## 2019 GSPP Alumni Association Board of Directors Candidates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paula Zagrecki</td>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>1992</td>
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<td>Rick Zarrella</td>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>Andrew Wilson</td>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>Veronica Irastorza</td>
<td>MPP</td>
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<td>Daryel Dunston</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td>Rob Moore</td>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>Julie Lo</td>
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<td>Marisa Szeps</td>
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<td>Robert Gordon</td>
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<td>Kate Ringness</td>
<td>MPP</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>Kavey Seng</td>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>2019</td>
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## 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 with your personalized link:*

Contact Cecille Cabacungan ([cecille@berkeley.edu](mailto:cecille@berkeley.edu))

Voting Period: June 24 – July 8, 2019

*(Voting ends at 11:59 PST on July 8, 2019)*
PAULA ZAGRECKI – MPP 1992

*Chief Executive Officer – Zorya Energy Advisors (Los Angeles, CA)*

My MPP experience at the GSPP set the tone and the framework for my professional career in the clean energy sector, from aligning country energy policies with boots on the ground development in Costa Rica and the Philippines, to developing and financing several landmark energy projects in the US - literally living the UC Berkeley motto of Fiat Lux. Over the past 27 years, I have had the privilege to bring together power developers, governments, utilities, investors, and local communities to collectively contribute to reducing CO2 emissions and being responsible world citizens. I would be honored to serve on the Board to assist GSPP and the greater university in maintaining its thought leadership in this critical area.

Over the past 15 years, I have been a leader in various Dartmouth Alumni Boards, engaging prospects, students, and alums for various causes. My efforts have included networking events, local and national fundraising, and various philanthropic efforts, including organizing days of service and mentorship activities. I currently serve on the board of the Dartmouth Partners in Community Service, which provides mentorship and stipends to students for community service-based internships. As almost all of my Dartmouth Board terms have come to a close, I would love the opportunity to serve the GSPP community.

I am a strong supporter of women's empowerment in civil society, government and business. I dedicated the better part of a sabbatical year in 2017 to the Pussyhat Project, activating civic engagement and policy discussions. For the last decade, I have been a donor and fundraising event sponsor and attendee for women political candidates at local, state and national levels. I have been a mentor to and champion of women in the US energy industry.

Fully cognizant of our responsibility to our neighbors in times of need, I have been a fundraiser and donations coordinator for Mexican earthquake rescue efforts, Puerto Rican hurricane recovery, and California fire/flood/mudslide disaster relief.

Last year, I founded a boutique energy advisory firm that focuses on the distributed solar sector, bringing strategic investment into the sector to fuel growth. Given that energy is a public good, energy development truly is public policy in action. I believe we need more MPPs in the energy sector, to balance the interests of all the stakeholders, including the environment.

If elected, I would like to strengthen our alumni network, with more regular alumni events, especially outside of the Bay Area and Washington DC. As I am passionate about mentorship, I would also like to explore creating alumni mentorship programs for GSPP students.

RICK ZARRELLA – MPP 2018

*Analyst – US Government Accountability Office (Washington, DC)*

I am honored and humbled to be considered for the GSPP Alumni Board. I appreciate the opportunity to give back, because I found alumni advice and outreach to be critical to my own path through GSPP and beyond. GSPP opened doors for me, exposing me to new tools, experiences, and networks, and I want to extend a hand back across the threshold to help others through.

Since graduating, I have worked for the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Washington DC and found myself speaking often about my experiences and the quality of the people at GSPP. UC Berkeley in general and GSPP in particular are incredible institutions, and I believe it is important to increase the profile and connections we have with organizations and agencies doing good work in the nation's capital. To that end I have been active in GSPP and UC networks, volunteering with the UC Washington Center and GSPP prospective student events, organizing GSPP intern events, and bringing GSPP speakers to GAO. I care deeply about the long-term impacts GSPP and its alumni can have on our society, and want to work in every way I can to boost that impact.

As good as GSPP is, as with any institution, it can always be better. An essential part of that is ensuring the continued inclusion of diverse perspectives and communities within the GSPP student body. I want to prioritize attracting and cultivating those voices, extending the doors GSPP opened for me to other communities, and continuing to strengthen GSPP and the entire alumni network in the process.

I have professional and volunteer experience in strategic planning, organizational management, strategic communications, and fundraising, which I feel make me a good candidate for the board by focusing my efforts on structural change, not just direct services. That background, along with my priorities of strengthening GSPP’s DC connections, prioritizing the inclusion of underrepresented communities, and providing direct services for current and prospective students, are a good fit with the board’s current needs. I look forward to the chance to give back in such a meaningful way, and to strengthen the institutions for which I care so much.
ANDREW WILSON – MPP 2017  
PhD Student – Columbia University, School of International & Public Affairs (New York, NY)

Attending GSPP was a joy: I learned a tremendous amount about policymaking, clarified my own interests, and—most importantly—joined an inspiring community of bright, service-minded, ambitious individuals. I now count many of my GSPP colleagues among my close friends, an experience which gives me hope. I also believe very strongly in the school’s current efforts to increase faculty and student diversity, to make its programs more affordable through an expansion of fellowship awards, and to broaden its international reach. But ultimately, GSPP’s reputation and objectives seem out of touch with its actions: alumni are poorly engaged and even the school’s loftiest plans seem small. GSPP can think bigger, and—especially given the tenor of the current era—must.

I believe GSPP’s alumni association is a crucial link between the world of policymaking and policy analysis that graduates face—both their ethical and practical dimensions—and the education provided by the school; as alumni, we are also an important source of reputational, financial, and professional resources. We can do more, and GSPP can do more to engage us. It can start by investing more in regional alumni networks—Sacramento, Los Angeles, the New York metro area, and Chicago are home to many alumni, yet surprisingly little engagement. As a NY resident, I can speak to the enthusiasm of local alumni for GSPP—in particular, just after graduation—and their simultaneous frustration with a lack of interaction with the school.

Since graduating, I’ve sought to be an advocate for GSPP when and where possible—in conversations with admitted and prospective students, at events with alumni, through continued engagement with the Berkeley Public Policy Journal and faculty at GSPP, my current institution (Columbia), and other universities. These conversations continue to inspire faith in the potential of GSPP to exert a progressive influence on policy. We necessarily have a role to play in facilitating and guiding this influence. I would be honored to participate in this process by representing your concerns on the alumni board.

VERONICA IRASTORZA – MPP 1999  
Associate Director – NERA Economic Consulting (Mexico/San Francisco, CA)

I graduated from GSPP 20 years ago and it changed my life. Until I moved to Berkeley, I lived in Mexico City with my family. GSPP opened my world and helped me to reach much more of my potential. In 2012, I had the honor of receiving the International Public Service award from our beloved school.

I have been working on energy issues, mainly electricity and natural gas, since the beginning of my career. What moves me the most is to try to contribute to sustainability. I have worked for NERA Economic Consulting for 12 years total, but 10 years ago I spent a presidential term working for the government in Mexico. I was Undersecretary of Energy Planning and Transition in Mexico, pushing for clean energy. After that period, I was a visiting scholar at GSPP for a year and I worked closely with the Energy Institute at Haas. To be back in Berkeley was very inspiring.

I have also started a group of women in energy in Mexico (Voz Experta) to make women leaders more visible, since the energy sector is one of the most male-dominated sectors.

I would love the opportunity to think and work enthusiastically with other Board members to strengthen our alumni network worldwide, to further support GSPP. Most of the GSP alumni that I have met have done amazing things in very different areas and I am sure that if we have a chance to be more connected, we can do much more. Thanks for your consideration. Gracias!
DARYEL DUNSTON – MPA 2018

Senior Planner – City of Oakland Human Services Department (Oakland, CA)

It would be an honor and pleasure to serve in a greater capacity as an alumnus of the Goldman School of Public Policy (GSPP). Having graduated just one year ago, I regularly interact with current students and offer academic and career advice, and I enjoy participating on alumni panels whenever the opportunity arises. A few weeks ago, I had the distinct privilege of addressing the incoming cohort of Master of Public Affairs (MPA) students, which brought me full circle from my first day as an incoming MPA student in May 2017. The experience was surreal. GSPP has provided unimaginable opportunities, and I continue to benefit from my experience at the school. The obligation to pay it forward is a responsibility I do not take lightly, and I am eager to continue to give back to an institution that has given me so much.

While studying at GSPP, an alumna took a chance and hired me as her Senior Policy Advisor. That alumna was Annie Campbell Washington, who now serves as Assistant Dean and Executive Director of the MPA program. Prior to Annie’s appointment at GSPP, she served as a Councilmember and Vice Mayor of the City of Oakland. Annie did not seek reelection, prompting me to begin a new job search. I quickly landed with Oakland’s Human Services Department, operating under the leadership of another GSPP alumna, Sara Bedford.

In my current role, I work closely with Sara to prepare budgets, policy reports and legislation for City Council’s consideration. I also provide management and oversight to a number of homeless programs and services, and I manage a portfolio that exceeds $20 million. Keeping in mind the need for GSPP students to secure an APA/Capstone client in their final semester, I pitched the idea to hire a GSPP student as a Management Intern with the City of Oakland. The idea was supported and ultimately approved, and after a competitive interview process with several outstanding candidates, an MPA student was hired, and her Capstone project was completed under my supervision.

Given the Board’s current gaps in expertise, my diverse experiences make me an ideal candidate to fill a GSPPAA Board vacancy. As a former nonprofit administrator, I have extensive fundraising experience, specializing in corporate and individual donations. As the Marketing and Development Manager with the Army Distaff Foundation, I was instrumental in raising over $13 million during its capital campaign to build a state-of-the-art Alzheimer’s facility. As a contributing writer for the Huffington Post, I gained critical communication and social media experience, as evidenced by the thousands of views many of the pieces I authored received. As an African American male and MPA graduate, I could potentially fill a position that is currently underrepresented on the Board. As a former sworn fire service official, I have extensive experience collaborating with others in high stress environments to achieve a common goal. As a parent and spouse, I know firsthand the challenges that accompany balancing competing priorities. And as an extremely grateful alumnus, I yearn for nothing more than the opportunity to show my gratitude through my actions.

I am most interested in serving on the Governance Committee due to my fundraising experience, legislative experience, and experience drafting strategic plans, however, I would be ecstatic to serve in any capacity that you deem fit. Even if it is not your desire for me to serve in a formal capacity at this time, I will continue to do my part to advance the vision and ideals of GSPP, and I will enthusiastically provide my support to students and alumni near and far whenever called upon.

Thank you for your consideration, and go bears!
ROB MOORE – MPP 2017  
*Principal – Scioto Analysis (Columbus, OH)*  

I think we can all remember when we got our acceptance to GSPP. I was in my basement apartment in Omaha, Nebraska after another long day as an organizer for Planned Parenthood. I pulled open the email and logged on to the website, shocked that I had been accepted to my dream school.

GSPP has meant the world to me. My training at GSPP allowed me to transition from my early career as an organizer to a role as a budget analyst for the Ohio state assembly working on mental health and addiction, aging, and education. I then spent a stint at a local think tank before starting my own policy analysis firm, Scioto Analysis, here in Columbus, Ohio, my home town.

I believe it's our job as GSPP graduates to make the case for policy analysis to the public. In a political climate that plays fast and loose with facts, we are people who speak truth to power and make the case for evidence in a world that sorely needs it. In my current role, I author multiple blogposts a month about policy analysis as a practice and profession to help the public and policymakers understand its crucial role in the policymaking process.

I plan to bring my skills as a communications specialist to the Alumni Association Board. I began my career running social media for the mayor of Omaha, Nebraska's public service initiative. Since then I have written press releases for community organizations and businesses, pitched stories to reporters, run Planned Parenthood's political social media accounts in Nebraska, managed the PolicyMatters Journal (now Berkeley Public Policy Journal) blog, and done ongoing research support for a public relations firm based in San Francisco.

I would be honored to serve on the board for the GSPP alumni association and I hope to earn your vote. Please feel free to contact me at rob@sciotoanalysis.com if you have any questions or want to talk about policy analysis in general: my door is always open to GSPP grads.

JULIE LO – MPA 2019  
*Interim Director of Research – ReThink Media (Berkeley, CA)*  

Greetings GSPP Alumni Community. My time at GSPP as an MPA student transformed my career and life trajectory. I gladly answer the call for alumni to become involved with this board to promote a range of issues, including serving to advance the interests of GSPP students and assuring that GSPP's curriculum promotes career success of its graduates. Furthermore, I would like to contribute to a diverse board that represents the full range of alumni perspectives. Through student leadership roles as a class rep for my cohort and on our class gift campaign, I worked to build connections among my peers in the MPA program and build crossover opportunities with students in the MPP first and second year classes. Working through building community is my M.O. and will be useful to the Alumni Association Board of Directors. I'm eager to serve and would appreciate your consideration and vote to include me to the GSPP Alumni Association Board of Directors. Thank you!
MARISA SZEPS – MPA 2018

California Political Director, Committee of Interns and Residents – SEIU (Los Angeles, CA)

I am the California Political Director representing 6,000 unionized Resident Physicians throughout the University of California and county run public healthcare system. I lead and connect resident physician to legislative advocacy, political endorsements and coalition building, to improve their lives and create a quality public healthcare for the patients they serve.

Prior to GSPP, I served as a chief negotiator, arbitrator, campaign coordinator, political organizer and a labor organizer. I have spent my entire career ensuring hard working busy people had the resources and support they needed to thrive in their workplaces and communities. I am committed to rewriting and creating policies that are inclusive of how diverse and ever changing population is within GSPP and the University of California system.

If elected to the GSPP Alumni Board, I commit to continuing my advocacy work to create a more inclusive, diverse and politically engaged student and alumni network. My focus areas of a Board member would include:

1) Advocating for a more diverse and inclusive policy program at GSPP. As an MPA student, it was obvious that the class was dying to discuss how race, religion, sex and gender, effected policy in the past, the present and how it will effect it the future. Understanding race and gender politics is crucial as our population becomes more diverse and it’s imperative if we want to continue to grow and diversify the GSPP student base.

2) Ensure quality recruitment to the MPA program. The MPA program is a new program and has also undergone major leadership changes. That makes it imperative that the program has quality recruitment tools and alumni outreach. Tools that help alumni and current students create community amongst high quality applicants.

3) Increase GSPP student and alumni political participation. GSPP students and alumni are a highly educated and highly recognized voter base. We have the status and the power to influence elections and legislation. I would like to increase GSPP political participation by creating town halls, endorsements, and legislative support campaigns. This type of political engagement is also helpful in building relationships for future professional work and donations.

I would be honored to have your support for the GSPP Alumni Board and if you have any questions please feel free to email me: marisaszeps@gmail.com.
ROBERT GORDON – MPP 1975
Commissioner – New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Trenton, NJ)

I am greatly honored to have been nominated to serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and would welcome the opportunity to do whatever I can to support the GSPP community. I believe my lengthy career in public life, as well as my experiences in the private sector, have provided skills that would enable me to strengthen the alumni fundraising program, enhance professional networking activities and increase the visibility of GSPP, particularly in the New York metropolitan area. My career has spanned the public and private sectors. On the business side, after GSPP, I earned an MBA, spent ten years working with major management consulting firms, and managed my own manufacturing business. I also have served at every level of government. After Berkeley, I joined the Congressional Budget Office as an analyst, but after two years, got the urge to run for public office. I returned to my home town in New Jersey where I served ten years as mayor and councilman. In 2003, I was elected to the General Assembly, the lower house of the New Jersey Legislature, and in 2007, was elevated to the State Senate. During the course of my political career I won nine elections, including six races in the most competitive district in the state.

In April of 2018, after serving ten years as a State Senator, the Governor appointed me as Commissioner of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. This 200-person agency regulates all investor-owned utilities and is leading the state’s effort to expand renewable energy and mitigate the effects of climate change. We are currently advancing the largest offshore wind project in the country, improving our solar programs and developing initiatives to electrify transportation. When I left the Legislature, I was Senate Majority Conference Leader and chairman of two key committees—Legislative Oversight and Transportation. In those roles I conducted extensive investigatory hearings on deficiencies in the state’s mass transit agencies, and advanced legislation that led to major reforms of NJ Transit and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. I am particularly proud of my effort to obtain a $3.5 billion appropriation for a new bus terminal in Manhattan. Other initiatives improved access to mental health services, streamlined environmental remediation projects and improved the governance of community associations. In 2018, I was ranked #2 on InsiderNJ.com’s list of the “Top 100 Policymakers” in the state.

If given the opportunity to serve on the Alumni Board, I would hope to make a contribution in two areas:

Fundraising. I have extensive experience soliciting funds for academic institutions. I have been part of a “class agent” network for my college alumni fund since graduation. This fundraising program obtains contributions from more than 60 percent of alumni and provides 11 percent of the college’s operating budget. Its success is based on the agents who personally solicit their classmates. I think that a variation of this approach could enhance GSPP fundraising. As a board member, I would advance this and other ideas to strengthen the fundraising program.

Professional Networking in New York. GSPP does not have much of a presence in the New York area, although it is home to nearly 80 alumni. I would like to work with other local alumni in organizing networking events in Manhattan. These gatherings would be built around speakers, would provide opportunities for professional networking, and would maintain the GSPP connection. I would like to explore collaborative programs with the alumni of other peer institutions such as the public policy schools at Harvard, Princeton, Rutgers and Columbia. Doing so would enhance the networking opportunities and strengthen the GSPP “brand” on the East Coast.

Again, I would greatly appreciate your consideration.
KATE RINGNESS – MPP 2015
Managing Director – American Jobs Project (Berkeley, CA)

As a managing director of a non-profit that was incubated at GSPP, I owe a debt of gratitude towards our alma mater and I am excited to give back by becoming engaged with the alumni board. I’ve continued to be involved with GSPP: Through my organization, I’ve hired students and engaged several IPAs and APAs. I believe that GSPP creates agents for positive change and I support its endeavors wholeheartedly.

But our alma mater faces a significant challenge – the state isn’t providing adequate levels of funding, tuition continues to rise, GSPP isn’t able to recruit targeted students due to lack of available scholarships, and there exists a lack of community feeling amongst alums. I hope to change that.

For the last 9 years, I have served on Duke University’s Northern California alumni board. During this time, I helped increase alumni engagement events nearly seven-fold, resulting in increased regional donations to the university and vastly improved professional networking opportunities. Perhaps more importantly, we also fostered a sense of community amongst local alums that was absent when I began my service. I will bring the best practices I developed in my role at Duke and apply them to improve GSPP’s alumni relations.

I believe in the power of GSPP alums to change the world for the better and I want to help the school and its graduates thrive. I hope that you allow me the opportunity to give my best back to our school by giving me your vote.

KAVEY SENG – MPA 2019
Social Services Program Manager – Alameda County Social Services Agency (Hayward, CA)

I am truly honored to be nominated for the GSPP Board since it aligns with my mission statement: “Through dynamic leadership, continuous self-growth, and a commitment to service above self, I strive to empower individuals and communities through personal and professional development by strengthening collaborations with local organizations and championing for diversity and inclusion.” I hope that I can continue striving for promoting diversity and inclusion through the work that the Board of GSPP promotes.

Dynamic leadership highlights from my career:
- I have worked in local government for the last 12 years, nine of it in a leadership/managerial position. I work collaboratively with local organizations such as Environmental Health Agency, Behavioral Health Care Services Agency, Probation Department, Training and Education Center, Peralta Community Colleges, Chabot Community College, United Way of the Bay Area, and the Internal Revenue Services (IRS).
- I have mentored, staffed, and connected many individuals to various organizations to help them with their professional goals.

Continuous self-growth:
- I served on the Class Gift committee because I saw an opportunity to gain experience in something I have never done before, fundraising. Despite only having two members and working full time, we were able to beat our financial goal.

Commitment to service above self:
- I am especially interested in providing a voice for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, or Questioning (LGBTQ+) community, the poor, people with disabilities, professional and online students, in order to provide additional support.
- I am the co-lead for Workforce Benefits Administration (WBA) Pride, the first LGBTQ+ initiative at my department. Our goal is to work towards achieving and advancing opportunities to advocate for LGBTQ+ topics in order to foster stronger communities and effect positive social change.

Thank you for your time and consideration.