

## GSPP Alumni Association Board of Directors Candidate Statements 2018 Election

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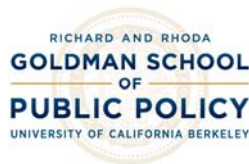
### 2018 GSPP Alumni Association Board of Directors Candidates

- Brenda Munoz - MPP 2010
- Thato Ramoabi - MPA 2017
- Heidi Nelson Young - MPP 1993
- Jasmine LaRoche - MPP 2016
- Elizabeth Gress - MPA 2017
- Jennifer Millman Tell - MPP 2015
- Kurston Cook - MPP 2017
- Chung-Han Lee - MPP 1997
- Avi Black - MPP 1985
- Ashley Bliss Lima - MPP 2014

### TO CAST YOUR VOTE:

- 1) Review the candidate statements on the following pages.
- 2) Check your email for your personalized link to the online ballot.  
*If you did not receive an email, contact Cecille Cabacungan ([cecille@berkeley.edu](mailto:cecille@berkeley.edu))*

Voting Period: June 28 – July 19, 2018  
(Voting ends at 11:59 PST on July 19, 2018)



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### **BRENDA MUNOZ – MPP 2010**

#### ***Manager, Membership Growth, Labor Management Partnership - Kaiser Permanente, Oakland CA***

I manage the labor liaison program at the Kaiser Permanente Labor Management Partnership. I bridge unions with Kaiser Permanente on a variety of issues, including health benefits. After graduating from GSPP, I worked as an analyst at the Government Accountability Office where I researched and analyzed a range of issues, including Tribal TANF, E. Coli in beef, and affordable housing. Before joining GSPP, I worked as a union organizer and strategic researcher for a large U.S. union representing public sector employees. I also worked for a small non-profit organization in California, The Labor Project for Working Families, dedicated to informing low-wage workers about how to benefit from the historic California Paid Family Leave legislation passed in 2006.

If elected, I commit to be fully engaged to make the GSPP program stronger and more attractive for prospective students, but also for current students. My focus areas as a Board member would include:

- 1) **Identify social and emotional support needs for current students and resources to meet those needs.** We know GSPP has a rigorous academic program, which gave us the quantitative and analytic tools to advance in our professional careers. This is one of the reasons many of us chose to pursue our education at Cal. However, to fully benefit from the academic gains and world-class instructors, current students must feel that they belong at GSPP. It's no secret that many students suffer from Impostor Syndrome, a feeling of not belonging, self-doubt or fraudulence that is unwarranted. Students must know that efforts are being made and resources are available to support their mental and emotional well-being. We must provide additional resources and opportunities to ensure that students succeed academically and personally. We could explore opportunities for more formal alumni/peer coaching and mentoring, among other things.
- 2) **Increase fundraising efforts to recruit strong candidates, especially those from underrepresented groups.** I have experience with fundraising by engaging with individual donors. As a current board member of Mandela MarketPlace, a non-profit organization focused on improving the health, creating wealth, and building assets through cooperative food enterprises in low-income communities, I've successfully raised over \$4,000 from individual donors who felt a connection with the work that the organization is pursuing. I have ideas about how GSPP can motivate more alumni to give because they care about GSPP's future and the caliber of professionals we are training to impact policies across the world.
- 3) **Increase opportunities for alumni to stay connected to GSPP and continue learning from each other.** Beyond the friends you made while at GSPP and Facebook posts, do you know what your peers or other alumni are doing? Would it be helpful to know if other alumni are doing similar work and if there are opportunities to collaborate with them? It took a village to help us get through two rigorous years of GSPP. It's going to take a larger village to make change in our fields, but we don't have to do it alone. We can continue learning from each other, beyond the sporadic calls to action and networking opportunities. I am committed to figuring out an approach that enables us to collaborate and make change together.

I hope that I can count on your vote. Thank you. Please email me if you have questions [brmunoz@gmail.com](mailto:brmunoz@gmail.com).

### **THATO RAMOABI – MPA 2016**

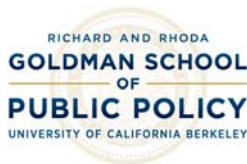
#### **Senior Program Associate, Resource Development Associates (Oakland CA)**

I am excited by the possibility to give back to GSPP through the Alumni Association Board! I have dedicated my life to improve the lives of those who have experienced systemic divestment in their communities due to inequitable laws, policies, and practices presently and historically. GSPP afforded me the opportunity to make lasting friendships and to think about systems change work in a more analytical manner. The tools, including the 8-fold path strengthened my racial and gender equity framework. I had a great time at GSPP, especially as part of the inaugural MPA cohort.

I am interested in:

- Building relationships with alumni
- Supporting cross cohort (MPA, MPP, PHD) collaboration
- Strengthening GSPP's racial & gender equity frameworks

I hope I can count on your vote!



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### **HEIDI NELSON YOUNG – MPP 1993**

#### **Independent Consultant (Bay Area CA)**

The overarching theme across my professional career since receiving my MPP is economic development. Upon graduating, I moved to New Mexico and worked at a federally funded economic development center that was charged with assisting with economic development across the state. My work primarily included technology transfer projects with national labs, economic sustainability plans with Native American tribes, the economic feasibility plan for the New Mexico Spaceport, and research related to the NAFTA and its implications for New Mexico and its historic Camino Real trade corridor.

Upon moving back to San Francisco with my husband in 1997, I worked for over ten years as an independent consultant while caring for our three children. Much of the consulting work was for small economic consulting firms focused on land use policy, economic indicator studies and cluster analyses for a variety of communities across the country. Most recently, I've worked in a programmatic role for two nonprofits in the Bay Area with a focus on global issues.

I've reconnected with UC Berkeley since my oldest daughter just finished her sophomore year and is a public health major. Being back on campus has offered me an opportunity to reflect on my experience at GSPP and inspired me to join the GSPP Alumni Association Board. If elected, I will bring my skills in communication, program planning, and partnership development to the Board to assist GSPP alumni and the school. I would be honored to have your support.

### **JASMINE LAROCHE – MPP 2016**

#### **Independent Consultant (Washington, DC Area)**

Graduate school for many of us is one of the most challenging and rewarding times of our lives. What transformed my GSPP experience is sharing my own challenges concerning mental health and connecting with my fellow students in finding a deeper purpose for our studies through sharing our experiences with one another. I believe that creating an intentional space and/or supportive services *within* GSPP that gives current GSPP students the opportunity to share their challenges with their cohort would not only strengthen the GSPP community, but also help alleviate the stress and burden experienced within the program.

In addition, I am dedicated to strengthening the Goldman School network for recent graduates who are making major life decisions that will shape their career paths for years to come. I believe that the alumni network can be leveraged to not only provide networking opportunities to recent grads, but also strengthened to cultivate a supportive network for graduates that are seeking employment opportunities.

My goal is to be a resource for Goldman students, both current and past, who are still working to tap into their purpose and searching for resources to help them make an impact in their respective communities. May we be an encouragement to one another as we build one another up through our challenges and afflictions.

### **ELIZABETH GRESS – MPA 2017**

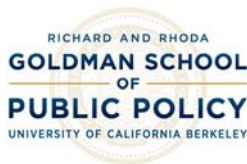
#### ***Innovation Program Manager - University of California, San Francisco***

I would be honored to contribute my ideas and experience in strategic development, innovation and program building to support GSPP's alumni and student communities as a member of the Alumni Board. As part of GSPP's inaugural MPA class of 2017, I am particularly committed to maximizing the value of the MPA alumni to GSPP as a whole, and if elected would work diligently towards this goal.

I believe the MPA program has enormous potential to add value to the GSPP brand, and that the GSPP alumni community can be enriched immensely by the effective inclusion of this new and unique group of professionals. For example, networking and career opportunities as well as IPA, APA and Capstone projects multiply from the MPA alumni base, who on average enter GSPP with a longer working history and in more senior positions. The long-term benefits of the MPA to the School largely depend on our engagement as alumni, and I would be thrilled to serve as ambassador to this sector of the GSPP community.

As a senior program manager and innovation professional at UCSF with over ten years' experience, I am well versed in structuring programs and leading groups to achieve their goals. I also have an extensive local and national network in the medtech, biotech and health policy arenas that I would be delighted to leverage on behalf of GSPP students and alumni. This past year I sponsored both an IPA and a Capstone project, and I can envision many more exciting project and career opportunities for health policy-inclined Goldman students across UCSF, San Francisco's second-largest employer, and beyond.

In summary, I would love the opportunity to think and work creatively with fellow Board members to make the most of the GSPP alumni network, and I greatly appreciate your consideration.



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### **JENNIFER MILLMAN TELL – MPP 2015**

**Senior Analyst, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Budget & Legislative Analyst's Office (San Francisco CA)**

I am honored to be nominated to serve the GSPP community on the Alumni Board. I have always had an enthusiasm for problem solving, and GSPP helped me translate that into a career serving my community. I also found people who shared my passion for service, with whom I have formed lifelong friendships and lasting professional partnerships.

If elected to serve on the Alumni Board, I want to ensure that all students have the opportunities to have their lives enriched by the GSPP experience the way mine was. This also means extending these opportunities to a diverse community of potential students, so that the future leaders in our field truly represent the communities that we serve. GSPP benefits from and benefits students of diverse educational and cultural backgrounds. In pursuit of this goal, I would assist with fundraising efforts for GSPP and PPIA and do my part to make GSPP a welcoming community. A long-term goal should be to increase the diversity of the faculty at GSPP and beyond so that our educators reflect the diversity of our communities as well.

As a board member, I would expand on my current involvement with students and fellow alumni, such as calling prospective students; hosting first-year students; attending alumni networking events; and providing advice and tips on courses, IPA and APA projects, and finding a home in Berkeley to current MPP and MPA students. I am very invested in student success and ensuring every student has the information and resources to get the most out of his or her experience at GSPP.

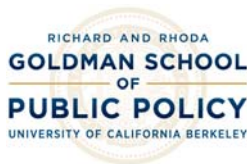
### **KURSTON COOK – MPP 2017**

**Senior Strategist, Grassroots Solutions LLC (Bay Area CA)**

It is both an honor and privilege to be nominated to serve on the GSPP. From the time I was admitted into the Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) program, I knew the Goldman School was the place I wanted to be. Goldman represented an institution that was on the forefront of policy analysis, support by the ethos of "speaking truth to power," and but a deeply committed to recruitment and engagement of students of color. These pillars greatly impacted my personal and professional life at GSPP and I hope to give back to that community as a board member.

What I bring to this process is an extensive history and experience in community engagement and network development that will best serve the Alumni Board's purposes. In my professional career, I specialized in developing large-scale political and engagement campaigns which will help the board recruit new and diverse students to GSPP, inspired both active and inactive alumni to contribute to the school, and advanced the program's social media presence. Additionally, as someone who works in the political/organizing field, I would like to expose more GSPP students to non-traditional "policy jobs" which will help expand the network for IPA, APA, Capstone, and career opportunities for graduates.

Most importantly, I am deeply passionate about giving back to a program which has given me so much. GSPP provided me with the skills and advanced training I needed to make meaningful change in my professional career and the people I work to serve. I feel compelled to give back. I hope my experience and passion to serve will make an ideal candidate for the GSPP Alumni Association Board.



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### **CHUNG-HAN LEE – MPP 1997**

***Assistant Regional Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Chicago, IL)***

I am interested in serving on the GSPP Alumni Association Board of Directors because I am looking to reconnect and reengage with GSPP, and I hope to help the GSPP alumni network grow outside of California and Washington, D.C.

After obtaining my MPP from GSPP in 1997, I attended law school at the University of Michigan Law School. While I continued to do policy work during law school in child welfare and education policy, I got away from it after graduating from law school. For over a decade, I was in private practice at a couple of large law firms in Chicago and San Francisco and did very little policy-related work. However, in 2013, I was finally able to find a position that allowed me to combine my interests in public policy and the law. As an Assistant Regional Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), I represent and defend various HHS regulatory enforcement actions. I also provide legal advice to various HHS components regarding the legal implications of its policy initiatives and directives and help ensure that they comport with the statutory and regulatory frameworks governing these policies. I have enjoyed working on health policy issues relating to Medicare, Medicaid, the Indian Health Service, federally funded health clinics and Administration for Children and Families grants.

I have served on similar volunteer boards, including recently having served as President of the Asian American Bar Association of Greater Chicago, so I understand what it means to take on these additional responsibilities on top of our busy work and family schedules. However, I believe that the GSPP alumni community has a wealth of experiences that can benefit us all regardless what stages we are in our lives or careers. Having now returned to policy work, I am hoping to use my service on the GSPP Alumni Association Board of Directors to help grow our alumni network, find ways to reengage our older alumni (like myself) with GSPP, and explore how we can best tap into the diversity of people, experiences and jobs amongst GSPP alums to make it a more vibrant and active alumni network.

I accepted the nomination to run for a seat on the GSPP Alumni Association Board because my peers, whom I respect and admire, trust that I can get this job done. I would be honored to be your representative, and welcome your ideas and suggestions on what we can do together to strengthen GSPP's program and student services. I'm aware that the Board has worked hard over the last few years to develop and implement a strategic plan to help maintain GSPP as the top public policy school in the country. I am excited about the opportunity to collaborate with them to fortify and expand on this work.

Attending GSPP was a transformative experience for me and my career, and I want to help make that opportunity accessible for a diverse population of students.

### **AVI BLACK – MPP, 1985**

***Executive Director, CA Council for the Social Studies (Berkeley, CA)***

My time at GSPP was one of the three or four most cherished periods of my life. I still count many of my classmates as close friends and confidantes. Serving on the Board is a small contribution to pay back and forward.

I've spent the past 25+ years working in the world of education as a middle/high school classroom teacher-mentor, as a professional development leader for aspiring and in-service teachers, and as director of California's premier professional association of history-social science teachers. Not a common path for MPP's, but I can truthfully say that I've infused the public policy mindset and practices into work I've done with both students and teachers and into curriculum I've developed and shared broadly. Secondary and post-secondary teachers stand to gain a great deal from associating with the GSPP community, and vice-versa; I'd hope to develop those possibilities from a seat on the Board.

Being semi-officially "retired", I selectively choose how to spend my time, and have more time than most to do what I choose. Being local to the school has its advantages; my backyard is a really nice place to do events and activities for alumni and students (not that I don't offer of it regardless of Board status). And while I'm old-school in believing face-to-face interaction is still the way to go, I've become reasonably adept through my work experiences at using social media and other means to communicate with different audiences – including those older alumni among us that I'd work to represent and bring (back?) into the GSPP orbit.



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### **ASHLEY BLISS LIMA – MPP 2014**

#### **Assistant Director – Office of Strategy and Policy, The University of Texas at Austin (Austin, TX)**

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When choosing graduate school programs, I was sincerely impressed with the individual and unique attention I received from GSPP during the recruitment and admissions process. I had access to senior leadership and staff prior to accepting the offer, and phone calls from alumni giving their time and knowledge to make me, a prospective student, feel welcomed and less intimidated by the process and choice. I also owe GSPP an immense amount of gratitude for their generous financial assistance, which made it possible for me to attend. For these reasons, and others, I strongly believe in giving back to GSPP.

I imagine that I am one of few that graduated from GSPP and moved to begin their post-graduate school career in the south, more specifically, Texas. Generally speaking, I left one state for another of significant opposing political views and policy interests. Though challenging at times, this experience – both growing up in the South and living here again – has strengthened my belief that no matter where one falls on the policy or political spectrum, having all voices at the table is important. I hope I can provide additional geographical diversity to the Board and the accompanying perspective that this may bring for alumni, current and future students. I hope to strengthen the relationships between GSPP and the alumni of the South and Southeast regions, as well as assist in the recruitment of talented individuals from all regions of the country. National diversity is just as important as international diversity and both necessitate an intentional and strategic recruitment effort.

During my time at GSPP, I worked in the UC System. Currently, I work for UT Austin. Over the past five years, I have learned how to navigate the bureaucracy of higher education institutions for the benefit of students. I believe this knowledge can positively contribute to the purpose and charge of the Board, particularly when considering how to maintain GSPP's curriculum and educational programs relevant to the needs of the post-graduation workforce.

I bring experience currently serving on the boards of the New Leaders Council, Austin, and IGNITE Texas, each of which require personal fundraising, strategic planning, member recruitment, and event planning. If appointed to the Board, I commit to continuously improving the quality of the program and the recruitment of diverse cohorts of talented students and leaders who are committed to public service and advancing the public good.

Thank you for your consideration.