



The Magazine of Golden Gate University

Law Clinic Partners with Communities  
to Fight for Environmental Justice

**GGU VETERANS:**  
THE COST OF WAR AND THE MEANING OF SERVICE

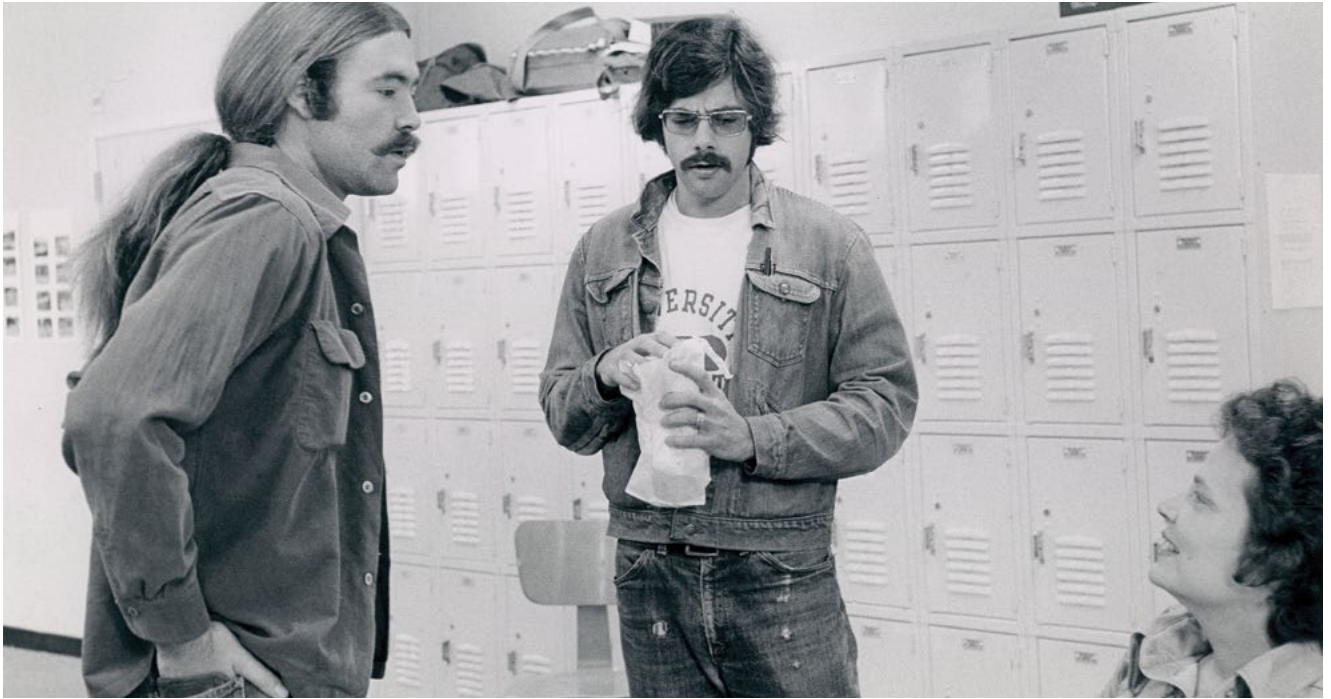
ELEVATE YOUR CAREER  
THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

# ID the photo

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## More than 114 years of unforgettable GGU moments



### Web Extra

View the photo IDs our readers have submitted at [www.ggumagazine.com](http://www.ggumagazine.com).

Can you ID anyone in these photos? Can you ID the event in the photo?

If so, please contact the Alumni Association at 415-442-7824 or [alumni@ggu.edu](mailto:alumni@ggu.edu).

# Spring 2016

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## August 30– December 13

### Braden Leadership Speaker Series

A 15-week speaker series on business leadership, featuring thought leaders sharing advice and expertise with students, alumni and the SF Bay Area community at large.

Golden Gate University  
536 Mission Street, Room 2201  
San Francisco  
Times and days to be announced

For more information, visit:  
[www.ggu.edu/business-leadership-speaker-series](http://www.ggu.edu/business-leadership-speaker-series)

## September 23

### Tax & Accounting Career Fair

Tax and accounting companies will be on campus to recruit students and recent graduates.

Golden Gate University  
536 Mission Street  
San Francisco  
2:30–5:30 PM

Registration will open in  
mid-August

## September 30

### GGU Alumni Reception at the State Bar Annual Meeting in San Diego

Join Dean of GGU School of Law Rachel Van Cleave and fellow alumni at the State Bar Annual Meeting for an Alumni Reception.

San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina  
Mission Hills & Balboa Room  
333 West Harbor Drive  
San Diego, CA 92101  
4–6 PM

## October 13

### For the Love of Education 2016 Celebration to benefit student scholarships, featuring Rosie Rios, 43rd Treasurer of the United States, in conversation with GGU President Dr. David J. Fike.

Join us for dinner and a provocative discussion as GGU trustees, alumni and distinguished guests officially welcome our eighth President to GGU.

Palace Hotel  
San Francisco  
6 PM

For more information please  
contact Natoya Woods at  
[nwoods@ggu.edu](mailto:nwoods@ggu.edu)  
[ggu.edu/ftloe](http://ggu.edu/ftloe)

## October 27

### Fourth Annual Women in Leadership

Gather with fellow alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends to chat, enjoy food and learn strategies for navigating a successful career from Associate Dean Marianne Koch and an esteemed panel of GGU alumnae.

Golden Gate University  
536 Mission Street, 5th floor  
San Francisco  
5–7:30 PM

RSVP early, last year's event was sold out!

For more information visit:  
[www.ggu.edu/women-in-leadership](http://www.ggu.edu/women-in-leadership)

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For the latest information on these events and more, visit [www.ggu.edu/events](http://www.ggu.edu/events).

For e-mail updates, update your e-mail address at [www.ggu.edu/alumni](http://www.ggu.edu/alumni).

# The Transformative Power of Service

**P**hilosophers, psychiatrists, self-help gurus and entrepreneurs all agree—when we devote our time and focus to a purpose greater than ourselves, life is more meaningful. When we feel that our work contributes to a higher purpose, we are happier.

The commitment to community and to service has been strong at GGU since its beginnings when, as California's first evening law school, it made legal studies accessible to all, regardless of their class or gender. It grew with academic offerings for returning veterans and educational opportunities that allowed women and working people to pursue their aspirational goals in areas previously closed to them. And it is deeply rooted in everything we do to advance our mission to prepare individuals to lead and serve, as an institution of higher learning, whether it is helping people overcome their self-perceived limitations and realize their educational goals at any age; supporting transitions into more fulfilling careers; training socially responsible leaders; or advancing social and environmental justice through the inspiring work of our law graduates and law clinics.

These values of service – and the legacy built on them– deeply resonated with me even before I arrived at GGU. They were instilled in me and my siblings by my mother, a lifelong activist for women's rights, and my father, a GGU law alum and past lecturer who built a successful



Saul Bromberger & Sandra Hoover Photography

legal career providing equal access to justice for the underserved. I am proud to represent and champion them as your president.

The desire to serve is also evident in the work that our alumni and students do for the collective good—as volunteers, advocates, public officers, and veterans. They make us proud with all they do to empower and protect communities; promote corporate responsibility; improve access to healthcare, education, and services that better people's lives and increase their participation in our society. We are especially grateful to the alumni who give back to GGU through mentorship, professional coaching, job opportunities, and scholarship endowments. Thanks to their generosity, GGU keeps making a difference in the lives of men and women who will, in turn, contribute to our mission and future generations of students.

In this issue of GGU Magazine, you can read some of their stories—just a small sample of the many we could tell about GGU and the transformative power of service and education.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Fike". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.



# Connecting People, Creating Opportunities

Alumni Association President Steve Morgan on the benefits of belonging.

**T**his issue of GGU Magazine—focused on community service and the many ways in which our alumni give back to the university and society—is the perfect place to express our appreciation to Steve Morgan, president of the Golden Gate University Alumni Association Board of Directors.

From his base in the Sacramento area, Morgan has been carving out time from his busy work schedule to promote the mission of the Alumni Association and to engage with GGU alumni around the world. “I got involved with the Alumni Association because I saw it as an opportunity to meet more people, get connected at a deeper level with the university and, most importantly, make a difference,” he says.

Morgan served in the Air Force for almost nine years, as a C-130 navigator at Dyess Air Force Base in Texas, then as a navigational instructor at Mather AFB in Sacramento. While in the military, he attended GGU classes held on base, completing an MBA in Management in 1990. “I did not set foot on the San Francisco campus until 2013. There are a lot of alumni like myself who did not take classes at the university and who have no personal connection to the school, so the challenge is to get them involved. They may not even be aware of the benefits provided by the Alumni Association, such as opportunities for career development and advancement through networking.”

Alumni mixers are a great way to



Photo courtesy Steve Morgan

bridge the gap and create beneficial synergies. “We have resources, we just need to connect people to them. I would like to strengthen the network between students, the school and our successful group of alumni, establishing the relationships that can connect qualified job seekers to employers.”

To that end, the Alumni Association Board of Directors focuses on alumni engagement through networking and social events, university advocacy, and initiatives aligned with the university’s mission. “We currently have a diverse board of 14 people, but we would like to grow it to at least 20 members.”

For Steve Morgan, it’s all about relationships and encouraging alumni to return to campus and attend networking events. “Established alums have a lot to offer to new graduates—they are successful business people who can mentor and hire new talent. Having a connection to the university and its students gives employers access to a pool of qualified, well-prepared candidates, which also reduces their employee start-up costs. It’s a win-win for everybody.”

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## 2016 Outstanding Graduate Students Awards

The GGU community gathered last April at the annual ceremony honoring graduate students who have excelled in their academic pursuits.

“Today we recognize academic performance—the completion of a degree, earning a high GPA, presenting stellar projects. But, just as important, we celebrate the character that these graduates have demonstrated through goal-setting, discipline, hard work, and persevering to this moment,” said President David Fike.



**Group photo:** Back row, L-R: Dan Cagley, Lawrence Jagiello, Simran Kaur, Honorio Daboin Villegas, Kimberly Williams, Kwaja (Akmal) Siddiqi, Pallavi Singla, Tariq Saman, Lene Hegland, Nora Fung Nga Wu, Paul Thibeault; Front row, L-R: Natalie Kolchak, Ayana Richardson, Zheng (Betty) Yu, Tan Phan, Ariel (Shuyang) Feng, Isabelle Hale

**Photos (clockwise):** Chair and Professor of Marketing and Public Relations Blodwen Tarter and Pallavi Singla; Dean of the School of Accounting & Bruce F. Braden School of Taxation Fred Sroka and Isabelle Hale; Associate Professor and Department Chair of Operations & IT Management Dr. Judith Lee with Tariq Saman; Director of Financial Planning and Distinguished Adjunct Professor Dr. David Yeske with Tan Phan.

## AWARDEES

Deans Fred Sroka, Bruce F. Braden School of Taxation and School of Accounting, and Dr. Paul Fouts, Edward S. Ageno School of Business, presented the awards to the following graduates:

**Zheng (Betty) Yu (MBA)** — University Service Award

**Ayana Richardson** — Doctor of Business Administration

**Maryn Miller** — Executive Master of Public Administration

**Ariel (Shuyang) Feng** — MS in Finance

**Tan Phan** — Master of Science in Financial Planning

**Simran Kaur** — MS in Human Resource Management

**Lene Hegland** — MS in Integrated Marketing Communications

**Pallavi Singla** — MS in Marketing

**Honorio Daboin Villegas** — MS in Project Management

**Paul Thibeault** — MA in Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy Concentration

**Kimberly Williams** — MS in Psychology, Industrial and Organizational Psychology Concentration

**Tariq Saman** — MS in Information Technology Management

**Khwaja (Akmal) Siddiqi** — MBA

**Natalie Kolchak** — MS in Taxation, Cohort

**Nora Fung Nga Wu** — MS in Taxation, San Francisco

**Lawrence Jagiello** — MS in Taxation, Los Angeles

**Jody Stodola** — MS in Taxation, Seattle

**Sandy Chan** — MS in Taxation, Online

**Jason Freer** — Master in Accountancy

**Daniel Cagley** — Master in Accountancy, Cohort

**Isabelle Hale** — MS in Accountancy

## Bringing it Back Home

Kadri Rexha (MBA Project Management), a student from Kosovo, has received full scholarships to GGU from the United States Agency for International Development/ Transformational Leadership Program, a USAID project that seeks to develop the capacity of Kosovars to bring about transformational change through opportunities for advanced education, technical assistance, and leadership development.

“Working on case studies with multi-cultural students has helped me reflect on my own plan to help develop the economy in Kosovo,” says Rexha, who co-founded a real estate services company back home. “The people in Kosovo are well educated and trained, but they need investors to help them expand



and develop the country. My vision is to attract foreign investors for the mining or agricultural industry.”

“Since not everyone gets the opportunity to study abroad, when I return I want to assist the youth of Kosovo to develop their academic or working experience by providing guidelines, tips, and suggestions

for creating a better future.” In that spirit, Rexha currently volunteers with Project Management Institute (PMI) and teaches at Design Tech, a charter school in Foster City, where he helps children create projects they can sell to raise funds for the school.

## Ageno Honors Outstanding Adjunct Faculty

The Ageno School of Business held their annual Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award Ceremony last February, honoring adjunct professors who consistently exemplified excellence in their field of study.



Photo caption from left to right: Ruth Astle, LouAnn Conner, Lydia Daniels, Peter Lou, William Hermann, Lance Robins and James Hays

### Congratulations to our awardees:

- Outstanding Overall Adjunct — **William Hermann**
- Executive Master of Public Administration — **Ruth Astle**
- English — **William Crossman**
- Finance — **Peter Lou**
- Human Resource Management — **Lydia Daniels**
- Information Technology Management — **Olga Kowalewsky**
- Management — **LouAnn Conner**
- Mathematics — **Lance Robins**
- Operations/Global Supply Chain Management — **James Hays**
- Project Management — **Margaret Lee**
- Psychology — **Nina Samaco**



## GGU Launches a New MBA

### Program Introduces a Holistic Approach to Business Management

Steve Jobs, quoting inventor and Polaroid founder Dr. Edwin Land, famously said that great things happen at the intersection of different disciplines. In that spirit, this fall the Ageno School of Business will launch a new MBA program that integrates traditional management courses with training in other areas required to run a successful business today: finance, marketing, information technology, as well as soft skills like communications, presentation, and team building.

The vision for the new MBA program came into focus about three years ago, when Ageno Dean Paul Fouts approached different entities within the university and in the business community to find out what business leaders were looking for in new MBA graduates. It was the ability to put together all the practical and conceptual knowledge they had learned in school to make the right business decisions in the workplace.

“At the Ageno Advisory Board meetings, we had already discussed revising the MBA program to respond to constantly evolving business needs,” said MBA Program Director Mike Cheng, an 11-year member of the board. “This more holistic approach is exactly what we were thinking about. Students need to know not only business strategy and functions, but also how to work in teams, effectively communicate verbally and non-verbally, and how to present ideas using different media.”

At 18 courses and 54 units, the new program adds two courses and six units to completion. As in the Executive MBA, at the beginning of the new MBA program students will work on a five-year personal

development plan focused on how to balance their professional goals with their life goals. “Offering this early on allows students to explore and develop their self-assessment and self-awareness. It builds a strong foundation upon which students can continue to learn and develop professionally,” said Cheng. As in the existing program, students will have the opportunity to custom design their MBA and enhance their professional knowledge by selecting from a wide array of professional concentrations. Their last course will be the Capstone, a business planning class that pulls everything together.

Another key feature of the new MBA program is the use of an activity-based approach that “flips”

time,” explained Cheng. Throughout the program, “we evaluate critical thinking, communications, and presentation skills. Students who demonstrate they have mastered them earn a badge, so it becomes a very results-based learning.”

Current MBA students will continue to be supported until they complete their degrees. “We will also offer some eligible students in the existing program to switch to the new one.”

With the introduction of the new MBA program, Ageno is actively recruiting additional instructors to deliver the content. Many faculty members, like Mike Cheng and Dana Waldman, are alumni of the program who came back to GGU

**“Students need to know not only business strategy and functions, but also how to work in teams, effectively communicate verbally and non-verbally, and how to present ideas using different media.”**

the classroom to directly engage students. “Professors don’t stand and lecture for two and a half hours while students take notes anymore. We require that students come prepared to actively participate, so that most of the time in class is devoted to practicing, exercises, simulations, and discussions of case studies. Professors give immediate feedback and coaching and tutorials are based on student performance, in real

time. Cheng hopes to see more alums. “We don’t just use full-time professors, we also have many adjunct professors who are working in the industry and have direct exposure to performance of students in class, which can lead to employment and networking opportunities—an added benefit for our graduates.”

# ELEVATE

## *Your Career Through Volunteering*

A panel of experts and a professional development fair focused on the opportunities offered by community service

By Pat Katzmann



“Volunteering is a great way to interview an organization.” With

this premise, Marques Cook (MS 16) welcomed a full house of students and alumni who came to explore how volunteering can enhance professional development at GGU’s ELEVATE Your Career in March. The event, now in its second year, was organized by the Office of Career Planning and sponsored by the Student Government Association, Office of Student Affairs and Alumni Relations.

Cook returned as moderator of a panel featuring speakers from Contra Costa Health Services, Goodwill Industries, the Parkinson’s Institute, Twitter and Yahoo. As Partner Relationship Manager for the nonprofit organization Year Up Bay Area, he shared how he helps underprivileged young adults secure tech internships, leading the discussion on ways to integrate community outreach with career pursuits. After the panel, attendees had the opportunity to network with the speakers and other representatives from public and private sector organizations at a professional development fair.

“We are broadening the definition of networking to include



volunteerism, with a chance for participants to link up with some alumni and other professionals who have seen how community involvement can boost careers,” said Laura Snow Benoit, assistant director of the Office of Career Planning, who spearheaded the initiative. “It’s a mutually beneficial job-seeking strategy.”

Along those lines, Goodwill’s Director of Strategic Partnerships & Sustainability Linda Pratt (MBA 14), who also serves as current Vice-President of the GGU Alumni Association, explained how volunteer services support Goodwill’s core business, allowing volunteers and interns to make an impact on the organization – a “win-win” proposition for both.

As the Volunteer Program Coordinator for Contra Costa Health Services, Rhonda Rochon-Smith (MPA 94) manages over 300 volunteers at Contra Costa’s Regional Medical Center and nine county clinics. She emphasized the crucial relationship between happy volunteers and patient satisfaction, hence the importance of cultivating a very special experience for those who donate their time and work to her organization. It’s an approach that has worked well for Contra Costa:

under her direction, community-wide awareness of volunteer services is at an all-time high and the number of volunteers has tripled.

Working to leverage the tech industry’s talents, products and technology for social impact, Grace Chung, corporate programs manager at Yahoo, heads the company’s Tech for Good program, partnering with nonprofits to foster education in science, technology, engineering, and math—the subjects collectively known as STEM — and to encourage youth to expand their career options from STEM to STEAM (STEM + the Arts) to develop a more interdisciplinary approach in tackling global challenges. She explained how

TOP (l to r): Marques Cook (MS 16), Rhonda Rochon-Smith (MPA 94), Emily Fredrickson, Linda Pratt (MBA 14), Scott Staub (MPA 85), Grace Chung.

OPPOSITE TOP LEFT: Jie Ming Loo (MAc 18), Michelle Zao (MAc 17).

OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT: Ashish Ashture (MS 17), Abhishek Prasad (MBA 17).

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Chinatown Community Development Center representatives (l to r) Michelle Zeng, Angelina Guan, and GGU Alumni Board member Gordon Leung.

BOTTOM: Rapt audience members watch the panel of experts.



professionals who volunteer in areas or environments that are not familiar to them, for example to increase access to technology opportunities in underserved communities, gain empathy and a broader perspective on the world. Scott Staub (MPA 85), Chief Advancement Officer for the Parkinson's Institute and Clinical Center, which offers science and lab internships, agreed that "in-house volunteering can help employees leave their comfort zones to develop leadership skills without jeopardizing their jobs."

A self-described serial volunteer, Emily Fredrickson, "fell in love with the concept of corporate

shares her professional insights on online platforms such as CareerVillage and MicroMentor. To improve networking outcomes, Staub advised attendees to "find reasons to connect on LinkedIn beyond seeking a job." For Rochon-Smith and Pratt, meeting over coffee is the preferred way to network.

After the panel, attendees adjourned to the Professional Development Fair, where representatives from more than 30 professional associations, nonprofits and campus groups hosted information tables and talked to prospective volunteers.

Terry Barton, 2017 President

income tax reports free of charge.

Prospective volunteers with skills in administrative office project support, fundraisers and special events can apply to the nonprofit Positive Resource Center to assist people with HIV/AIDS or mental health disabilities with vocational training, job searches and educational access. According to Dennis Reilly, supervising employment specialist for the advocacy group, "Positive Resource Center is the only employment service provider in the Bay Area specifically developed to address the needs of people who face multiple obstacles in their job search."

Kartikeya Patel, who co-hosted a table for GGU's Wings of Information Technology Students (WITS), met representatives from various organizations. "I learned a lot from them on how to advance my career and what type of activities or participation is required to build your own network. The best part was meeting all the GGU clubs and interacting with other club members regarding their work," he said.

Patel also submitted his LinkedIn profile for review by coaches from the online business network who were available to provide professional advice. "The LinkedIn team helped me understand LinkedIn's new features and how to connect with people from the Bay Area to network," he said.

ELEVATE Your Career showed the many paths where volunteering can lead. One avenue may be a straightforward track to a job offer. Another may be a detour that affords the chance to sample a different career, indulge a hobby, or satisfy a commitment to charity. Regardless of the road one follows or its destination, what matters most was summarized by Grace Chung: "What really makes a difference is seeing what people are passionate about and what they've achieved with authentic commitment."

## **"In-house volunteering can help employees leave their comfort zones to develop leadership skills without jeopardizing their jobs."**

responsibility." As a member of Twitter's Community Outreach/Philanthropy team, she helped pioneer NeighborNest, "a family-friendly technology learning center" staffed by Twitter volunteers. Volunteering was her way into a career at Twitter. "Coding software for kids got me where I am today in a literal direct way," she told the audience, explaining how during an internal blood drive she met Twitter's head of philanthropy and soon after applied online for her current position. "The connection that literally made me pass out was the key for my future." She advises job seekers to be curious, check in with the companies that interest them on a regular basis, keep up the dialogue and ask for informational interviews.

Panelists explained how their commitment to volunteer work invariably generates networking opportunities. What's the best way to follow up once the first approach is made? Chung, who volunteers for nonprofits such as One Degree and TechWomen, likes to connect on LinkedIn after meeting; she also

Elect of the Association of Talent Development (ATD), Golden Gate Chapter, explained how ATD helps students in human resources, organizational development, and training & development. "Student memberships provide full member benefits: reduced pricing at our programs, networking with Bay Area talent development professionals; access to job opportunities; and the ability to volunteer on a committee or take a leadership role in the chapter, all of which help to build the skills needed in today's ever-evolving talent development landscape."

While some organizations call for an array of abilities from volunteers, others require a defined skill set. Graduate student Stephanie Dodge, president of GGU's Accounting Club, recruits volunteers for tax preparation. During the first quarter of each year, students, alumni and faculty from GGU's Braden School of Taxation and School of Accounting participate in Tax-Aid, an initiative that allows them to gain practical experience while helping low-income residents complete and file their

# Manjit Sappal: A New Police Chief Focuses on Community and Collaboration

**B**ack in the days when he still was not sure what he wanted to do in life, Martinez Chief of Police Manjit Sappal (EMPA 14) had a friend who used to tell him about his work as a police officer. “He always had the most interesting stories. He was out meeting people all the time.” Sappal was intrigued by what sounded like an unpredictable profession that would not tie him to a desk all day.

Until then he had toyed with the idea of medical school, while his highly educated parents were steering him toward a career in law or engineering. Instead he enrolled in the police academy and then applied to the Police Department in Pittsburg, California. In law enforcement, Sappal found his calling. “From day one, I loved it. I would start off my shift with a bad accident, then deal with a case involving a runaway child with parents that needed help, and next with someone in a crisis. The full spectrum of human experience.”

Two years later, a classmate from the police academy recruited him to the Richmond PD, where Sappal distinguished himself on the street enforcement teams, on SWAT, as a firearms instructor and also a homicide detective, rising through the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. Over the 18 years he spent earning his street credentials in Richmond, Sappal continued his formal education, graduating from the FBI National Academy and then from Golden Gate University with a master’s degree in public administration with highest honors. When the opportunity to lead as chief for the Martinez Police Department presented itself, he was ready.

His long tenure in public service



Photo courtesy of Manjit Sappal.

has taught Sappal the value of communication. “Whether it’s responding to crime or preventing it, we need to be able to communicate across a very diverse population. Community outreach is number one.” With public budgets constantly shrinking, police departments end up absorbing a wide variety of community issues that normally are not police related. “But citizens expect that they will be taken care of, either through public policy or enforcement of existing laws.”

Homelessness is an example. Being homeless is not a crime, but behaviors that may be associated with homelessness can be criminal in nature. “From a policing standpoint, strict enforcement of the law doesn’t make the problem any better. In the long term, a positive solution requires collaboration from a number of organizations. So, part of what we end up doing goes well beyond policing—it’s about connecting people to the right services so that they can get help.”

Open dialogue and integrity is important to share what’s working—and what’s not. “Police is the most visible arm of government. People

may not have access to their political leaders, but they can always call 911. With police departments facing issues like excessive force and profiling, we are at a pretty pivotal place for the profession. For a long time policing was not very transparent. We need to take responsibility and address these problems to make sure they don’t happen again.”

There are no easy answers. Sappal cites additional training focused on scenarios, rather than tactics, as an effective way to teach officers how to de-escalate situations and the possible consequences of their behavior, for example in dealing with the mentally ill. But ultimately, “integrity and communication are both part of the solution. A lot of the issues we are dealing with need community collaboration and input, they are not just for the police to solve.”

It’s a philosophy that allows Sappal to get away from his desk and interact with citizens and their representatives, to fulfill what he believes is perhaps the most fundamental function of a public servant: building relationships.



# Jon Golinger: Advocating for Coit Tower's Artistic Legacy

GGU Law Alumnus and Faculty Member Jon Golinger Spearheaded a Movement to Restore the Landmark's Fresco Murals

Rising from the top of Telegraph Hill, Coit Tower is one of San Francisco's most iconic landmarks. Its fluted silhouette stands in contrast to the city's expanding glass-and-steel skyline, like a beacon from a not so distant past, when North Beach was the epicenter of the Beat Generation and Herb Caen a regular at Moose's on Washington Square.

For Jon Golinger (JD 10), a denizen of Telegraph Hill and past president of its neighborhood association, Coit Tower "embodies the creative spirit that many people brought to San Francisco over many decades. And that's just the building. When you look at the murals inside, you realize they

separately are a treasure."

The murals are a collection of 27 fresco and oil paintings that adorn the walls of the tower, painted between December 1933 and June 1934 by twenty-five California artists. "It was the first art project in the whole country funded by President Roosevelt's New Deal," said Golinger. "A test case for whether federal money could put artists to work, get them out of the dire straits of the Great Depression, pay them a decent wage, and produce something of benefit for the general public."

In 2011, Golinger learned from the daughter of one of the artists that the tower had fallen into a state of disrepair and the murals were decaying. As an attorney and activist in environmental causes,

his curiosity was piqued, and he decided to investigate.

Golinger had been a public interest advocate and community organizer since he graduated from college. In 2006, he decided to go back to school and study law, "to be better at working for a better world." He chose Golden Gate University because of its reputation in public interest law. He attended in the evenings and racked up an impressive number of academic achievements. "I had experience trying to help groups and people who wanted to solve problems by getting a law passed, and I thought that rather than hiring a lawyer, it would be great if I could do this myself." And once he earned his JD, that's exactly what he set out to do.

So Golinger climbed up to the Tower to take a look at the murals. What he found were stunning works of art in the style of Mexican artist and muralist Diego Rivera—vivid scenes of street and working class life in California during the Great Depression. Their beauty was marred by neglect and the passage of time: mineral deposits, chipped paint, scuffs and scratches left by the hands and backpacks of the more than 150,000 annual visitors who often crowded the cramped interiors of the Tower. The Art Deco building showed its age and wear as well, with visible water damage, peeling plaster, cracked walls, and a leaky roof. Enough to spur Golinger into action.

Reaching out to the city to inquire about its upkeep of the Tower, he was met with indifference. “They seemed perfectly satisfied with the way things were and saw no reason to do anything about it.” Undaunted, Golinger enlisted a coalition of neighbors, artists, environmentalists and concerned citizens to lead the fight to save Coit Tower and its murals. “We put together a crusade to treat Coit Tower the way it should be—as a special symbol of the city.” His efforts were supported by the family of Lillie Hitchcock Coit, a wealthy and eccentric patron of San Francisco’s volunteer firefighters who left part of her estate to the city, “for the purpose of adding to the beauty of the city which I have always loved,” and whose bequest was used, in part, to build the tower that still bears her name.

“The more I learned about Coit Tower, the more passionate I became. It grounds San Francisco in its history, and it is deeply connected to the richness, the tumult and the difficulty that helped shape the country we live in, because 1934 was a harsh time for the entire nation and particularly for San Francisco. It was the year of the waterfront labor strikes in which labor workers stood up united for



Photo by Dennis Hearne.

Photo by Nagel Photography.

Jon Golinger (JD 10) and Coit Tower.

their rights and a fair wage.”

“All those elements came together to get me involved. I drafted a very short, succinct measure and raised the money to put it on the June 2012 ballot for the whole city to weigh in whether Coit Tower should be better protected and treated. This was a completely volunteer project.”

Voters approved the measure, and the city and Department of

about the tower and its artists.

Together with other neighborhood activists, he organized “SF Coit Tower Artists in Action,” a photography exhibit to celebrate the 4 women and 21 men who created the murals. Extensive research was carried out to find photographs of each of them, including some whose images and stories had been nearly lost to history. Many of the artists, such as Ralph Stackpole, Victor Arnautoff,

## “We put together a crusade to treat Coit Tower the way it should be—as a special symbol of the city.”

Recreation and Parks allocated \$1.7 million to fix up the tower, including \$250,000 for the murals’ makeover. “That’s what we wanted, for the city to change their mind and take a different approach,” said Golinger. “The tower was closed for six months for a full top-to-bottom restoration. Today the murals look great. And new rules were put into place to treat the inside of the tower much like a museum, which it is.” Recreation and Parks officials promised to channel one percent annually from the Coit Tower earnings into a fund for mural upkeep.

Since the measure passed, Golinger has created an organization and worked to promote education

Mallette Dean, Maxine Albro, Lucien Labaudt, Bernard Zakheim, and others had gone on to create other significant artworks throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

“This has been a passion project for me—it melds some of the things I love most about San Francisco and my community: art and creativity, along with politics and civic engagement. They all merge perfectly at Coit Tower. There are not a lot of issues you can work on that you can actually see what you’re actually fighting for. I fought for endangered species and climate change, and you can’t really see that. But Coit Tower, you can see any day. I go up there and remember what I do it all for.”

# With the People, Against Polluters

With its high-quality pro bono legal work, GGU Law's Environmental Law and Justice Clinic has improved air and water quality in communities throughout California and beyond.

**I**t's a bright blue afternoon on San Francisco's southeastern waterfront and from eight stories aboveground we can see clear across the bay. A light breeze is blowing, the silence broken only by the occasional cry of a seagull gliding by.

Up here it's easy to forget that we are standing on the 120-foot boiler of the Potrero Generating Station, until five years ago the source of 30 percent of the city's power—and one of the oldest and dirtiest power plants in California. Every day, its pumps would suck up 226 millions of cubic feet of seawater to cool steam used to power turbines. Environmentalists said the process endangered aquatic life, while the plant's smokestack spewed air pollution, increasing the rates of asthmas and cancer and other health problems in nearby Bayview Hunters Point, Dogpatch and Potrero neighborhoods—working-class communities already impacted by exposure to environmental toxins.

The plant stopped emitting pollution in 2011, when it was shut down after a decade of efforts by community groups and the Golden Gate University Environmental Law and Justice Clinic (ELJC). The Clinic's

legal efforts included filing a lawsuit against the Potrero power plant owner Mirant (now NRG) to enforce the Clean Air Act. ELJC had already successfully helped close another power plant in Bayview Hunters Point in 2006. The Potrero station was the last fossil-fuel power plant in San Francisco.

ELJC Director Helen Kang described it as an environmental victory for residents in the neighborhood where the plant was located, but "an equally important social justice coup, as these polluting plants were inevitably located in the low-income communities of San Francisco, affecting a high percentage of non-white residents."

## **A Trailblazer in Environmental Justice**

As one of the first law school clinics in the United States to prioritize environmental justice in its work, the ELJC has been widely recognized as a provider of high quality pro bono legal services to neighborhoods suffering the most from pollution, giving underrepresented communities a voice in the legal system. The Clinic offers free legal services to community groups, public interest

organizations, and residents who are working to promote environmental equity.

Founded in 1994 by Golden Gate University School of Law Professor Cliff Rechtschaffen and GGU Law Dean Emeritus and Professor Alan Ramo in consultation with leaders from San Francisco Bay Area communities, ELJC serves as a training ground for the next generation of social justice advocates, providing critical legal services to underserved communities throughout California and beyond.

"When the Clinic was established the founders had a meeting with community and environmental leaders to really figure out what our mission ought to be and how we could of service to communities—and that's really the first principle of environmental justice, to consult with people who are affected," says Kang.

The Potrero case illustrates how the ELJC works with community groups to win important victories for the public interest in pollution reduction and greater participation in government decisions. While community groups exhausted every other possible avenue, activated residents, and organized demonstrations, legal advocates,





Students and faculty of the ELJC at the Potrero Generating Station in San Francisco. The Clinic works with social justice and environmental groups. Its core causes include clean drinking water for low-income communities, clean energy for California, and air pollution reduction.

including the Clinic and the City Attorney’s office, monitored the plant’s compliance with environmental laws.

“Community groups are often left out from drafting solutions to the problems that affect them. The Clinic believes that the initiative for social change should come from the bottom-up, primarily from the communities themselves. From the beginning we consulted with the affected communities, establishing great relationships that continue to this day,” says Kang.

The work is Kang’s passion. A Yale College graduate, she received her JD in 1986 from the UC Berkeley School of Law. Before joining the Clinic in 2000, she was a trial lawyer with the US Department of Justice, where she handled numerous cases against industrial polluters, receiving a Special Achievement Award. In addition to overseeing the legal and administrative aspects of the Clinic, she also teaches environmental law to community groups, lawyers, and government agencies.

During Kang’s time at the Clinic, ELJC has won important victories and made significant contributions in moving California towards a future of clean energy and cleaner air and

water, improving the quality of life in many communities suffering from the pollution of manufacturing and power plants.

Kang has expanded the geographic scope of the Clinic’s work beyond the San Francisco Bay Area—and the subject matter of advocacy. Today the Clinic focuses on clean drinking water, in addition to its traditional air pollution reduction and civil rights work.

### Protecting Communities from Pollutants

The closure of the two most polluting power plants in San Francisco was an important achievement for ELJC and its students. Still, with most of the city’s industrial pollution sources located nearby and its proximity to major roadways and the Port of San Francisco, the Bayview Hunters Point community remains heavily polluted and has been designated a Community Air Risk Evaluation Area by the Bay Area Air Quality Air District.

The neighborhood has also borne the brunt of San Francisco’s construction boom in recent years. The Port of San Francisco has developed an “eco-industrial park,”



Headshot photos by Charlotte Fiorito/Compass Photographers

(Top to bottom): Graduate Fellow Tovah Trimming, GGU Law Class of 2014; Khaleelah Ahmad, current rising 3L; Environmental Law and Justice Clinic Director Helen Kang; Joseph Baskin, who graduated in 2016.



Photo by Charlotte Fiorito/Compass Photographers

ELJC is staffed with two full-time professors who together have significant practice experience in environmental law, litigation, and policy work. The staff also includes two graduate law fellows, a part-time program assistant, and student clinicians who are certified under the California State Bar rules to perform lawyerly work.

Students and staff of the ELJC. BACK ROW: Jeramy Stone, Laurie Cross, Danielle Rathje, Khaleelah Ahmad, Tovah Trimming. FRONT ROW: Regina Feliciano, Priscilla "Ren" Vuong, Fe Gonzalez, Helen Kang, Linh-Phuong Ho. NOT PICTURED: Joseph Baskin, Christine Claveria, Nicholas Dahl, Andrew Graf, Elizabeth Marroquin, Phoebe Moshfegh, Collin McCarthy, Aaron Robles, Shireen Seif, Stephanie Smith.

where aggregate and concrete intended for recycling is brought into the port for processing. These activities generate significant amounts of airborne pollutants. The Clinic is working with community groups, including Clean Air Health Alliance and Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice to address and investigate these and other sources of air pollution. Extensive student research has revealed that some of the polluters may be operating without a permit or processing more polluting materials than allowed. And more work will need to be done to resolve these problems.

Many ELJC victories make headline news. In 2014, the San Francisco's Planning Department approved, without proper notice to nearby communities, a plan to

dismantle by implosion Candlestick Park Stadium, the former home of the 49ers. Implosion would have sent a plume of dense, toxic dust clouds into the Bayview-Hunters Point, the predominantly African American community.

"For many groups, the Clinic is one of the few organizations that they can call for help, often with problems needing immediate assistance," says Kang. "So when the community heard rumors about an implosion, they came to us to prevent it."

Kang and her team, including law students Joseph Baskin, Kendra Tietjen, Whitney Wu-Chu, Francisco Martinez, and then graduate fellow Andrew J. Graf (JD 14), used the Public Records Act to access documents proving that the city had indeed approved the implosion

plans—illegally. They mobilized community leaders and prepared to take the fight to court.

The Clinic's students met with the Planning Department, testified at hearings before city agencies, and wrote an op-ed for a local paper. In February 2015, the developer in charge of the demolition of the stadium finally agreed to abandon implosion, in favor of mechanical demolition.

"Without the diligent efforts of the Clinic's students and staff, the community would not have known about the impacts implosion could have on their health and the environment," said Graf, now an associate attorney at Thomas, Quinn & Krieger, LLP in San Francisco. "But without the hard work of the community, the Clinic would not have persuaded the government

agencies and the developer to abandon implosion in favor of the safer alternative. It is these types of collaborations that represent what it means to serve the community.”

### Advocating for Safe Drinking Water

Drinking water safety became big news when the story of Flint, Michigan broke in 2015. Residents of Flint, a predominantly African-American community, had been drinking lead-contaminated water for more than a year before being told it was unsafe.

Closer to home, over 20 million Californians rely on contaminated water for their daily needs. Contaminated water poses serious public health concerns and forces entire communities, most of them already economically at a disadvantage, to either buy bottled water for their daily needs or pay to fund costly water treatment. These burdens are particularly significant in communities that are already vulnerable – those who struggle with poverty, existing health conditions, and exposure to other environmental toxins, and who lack access to health information or care.

The Clinic has been collaborating with diverse groups, including legal aid services, traditional environmental organizations, environmental justice organizations, and conservation groups to take on polluting industries.

One such case affects the Central Coast of California, home to the nation’s intensively farmed agricultural regions, such as Monterey County. Here irrigated agriculture is a multi-billion dollar industry—and the predominant cause of widespread and severe nitrate pollution linked to health problems. The Salinas Valley has problems so severe that, according to a state-mandated study, one in ten people living in the study area is

at risk of harmful exposure.

“In November 2013, the ELJC joined California Rural Legal Assistance and the Stanford Environmental Clinic and filed a case in the Sacramento County Superior Court seeking more stringent regulation of irrigated agriculture in the Central Coast region. We represented a diverse coalition of environmental justice, conservation, and fishing protection organizations as well as Ms. Antonia Manzo, a resident of a labor camp who has not been able to drink water from her tap for a decade because it was contaminated with agricultural waste,” said Graduate Fellow, Collin McCarthy, who recently joined the Clinic.

Over several semesters, ELJC students pored through tens of thousands of pages of the administrative record to write the court briefs with co-counsel. Working on this complex case, they experienced firsthand how collaboration, communication, and hard work would be required to succeed in law practice. In August 2015, relying on the research and briefs drafted by the students and staff, the court ordered government agencies in charge of regulating agricultural pollution to do a better job of reducing pesticide and nitrate pollution from 435,000 acres of farmland.

The State Board and agricultural industry groups have appealed the decision, and ELJC will continue its work to protect the victory and counsel other groups who are pushing for more stringent regulation to protect one of our most precious resources in this water-strapped state.

### Toxic Waste Disposal and Civil Rights

Kettleman City is a small farming community in California’s San Joaquin Valley. Over 90 percent of its 1200 residents are Latino and



Photo by Niall David

TOP: A view of the Potrero Generating Station.

MIDDLE: Graffiti at the inoperative power plant.

BOTTOM: Director Helen Kang at the demolition of Candlestick Park.



View from the top of the Potrero Generating Station in San Francisco.

speaking only Spanish. In the 1980s, Kettleman City became the site of one of the country's largest toxic waste disposal facilities.

Since then, health and safety have been an ongoing concern for the community, the local organization 'People for Clean Air and Water' (El Pueblo para El Aire y Agua Limpio), and environmental groups such as Greenaction. Many communities suffering from pollution are also confronting civil rights violations. These groups have also been struggling to ensure that their civil rights of residents are protected.

Over this past year, the Clinic has been actively pursuing civil rights claims. "This work is both exciting to our students and critical to our clients who have long made the connection between civil rights and environmental justice," says Staff Attorney Nina Robertson, who has been leading this work.

The Clinic is currently representing its clients in mediation with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control over a 2014 permit that the agency issued for the expansion of the infamous toxic waste landfill.

### **Protecting the Integrity of Local and State Environmental Protection from Federal Preemption**

ELJC has also led research and advocacy efforts to ensure that local and state governments can properly do their job to protect their citizenry. For example, plans are under way to increase the quantity of crude oil shipped by rail to California refineries. Citing the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act regulating rail transportation, rail companies and refineries are aggressively campaigning to bar state and local governments from evaluating the environmental impacts of crude and coal projects, arguing that federal law preempts—effectively invalidates—their authority to impose protective measures.

Local governments, hampered by lack of legal resources, are not always able to counter these arguments. "A careful look at the history and the language of the federal statute reveals that Congress meant only to centralize in the federal government the common carrier functions of the rail industry: its rates, train classifications, new routes, services, rail mergers and acquisitions, and complaints about carrier obligations,"

says Graduate Fellow, Tovah Trimming, who as a student wrote an article about the federal statute. "There is not a shred of evidence that Congress meant to undo laws like the California Environmental Quality Act that have protected communities," added Kang.

The Clinic is currently representing several clients on the preemption issue, with one case poised for argument before the California Supreme Court

### **Recognition for the ELJC**

The David and Goliath quality of ELJC's work brings to mind the 2000 biographical film "Erin Brockovitch"—which celebrated the true story of an unemployed single mother who becomes a legal assistant and almost single-handedly brings down a California power company accused of polluting a city's water supply. In that spirit, the American Bar Association celebrated ELJC with its 2013 Dedication to Diversity and Justice Award for its achievements in significantly reducing pollution in numerous underrepresented communities living amidst manufacturing and power plants.

What's next for the Clinic? "Right now we are continuing to work with



our Bayview Hunters Point clients to identify sources of pollution and to try to figure out how to deal with that on a more systemic level. We will also continue to work to curb farm pollution,” says Kang.

For her students, the ELJC experience has been invaluable. Today, Holly Bender (JD 07) is a Sierra Club lawyer. “As a student at ELJC, I was handed my first Clean Air Act case in an effort to address pollution from a foundry in Berkeley,” she says. “The Clean Air Act is notoriously challenging, and most environmental attorneys avoid it for their entire careers. The Clinic’s professors didn’t just hand us the easy cases; they believed in our ability to do really tough work, and so, with their encouragement, I dove in, learned how the law could help our client, and unknowingly launched my career in air and energy law. I now speak at national industry conferences about advocacy and the Clean Air Act, and not a day goes by that I don’t draw from my background in air quality that began at the Clinic.”

For some graduates, ELJC is a launch pad for work in a different field. “Working directly with community groups and government agencies at the Environmental Law and Justice Clinic prepared

me for my internships at San Francisco Baykeeper [a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization that works to protect, preserve, and enhance the health of the ecosystems and communities that depend upon the San Francisco Bay] and the Center for Biological Diversity, and for my current position as a Deputy County Counsel,” says Cody Nesper (JD 13), Deputy County Counsel for Tuolumne County.

One of the challenges of this area of law is that the cases take a long time. Patience and persistence are key. “You have to be willing to be in it for the long haul and know that it might not be very exciting. It takes quite a bit of work to investigate cases when either government agencies or companies are not willingly going to part with unfavorable information. We work very hard to know all aspects and details of a case.

“You also have to be resilient, because some of these cases are very hard. Although it has not happened many times, sometimes we lose,” says Kang. “Losing a case is very difficult because we care very deeply about our clients. So when there is a setback it’s important to be resilient. You have to be in it for the long haul.”

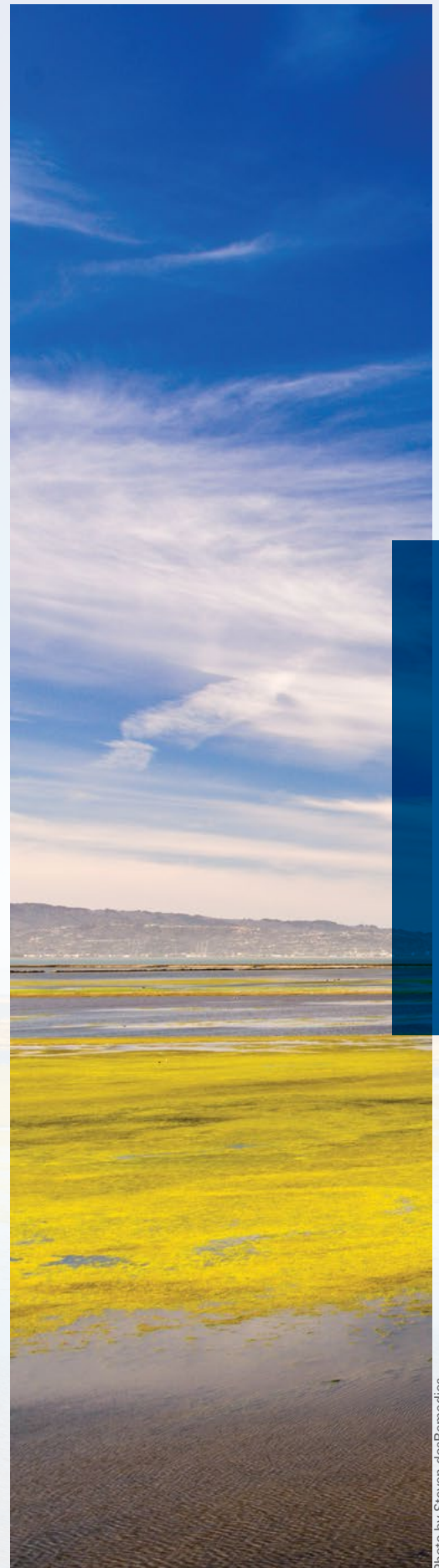


Photo by Steven dosRemedios.

# Karen Roye:

## Helping Children through Good Government

By Jenny Mosley • Photo by Saul Bromberger & Sandra Hoover Photography

**The Director of San Francisco's Child Support Services works to strengthen bonds between parents and kids.**

**I**t's a rainy San Francisco morning but a line of school children in matching yellow polo shirts is hopping up the steps of City Hall on a field trip, bringing light to the grey day. Karen Roye (EMPA 15), the city and county's director of the Department of Child Support Services stops to congratulate newlywed couples and greet city officials on her way to some meetings here today.

Since her 2009 appointment by Mayor Gavin Newsom, she has overseen approximately ninety professionals who serve families in the areas of paternity testing, establishment of child support and medical orders, and enforcement and modification of those orders. It's a job she loves and seems particularly suited to do.

Roye grew up in the Bronx, New York, a child of immigrant parents. Her mother is Cuban and her father is Jamaican. "When we first came to the US, the government helped us get a place to live and get on our feet until my mom could get her nursing license here and my dad could begin his apprenticeship with a plumber. So, I always saw the government as this incredible force for good. Because of that help we were able to reach



self-sufficiency," she says.

Roye was raised with a strong sense that education was the means to success. "My dad didn't have a formal education so he had great respect for it," she says. "Education was built into everything we did. From the age of six, one of my jobs at home was to read the newspaper to him. After I was done, he'd say 'Okay, you know the words, now tell me what they mean.'"

Prior to her current role, Roye worked as an analyst in the mayor's budget office, where she had insight into city services. Her role in finance harks back to childhood, too. After he inherited the plumbing business from his mentor, her father appointed Roye his accountant. "At the age of 10, I was responsible for balancing books and contacting clients to let them know 'my dad needs you to pay the bill because I have school tuition,'" she recalls. "And it worked! How do you say no to that?"

From the vantage point of the budgeting office, where she managed human services, public health, and aging and adult services budgets, she found social services fascinating. "I really connected with families trying to help their children and wanted to grow in that direction."

In 2006, she enrolled at Golden Gate University to begin work on her Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA) degree—she would be ready for the next opportunity when it came. With a desire to understand the nature of social services—in particular how to manage government programs—Roye embarked on what she calls "the chip-away program," taking classes here and there as she could.

Faced with health and personal challenges along the way, she found continual guidance at GGU. "The professors were so supportive and non-judgmental. They encouraged me not to stop but understood when I needed space," she says. "It was like a conversation that didn't end. I'd come back and they'd welcome me and we'd get back on it." She calls her graduation in 2015 one of the most powerful experiences she has ever had. "Dr. Joaquin Gonzalez [chair of the EMPA program, Ed.] and all the professors were amazing. They walked through every step with me."

Roye's capstone paper was the genesis for changes she would bring to the Department of Child

a parent, we change the way we interact with him." Looking at the parent in a positive light rather than a negative one has led to language changes. "Instead of referring to him as 'obligor' we refer to him as a 'non-custodial parent.' We know he's an important part in making sure that the fiscal and emotional needs of children are met."

"We are now embarking on the next step, which is looking at how we create opportunities for parents to work cooperatively and effectively on their children's behalf." Changes being developed include offering mediation services and parenting classes to help parents learn how to communicate and co-parent.

## **"How we co-parent can enhance children's outcomes, so social programs are moving toward a holistic approach."**

Support Services. "The power of the organizational culture is something I learned about during my EMPA program. Something I feel strongly about, and have worked deliberately on, is changing the organizational culture. In child support, the thinking has been that fathers—mostly fathers—are able to pay child support, but unwilling to do so. What I saw was the opposite: fathers willing to support their children but unable to do so."

Rather than viewing child support as a punitive program that doesn't recognize the father as part of that familial unit, Roye saw a need to change the conventional thinking. "We see him as part of that family even though he's not living in that house," she says. "By treating the father as our client and

"Never-married couples have not had that option and really want it. I think it's vitally important for fathers and mothers (mothers and mothers, fathers and fathers) to maintain those relationships," Roye says.

"How we co-parent can enhance children's outcomes, so social programs are moving toward a holistic approach." Roye is proud to work in a city that embraces the kind of innovative thinking that honors bonds between parents and their children. "Kids who don't have strong parental support can fall prey to street activity that sets them on a path to self-destruction," she says. "Whatever we can do in good government to help create an environment for children to thrive, that's my goal, that's what I want to do."

# Tina McGovern:

## A View on Eye Health

By Jenny Mosley • Photo by Jenny LeMaster

When her son was struck by a blinding disease, she decided to fight back.

A frame on Tina McGovern's desk holds a photo of her four grown children—three girls and a boy. It reads: "Family is the essence that helps define our very identity." As executive director of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Foundation, she oversees the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that raises money to fund programs dedicated to the prevention of blindness. What led McGovern (EMPA 13) to her position in the fundraising arm of the Academy, as well as to starting a foundation, were a community service mindset, a love for lifelong learning, and devotion to her family.

"One day, at the age of 11, my youngest child, Jack, woke up and said 'I have a black thing in my eye and I can't see,'" she says. "We got an emergency ophthalmology appointment and found he couldn't see the big 'E' on the eye chart. He was diagnosed with Coats disease and we were referred to a specialist who started laser treatment right away."

Coats disease is a very rare eye disorder that causes full or partial blindness due to abnormal blood vessel development behind the retina. Because it usually affects children and is so rare, it often goes undiagnosed. "We were very lucky to catch it early because time is

of the essence with this disease," McGovern says.

Jack continued treatment, but McGovern wasn't convinced they were doing all they could to help him. She spent hours doing research and seeking experts.

**"I figured there must be other people suffering through this who don't know where to go for help,"**

"There was no place to go online for help. Eventually I read about a doctor in New York who was doing a clinical trial. He said, 'I'd be happy to see your son but why fly out here when you've got the best retinal surgeon in the country right there in San Francisco?'" It was frustrating, yet fortuitous.

"I figured there must be other people suffering through this who don't know where to go for help," she says. "If we could communicate with each other and share experiences and resources, so many people would benefit." In 2006, McGovern and her husband decided to set up The Jack McGovern Coats Disease Foundation to fund research to find a cure, connect families with doctors, and provide an information-sharing forum. They elicited help from friends willing

to volunteer. And that San Francisco expert, Dr. Michael Jumper, soon became a close friend and advisory board member.

At the time McGovern was the development director for Gateway public schools, at the head of

fundraising for the charter school organization. "I knew how to raise money and build relationships. I was comfy where I was but I needed to develop my skills. I was so excited to be accepted at Golden Gate University."

While employed at Gateway, she worked on her Executive Master of Public Administration. "I was the oldest student in class and I really appreciated my professors' and classmates' support," she says. Full-time work, the foundation, family, and the master's program were all happening at once. "I had three kids at home and one in college. Going back to school at that point in my life was inspiring to my children and made them proud, which was a great side benefit." McGovern graduated from the EMPA program





with honors and says she enjoyed every single minute of it.

"I felt I needed to add more medical heft to my resume so I looked for an opportunity to transition into the medical community." She was hired as development director at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center. "Every time I met ophthalmologists there, I'd pull them aside and ask what was going on in the area of Coats disease," she laughs. One of those doctors was Stephen McLeod, Academy Secretary for Quality of Care and a leader in his field. He connected her with Academy CEO Dr. David W. Parke II. "When I met Dr. Parke, he was looking for an executive director for the Foundation here," she says. "It all connected; I have been here seven months now."

Her GGU education, transition to UCSF, and passion for ophthalmology prepared McGovern to work at the prestigious Academy, where she finds raising money for ophthalmological research vitally important. "All of the breakthroughs and advances that modern medicine is making in ophthalmology today filter through this Academy. The fact that headquarters is here in my hometown and that I'm contributing every day to saving someone's sight makes me very proud."

A few months ago, McGovern met one of the Academy's most esteemed doctors, an innovator in her eighties who had created the eye surgery laser. "I said to her, 'I am so honored to meet you because if it weren't for you, they wouldn't have been able to do the surgery that beat back my son's disease.'"

Jack is now 21, a college junior majoring in political science and a Division I lacrosse player. "Without the sight in his left eye, which won't return, he works hard and is still able to do sports at a high level," McGovern says.

On the wall in her office with her family photo is McGovern's GGU diploma. Next to that is a window with a clear view of the San Francisco Bay that stretches for miles.

# Bringing Students Together



## The Student Government Association Builds Bridges Across Cultures and Schools at GGU

SGA officers, from left to right: Betty Yu, Lene Hegland, Mathew Uday, Aman Gulati, Sariya Al Ismaili. Photos by Jenny LeMaster.

**W**hen it comes to connecting people and throwing great parties, the SGA has got it down. The elected representatives of students in the Ageno School of Business, Undergraduate Programs, Braden School of Taxation, and School of Accounting have been working to open new channels of communication and integrate different cultures, personal interests, and professional paths into the student experience at GGU.

If you have attended a social gathering on campus in the past year, you have probably met them: President Mathew Uday (MS HRM 17), VP of Education and

Secretary Betty Yu (MBA 16), VP of Marketing Communications Lene Hegland (MS Integrated Marketing Communications 16), VP of Community Involvement Sariya Al Ismaili (MS Integrated Marketing Communications 16), and VP of Campus Activities and Treasurer Aman Gulati (MBA 16). Together, they are enhancing student life beyond the classroom—and fostering collaboration across boundaries.

“We want to get people engaged on the diversity front,” says Uday, “create opportunities for students to engage in harmony, while preparing for the Bay Area’s highly diversified workforce.” To this end, the SGA has been organizing events to promote understanding of the many different

cultures found at GGU through the universal language of good food, music, art and shared dreams and goals. The officers themselves embody the global character of San Francisco and the GGU community: Mat and Aman are from India, Betty comes from Canada but is Chinese-born, Sarya hails from Jordan, and Lene from Norway.

A groundbreaking way the SGA is building synergies on campus is by bringing the law and business schools together for social events. “It’s the first time in history GGU has done that,” says Sariya. “GGU is a small school; we wanted to tear down any walls between the SGA and the Student Bar Association and work together.” The initial step

was a meeting between Mat, SBA President Josue Aparico and GGU President David Fike, a champion for strong academic and extracurricular partnerships.

The first SB-SGA joint production was a New Year's bash with DJ, catered buffet, and close to 200 attendees. Even President David Fike dropped in to meet and chat with students before the ball dropped—another first for GGU. "Everyone was impressed with the turnout. They asked us what our secret is for getting people to show up," said Sariya. Their Valentine's Day party and grad fair, in partnership with the Alumni Association, were other big hits.

"Next we are looking to share with the SBA our GGU app, so that they can have an extra platform to connect. All the student clubs are on the app, groups and departments, too, so there's a lot of interaction going on. We all use it promote events—it's the easiest way to find information." The app allows students access to all personal campus information on the go, keep classes, assignments and events organized, join the campus discussion and connect with peers, chat with friends and see their timetables.

But it's just one of the many channels in the arsenal of the marketing-savvy SGA. "We use print, web, social media, our GGU Social blog, and word of mouth, especially to remind people to show up at events," says Lene. "Many people

don't come to campus unless they have class. So we promote heavily on the day of the event, too, going through the floors and personally inviting people to drop in, up until the last minute." While technology makes things easier, the personal touch still works best. "We get it done by talking to people, being friendly," says Sariya.

But SGA events are not only about sociality. "A lot of students tell us about their concerns, how they would like their academic needs to be met, what kind of activities they are looking for—we do our best to provide them. For example, we have organized skill development workshops in Salesforce, customer relations, Excel. They are open free of charge to all at GGU, and they have been very successful," says Betty. "We try to implement positive change. That's why we have the SGA annual survey, where we ask students what they think and what they need."

No matter what the SGA does, what matters to them is serving the community. "Let us help you," says Lene. "We got involved because we want to bring more awareness to all that's available at GGU—all the services and opportunities that bring value to students," say Lene. Student clubs are a vital part of that, and the SGA embraces their role in celebrating diversity. "The latest is the love club representing the LGBT community," says Sariya. "Because GGU is truly diverse in every way."

## By Students, For Students

Looking for new friends and things to do at GGU? Tarik Asan has the right prescription for you: Take GGU Social twice a week. The university's official student entertainment blog, featuring two posts a week, has already reached 2000 views since its launch in January 2016.

Edited and published by Asan in partnership with Lene Hegland, who manages social media and marketing, GGU Social is an entertaining place to learn about campus happenings and opportunities to expand the student experience at GGU.

#SocialWednesday posts feature photos and recaps of the popular events organized by the SGA during the year, plus information about the many student clubs on campus. #SmarterEverySunday posts focus on culture and cultures, travel, Bay Area destinations, and interesting facts about a variety of current events and topics, including GGU and its community.

GGU Social has lots of exciting plans for the future, such as sponsoring gaming tournaments in the Student Lounge. "I'm going to be starting to talk with people regarding what they would enjoy—from video games to chess. It's up to them."

Connect with Asan or send him comments and questions about the blog, student life, or events at GGU at [gigusocial@ggu.edu](mailto:gigusocial@ggu.edu). Check out GGU Social at [gigusocial.com](http://gigusocial.com).

Left: SGA officers relax in front of GGU. Right: Tarik Asan, editor and publisher of GGU Social



# SMUIN

# Ballet

By Norah Holmgren • Photo by Keith Sutter



(l-r) Smuin dancers Dustin James and Robert Moore with Erica Felsch (center) in Jirí Kylián's *Return to a Strange Land*, part of Smuin Ballet's Dance Series Two, touring the Bay Area.

## Sharing with GGU a unique *esprit de corps*

**S**muin Ballet is a San Francisco company known for its athletic, exuberant contemporary dance performances. It has a unique connection to Golden Gate University or, better, three: Bruce Braden, president of its board of trustees and also a member of GGU's board; Bruce F. Braden School of Taxation Dean Emerita and Professor Mary Canning, who serves as its treasurer; and the Honorable Lee D. Baxter (JD 74, LLD 08), who serves on Smuin's board and has served on GGU's board.

Braden fell in love with ballet when he saw Rudolf Nureyev dance in 1973. He bought season tickets to the San Francisco Ballet, whose artistic director at the time was Michael Smuin. When Smuin

fueled by a lot of passion."

Even though the Bay Area offers a wealth of cultural opportunities, Lee Baxter believes that Smuin offers a unique experience. "My personal goal is to see our company get to higher levels of performance and identity in the community." She first joined the Smuin board in 2000, when she retired as judge of the Superior Court, City and County of San Francisco. "I like to be involved with and give money to small organizations where I know what's going on and that I personally have an impact. We're a very small board and we're very hands on. I enjoy the camaraderie."

Braden says that his GGU experience has served him well in both his business endeavors and community service. "In the ballet

**"In the ballet business you have to be able to budget and know when you're fooling yourself and when you're not."**

started his own company in 1994, Braden started attending all the performances, and eventually joined the dance company's board. "I do it for the dancers. They're so dedicated, so talented, and they have so much fun. The closer I get to the artistic process and the choreography, the more I enjoy it."

"When people see Smuin dance productions they are immediately converts," says Mary Canning, who got her first tickets from Braden. "There are similarities between GGU and Smuin. Both are committed to excellence—and both are under-recognized. The professors who teach at GGU are outstanding; and at Smuin Ballet you have amazing, generous, gifted people on the board and classically trained dancers who are unbelievable athletes. It's all

business you have to be able to budget and know when you're fooling yourself and when you're not. And that goes for my for-profit businesses too. The financial and accounting background I got at GGU has been extremely valuable—it provided the platform that lets me engage in these activities."

Braden's hope is that Smuin will become a sustainable company and find a permanent home in San Francisco. "I go to a lot of performances and I try and hang around and eavesdrop on people as they're leaving—the vast majority of the folks who go have a really wonderful evening. They see interesting ballet, well danced, interesting choreography and it adds value to their lives."

# Memories of Service

## From WWII to Afghanistan, GGU's Veterans Reflect on the Cost of War and the Meaning of Service

**G**GU Professor William "Bill" Hermann and alumnus Paul Mico (DBA 16) were seniors in high school when President Roosevelt declared war following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Both had spent their entire lives in the Midwest: Bill on a farm in Nebraska, Paul in a small Ohio town, where blue-collar jobs were plentiful in the railroad, clay pipe, and mining industries. The war—as wars are wont to do—changed the course of their lives.

### A Distinguished Flying Cross

"Pearl Harbor was on Sunday, December 7, 1941, and the president gave his speech on Monday morning. We were called out of class and in an assembly," remembers Hermann. After graduation he signed up for classes at the University of Nebraska; and when he turned 18 he had to register for the draft.

"I was headed for the infantry but decided I would rather fight in the air than on the ground," says Hermann. "I ended up joining the Air Force, but they said to go ahead and go to college. The delay was caused by a lack of training facilities. The country was ill prepared for the war and we needed all hands on deck. Everybody was involved—out of a population less than half of what we have now, 16.1 million people were in the armed forces," says Hermann. Women went to work in factories and shipyards to help build weapons, munitions, aircraft carriers, battleships, airplanes, including over 12,700 B-17s—the heavy four-engine bomber known as "The Flying Fortress."

After only one semester at the University of Nebraska, Hermann was called to active duty in January 1943. He spent a year and half in training, receiving his commission and wings in June 1944. "In September we picked up a brand new B-17 in Georgia

and flew it on the northern route to Europe. I served in combat with the Eighth Air Force, flying in a formation of 36 aircraft. There were 12 planes in my squadron, I was in the lead. Each plane was manned by a pilot, a co-pilot, a bombardier, a navigator and six gunners. I was a bombardier."

It was the duty of the bombardier to deliver the plane's deadly payload accurately on the target, operating a bombsight connected to the autopilot. The bombsight used a mechanical device consisting of gyros, motors, gears, mirrors, levels, and a telescope. The bombardier dialed in air speed, wind speed and direction, altitude, and angle of drift, and the bombsight would calculate the trajectory of the bomb in real time. Once the bombing run began, the bombardier would assume control of the plane and fly it through the bombsight to the precise location where to release the bombs.

"Our fighters couldn't take us all the way to the target to protect us,



LEFT: The original B-17 crew that trained at Drew Field, Florida, was sent to England and flew their first eight combat missions together. Back row, L to R, enlisted men Ed Bettinger, Bob Cross, Frank O'Neill, Merle Cox, Orville Austin, Bob Bridges. Front row, L to R, officers Freeman Bowley, Amand Beford, Bill Hermann, Tony Herbst.

BELOW: Dr. Bill Herman proudly wears his 96th Bomb Group, 415th Squadron belt buckle.



so we had to fight off German fighter planes. The British only bombed at night, they thought we were crazy to bomb in the daytime, but we wanted to be more accurate and hit only military targets. I dropped the bombs for all 12 planes in my squadron, releasing a radio signal so that their bombs would drop on the target at the same time. I bombed the Berlin railroad station, railroad yards and the airport in Munich, submarine pens, and an oil refinery in Leipzig, our worst target.” Hermann was famous for never missing—his accuracy earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross.

By the end of the war in May 1945, Hermann had seen enough of it. “On my first mission alone we lost 56 B-17s. Our navigator’s name was also German and we always wondered whose cousins we were bombing. After Europe we thought we were headed for the Pacific, but then we dropped the atomic bomb, and I was glad we didn’t have to go after all.” He made it home in September 1945.

After leaving the Air Force, Hermann earned a BA, an MA, and a PhD in economics from Washington University in St. Louis. His distinguished career included positions with Shell, Bechtel and as chief economist at Chevron. He has been an adjunct professor at GGU since 1992 and was the recipient of the 2016 University Outstanding Overall Adjunct Professor Award.

## Boys on a Beach

Paul Mico’s parents were uneducated but hard-working Italian immigrants. “My father’s plan for me was to follow him as a laborer on the railroad,” he says. After graduating from high school in 1942, he was drafted almost immediately. He was assigned to the 29th Infantry Division, a squad sergeant, at 19 the youngest of fourteen men, “or boys,” he says. “We shipped overseas

and ended up in England. All of us expected to win the war and come back as heroes.”

They practiced landings, never thinking they were going to make one themselves. Soon they were joined by the First Infantry Division, veterans of North Africa and Sicily. “They were famous; we were greenhorns. We didn’t like them and they didn’t like us. The night of June 5, 1944, both divisions were loaded up on ships and started moving toward the coast of France. The night was dark and stormy; we were so seasick we wanted to die.”

The weather was severe enough that General Eisenhower decided to cancel the invasion—but not for long. “A few hours later, we were sent back across the English Channel for what would be the official June 6 invasion of Normandy,” remember Mico. “Historians disagree on how many of us were killed on D-Day; estimates range from 3,000 to 5,000. Heroes? Not any longer,” says Mico. “I realized that service is a willingness to die, if you must die, in order that someone else may live. I was petrified of dying. I confronted that fear every day, but promised myself that I wasn’t going to do it there (wherever I was) or now.”

Mico took part in four campaigns: Normandy (Omaha Beach, the Hedgerows, and the Breakthrough at St. Lo); Northern France, including the Liberation of Paris and of Belgium, and the Hertzgen Forest; the Ardennes, known as the bitterly cold Battle of the Bulge; and the

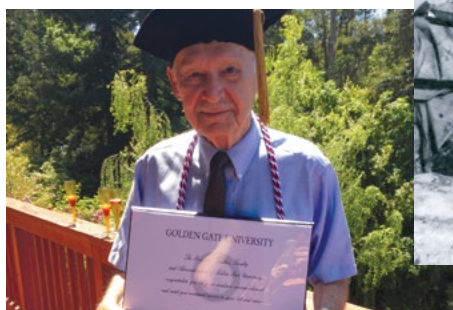
Rhineland Campaign into Germany. “I dug foxholes all the way from Omaha Beach to the Rhine River and beyond.”

The war changed him. “I no longer wanted to be a hero. I often wondered, what would have happened if D-Day had been on June 5 instead of June 6? I had a full-blown case of PTSD; back then it was known as a Section 8. A Section 8 discharge was just one level above a dishonorable discharge, so we kept it to ourselves. All we had to do was walk into a beer joint and as soon as someone made a derogatory remark about our outfit we started fighting.”

A judge, tired of seeing Mico in his courtroom so often, gave him the longest sentence he could, but offered to let him work it out in college. With enough points for five years of G.I. Bill, Mico enrolled at Ohio State University, earning a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in health and physical education. “I owe that judge big time!” he says today.

Mico went on to become a community organizer, working on social programs across the country. When the US Public Health Service offered him a scholarship to get a Master of Public Health at UC Berkeley, he took it. “Eventually, I started taking classes at Golden Gate University, completing the coursework for the doctorate in public administration but running out of time on the dissertation. But I came back to GGU, finished and received my DPA this year at 91 years old.”

Dr. Paul Mico, 91, with his DPA degree after this year’s graduation ceremony, and in a foxhole in Europe.



## From Military Service To Public Service

The military gave Roger Kemp an appreciation for public service and the opportunity to get the education he wanted. "My family had driven from Minnesota to California, 'the land of opportunity.' I was 11 or 12 when my father died. Everyone I knew joined the military after high school. We also had a draft, where you could get called if you didn't have a college deferment. None of my family or friends had the money to go to college. I enlisted because



Dr. Roger Kemp (PhD 79, MBA 84)

I wanted the benefit of the GI bill for my education."

"The first time I flew in a plane was to go to Coast Guard training in Alameda, California," remembers Kemp. "It was 1966, and I could have been sent to Vietnam. But I was lucky because for three years and eight months I held a clerk job in the Coast Guard Intelligence Office. I worked my way up from Seaman Apprentice to Second Class Yeoman, studying for an Associate of Arts at night—the first one in my family to earn a college degree."

The military taught Kemp the value of public service and of a good public education. "In the service I learned skills that made a difference in my life. I was honored to serve our nation, and it made me want to continue to serve." When

he returned to civilian life, Kemp went to night school on the GI bill for 14 years—"And I never missed a semester!" he says.

After completing a bachelor's and an MPA degree at San Diego State University, Kemp found a job in the Oakland City Manager's Office. He still had time left on his GI Bill, so he set his sights on a Ph.D. degree. In California, there were only two doctoral programs in public administration—Kemp chose the one at GGU.

"It took me five years to complete it, one night class per session while working full time. The same month I got my PhD, I went from being an Assistant to the City Manager to become a City Manager. And I have served as a city manager ever since—in Southern California, New Jersey, Connecticut, and then back in Northern California. Every place where I was a city manager, I taught at an MPA program at night at the local public university; it was easy to get a teaching job with my Ph.D. from GGU."

The mentorship of President Emeritus Otto Butz also had a transformative influence on Kemp. "President Butz was on my dissertation committee, and he recommended that I publish my research. I had no idea how, and he told me what to do. I followed his advice and got my first book published a year later."

Since then, Kemp has published or contributed to nearly 50 books, on topics ranging from strategic planning in local governments to the preservation of natural resources. His book on best practices in homeland security was made available to every city manager in America. "Getting a doctoral degree from GGU changed my life!" said Kemp. "It greatly enhanced my public service career and provided me with the opportunity to teach at some of the leading universities in the nation."

## After 9/11, A Compelling Call to Serve

Maggie Collins enlisted in the Marines in October 2001 as a direct reaction to 9/11. "Our country had suffered a huge attack and we didn't know if more were coming. There were a lot of unknowns—I felt very strongly that I personally needed to do something to help."

She considered the Red Cross, the Coast Guard, and ended up talking to military recruiters. "I am a licensed professional merchant mariner, so I approached a navy recruiter—he told me they had openings for cooks." The Army's offer of a desk job was just as underwhelming. She was already 30 years old, the age limit for enlistment. "I went to the Marine Corps last. And I was impressed. Everyone had a very professional demeanor; they looked impeccable. Consciously aware of everything they said. I told them about my background, and what I wanted to get out of my service. They accepted me," says Collins.

"Basic training in the Marines is longer than in other branches, and very challenging. Boot camp is a disorienting and stressful experience. Recruits learn on Day One—Black Friday, the day you receive your drill instructors—that you just shut up and do what you're told. Even a flicker of contradicting a drill instructor could result in disciplining the entire platoon.

"Joining the Marines changes you as a person. It doesn't matter whether you joined in the 1960s or in 2016. The Marine Corps traditions and culture are such that it's a transformative experience for everyone. And that's what the motto means: once a Marine, always a Marine. We have a bond with fellow Marines even if we never serve together. We share the same values and camaraderie even after duty ends."

Collins' first duty station was in



Okinawa, Japan. She was deployed for almost three months to a ship, the LHD 2, USS Essex, before returning to the US. "While stationed in San Diego I was deployed to Al Asad Air base in Iraq. I was there for eight months, behind the wire, which means I didn't go out on patrol or travel in convoys. I was on the base, working on helicopter engines. I committed to five years of active duty because I was an aircraft engine mechanic, which required extra schooling. The total contract was for eight years. When active duty is over you are in the inactive ready reserve,

our membership and provide more resources for veterans. Through the Yellow Ribbon program, GGU picks up the difference in tuition where the GI bill leaves off, so that veterans pay no tuition and get a living stipend. As a result, the GGU veteran community keeps growing."

### Something Greater Than Oneself

Daniel Tripp has served for 11 years in the Air Force. He is currently stationed at the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California.

great drama. Something far larger than myself." Tripp was confined to the huge base along with thousands of other service men and women. "The place wasn't without dangers, but I was not living in the field or patrolling the roads for explosive devices. Still, I served in a foreign war, came home, and moved on with my life. Memorial Day is about those who never come home, never move on, never see loved ones again."

During his deployment, he read about a young officer who was assigned to a team with the mission of setting up schools for the Afghans. One day, on a road to a village, a huge blast ripped through the truck she was riding in. "All the soldiers on board were killed, including her. They were out delivering books to a mud-brick school so that children could have a chance to learn to read. To me, that is the epitome of service and speaks more about what it means to serve than any other event that I have read about, heard, or seen."

While in Afghanistan, his thoughts would often turn to the purpose of war. "I realized there is no good war and that war is a complex thing, full of emotions, choices, and a blurring of the line between good and evil. But I also came to believe that fundamentally, as Americans, we have fought to uphold our core beliefs in liberty, equality, and freedom."

For Tripp, the greatest threats the world faces today are hunger, greed, illiteracy, ignorance, hatred, and fear. "Those who seek to tear our world apart thrive in the darkness of these dangers. If anything is worth giving one's life for, it's fighting to make the world a better, safer, and more fair and just place."

We can all work together to make it happen. "There are a great many people doing great things who have never worn a uniform. Each one of us has the choice to be a part of the solution or a party to the problems that we face as a global community."



Photo by Scott R. Kline

LEFT: Maggie Collins RIGHT: Daniel Tripp

which means they can call you back anytime they want."

After leaving the Marine Corps, Collins' desire to help people, to be "a good person," did not go away. She got a job with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), where she was elected by her fellow Seafarers International Union crew members to represent them at the trade union agreement negotiation. "It was a tremendous honor," says Collins. "And I'm really proud that I helped write and negotiate an agreement serving 500 Merchant Mariners. That was another example in my life of wanting to give back. I look for opportunities for help and I think most veterans do, especially in the context of looking out for each other.

Today Collins is completing her MBA in project management at GGU. "I am as active as I can be in our GGU Veterans Club, trying to grow

He is also a full-time graduate student in the Financial Planning program. As Memorial Day was approaching, we asked the Operation Enduring Freedom veteran what the holiday means to him.

"To me Memorial Day is the sound of helicopters," he said. "An endless parade of Medevac flights, coming and going, dropping off the wounded—flights bearing the cost of war. It's a long line of soldiers, men and women of all races, creeds, and backgrounds. Every face shows a commitment to service, a culmination of choices made, and the courage to dedicate one's life to something greater than oneself. In those soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines, I see all the servicemen and women who ever have been or ever will be."

In 2012, Tripp deployed with the Air Force to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. "I was a small cog in

# Leo Helzel: Turning Goals into Achievements

“A Goal is a Dream with a Deadline.” It’s the title of a book of business advice by Leo Helzel (JD 51), but also a perfect motto for a life that reads like a success story. With rewarding careers as CPA, attorney, teacher, and entrepreneur, he has transformed the many goals he set for himself into reality, while helping others do the same.

In his office in the Oakland Hills, surrounded by artworks from a collection that attests to Helzel’s discerning eye and broad range of interests, he told us how GGU had a role in that transformation.

“Before the war I was a CPA in a firm in Los Angeles. Its senior partners were successful tax attorneys and CPAs, and I wanted to emulate them.” But Helzel was in the Navy Reserve and when World War II broke out, he was called overseas. “I was gone 40 months, flying as a navigator for the US Naval Air Transport Service.”

Back in the States after the war, he founded a CPA practice in Oakland. Still aspiring to become a lawyer, he started attending Golden Gate law school in the evening, where he was recruited by President Nagel T. Miner – “a wonderful human being” – to teach tax and accounting courses. GGU was still in the YMCA building on Golden Gate Avenue. “You could hear the basketball hitting the floor over the classroom ceiling.” But in the aftermath of the war, GGU’s model of adult education was booming.

“GGU had full classrooms both in day and night sessions,” said Helzel. Every class was packed to capacity, mostly with veterans from World War II, and tuition was paid by the government.”

Helzel was particularly impressed with a returning veteran named Bob Nolt, a former pilot and the best student he had ever come across.

“I bought him his first post-war suit and asked him to come work for me,” said Helzel. The accounting firm, now known as RINA Accountancy Corporation, has about 80 employees.

After his tenure as president, Miner went on to serve as executive dean. His successor, President Emeritus Otto Butz, was also “a marvelous educator. If there was an army camp, he would want to set up a teaching school under GGU sponsorship there. Otto believed

courses on entrepreneurship; board member of Boalt Hall School of Law, where he earned his LLM in 1970; trustee for the California College of the Arts; and member of several other Bay Area cultural and educational organizations.

Reminiscing about GGU’s past leads Helzel to GGU’s present. “Golden Gate gives students a real opportunity. Today we have tenured faculty and a fantastic group of practicing professional adjuncts that would be hard to match anywhere.



Leo Helzel (JD 51)

in opening up education to all.” Helzel described how these “two exceptional leaders” fostered a sense of community among teachers, administrators, and students.

Helzel has generously given back to GGU, starting with two decades as a Trustee, “probably the longest serving member.” His many contributions to the community and higher education include serving as the first chairman and board member of the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned his MBA in 1968 and taught one of the very first graduate

And a great president—the right person at the right time. Our tax and MBA programs can’t be beat. The tax program is second to none. I think GGU has a great future.”



Leo Helzel remembers former President Nagel Miner and President Emeritus Otto Butz as two positive influences during his years at GGU.

## 2016 Alumni Association Board of Directors

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Financial Advisor, New York Life

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Sales Specialist, ET Solar, Inc.

Sharon Wong (MBA 77)  
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

## When People Matter

Burr Pilger Mayer (BPM) has built its success on the motto “Because People Matter.” And indeed, its people-focused approach has been earning recognitions: this year BPM was named the Best Public Accounting Firm for Women for the second year in a row by the Accounting & Financial Women’s Alliance and American Women’s Society of CPAs.

Alumnus Curtis Burr started what would become BPM as a sole practitioner with only a desk and a chair in 1985. Since then, BPM has grown into one of the largest California-based accounting and consulting firms, repeatedly ranking as one of the Bay Area’s Best Places to Work by the San Francisco Business Times and the Silicon Valley Business Journal. The firm is also ranked No. 1 Best Large Firm to Work For in the Nation by



Photo by Gene Dailey

Curtis Burr, (BA 74, MBA 76, LHD 01)

Accounting Today.

Burr holds a B.A. in Accounting, an M.B.A. in Taxation and an Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration from GGU. He served on the Golden Gate University board for ten years and was the Chair for four years.

## Alumni Scholarships Make a Difference for Students

When Law School alumna and Law Advisory Board Member Kathryn Ringgold (JD 70) retired from her law practice, she wanted to give back to GGU—for supporting her educational goals at a time when few women studied law, helping her pass the bar on her first try, and enter a profession that she loved. So she approached the university with the idea of starting a scholarship program to help students, and especially women, achieve their own dreams.

This year, the Kathryn E. Ringgold Endowed Scholarship was awarded to Jazmyne Jefferson (JD 16) at the Alumni Scholarship reception hosted by VP of the Alumni Association Board of Directors Linda Pratt (MBA

14) in March. “I chose GGU because I wanted to study in an environment that was collaborative and community-oriented,” said Jefferson. “The professors at GGU really care about students and their academic success. There is a healthy level of competitiveness among students, as well as a great deal of camaraderie and mutual support.”

The scholarship allowed Jefferson to focus on the most important aspects of school and learning. “I was able to accept an externship in the office of a federal judge. Having this kind of practical training and insight into the workings of the judicial system has been an invaluable experience that will help me become an effective advocate.”



Kathryn Ringgold (JD 70) with Jazmyne Jefferson (JD 16). Ringgold met Jefferson at the annual luncheon of the Bridge Society, honoring alumni who have made bequests to GGU.

Jefferson is passionate about social justice and public interest issues. Since starting GGU Law, she has had the opportunity to work at the Contra Costa County public defender’s office and the Oakland city attorney’s office. “I am deeply grateful to Ms. Ringgold. And I couldn’t have chosen a better law school.”

- James Ball**  
MBA 72
- Malcolm Boutilier**  
BS 61
- David Brennan**  
BA 73
- Allan Brotsky**  
Professor
- John Burke**  
MBA 93
- James Connell**  
Friend of GGU
- Joyce Estes**  
MBA 85
- Bob Fenn**  
Friend of GGU
- Welton Flynn**  
BA 51
- Robert Hanson**  
JD 64
- Wayne Henry**  
BA 75
- Richard Lonergan**  
BA 75
- Helen L. McCarthy**  
Friend of GGU
- Eileen Morrissey**  
LLM 80
- Maxine Nelson**  
MBA 77
- Angelo Sagona**  
MBA 82
- William Shinn**  
MPA 76
- Amitabh Srivastava**  
MBA 12



## Allan Brotsky, 1920-2015

Golden Gate University mourns the death of Allan Brotsky, a beloved member of the faculty of the School of Law for almost three decades. Professor Brotsky died at the age of 95 in November 2015. In his honor, Golden Gate University has established the Allan Brotsky Pro Bono Award, given annually to students who continue Brotsky's commitment to pro bono legal work in the public interest.

Prior to teaching at Golden Gate, Brotsky had a distinguished career as a labor and constitutional law attorney. From 1947 through the 1950s, he and his colleagues represented individuals and organizations whose constitutional rights were challenged, including unions that the Congress of Industrial Organizations (now part of the AFL-CIO) sought to expel as being dominated by communists, state college and university professors who were discharged for refusing to sign loyalty oaths, longshoremen who were deemed subversive by unnamed informers, and many others. In the 1960s, Allan worked to integrate previously segregated unions and workplaces and, as the Vietnam war escalated, defended

draft resisters and protestors. In 1967, he and his colleagues defended the Black Panther Party, Angela Davis, and Daniel Ellsberg.

Throughout his career, Brotsky championed access to good legal counsel for all who needed it, regardless of their ability to pay. Among the many pro bono matters in which he defended clients are cases involving the electoral process, the rights of conscientious objectors, warrantless wiretapping, immigration cases, and representation of indigent clients in personal cases. Many of his legal strategies, particularly in immigration cases, involved novel constitutional arguments that were later vindicated by the United States Supreme Court.

Brotsky and Muriel, his wife of 67 years, loved to travel and attend opera, symphony, and theater performances with their circle of close friends. Muriel died in 2014. Brotsky is survived by his children, Ellen, Daniel, and China.

Donations in Allan's memory may be directed to the Golden Gate University School of Law and to the Allan and Muriel Brotsky Pro Bono Award.

**1973**

**Robert Edwards** (BA 73, MPA 75, JD 80) has retired from the State University of New York and received the title of professor emeritus. He recently returned from China, where he taught at the American Center at Szechuan University of Chengdu.

**1974**

**Duane Ruth-Heffelbower** (JD 74) retired as associate professor of Peacemaking and Conflict Studies at Fresno Pacific University. He continues to offer services as a conflict resolution specialist.

Burr Pilger Mayer (BPM), founded by former trustee **Curtis Burr** (BA 74, MBA 76, LHD 01) was named as one of the 2015 Accounting Today's Best Accounting Firms to Work for and listed as the number one "Best Firm to Work for" in the nation, in the 2015 Accounting Today's Large Firm Category. BPM is also recognized as one of the "Bay Area's Best Places to Work" by the San Francisco Business Times and the Silicon Valley Business Journal. BPM is ranked as one of the top 50 accounting firms in the US.

**1975**

**William Mork** (MPA 75) retired as a climatologist for the state of California in 2005 and now writes a monthly Weather Letter for his Lutheran church.

**1976**

**Ronald Bourquin** (BA 76, MBA 84, CERT 09) recently retired from his role as CFO at Entrovita, Inc.

**1977**

**Peter Graziano** (MPA 77) retired as technical director of Special Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Programs for the Department of Defense. Mr. Graziano is currently a part-time consultant for the Defense and Veterans Affairs. In his free time, he plays in the Seniors Baseball World Series in Arizona. His team, which finished in 2nd place in 2015, has won seven national championships.

**1979**

**Michael C. Lee** (MBA 79), CRS, GRI, has joined Realty ONE Group BMC Associates in San Ramon office as managing broker. In addition to being an award-winning Realtor®, managing both large franchised companies and small boutique firms, Mr. Lee is a speaker and author.

**Roger Kemp** (PhD 79, MBA 84) published an article in the Pennsylvania Times called "Town-Gown Relations: Common Best Practices."

**1980**

**Magistrate Kristina B. Hansson** (JD 80) received the Colorado Judicial Institute's annual Judicial Excellence Award.

**Anthony T. Saris** (MBA 80) has joined DZH Phillips as principal.

**Patrick A. Smith** (MPA 80) was elected to the board of directors and to vice president of operations for the United States Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association.

**1981**

**Thomas Mortenson** (MPA 81) is president of the Scandinavian Trade Association, a nonprofit organization established in 1992 with the goal of fostering the growth of Scandinavian business in the United States and raising the cultural understanding of Scandinavia.

**1982**

**Richard L. Caggiano** (MBA 82) was reelected on November 3, 2015 to a new four-year term as town assessor of Southold, New York.

**Bill R. Smith** (MPA 82) was awarded a doctorate by the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. Dr. Smith recalls his years at GGU fondly, both as a student and as a faculty member.

**Bernard J. Tyson** (BS 82, MBA 84) was named to Ebony Magazine's 2015 Power 100 list, which recognizes leaders of the African American community. Mr. Tyson was also honored at the YMCA Metropolitan Los Angeles' 45th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Brotherhood Breakfast, where he received the Martin Luther King Jr. Human Dignity Award, which is presented to an individual who exemplifies Dr. King's work.

**Wendy Wilson** (BS 82) retired from her career in nursing.

**1983**

**Brian Thiem** (MPA 83) retired as a lieutenant from Oakland Police Department in 2005 and from the Army as a lieutenant colonel in 2004. His first novel, *Red Line*, was published in August by Crooked Lane Books; the first in a three-book series contracted by the publisher.

**1986**

**Rebecca Rhine** (BA 86, MS 89) is the new National Executive Director of the 7,700-member International Cinematographers Guild (ICG).

**1987**

**Bob Biswas** (PhD 87) was promoted to professor at DeVry University, Keller School of Management in October 2015. Mr. Biswas also was honored as a TEACH Honoree by DeVry University in November 2015.

**Frank Romano** (JD 87) is now a tenured professor of comparative law, North American literature and jurisprudence at Université Paris Ouest La Défense Nanterre. A member of the California and French Bars, Mr. Romano actively organizes and participates in interfaith events involving Jews, Muslims, Christians and people of other faiths in Israel and Palestine. He is also the author of *Storm Over Morocco*, a memoir of his experiences in Paris and later in Morocco during captivity by an extremist Muslim group.

**David V. Smith** (MBA 87) was appointed to the board of directors of Codexis, a leading protein engineering company that applies its technology to the development of biocatalysts for pharmaceutical and fine chemical production.

**1988**

**Darren Eskind** (MS 88) relocated to the Houston, Texas, area to assume the role of director of operations at Jacobs Engineering Group, sustaining services contracts in the Eastern US.

**Cecily Harris** (MBA 88) was appointed to the California Boating and Waterways Commission by Governor Jerry Brown.

**Linda Mims** (MS 88) retired from the City of Los Angeles in June 2014 and is enjoying her newfound free time with grandchildren and traveling to visit relatives. Ms. Mims also started a consulting business focused on grant writing and joined the renowned Grammy-winning choir LA Gospel Messengers, started by the late gospel singer James Cleveland.

**Douglas L. Rappaport** (JD 88) is a Northern California Super Lawyer and was named by the National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys to the list of the Top 10 Criminal Defense Attorneys in California for 2016.

## 1991

**Donna Boyd** (BS 91) earned her bachelor of science while running a successful accounting and business management company that has been serving clients for the past 35 years. "What I received at GGU has been a huge part of my success," said Ms. Boyd.

**Raymond Martinelli** (MS 91) was appointed executive vice president of People at Couple Software, a cloud-based software firm.

## 1992

**A. Christine Davis** (BA 92) has been promoted to partner at DZH Phillips, one of the largest regionally-based accounting and advisory firms in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is the firm's ninth female partner, furthering DZH's status as a majority women-owned business.

**George Famalett** (MS 92) was appointed to the California Board of Accountancy.

**Raymond V. Marino II** (MS 92) was named non-executive chairman of the board of directors of PICO Holdings, Inc. in March 2016.

**The Honorable William Raines** (JD 92) was appointed as chief judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Illinois.

## 1993

**Steven G. Ballan** (JD 93) was appointed to a two-year term as public defender of St. Lawrence County, New York. Mr. Ballan has worked for the Public Defender's office since May 2007.

**Carl Carande** (MBA 93) was elected to serve as KPMG's vice chair of advisory and is responsible for the overall leadership and growth of the firm's largest business.

California Governor Jerry Brown appointed **Steven Temple** (MS 93) to the California State Assistance Fund for Enterprise, Business and Industrial Development Corporation (SAFE-BIDCO) Board of Directors.

## 1995

**Lt. Col. Nader Araj** (MS 95) joined the California Guard in 2003 following a successful career in IT and has been deployed to Afghanistan. While stateside, Lt. Col Araj holds the positions of maintenance officer at Mather Airfield and director of information management.

**Manny Cappello** (MBA 95) is the mayor of Saratoga, California.

**Dr. Richard Gregory Johnson III** (DPA 95) was promoted from associate Professor of public policy with tenure to full professor of public policy with tenure in the School of Management at the University of San Francisco, Spring 2016. He is the first African American to be tenured and promoted to full professor in the School of Management at USF. Dr. Johnson was also a tenured associate professor at the University of Vermont prior to coming to USF. His latest edited book is "China's New 21st Century Realities: Social Equity in a Time of Change" (2015, Peter Lang).

**Jack Meyers** (MBA 95) was appointed director of Enterprise Architecture at Capital One Financial upon retiring from a 28-year career at Bank of America, where he last held the position of senior vice president.

**Eugene Palazzo** (MA 95) began his tenure as the city manager of Galt, California in March 2016.

## 1996

**Sonia Contreras** (BS 96, MA 06) returned to the US after living in Italy for five years. She has started a family and recently welcomed a new member named Dario.

Pars Equality Center, an organization founded by **Bita Daryabari** (MS 96), hosted its 6th Annual Nowruz (Persian New Year) Gala on March 5, 2016.

**Sandra Davis** (BS 96, MS 06) is a US Navy veteran, financial coach, educator, adjunct professor at GGU and consultant. She is nationally recognized as an expert in the financial coaching field and for her work with community-based organizations that focus on asset building for the working poor. As the founder and executive director of Sage Financial Solutions, a San Francisco-based organization, she helps develop comprehensive financial capability programs for low and moderate-income communities in California and throughout the United States.

## 1997

**David Joslin** (MBA 97) is now a sales representative at Colonial Life in Concord, California.

## 1998

**Carol Wu** (JD 98) was appointed as the city clerk of Pleasant Hill, California.

**Catherine Souders-Mahanpour** (JD 98) was elected to the City Council of Foster City, California.

## 1999

**Christopher Hite** (MA 99) was appointed to the position of judge in San Francisco by Governor Brown. From 1998 to 2015, he was a public defender with the San Francisco County Public Defender's office.

**Kari Taylor** (MBA 99) is vice president of sales and operations at Benco Dental, a national dental service and supply company.

## 2001

**Lubna Jahangiri** (JD 01) is a partner in the law firm of Blackwell, Santaella & Jahangiri, LLP in San Ramon, California, where she focuses on business law and estate planning.

## 2003

**Dawn Akel** (MS 03) was appointed to the California Professional Fiduciaries Advisory Committee.

**Linnea Humble** (BS 03), a manager of finance and a member of Sutter Lakeside Hospital's senior management team, was featured in an article on Women's History Month in the Lake County Record-Bee.

**José Manrique Lazarte** (LLM 03) received the Energy Global Award in Tehran, Iran. The Energy Globe World Awards are among the most important world prizes for sustainability.

**Rebecca Prozan** (JD 03) filed to run for a seat on the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee.

## 2004

**Gael Bizez-Bizellot** (LLM 04) has built a practice focused on real estate transactions and dispute resolutions, including landlord-tenant law, tenancy-in-common (TIC) formations, condominium conversions, public reports, and real estate business formations. She has successfully represented clients in resolving TIC or homeowners association disputes; rent control issues such as Ellis Act evictions, owner move-in evictions, rent increase notices, and buy-out negotiations; and in drafting residential and commercial leases.

**Christopher "Tofer" Campbell** (MBA 03) has acquired Taskar Kibbee & Associates PC, Certified Public Accountants, in Beaverton, Oregon.

**Phillip Yim** (MS 04) was promoted to principal at Novogradac & Company LLP, a national certified public accounting and consulting firm in San Francisco, California.

## 2005

**Wendy H. Stewart** (LLM 05) joined Phyllis Jewell as principal of the law firm now named Jewell Stewart & Pratt PC, in San Francisco. Fellow GGU alumna Claire Pratt (JD 06) is also a principal in the firm.

## 2006

**Jasbir Khalsa** (LLM 06) works as an attorney for Microsoft in San Francisco, providing legal services for products acquired and integrated with Office 365 enterprise-class online cloud software services.

**Karen Matthews** (BA 06) retired from Bank of America in 2014 and is currently pursuing her PhD in clinical psychology. Ms. Matthews also completed her practicum and is a member of the NSPA, CPA, and APA. In her free time, she volunteers weekly at The Child Haven, an agency that works with children and families who have experienced abuse.

**Sheree McLellan** (JD 06) is the new campus diversity officer for staff and students at the University of California, Santa Cruz. In this role, she will promote institutional change for marginalized communities.

**Joseph Oxman** (JD 06) is an associate with the law firm of Oxman Goodstadt Kuritz PC. His practice mainly focuses on 1983 civil rights actions.

**Claire S. Pratt** (JD 06) joined Phyllis Jewell as principal at the firm now named Jewell Stewart & Pratt PC, in San Francisco. Fellow GGU alumna Wendy H. Stewart (LLM 05) is also a principal in the firm.

## 2007

**Michelle Andre** (MS 07) was hired as the first vice president of marketing for Virtual Incentives, based in a new West Coast office in Oregon. She was recently honored with the Stevie Award for Female Executive of the Year, as well as winning Marketing Executive of the Year from the highly competitive Best in Biz awards. Michelle, husband Sean Creane, nine-year-old son Niko and four-year-old daughter Nadia split their time between the mountains of Oregon and the San Francisco Bay Area.

**Nayan P. Lapsiwala** (MS 07) has been a wealth advisor at Stanford Investment Group since 2007. Stanford Investment Group, Inc. is a comprehensive wealth management and financial planning firm with approximately \$850 million in assets.

**Daniel Layton** (LLM 07) left the US Attorney's Office in Los Angeles and opened a civil and criminal tax defense firm in Orange County, California.

**Galen M. Lichtenstein** (JD 07) was recently elevated to shareholder at Littler Mendelson PC in San Francisco.

## 2008

**Jessica Pliner** (JD 08) is a senior associate at Archer Norris, PLC in Walnut Creek, California.

**Taryn Ravazzini** (JD 08) was appointed deputy director of Special Initiatives at the California Department of Water Resources.

**Julia Yim** (JD 08) is vice president and counsel at BNP Paribas's corporate and investment banking division in New York, New York.

## 2009

**Nicolas Peñaloza** (MBA 09) is vice president of digital channel management for Bank of America. He is also founder and managing partner of Forte Legato Coffee Company, Ltd, which specializes in specialty coffee roasting, wholesale, retail, and consulting in the Greater Charlotte Area.

## 2010

**Jon Golinger** (JD 10) is the founder of Protect Coit Tower, an advocacy group in San Francisco credited with saving and restoring Coit Tower and leading efforts to reduce development in the Marina District of San Francisco.

## 2011

**Rana Boujaoude** (JD 11) was recently featured in *The Learning Curve*, a publication of the Association of American Law Schools. Her article, "Lawyering Skills and the Performance Test: Not Just Limited to the Bar," explains how Golden Gate University is using Performance Test (PT) exams in GGU Law's bar curriculum to teach practice-ready lawyering skills to our students.

**August Hotchkin** (JD 11) won his first jury trial.

**Melanie O'Brien** (JD 11) is now an associate at Low, Ball & Lynch in San Francisco.

## 2012

**Cosmin I. Coredea** (SJD 12) is part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) team of lawyers who will work on the outcome of the Paris Conference of Parties COP 21 on Climate Change.

**Milo D. Manopoulos Beitman** (JD 12) is a staff attorney at Legal Assistance for Seniors in Oakland, California.

**Trevor A. Ross** (LLM 12) was recently named vice president and personal trust administrator of 1st Source Bank in Warsaw, Indiana. Mr. Ross has more than 15 years of experience in financial planning, estate, trust and tax matters.

**Eric Simonds** (MS 12) was granted his CFP® certification. He is the owner of Saltwater Harbor Financial, LLC in Brunswick, Maine.

**Murat Wahab** (BA 12, MBA 14) was a guest speaker at the Small Business Program: Entrepreneurship on February 20, 2016, where he talked about different types of financing available to startup companies.

## 2013

**Neal Latt** (JD 13) was recently appointed to the board of directors of the Humboldt Water District in California.

**Kathryn Ramirez** (MPA 13) was re-elected to the Salinas Union High School District board, where she has served for 12 years.

**Jessica Rosen** (JD 13) is an attorney with James & Associates, a law firm in Pacific Palisades, California, handling white-collar criminal defense, securities, and civil rights, with an emphasis on appeals. Ms. Rosen had a recent victory in the Ninth Circuit in *United States v. Pocklington*.

**Robert Sumner** (JD 13) was appointed special counsel for legislation in the California Attorney General's office.

**Farjana Yesmin** (LLM 13) was promoted as first female deputy registrar in the High Court Division in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

## 2014

**Ted Broomfield** (JD 14) is an adjunct professor of accounting and tax at the College of San Mateo in California.

**Nathan Pastor** (JD 14) is an associate attorney with The Morrill Law Firm in Walnut Creek, California. The firm handles trust and estate litigation, contested conservatorships, estate planning, and probate, trust and conservatorship administration.

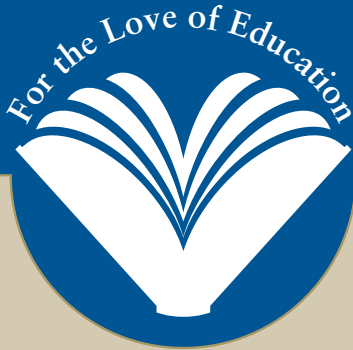
## 2015

**Matthew A. Stevens** (JD 15) recently joined Myers & Associates LLP, a law firm in Napa, California.

**Irina Pichko** (MS 15) was recently promoted to tax supervisor at Gelman LLP, a Santa Ana, California-based public accounting firm.

## 2016

**Jason N. Anderson** (MBA 16) has worked at Park University in Kansas City, Missouri, as a development director within the Office of University Relations and Development for the past two years. He is the appointed area director of Kansas City operations for the university. Prior to joining Park University, Mr. Anderson held positions at the University of Texas at Arlington and as resident director at Rockhurst University in Kansas City.



## Save the Date

Thursday, October 13, 2016

Golden Gate University invites you to our 2016 celebration  
to benefit student scholarships, featuring:

**Rosie Rios**  
**43rd Treasurer of the United States**

in conversation with

**Dr. David J. Fike**  
**President of Golden Gate University**

Join us for dinner and a provocative discussion as GGU trustees, alumni and distinguished guests officially welcome our eighth President to Golden Gate University.

Palace Hotel, San Francisco  
Cocktail Reception — 6PM  
Dinner — 7PM

For more information please contact Natoya Woods at [nwoods@ggu.edu](mailto:nwoods@ggu.edu)  
[ggu.edu/ftloe](http://ggu.edu/ftloe)

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