, Minnesota native but am moving back west by way of Washington, D.C. where I worked as a Senior Research Analyst at the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). At ACEEE I analyzed federal and international energy efficiency policy—calculating potential impacts of U.S. legislation and evaluating country efforts to cut energy waste. Prior to ACEEE I was getting my B.A. in Environmental Studies at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, OR, and I held a fellowship at the Breakthrough Institute in Oakland, CA. I am passionate about the environment and hope to continue working on energy and climate policy issues after graduating. Outside of work and school I enjoy riding my bike, running, crocheting, hiking and live music. I am a traveler and have been wandering in South America for 3 months prior to starting at GSPP. I hope to continue exploring different parts of the world my whole life. Salude!
ALEXANDRIA YUAN

My name is Alexandria Yuan (or Shen, since I just got married but haven't legally changed my name...yet:)) and I was born in LA, raised in Irvine, spend my middle school years in Shanghai, then went to high school in both Los Angeles and Beijing. I love China and the US equally, as each has its own culture, people and environment to appreciate.

I graduated from Cal with a double major in Environmental Economics and Comparative Literature, and went on to work for 3 years as a Program Associate for China Strategy and Analysis at the Energy Foundation, where I conducted research and managed grants.

I like cooking, singing, art, frisbee, basketball and serving/mentoring college students with my church group.

Some interesting facts about myself: I have an identical twin sister who is one minute younger than me. Growing up, I also had 3 front teeth growing, with the middle tooth growing upwards, which had to be surgically removed. These are kind of random facts but oh well, there ya have it:)

Really looking forward to getting to know my fellow grad students and professors these coming two years.

STACY ZHONG

Stacy is a Bay Area native through and through, and that is reflected in her interest in local social policy issues. She graduated with a BA in Sociology and Psychology from UC Berkeley in 2012, and worked as a data analyst at San Francisco's Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families prior to coming to the Goldman School. When she's not contemplating the causes of poverty and homelessness, she can be found exploring the many restaurants and cafes the Bay Area has to offer.