**AVI BLACK, MPP 1985**

*History/Social Sciences Coordinator – Alameda County Office of Education (Hayward, CA)*

I draw upon three points of perspective and commitment in offering my candidacy to the Alumni Association Board of Directors: I’m grateful to GSPP for the connections I made while there and after; I want to “give back” to the school for what I received; and, I have the willingness (and ability) to put in the requisite time and energy.

Our class of 1985 was especially tight, and we’ve stayed so over the years (and with graduates from other early years). We put on the very first talent show! I’ve enjoyed organizing reunions at key celebration points (including our 30th, last year), about which my classmates can give satisfied testimony.

As one of the very few graduates who ended up using his MPP extensively in teaching ancient world history to 6th-graders (comparing GSPP’s eight-fold path to the Buddha’s?), I must cede ground to my other esteemed candidates in terms of the impact I’ve made on the world of policy making and implementation. Their accomplishments truly awe me – GSPP turns out incredible wonderful people! My two years at the school taught me ways of thinking I’ve carried with me throughout my life, in many arenas, from teaching students (and then teachers) to organizing community events; but in terms of actual policy-related experience upon which I can draw for work on the Alumni Association Board, I must humbly acknowledge that mine has much more to do with a mostly avocational interest in what goes on in that world. But I can promise that my interest is strong, and that it will serve me well in the communications I’d imagine having with other alumni as the core aspect of my work for the board.

Having served on several Boards, I have a decent sense of what’s involved. I’ve recently retired – a “21st-century retirement” to be sure, in which I still consult, but one that gives me plenty of time to do the meetings, emailing, phoning, etc. that a Board member must commit to. I live in Berkeley, too, which gives me easy access to the school itself – not a small advantage.

Since we had only 28 classmates back then, I have to draw on multiple classes to create a base of support to match those candidates who come from the much larger classes graduating these days. Vote for me, old-timers!

**VICTORIA (LAWS) BROWN, MPP 2011**

*Senior Policy Advisor – White House Domestic Policy Council (Washington, DC)*

I am honored to have been nominated and would be thrilled to serve on the GSPP Alumni Board. Since graduating from GSPP, I have been actively involved with the alumni community in Washington, DC. I have participated in events for new admits and am a diligent contributor to the annual fall networking trips – an opportunity which was critical to my own job search success while in graduate school.

Time and again, I have seen the incredible value of my GSPP education prove itself in my career. The tools and skills developed by GSPP have been invaluable in my policy work both as a Senior Policy Advisor for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and at the White House Domestic Policy Council. In my day to day I often think back wistfully to the 48 hour project, wishing I could have that much time to turn around a really great policy memo, but the practical experience and preparation I received has been so directly applicable.

I would like to serve on the board in order to continue to build on the opportunities that GSPP provided for me and ensure them for future cohorts of students. As an alum in the DC area, my fellow alumni and I can provide a critical link for students to federal policy. If elected, I intend to be a committed board member, building on the strong foundation created by the school, to ensure that it sustains students well beyond my time of service.
SARAH BRUNDAGE, MPP 2016

State and Local Policy Program Director – Enterprise Community Partners (San Francisco, CA)

During my time at GSPP, I was determined to get the most out of the program—and at times that meant creating new opportunities. I co-founded the Housing and Urban Policy (HUP) student group so that current students could connect with each other and alumni in the broad housing and urban policy field. I knew that current students wanted to engage with alumni in preparation for prospective IPAs, APAs, internships, and jobs. I also believed that alumni would likely be willing to invest in current students and the program and would enjoy the opportunity to re-connect with each other and further develop their own professional networks. Thanks to the support from my peers and GSPP staff, HUP was immediately one of the most active student groups. We organized several large HUP events and invited the regional network of alumni in the housing and urban policy field, as well as other policy leaders in the area. The events featured prominent speakers—including Ophelia Basgal, Carol Galante, and Emily Badger—and successfully attracted a large mix of alumni and students. As a board member, I would like to continue developing programming that connects our alumni with the program, is professionally and personally interesting and beneficial, and continues to foster a learning, supportive network.

I voluntarily did this type of program development and communications work because it is what I had been doing for nearly five years beforehand. Prior to GSPP, I was the communications director for the National Low Income Housing Coalition in Washington, DC. I worked closely with our board of directors, oversaw our communications and marketing strategy, and supported our development team with event planning and fundraising campaigns. While at GSPP, I developed a branding and marketing plan that incorporated fundraising elements for a local nonprofit, and provided strategic communications consulting for the American Society for Public Administration.

I truly enjoy bringing people together with shared interests and experiences, and GSPP will always be one of my most valued experiences. Whether I was speaking to prospective students, developing recommendations for the program through the “Power, Privilege, and Inclusive Policy Making” student-led course, or hosting events at GSPP, I was always striving to elevate GSPP to its full potential. As I return to the professional world as a policy director in San Francisco, I will continue to bring people together and promote GSPP along the way. I hope that I can formally do this work as a new member of the alumni board. Thank you for your consideration!

STUART DROWN, MPP 1986

Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Accountability – Government Operations Agency (Sacramento, CA)

I am asking for your vote to elect me to the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

I have previously served on the board, for several years as chair, and found it an immensely gratifying experience, both working with fellow board members and Goldman’s terrific faculty and staff.

Since leaving the board, I’ve continued to work with the school, working with both an IPA team and hosting an APA project. Both have been terrific experiences, and have introduced new ideas to Sacramento, and state government to fledgling policy analysts.

I’d like to continue to strengthen alumni involvement in working with students, connecting them to the world of work and encouraging greater GSPP engagement in the Sacramento policy arena.

I currently am deputy secretary for innovation and accountability at the Government Operations Agency, a new agency within California State Government. My focus is on introducing and implementing strategies to modernize government processes. Inevitably, I meet fellow alums in the course of my work, always a pleasure.

I appreciate your consideration.
MARY JUNE FLORES, MPP/MPH 2015

Policy Aide – Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan (Oakland, CA)

I write to express my interest in serving on the GSPP Alumni Association Board and request your support. I am interested in serving on the board because I believe in its six-fold purpose and, in my opinion, its ultimate mission of training and preparing the next generation of public policy decision-makers, who are anchored not only by an evidence-based approach, but also by a set of social-justice values.

I first came to GSPP as a Public Policy & International Affairs (PPIA) policy and law fellow summer of 2009. The PPIA program, as well as the GSPP faculty and staff, were instrumental in my professional development in public policy and public service. Since then, I have worked within institutions to create positive and meaningful policy changes. I served as a health policy legislative aide in the California State Assembly before coming back to GSPP as a MPP/MPH student. My first exposures to public policy through PPIA, and the challenging, yet rewarding academic and life experiences as a GSPP grad student have forever transformed me and cemented my conviction to pursue a life in public service. Knowing that these experiences would not have been possible without the tremendous and generous support of GSPP faculty and staff, I have also cemented my commitment to supporting our GSPP family.

While at Cal, I represented GSPP as its Graduate Assembly (GA) delegate and eventually as the elected Executive Vice President. In this position, I ensured that GSPP students were informed about how to access available resources provided by UC Berkeley’s Graduate Division. At GSPP, I was part of the Students of Color in Public Policy (SCIPP) steering committee, which organized and hosted the 5th Annual SCIPP Race & Policy Symposium on “Implicit Bias and its Explicit Consequences” – a week-long series of panels and discussions, which culminated in a GSPP/SCIPP alumni networking and symposium celebration.

If elected to serve on the GSPP Alumni Association Board, I will look for and seize opportunities to support GSPP financially and programmatically. I will work with the rest of the board to ensure that what we do as a board is current and relevant to the needs of GSPP as an institution, but also to the needs of its current student body. Thank you for your support!

SHELLY GEHSHAN, MPP 1985

Policy Consultant and Career Coach (Bethesda, MD)

In 2013, I was honored and happy to be elected to serve on the Alumni Association board. I gained so much from my time at GSPP that I wanted to give back. In my first 2 years, I focused on fundraising. And how did we do? I can proudly say that the board contributed more that year than in any but 2008. Then I focused on building support for PolicyMatters Journal (PMJ), an excellent student-run publication that most alumni who graduated before 2005 haven’t even seen. In a great group effort, we succeeded in getting the Fall 2015 issue of PMJ sent to every GSPP alumni for the first time.

In the past year, I’ve taken over as chair of the alumni activities committee. We’re the party planners, supporting coordinators across the country who host events that are fun, fascinating, and both strengthen the GSPP community and help current students. Last year, I also made a big leap in my own career. After 30 years in health policy in Washington, I earned a new credential as a coach. I now split my time between policy consulting and career coaching. It was fun last year to donate coaching to about dozen GSPP students.

I’d like to ask for your vote to serve a second and final term on the board. If re-elected, I’ve been asked and have agreed to chair the board—and would be the first woman to do so. If I win your support, I would focus on three things as chair. The first is board development, so members are passionate about our mission and well equipped to meet our shared goals. The second is building relationships among board members and between the board, the staff and the GSPP community. The third is looking for new opportunities for the association to add value to the alumni community and build support for GSPP.
CHRISTIAN GRIFFITH, MPP 1997  
*Chief Consultant – State of California Assembly Budget Committee (Sacramento, CA)*  

I want to serve on the GSPP Alumni Board to ensure the voices of our talented alumni community are heard. There should be more opportunities to contribute for alumni who are not board members. We are products of one the nation's most forward looking schools and yet our board is a relic of old thinking. It is time for a change, which starts by valuing our community as a resource for itself.

If elected, I would push the board to focus its limited resources on maximizing engagement with alumni, students, faculty and administration. My experience serving two prior terms on this board, from 2008-2015, and my professional skill set will ensure an effective path to change. As the Chief Consultant for the Assembly Budget Committee, I manage the team that builds California's $262 billion annual budget. Fulfilling this role requires that I foster an environment to find and harness the best in people.

We are part of a great community. I am proud of my two GSPP alumni hires, the four APAs and one IPA I have hosted, along with the accomplishments of other grads I have encouraged to build careers in Sacramento. I know that the GSPP alumni community is a well of immeasurable talent. We need a board that prioritizes this resource, which is why I ask for your support of my candidacy. Thank you.

CHRISTOPHER (CJ) HOWARD, MPP 2013  
*Chief of Policy and Planning – California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Care Quality (Sacramento, CA)*  

Knowing nothing else about me, someone said, “When I saw GSPP on your resume, I knew there was a place for you in this organization.” Reflecting on that statement makes me feel honored and humbled; honored to have received a degree from the Goldman School of Public Policy, but also humbled to be a member of an extraordinary alumni network that is collectively engaging the world.

GSPP’s combination of world class faculty, top tier students, and alumni, make it the best policy school in the country. Of note during my two years at GSPP was the conduit between alumni and students. Were it not for alumni I would not have done my IPA with the California Assembly Budget Committee, worked with the San Francisco Board of Supervisors’ Budget Office, completed my APA with California School Based Health Alliance, nor would I now be working at the California Department of Public Health. I am grateful to have had these opportunities available during my student years and would now like to provide the same framework as a professional.

I am running for the alumni board because my classmates, the school, and the alumni have given and taught me so much. I want to continue to build networks that encourage GSPP students, support the faculty, and foster alumni. I will be honored and humbled to receive your vote.

MIKHAIL HARAMATI, MPP 2013  
*Legislative Advisor – California Public Utilities Commission (Sacramento, CA)*  

I will bring to this position the hard work and persistence that got me to where I am today: an expert in energy efficiency, and the legislative advisor for a state agency that is a world leader in energy policy.

I envision a GSPP board that fosters greater diversity and deeper connections among the alumni, community, current students, and future board members. I believe that diversity – of socio-economic status, cultural and geographic background, and life experience – is essential in both public policy and board governance.

I exemplify someone who took an alternate path to success. I dropped out of high school at age 17, took the GED, spent time at community college, transferred to a four-year university, and finally to GSPP. I am proud to be a graduate of GSPP, where I developed skills to advance my career in energy policy and made connections that will serve me for the rest of my life. As an artist and someone from a non-traditional academic background, I add a unique perspective to the board.

I have already served on two other working boards – the Energy Efficiency Industry Council of California and the Angel Island Conservancy – and I understand that this responsibility requires serious commitment and effort. As a director on the Efficiency Council board, I mobilized members to take a risk and increase our revenue by hiring staff for fundraising and event planning – to be paid from the new revenue generated. This decision proved successful and enabled the board to do more governing and less administration, putting the board on a path to sustainability and longevity.

If elected to the GSPP alumni board, I will harness my enthusiasm and tenacity to make the local, regional, and global GSPP community a livelier, more connected, and meaningful place.
MATT JORDAN, MPP 2008  
*Senior Manager, Clean Energy Access – CLASP (Washington, DC / Atlanta, GA)*

I entered Goldman in 2006 with campaign and nonprofit management experience, looking to move into a career in environmental policy. I had no idea what that career would look like—I was passionate about sustainability and the fight against climate change, but I had no professional experience in (and knew little about) either. Through Goldman's excellent coursework, and consulting projects like IPA and APA, I gained enough experience in energy and climate to be a viable candidate in the field; and through its alumni network, I landed my first job in it. Again through Goldman's alumni network, I landed my second job. These two jobs directly prepared me for my current position, where I'm leading a growing portfolio of international programs focused on energy efficiency and access to clean energy in the developing world. I couldn’t have known it then, but this was exactly the career I was hoping for when I came to Goldman.

I feel a great deal of gratitude to the Goldman School and its alumni. The school, and my two short years there, stand in my mind as the high-water mark for what education can be—I’d never before been surrounded by such smart, hardworking people, and I’d never been in an academic setting so well structured to its purpose. I’ve gotten a lot out of Goldman, its network, and its reputation, and I’d like to give something back.

I was thrilled to be nominated for the Goldman Alumni Board, and I hope that I’ll have the chance to serve. There are a few things that I’d like to focus on, should I be elected to the Board. I’ve found that Goldman is underrepresented in international development and policy circles, and I’d like to see that change. I’ve done a lot of fundraising – in the last two years I’ve raised more than $8 million from a wide variety of donors – and I’d bring the lessons learned from that experience to the Alumni Board. After years of working in Washington, I’ve seen that Goldman’s brand there isn’t as strong as that of schools like Kennedy or SAIS, and I’d like to work with the school and the Alumni Board to raise the Goldman School’s profile nationally.

COREY MATTHEWS, MPP 2015  
*National Director of Impact – LeadersUp*

“Poor people get programs but rich people get policies.”

I heard this powerful statement, at one of the many conferences that I attend on behalf of my company, and I could not agree more. I help to lead a social enterprise established by the Starbucks Corporation to connect young people between the ages of 16-24 that are not in school and not working, "Opportunity Youth", to full-time jobs with large companies. The more than 5.5 million Opportunity Youth across the nation costs taxpayers billions of dollars each year and represent a wide range of vulnerabilities including the formerly incarcerated, homeless youth, single mothers, high school drop outs, and young people in foster care. After meeting with a number of leaders across municipalities about this increasingly hard to reach population, “Opportunity Youth”, I remain convinced that nothing short of reimagining the entire public sector would help to serve them, and society, better.

The Goldman School of Public Policy trained me to be critical: to connect dots and build bridges, to understand the external factors shaping public policy, and to ground myself in the data necessary to convince decision makers. It is with this same fervor that many Goldman alumni find themselves working within various facets of the policy ecosystem to drive change but often with mounting frustration that change simply does not happen fast enough. People are still hurting, systems remain broken, society has grown even more distrusting, yet I believe that the time for decisive, courageous, and creative public policy leadership, has come.

The tools we have gained absent our shared responsibility to pool together, strategize key positions within our network, and reach for one another professionally, would be a missed opportunity. As a former class representative, fundraiser, organizational leader, and now alum, I want to unite the Goldman School to make the case for deeper investment in trained public policy analysts clear. We have to acquire the resources, establish the platform, and communicate the successes of our school – a true gem in the policy world – to actualize our commitment to sustainable policy change. Per our strategic plan, I’d be honored to help us continue moving forward in creatively solving some of society’s most pressing problems, together.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.
GSPP Alumni Association Board of Directors Candidate Statements
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STEVE MICHALS, MPP 1996

From my work in the Federal Government, I’ve interacted with many public servants including graduates of the other policy schools. I’ve enjoyed exchanges on the many issues of today, not the least of which includes how practitioners strive to translate complex and involved policy matters into practical messages for consumers from Capitol Hill to the public. Of course, while GSPP graduates inject a rich perspective here, rooted in the teachings of the Goldman School, I believe there are opportunities for us to advance the “state of the art” of what policy analysis can contribute.

With this, I would like to help grow our collective network’s ability to reinvigorate each of us and share in experiences such as practitioners’ approaches to the myriad policy challenges, initiatives, and communications. We have a great network of GSPP alumni and students working in Washington, DC and I would like to help further grow GSPP’s presence and value to employers on this end of the country. I’d also like to assist in such Alumni Board efforts as learning all it can from actions of the alumni programs at other graduate schools (there are four policy schools at universities located here in the DC area).

The GSPP Alumni Association is a great avenue for putting forward our collective experiences for the benefit of students and alumni. The past and current Alumni Boards have developed a solid foundation and challenging goals and actions for us. It would be an honor to help build on that foundation and help continue the Goldman School’s success.

JULIA NAGLE, MPP 2011
Senior Analyst – Harvey M. Rose Associates, LLC (San Francisco, CA)

I am excited to apply for a position on the GSPP Alumni Board. I greatly valued the many opportunities that I pursued while at the school, from classes, to internships, to client work. The connections that I made there continue to be important to me, even five years later. Since graduating, I have been active in planning alumni activities. Most notably, I’ve organized the GSPP annual barbecue for alumni and current students in the Bay Area for several years running. If elected, I would like to organize other events for alumni in the Bay Area, including panel discussions and social events. I am also interested in developing and implementing a plan to better market the school and to solicit financial and other contributions from alumni. I am currently working as an analyst for an organization that is filled with amazing people from GSPP, and I would be honored to more formally support this community, here in the Bay Area and nationally.

COREY PONDER, MPP 2009
Product Specialist – Facebook (Menlo Park, CA)

The lessons I learned at GSPP extended beyond the pages of problem sets, memos, or readers. My lessons emanated from the ethos embodied in every student, faculty, staff, and class: “speak truth to power”. I left GSPP with an invaluable toolkit, and I am grateful.

GSPP cultivates a community of leaders, problem solvers, and changemakers, and I want to help GSPP continue that tradition using the skills and experiences I have gained since graduating.

Since graduating from GSPP, I have remained actively involved in our efforts to recruit the brightest young minds to apply for and ultimately find their place in our program. I have worked with student affairs to serve as a representative at graduate school fairs across DC, communicating with prospective applicants about the GSPP program and how that curriculum prepares students to pursue their passions. I have also phone banked – calling students that received offers of admission and discussing the merits of the program, its curriculum, and its strong support network.

For my undergraduate alma mater – Vanderbilt – I served as our community service chair for the Alumni Association, requiring the planning and execution of programs for DC Alums. I also serve as part of an alumni corps of interviewers for Vanderbilt, interviewing students that have applied for admission to Vanderbilt. I believe both of these experiences will be valuable in thinking about engagement with our own network. I also served for four years on the board of start-up nonprofit Capital Cause as Director of PR and then board member focused on partnerships and engagement, helping this organization reach and create a new generation of young philanthropists.

If I am elected as a member of the board, I want to take an active role in our programs and initiatives to recruit diverse talent into the program and work on programming to help engage our alumni. I would love the opportunity to serve our school and its network in a greater capacity, and would be honored to have your vote.
CHELSEA SAMUEL, MPP 2016
Analyst – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (San Francisco, CA)

With only a month of experience as a GSPP alum under my belt, it’s an honor to be considered for candidacy on the GSPPAA Board of Directors. My time at GSPP was illuminating and transformative, particularly due to the incredible cohort who challenged me and the generous alums who mentored me. One of the best things about GSPP is that my experience was not unique. Joining the GSPPAA Board would be a way for me to maintain a connection to a place I love while ensuring it remains welcoming to its alums, challenging to its students and accessible to a diverse pool of prospective students.

But everyone in the GSPP Alumni Association loves GSPP. I also have years of professional experience as a museum fundraiser, volunteer coordinator, and nonprofit consultant. Before grad school, I served on the Board of Directors for the Contemporaries at McColl Center for Visual Art in Charlotte, where I helped lead the organization through a strategic planning process, moving them from a social group that planned monthly networking events to a group committed to financially supporting the Center with an annual fundraiser. When I left, the event was well on its way to raising an additional $25,000 for the organization. The GSPPAA is in a period of transformation and needs an efficient, hardworking, and committed Board to steward it through this transition. I want to join the GSPPAA Board of Directors to ensure the organization can continue to achieve its mission, through robust fundraising, engaging programming, and effective governance. I appreciate your vote.

DOUGLAS STEIGER, MPP 1991
Counselor to the Secretary for Human Services – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington, DC)

My experience at GSPP was crucial to my career. In fact, I work today on issues that I first studied at GSPP, including my summer internship. Over the years, I have continued to be impressed by the GSPP graduates I have seen and worked with (and for) around Washington, whether their careers have been like mine with the Federal Government or taken them into other forms of service, such as teaching or community development law. I would be honored to be a part of the Alumni Board as part of contributing to the on-going strength of the institution and the community of graduates that grows each year.

I have lived and worked in Washington since GSPP, including stints at the Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Senate as well as my current position at HHS. I have been a career civil servant as well as a political appointee and seen public policy from “within the system” from many perspectives. My work has been mostly about better ways to help the disadvantaged, such as children in foster care or Native Americans, and on issues related to welfare reform.

As part of the Board, I’d like to make sure we can tap into the experience of mid/late-career alumni like myself as well as the passion and energy of recent graduates. One thing about being closer to retirement than graduation is an increasing desire to “pass it on” and ensure that institutions like GSPP that have meant so much to oneself are in strong shape to continue into the future. Another part of this is having worked in public policy through multiple political eras, which can help give a sense of perspective about what changes and what stays the same.

If elected, I would be proud to serve and eager to give back to a place, and community, to which I owe so much.
GSPP Alumni Association Board of Directors Candidate Statements
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MICHELE SUTTON, MPP 2008

Senior Consultant – UPD Consulting (San Francisco, CA)

GSPP helped me take my conviction for social justice and focus it, while developing the skills and perspective to drive change at a systems level and the entrepreneurial spirit to create new pathways if the current ones do not get us far enough.

I currently work at UPD Consulting (founded by a ’93 GSPP alum) and quite literally did a 48-hour project as a part of my hiring process – when I was researching levy structures and water use policy in the living room at 2am, I had no idea that very specific training would come in handy nearly a decade later! In my role, I get to apply my policy knowledge and skills to large urban school districts as I tackle issues of educational access and quality. Previously, I worked as the Vice President of Teacher Leadership Development at Teach For America-Bay Area, where I led the design and implementation of an innovative adult learning model. And before that, I worked as the Executive Director of Teach for America-Kansas City, where I helped turn around and dramatically grow the region, raising $5M annually. As Executive Director, I also managed a board of directors, leading us through an engagement and visioning process and seeing first-hand the critical value of a committed and high-functioning board.

While I’ve always valued my Goldman experience, I’m now at a time in my life and career where I have the capacity to make a meaningful commitment to GSPP, and I think I might actually have something to contribute—including fundraising, board leadership, management of high-performing teams, success in organizational turnaround and scaling, and the ability to perform a surprising number of 90s hip hop routines. I am grateful for the skills, networks, and perspective I gained at GSPP, and I would be both excited and honored to serve on the Alumni Board of Directors. Thank you for your consideration.

ORVILLE THOMAS, MPP 2013

Director of Government Affairs – California Alliance for Jobs (Sacramento, CA)

If we think of the Goldman School as a family, the alumni board would be the aunt or uncle that you rarely see or hear from, except when they contact you for money. And while there are certain things we can never change about alumni organizations – the need for money being the primary ask, I’m hoping my presence on the board would help Goldman alumni see a greater return on their investment to the school.

If elected, I would work to ensure that the Goldman School connects with all of its alumni family and maintains those bonds. Alumni have a role to play in how the school moves forward and my goal is to make sure that every voice gets heard in that conversation. Public policy is changing and our role as policy makers and alumni of a distinguished policy school is mirroring that shift. We as an alumni organization have a chance to help the school figure out where GSPP should be in the next 15-20 years and what the makeup of future classes (and future alumni) will be during that time. My hope is that by including different voices on the board in the years to come, we would have a group that speaks for the larger GSPP alumni community regarding issues that we’ve been trained to be leaders on.

My professional qualifications for the board focus on communications and politics, two areas board members need to know to succeed. Since graduating in 2013, I have served the administration of Governor Jerry Brown as an aide in his press office, a spokesperson for the high-speed rail project, and most recently, as the Deputy Director of Public Affairs for the California Department of Public Health. Currently, I am the Director of Government Affairs for the California Alliance for Jobs – an advocacy organization focused on responsible investments in public infrastructure projects. Outside of work I serve as the communications co-chair of Sacramento’s young Chamber of Commerce organization and volunteer for several local non-profits in the area. My current and former roles have all helped me understand the rigors that come with a board position and how definitions of success can vary depending on the perspective you look at it with.

If you have made it this far, thank you for your time. I hope to have earned your vote. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at othomas@rebuildca.org.
EVAN WHITE, MPP/JD 2012  
**Senior Advisor to the Director – Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Washington, DC)**

My timing was perfect. I started at GSPP just months before Barack Obama was elected President. While John Ellwood taught me about policy windows, a big one was opening in Washington. Robert Reich’s lessons on leadership played out before our eyes in the new Administration. I came into Goldman wanting to be a public interest lawyer and I came out a federal policy wonk. Thanks to GSPP, I was lucky enough to intern at the White House and to teach for Professor Reich for four unforgettable years. I’m now using my GSPP education every day to stand up our newest federal agency dedicated to bringing fairness to the financial system.

I would be honored to serve on GSPP’s alumni board and believe I would be an asset. I’m already a booster for the program, and am proud to have personally recruited at least one new student per year since graduating. I also started a program at CFPB to bring in Goldman students for capstone projects like the APA or IPA. I have previously served on the boards of the Contra Costa Crisis Center and the national Unitarian Universalist youth association.

If given the opportunity to serve, these would be among my priorities:

1. Continuing to recruit high-quality, experienced, and diverse faculty and students. While a student, I pushed to increase the number of women and people of color on the faculty, an effort which is now bearing fruit. I also served on the Admissions Committee, where I put a premium on recruiting experienced candidates of varied backgrounds.

2. Building out the school’s reputation at the federal level, with a focus on fostering connections in Washington DC. The annual networking trip has helped boost GSPP’s visibility, but much more could be done to leverage the talented alums in our nation’s capital.

3. Boost fundraising. Goldman students should not be subject to the whims of state budget cycles. We lose too many talented applicants to programs with stronger scholarship opportunities. We can and should do more to develop a strong base of support that ensures GSPP’s continued legacy.

ANDREW (KOELHER) WIEDLEA, MPP 1995 / PhD 2001  
**User Support Department Chief, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley, CA)**

Thanks to the academic training provided by GSPP, the interactions I had with classmates during and after my time as a student at Berkeley, and the links and opportunities provided by GSPP faculty and affiliations, I have had a wonderful career. I would like to serve on the Alumni Board to help the school provide the same kind of exciting, interdisciplinary resources to current and future students.

I have just moved back to Berkeley and joined the staff at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Prior to this current position, I was in federal service with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and previously worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory. These experiences have all involved working on a wide range of technology development efforts and have emphasized the important role that the public policy analytic toolbox can and should play in shaping how technical systems are created. The discipline of Public Policy is not just a “paper study” activity. Technologies have concrete and often very striking impacts upon users and stakeholders – and GSPP must continue to be at the forefront of helping understand what the physical technology products and engineering supported by public funding mean from the standpoint of alternatives and values.

If selected, I would look forward to helping bolster the capabilities, resources, and reputation of GSPP as the premier Public Policy program in the nation, and to support greater interdisciplinary ties between technology and policy programs.

**TO CAST YOUR VOTE:**

Check your email for your personalized link to the online ballot. If you did not receive an email, contact Cecille Cabacungan (cecille@berkeley.edu)

Voting Period: June 15 – June 30, 2016  
(Voting ends at 11:59 PST on June 30, 2016)