Meet our Fellows

Graduate Fellows Program 2026

UNITED NATIONS
ASSOCIATION
of the
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Abiola Adekoya

Abiola Adekoya is a corporate finance professional and graduate scholar with over nine years of cross-sector experience spanning aviation, retail, mining, construction, startups, and academia across Nigeria, Canada, and the United States. She is currently completing a Master of Science in Finance at The George Washington University School of Business, where she also serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Department of International Business.

Abiola's work is driven by a strong interest in the intersection of finance, sustainability, and development policy. She has completed coursework with the UNDP SDG Finance Academy, enhancing her understanding of sustainable finance frameworks and their role in mobilizing capital for inclusive and resilient economies. Beyond her professional and academic pursuits, she volunteers in data management and community-focused initiatives, reflecting a long-standing commitment to service and social impact.

Through the fellowship, Abiola aims to contribute a finance and policy-analysis lens to discussions on sustainable development, economic growth, and international cooperation, while deepening her understanding of how institutions translate policy frameworks into practical impact. She aspires to build a career at the nexus of finance, policy, and development, leveraging financial analysis to support decision-making, responsible investment, and the advancement of the United Nations' development agenda worldwide initiatives.

Shireen Ahmad

I am honored to have been chosen for the Graduate Fellowship Program with United Nations Association of the National Capital Area. Being born and attending elementary school in Pakistan and then moving to America at a very young age has deeply shaped my global outlook. Navigating multiple cultures from a young age has a way of instilling an appreciation for the role of diplomacy and importance of global governance in you.

I did my undergraduate studies in economics, which allowed me to be able to develop strong analytical skills and a keen interest in economic policy, and how this intersects with international development. Based on that, I am currently in my last semester of a Master of Arts in Global Affairs at George Mason University. My graduate study allowed me to explore international security, political economy, as well as the institutions that shape nations through theoretical and practical lenses.

During the UNA-NCA Graduate Fellowship, I am eager to contribute to conversation on international cooperation and policy solutions and make it a very valuable learning experience. I am particularly interested in the intersection of economics and global affairs, and I hope to pursue a career that is dedicated to advancing inclusive and sustainable approaches to global challenges.

Patricia Ansong

Patricia Ansong is a Development Management and Strategic Advisory professional with over a decade of cross-sector experience spanning international development, private-sector growth, and public-private partnerships across Africa, Europe, the United States, and the UAE. She is currently pursuing an MSc in Development Management at American University in Washington, D.C., with a concentration in Development Economics and International Development, where her academic focus includes global health policy, environmental sustainability, statistics, and evidence-based program design.

Patricia's professional background combines senior private-sector leadership with high-impact development consulting. She has worked with leading international organizations including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), USAID, GIZ, the African Union, ACET, AGI, and YoungLife, supporting initiatives in SME competitiveness, agribusiness value chains, digital transformation, renewable energy, trade facilitation, and inclusive job creation across more than 24 African countries. She has coached and advised entrepreneurs, women- and youth-led enterprises, and senior leaders, contributing to sustainable private-sector growth and community empowerment.

At American University, Patricia serves as a Research and Teaching Assistant in the Philanthropy Lab and Peace, Human Rights & Cultural Relations programs, supporting research, grant analysis, and student engagement. She is also Vice President and Board Member of the First-Generation Graduate Society, where she champions inclusive leadership and student empowerment.

Patricia is deeply committed to advancing inclusive development, human capital growth, climate resilience, and digital transformation, and she looks forward to contributing to UNA-NCA's mission of fostering global leadership and multilateral engagement.

Valerie Jemima Sara Brou

Valerie Brou is a Master of Public Administration (MPA) student at James Madison University with a strong interest in diplomacy, international organizations, and global governance. Her academic and professional focus centers on policy analysis, program evaluation, and evidence-based decision-making in nonprofit and international development contexts.

Her experience includes supporting faculty-led research projects through policy analysis, briefs, and presentations for academic and policy audiences. Valerie is particularly interested in applying rigorous research methods, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and evidence-based analysis to strengthen accountability, transparency, and institutional effectiveness within public and multilateral institutions.

As a Graduate Fellow with the United Nations Association–National Capital Area (UNA-NCA), Valerie seeks to deepen her understanding of diplomacy, multilateral cooperation, and the practical implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Her long-term goal is to work within the United Nations system or related international organizations, contributing to inclusive policies and programs that advance sustainable and equitable global outcomes.

Lainey Chi

Lainey Chi is a second-year graduate student in the Master of Arts in International Affairs program at the George Washington University, concentrating in U.S. foreign policy. She graduated in 2024 from Loyola Marymount University, with a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs and a minor in Asian Pacific American studies. For her capstone project, she is researching post-Assad Syria and the need for modernized digital infrastructure, particularly for emergency response systems.

She has interned for WorldOregon and Legacy International, gaining insight into two State Department international exchange programs: the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and TechGirls. Last spring, she was a legislative intern on the Hill and worked closely with the foreign affairs and banking, economy, and democracy legislative teams within a Senate office.

Born and raised near Portland, Oregon, she grew up within close proximity to numerous issues that continue to inform her academic and professional interests, some of which include U.S.-Asia relations, trade, semiconductor policy, immigration, and environmentalism. She hopes to explore these topics and more through the Graduate Fellowship Program.

Yoonseo (Yoon) Cho

Yoonseo (Yoon) Cho is a graduate student in the Master of Science in Environment and International Affairs (MS-EIA) program at Georgetown University, concentrating on Environmental Science and International Security. Prior to joining the program, her professional experiences across both the public and private sectors focused on supporting research related to global conservation and climate policy. Through field-based and policy-oriented work, she observed how scientific evidence, equity considerations, and political negotiation intersect in global decision-making processes. Witnessing these dynamics reinforced her belief that strong global governance, inclusive partnerships, and science-based advocacy are essential for building climate resilience and advancing a just transition.

At Georgetown, Yoon is focused on bridging the gap between environmental science and policy through applied analysis, policy writing, and spatial and data visualization. Her academic interests include climate change adaptation and innovation, with particular attention to nature-based solutions as tools for advancing resilience and environmental justice. While her background centers on global climate change, she is motivated to expand her perspective by learning how diverse global agendas intersect under the framework of the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Through the UNA-NCA Graduate Fellows Program, Yoon hopes to refine her understanding of global governance and explore how interconnected UN priorities ranging from climate and energy to human rights and peacebuilding can inform a more holistic approach to sustainable development. She aims to develop her ability to think globally, collaborate across sectors, and embody the principles of a just transition that ensures no community or nation is left behind in the pursuit of peace, equity, and sustainability.

Kalee Dickason

Kalee Dickason is a candidate for the Master of Science in Foreign Service (MSFS) at Georgetown University, concentrating in Global Politics and Security. She is enrolled in Georgetown's five-year accelerated BSFS/MSFS program and will earn her Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service in International Politics in May 2026, followed by her MSFS degree in 2027. Her areas of focus include international negotiation, conflict resolution, and the protection of human rights in wartime.

Kalee is committed to pursuing a career in foreign service, a focus reflected in her political internships and active leadership within Georgetown's international affairs community. As Vice President of The Stratagem Initiative, she coordinates high-level panels with civil servants, journalists, and academics, fostering dialogue on pressing global issues. She has also worked with The Borgen Project, contributing to grassroots efforts to combat global poverty by engaging in legislative and community outreach. Additionally, Kalee studied abroad in Madrid, Spain, where she advanced her Spanish proficiency and cross-cultural understanding.

As a UNA-NCA Graduate Fellow, she seeks to deepen her understanding of multilateral diplomacy and strengthen her capacity to address conflict and humanitarian challenges.

Olivia Dunn

Olivia Dunn is a Graduate Student at the George Washington University (GWU), where she studies International Education with a focus on Education in Emergencies (EiE) and Education Policy, and is the Co-Lab Leader of the Refugee Educational Advancement Lab (REAL). Her research interests center on the role of identity and belonging in education for refugees and IDPs, as well as educational resilience in crisis contexts. She believes in the transformative power of education and its capacity to create meaningful global change.

Olivia is a graduate of Northern Michigan University with a BA in International Studies. Olivia has previously worked in campaign finance on all levels, from local to Congressional to Senatorial. Olivia's experience allows her to see the intersectionality between education, finance, and politics. Currently, Olivia serves as an Admissions Coordinator for the Elliott School of International Affairs Graduate Admissions, where she gets to work with and uplift the world's future leaders.

Tiffany Fierst

Born in Costa Rica, and raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Tiffany's passion for international and migration studies began through her own journey as a young immigrant herself.

Tiffany is a graduate student at Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign service, pursuing a Master of Arts in International Migration and Refugees. She is the Legal Coordinator for the Office of General Counsel at HIAS, Inc., an international humanitarian organization that provides aid to refugees and asylum seekers. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from the School of International Service at American University, with a minor in Spanish and Latin American studies and a certificate in translation.

Her professional experience expands from the domestic U.S. immigration sector, international non-governmental organizations, and the non-profit sector. Through her work, her academic endeavors, her research, and individual advocacy, she continues to support immigrant and humanitarian causes.

Grace Galumje

Grace Isaiah Galumje is a Graduate Fellow with the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA), 2026 cohort.

She is a Master of Public Policy candidate at the University of Maryland, College Park, specializing in International Security and Economic Policy. She brings seven years of experience working with international and local non-governmental organizations in Nigeria, with a focus on conflict management, peacebuilding, and democratic governance. Her previous roles include serving as Technical Coordinator for the EU–Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) project at SOS Children's Villages and supporting community-based peacebuilding initiatives through the U.S. Institute of Peace's Network of Nigerian Facilitators.

She recently joined the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Programming Division as a Capstone Research Fellow, where she supports analytical work for the Congo Basin Integrated Program. Her responsibilities include contributing to portfolio assessments, technical and political analyses, and research that strengthens GEF's understanding of regional dynamics and strategic priorities.

She has also contributed to state and local immigration policy research with the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC), where she analyzed enforcement practices and supported legislative advocacy. Grace's combined expertise in policy analysis, program evaluation, and stakeholder engagement directly informs her work across development, environmental security, and inclusive global governance initiatives which she is excited to bring in her Fellowship experience with UNA-NCA

Laura Hernandez

Law graduate from the University College of Our Lady of the Rosary (Universidad del Rosario) in Bogotá, Colombia. Laura has professional experience in public affairs, business and human rights, regulatory analysis, and international cooperation. She is currently pursuing a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Legal Studies at American University Washington College of Law, where she is a recipient of a partial merit-based scholarship.

She is a native Spanish speaker with advanced professional proficiency in English. Her professional interests include corporate accountability, sustainable development, international law, and private sector engagement at both national and international levels.

Most recently, Laura served as Senior Human Rights and Justice Lawyer at the Chamber of Commerce of Bogotá, within the Vice-Presidency of Public-Private Articulation. In this role, she led initiatives related to justice, business, and human rights, applying international standards such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and European Union sustainability and due diligence frameworks.

Previously, Laura worked as a Senior Public Affairs Consultant, advising multinational pharmaceutical companies on regulatory and public policy matters. Earlier professional experience includes roles at Colombia's National Business Association (ANDI), the Presidential Administrative Department for Social Prosperity, PwC's tax practice, and the Embassy of Colombia in Poland, where she gained experience in regulatory compliance, administrative law, taxation, and diplomatic affairs.

Truth Jackson

Truth Jackson is a U.S. Navy veteran, policy professional, and emerging scholar specializing in international political economy, development, and Africa–Asia relations. He is currently pursuing a Master of International Policy and Practice at The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs, where he serves as Managing Editor of the International Affairs Review, leading editorial operations and supporting the publication of policy relevant scholarship by graduate students and practitioners.

Jackson is a Research Fellow with the George Washington Institute for Korean Studies, where his research examines North Korea's contemporary military and security engagement with Uganda, focusing on strategic cooperation, diplomatic signaling, and the political narratives shaping Pyongyang's outreach to African partners. In addition, he is a Graduate Fellow of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area in Washington, D.C.

Prior to his academic career, he served two tours in Afghanistan as a decorated Navy sailor and worked at the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of the Navy, supporting senior-level policy leaders. Earlier in his career, he served on the CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and STD Prevention and Treatment and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Planning Council, advising federal and local agencies on national HIV policy priorities, funding allocation, and strategies to advance prevention, care delivery, and health equity in underserved communities. He also founded a CDC-funded, nationally recognized HIV prevention initiative for high-risk youth in his hometown of Newark, New Jersey, reflecting a longstanding commitment to public service and community-centered policy work.

Samantha Kelley

Samantha Kelley is a first-year student at Georgetown University in the M.S. Foreign Service program with a concentration in Science, Technology, and International Affairs (STIA). Samantha is focusing on exploring the intersection between human rights and technology, where she is focused on women's rights and disability rights. Prior to MSFS, Samantha received her B.A. in Political Science, with a minor in European Union Studies from the University of Florida. During her undergraduate studies, Samantha studied abroad in Brussels, Belgium in 2023, where she developed a deep interest in EU affairs. Shortly after her time abroad, Samantha completed an internship with the U.S. Department of State, where she applied her experience abroad in Europe by working for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. From her experiences at the State Department and in Brussels, Samantha has affirmed her passion for public service and diplomacy.

Samantha also is very passionate about international law, where she has developed a legal lens interning for the Public Defender's Office in Alachua County during this past Spring of 2025. Through this experience, Samantha gained first-hand knowledge of the justice system and saw how the law can be used to empower people's lives. Combined with her passion for diplomacy and legal protections, Samantha is dedicated to a life's work in a career where she can advocate for human rights. In her free time, Samantha enjoys swimming, reading, traveling, and being in nature.

Jeffrey Levitt

Jeffrey Levitt is a Deaf graduate student in International Development at Gallaudet University whose academic and professional interests center on disability inclusive diplomacy, human rights, and global governance. Their work is shaped by lived experience as a Deaf advocate and by sustained engagement with international Deaf communities, informing a policy oriented approach to inclusion within multilateral and development frameworks.

Jeffrey earned a bachelor's degree in International Relations and participated in multiple Deaf-centered study abroad programs in Spain, Italy, and Peru. Through these experiences, they examined how language access, inclusive institutions, and equitable governance structures influence civic participation, development outcomes, and long term stability. While abroad, Jeffrey observed compounded barriers faced by local communities within education and social systems, deepening their commitment to rights based and intersectional approaches to international development.

Currently pursuing a master's degree in International Development, Jeffrey focuses on the intersection of disability rights, humanitarian assistance, and multilateral institutions. They are particularly interested in how global governance systems operationalize inclusion and in advancing disability inclusion within foreign policy and development practice. Jeffrey emphasizes the importance of recognizing persons with disabilities as active stakeholders and contributors to decision making rather than passive beneficiaries of aid.

In recognition of their leadership, Jeffrey received Gallaudet University's inaugural Global Leadership Award at the undergraduate level in 2024. Through the UNA-NCA Fellowship, they seek to deepen engagement with the United Nations system and contribute to inclusive, rights based approaches to international cooperation that advance the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in global decision making.

Sarolta Lukovszky

Sarolta Lukovszky is a graduate student in the Master of Science in Foreign Service program at Georgetown University, concentrating in International Development. Sarolta is passionate about advancing equitable development and strengthening governance in emerging democracies. Originally from Hungary, she developed a passion for global affairs while growing up in a country navigating political and economic transition. Witnessing the powerful role governance plays in shaping individual opportunity inspired her commitment to expanding mobility, equity, and democratic resilience around the world.

Sarolta earned a scholarship to the United States through her athletic career, representing Hungary for nearly a decade on the national artistic swimming team. She competed in three World Championships and numerous international events, gaining early exposure to diplomacy, cultural exchange, and high-pressure leadership. While studying at Lindenwood University, she became a U.S. national champion in artistic swimming.

She later completed an MBA, building professional experience at the intersection of business and social impact. Sarolta has supported nonprofit initiatives that empower underrepresented entrepreneurs and increase access to financial and professional resources for communities facing structural barriers. These roles reinforced her belief in the transformative power of inclusive economic development.

With academic interests spanning international development, democratization, and human rights, Sarolta aims to pursue a career focused on strengthening institutions that foster accountability and opportunity. She hopes to contribute to development strategies that prioritize dignity, agency, and long-term sustainability for all.

Yuni Malik

Yuni graduated from American University in Washington, DC, with a Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). She has been teaching since 2014 and has dedicated her career to supporting immigrant and refugee communities through education. Her work focuses especially on newcomers from Afghanistan and other immigrant populations as they rebuild and adapt their lives in the United States.

Raised in Indonesia, Yuni brings a multicultural perspective to her work and a deep understanding of the challenges individuals face when navigating new languages and systems. She has taught diverse immigrant populations, helping learners strengthen their English proficiency, access educational and employment opportunities, and build confidence in their new communities. She believes that language education is a powerful tool for empowerment and long-term stability, enabling individuals and families to thrive.

In addition to her professional work, Yuni is a Fellow of the Harriet Tubman Fellowship Program, where she continues to engage in leadership development and community advocacy. Through her teaching and service, she remains committed to advancing equity, inclusion, and opportunity for refugee and immigrant communities. As a UNA Graduate Fellow, she looks forward to contributing to meaningful dialogue and collaborative efforts that promote dignity, resilience, and global understanding.

Carlos Marquez

Carlos is currently a graduate student at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, an intern at the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, and the Program Coordinator for the Goodwill Ambassadors Program of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. In May of 2025, he graduated from the Global International Relations Joint Bachelor's Degree Program from American University and Ritsumeikan University with a Minor in Japanese and concentrations in Peace, Global Security and Conflict Resolution, and Global and Comparative Governance.

Born and raised in Mexico, with experience living and studying abroad in Australia, Canada, Japan, and the United States, Carlos is no stranger to international exchange, diplomacy, and international migration. Carlos strongly believes in the need to teach future generations to develop a global perspective, creating better-informed, flexible, and highly adaptable leaders. He embodies those beliefs in what he does: often learning, speaking, and using multiple languages; engaging with people with myriad experiences and backgrounds; exploring hard, abstract, and challenging ideas and topics; and embracing multiple perspectives and worldviews.

Carlos speaks Spanish, English, French, and Japanese fluently, and to a lesser extent has had exposure to Arabic, Russian, and other languages throughout his life. He is currently focused on researching diasporas, the intersection of migration and artificial intelligence, consular diplomacy, and global migration. When not engaged in research or diplomacy, Carlos can be found enjoying hobbies such as photography, drawing, painting, racket sports, kumihimo (Japanese thread braiding), hanging out with friends, traveling, or wandering through art exhibitions.

Gemima Nasibu

My name is Gemima Nasibu, and I am a dedicated full-time student currently completing my final semester in the Master of Business Administration program at Marymount University. My academic journey has been shaped by determination, curiosity, and a strong commitment to both personal and professional growth. Before beginning my graduate studies, I earned my associate's degree from Northern Virginia Community College, where I was honored as a Presidential Scholar in Spring 2022, followed by a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Marymount University in 2024.

As graduation approaches, I am already looking ahead to the next chapter of my academic and professional life. I intend to continue my studies with an additional master's degree in either Social Innovation or Entrepreneurship. Although I have not yet made a final decision between the two fields, I am deeply drawn to both because they align with my passion for creating meaningful change and contributing to solutions that uplift communities.

Beyond academics, I find joy in exploring the world through travel and immersing myself in the diverse cultures, traditions, and people I encounter. In the summer of 2023, I returned to my home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo, for the first time in five years and spent two meaningful months reconnecting with my roots. That experience deepened my appreciation for global perspectives and reminded me of the importance of cultural identity. I am multilingual, with French as my first language, followed by Swahili, Lingala, and English.

Although art is not directly related to my major, my curiosity led me to take photography courses, and I quickly discovered how much I enjoy capturing moments through a creative lens. When time allows, I also love drawing, listening to music, and working out. Even with a busy schedule, I remain excited for whatever new adventure awaits.

Oluwatosin Pinmiloye

Oluwatosin V. Pinmiloye is a Graduate Fellow of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA) and currently a Master of Public Policy student at the University of Maryland (UMD) College Park, specializing in International Development Policy and International Security & Economic Policy. She brings a strong interdisciplinary background spanning economic policy, international development, international security, and global health, with a passion to advance evidence-based solutions to complex international challenges.

Trained as a health scientist, Oluwatosin has strong experience in policy analysis, research, and policy recommendations, complemented by hands-on work in community organizing, program planning, and program evaluation across public health and community-based programs. Her educational trajectory includes a Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science, a Master of Science in Information Systems with a concentration in Health Analytics, and a Master of Science in Health Sciences. Her research interests focus on the intersection of economic policy and global health, particularly how data-driven policy design can improve health equity and development outcomes. She is also interested in the ways that conflict and insecurity exacerbate development and global health challenges.

In addition to her academic and professional work, Oluwatosin is actively engaged in student governance and leadership, serving in multiple roles within the Graduate Student Government at UMD. As a UNA-NCA Graduate Fellow, she is strongly interested in the United Nations system and seeks to broaden her knowledge to contribute to global efforts advancing sustainable development, global health equity, and inclusive international policymaking.
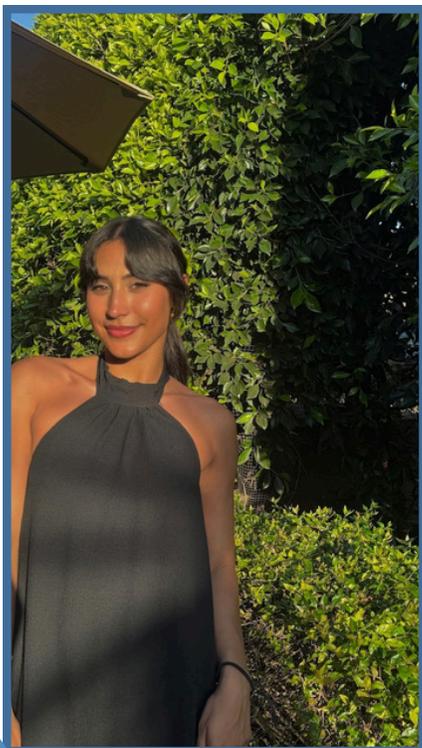
Maria Roth

Maria Roth is an international affairs professional from Dallas, Texas, with a strong interest in global development, humanitarian policy, and ethical engagement between public institutions and the private sector. Her academic and professional work focuses on how international organizations can design and implement systems that better serve vulnerable populations, promote human dignity, and strengthen institutional accountability. Maria is currently an intern at UNICEF, where she supports work related to international cooperation and development programming.

She has been admitted to Georgetown University's Master of Science in Foreign Service (MSFS) program, where she plans to further develop her expertise in global governance, international development, and policy implementation. Maria is particularly interested in how global institutions can collaborate with responsible private sector actors to fill gaps where public systems fall short, while maintaining ethical standards, transparency, and social responsibility.

Maria is motivated by the belief that international policy should be people-centered, equity-driven, and grounded in real-world outcomes rather than abstract theory. She aspires to pursue a career in international policy and development consulting, working at the intersection of multilateral institutions, governments, and socially responsible firms.

As a UNA-NCA Fellow, Maria looks forward to engaging with mentors and peers, expanding her professional network in international affairs, and contributing thoughtfully to discussions on global cooperation, humanitarian action, and sustainable development.

Meghna Sahoo

Meghna Sahoo is a graduate student at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, where she is pursuing a Master's in Management with a focus on strategy, global development, and social impact. She is passionate about working at the intersection of economic development, human rights, and international cooperation, and is committed to building solutions that expand opportunity for underserved communities.

Meghna earned her undergraduate degree through the World Bachelor in Business (WBB) program, studying across the University of Southern California, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Bocconi University in Milan. This global academic experience shaped her ability to navigate cross-cultural environments and analyze complex global challenges from multiple perspectives. Professionally, Meghna has experience in finance, consulting, and social impact having worked as a Business Development Analyst at Financial Technology Partners and as an Analyst at Dow Jones. In these roles, she supported senior leadership on growth strategy, market analysis, and competitive intelligence across international markets. She has also volunteered with local homeless shelters, and food drives reinforcing her commitment to equity and community-driven solutions.

Beyond her academic and professional pursuits, Meghna is an Odissi classical dancer, using cultural expression as a form of cross-cultural dialogue and storytelling. She aspires to pursue a career in international development or global policy, working with international organizations, governments, or mission-driven consulting firms to create lasting, inclusive impact.

Yuhao Shen

Yuhao is a first-year master's student in the Communication, Culture, and Technology (CCT) program at Georgetown University. Prior to joining CCT, he earned a Bachelor of Arts (with Honors) from the University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom and a Bachelor of Arts from Xi'an Jiaotong–Liverpool University in China, where he studied film studies, and digital media. He also holds a Certificate in Climate Change and Health from the Yale School of Public Health and a Certificate in Population Health in the Digital Age from the Global Health Institute Academy at the University of Arizona.

Yuhao has conducted research aimed at understanding how communication can be leveraged to reduce health inequities and improve public understanding of science and risk. His work spans health behavior, media psychology, misinformation, and social inequity, including projects on pediatric palliative care, global spirituality, and parent–child communication and adolescent risk. Methodologically, he employs mixed qualitative and quantitative approaches, ranging from interviews and thematic analysis to advanced statistical modeling, and has published multiple articles in peer-reviewed journals and presented at international conferences.

In parallel with his academic work, Yuhao has gained professional experience in international communication across news agencies, the private sector, and non-profit organizations. Through this work, he has become particularly interested in how international issues are often culturally oversimplified in global media narratives and how misinformation and political framing can undermine public trust in international institutions.

Melissa Stichel

Melissa Stichel is a U.S. Navy veteran from Brooklyn, New York, a doctoral candidate, and a global governance professional committed to diplomacy, ethical leadership, and project-driven impact. Her passion for the world began early—sparked by a globe her mother purchased so she could learn about different countries, cultures, and people. That early curiosity grew into a lifelong dedication to international understanding and service.

With over fifteen years of experience in security, compliance, and cross-domain operations, Melissa has managed complex, high-stakes initiatives in support of national leadership and government missions. She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Business Administration with a focus on governance, risk, and compliance, and her academic interests lie at the intersection of international policy, institutional integrity, and project management. Melissa is also deeply committed to women's leadership, diplomacy, wellness, and global etiquette as foundations of effective global service. She has a strong interest in learning how women in different countries lead within their communities—how culture, context, and local traditions shape leadership styles and collective impact.

A mentor and community leader, Melissa has led governance and compliance study initiatives and is especially passionate about empowering women veterans and globally minded women to lead with clarity, balance, and confidence in complex environments.

Through the UNA-NCA Fellowship, Melissa seeks to deepen her engagement with multilateral institutions, expand her policy fluency, and contribute to peacebuilding, sustainable development, and inclusive governance.

Ruth Teferi

My name is Ruth Teferi, I'm a Master's student in Economics at George Mason University, and my main interest is African development and the role institutions play in shaping economic outcomes. I earned my B.A. in Business Administration from Truman State University in May 2023, with a concentration in International Business and a minor in Statistics. I'm originally from Ethiopia, and my background strongly influences both the topics I care about and the kinds of questions I want to answer. I'm interested in research that connects economic theory to real policy problems, especially the problems that affect growth, jobs, and living standards across African countries.

The center of my academic focus is the intersection of economic development and institutional design, especially how legal structures, property rights, and governance shape long run economic growth. In many places, growth is not only about resources or talent; it is also about whether the rules are fair, and consistently enforced. I'm particularly focused on Sub-Saharan Africa, where weak legal systems, unclear property rights, and uneven enforcement can discourage investment, limit entrepreneurship, and reduce trust in markets and public institutions. At the same time, strong institutions can make it easier for businesses to grow, for people to plan for the future, and for governments to be accountable and deliver services more effectively.

My long term goal is to build a career studying how laws, enforcement, and incentives influence investment, productivity, and opportunity, and how reforms can support inclusive growth.

Shytance Wren

Shytance Wren specializes in applying research to education policy across diverse international and institutional systems. Her prior experience spans international organizations, federal agencies, and nonprofit research institutions, including comparative workforce development research at the OECD, capacity-building work at USAID grounded in local and indigenous knowledge, and policy and data analysis at the Education Trust focused on higher education inclusive access and outcomes.

Shytance is currently a policy analyst at the Education Commission of the States, where she analyzes education policy, tracks postsecondary legislative developments, and develops data-informed considerations for state policymakers across the education-to-workforce continuum. Her work includes contributing to ECS' initiative, Strong Start to Finish, which focuses on reforming developmental education to reduce barriers and improve early college success for first year students.

Drawing on her experience as a former educator and researcher in the United Arab Emirates, her current doctoral work in the International Education Policy program at the University of Maryland, College Park examines how epistemological frameworks traverse and operate within transnational higher education systems. Shytance holds a master's degree in Student Affairs Administration with a specialization in International Development from Michigan State University.

Kaitlyn Zhou

Kaitlyn Zhou is a Master of Public Policy student at the University of Maryland through the accelerated BA/MPP program. She is deeply passionate about advancing social and education policy. More specifically, she seeks to address systemic inequalities in human and gender rights and ensure equitable access to education for all. Throughout her collegiate career, she has had diverse experience across the state and nonprofit sectors.

Most notably, Kaitlyn has served as a legislative intern for the Executive Office of Governor Wes Moore, where she crafted policy briefings to highlight gaps in legislation on pressing policy issues, such as the opioid crisis, foster care, and affordable housing. In addition, as a program assistant for the J.C. Tamno Foundation, a nonprofit committed to advancing literacy equity, she coordinated Read Aloud sessions for children at Title I elementary schools in Maryland and oversaw the Foundation's social media pages.

Outside of academics, Kaitlyn is an active leader on campus. She serves as a graduate assistant for the Public Leadership Scholars program and a member of the Women in Public Policy club.

Furthermore, as former President of the Sigma Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, she worked diligently to recognize and celebrate leaders across all pillars of campus, especially those who have been historically underrepresented. Her leadership has led her to be honored as a member of the Maryland Medallion society, which recognizes twenty students in the undergraduate graduating class who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and integrity. Kaitlyn ultimately aspires to be a policy analyst and advocate for underserved youth globally.

GFP Leadership Team

Katherine Marshall

Katherine is a senior fellow at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Professor of the Practice of Development, Religion, and Conflict in the School of Foreign Service, and Executive Director of the World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD), following a long World Bank career, Katherine served as a co-director for GFP25.

Andrew Hyde

Andrew is a member of UNA-NCA's Board of Directors. He is also a Director and Senior Fellow at the Stimson Center, a Washington, DC think tank, where he focuses on multilateral diplomacy. He left the State Department following a thirty-year career as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer with assignments in Europe, Asia, and Latin America, specializing in multilateral diplomacy and conflict management. Earlier in his career, he held several staff positions in the U.S. Senate. Andrew served as a co-director for GFP25.

Tom Bradley

Tom has been assistant director of the UNA-NCA Graduate Fellows Program, from 2018 to present day and served as a co-director for GFP25. After a career in the US Air Force he has served on the UNA-NCA Board of Directors 2009-2017 and 2019-present.

Stephen F. Moseley

Steve is our Past President and Board Chair of the UNA-NCA Board of Directors, elected for the first Term in 2017. Previously, he served as Chair of the UNA-NCA Advisory Council, and member of UNA-NCA's Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

Keegan Mobley

Keegan is the current Graduate Fellows Program Manager. Previously, he interned with UNA-NCA as GFP25's Program Assistant while earning his MA in Global Environmental Policy at American University.