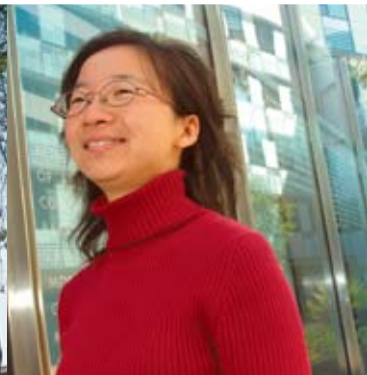




PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

CAREERS *in* PUBLIC POLICY





SCHOOL
OF
PUBLIC POLICY

HENRY AND VICTORIA
BLAHN CENTER

The best way to answer the question, “What is public policy?” is to visit up close the people who are doing it—in government, in the private business sector, in nonprofit organizations, or in foreign service. We know it when we see it! To listen to recent graduates from the Pepperdine University School of Public Policy who are already carving out exciting and rewarding careers is even better.

At Pepperdine, public policy is much more than an absorbing academic discipline. Here, it literally confronts us with a challenge to accept a leadership role in a changing the world.



James R. Wilburn
James R. Wilburn
Dean, School of Public Policy



Natasa
MILASINOVIC

NATASA MILASINOVIC

Assistant Analyst
United Nations International
Criminal Tribunal
for the Former Yugoslavia
The Hague, Netherlands

MPP, Pepperdine University, 1999
Specialization: International Relations

BA, International Relations,
Westmar University, 1997

As a member of an investigation team in the Office of the Prosecutor, I work on researching and analyzing video materials and documents relevant for the prosecution of persons suspected of having committed war crimes in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. As the investigation team is made up of trial attorneys, war-crimes investigators, and intelligence analysts, I can honestly say that my education at the Pepperdine School of Public Policy has contributed to the success I now enjoy in my work.

The program's insistence on a well-rounded education has given me a solid foundation not just in international relations, but also law and economics, both of which have frequently been helpful as I pursue justice and reconciliation. The rigorous and demanding program has also equipped me with sharp analytical and problem-solving skills which are crucial for deciphering all the complexities of the breakup of the former Yugoslavia. The School of Public Policy's knowledgeable and passionate professors have taught me impartiality and objectivity. Lastly, Pepperdine's unique and supportive atmosphere from both the professors and staff made me feel like I am part of a big family. □

A young man with light brown hair, wearing a grey suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a light-colored tie, stands in the foreground. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. Behind him is a large, ornate, white classical building with many columns and a pediment. There are green palm trees and other foliage in front of the building. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The entire image is framed by a thin white border.

Almis

UDRYS

ALMIS UDRYS

Principal Policy Consultant
Assembly Republican Caucus
Sacramento, California

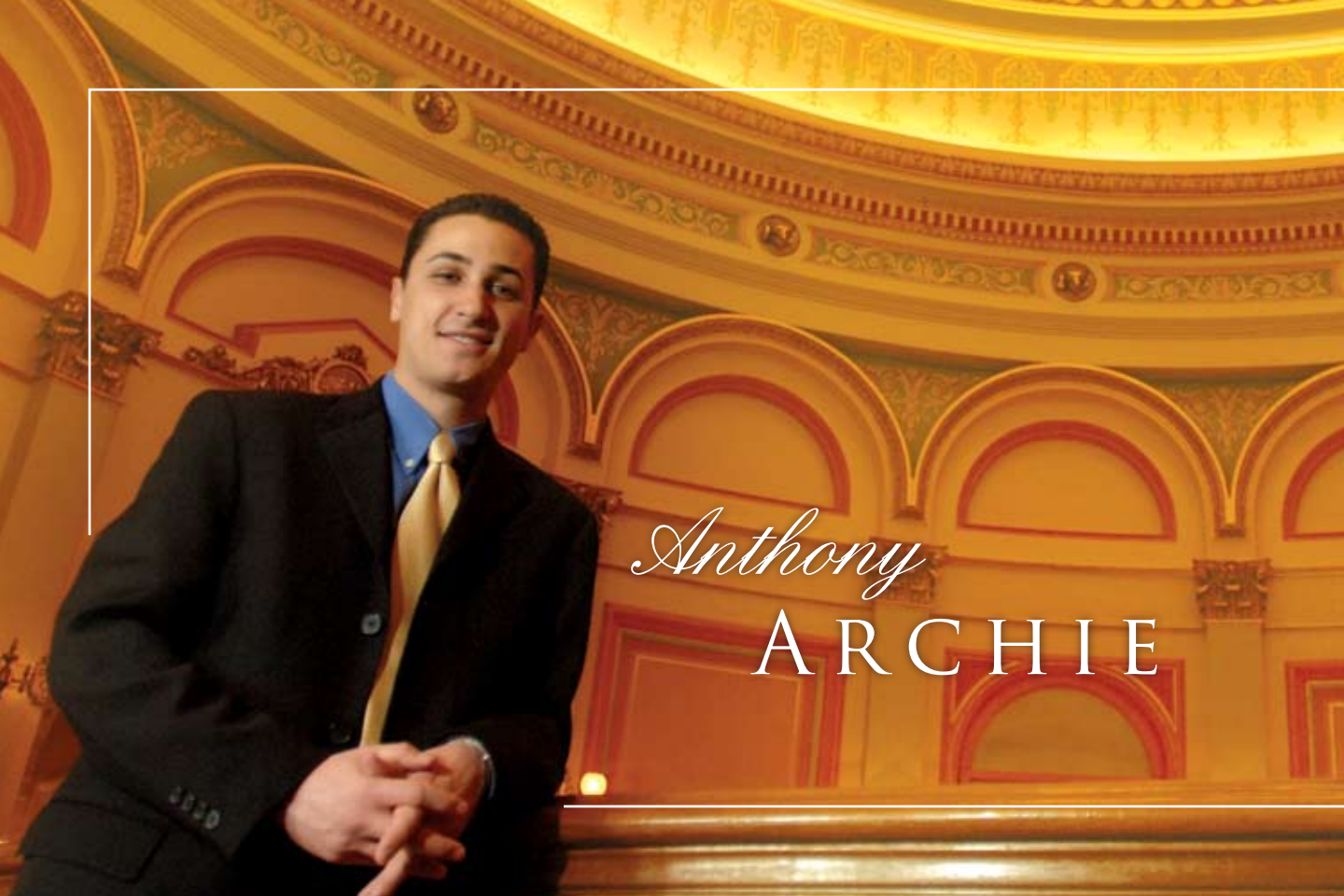
MPP, Pepperdine University, 2001
Double Specialization: American
Politics and International Relations

BA, International Studies,
Hillsdale College, 1999



What can you do with a Pepperdine master of public policy degree? Everything you can do without one, with two important exceptions—contacts and credibility. You cannot buy contacts, you must earn their trust—what better way to cultivate relationships than in an intimate scholastic setting where everyone will go on to lead successful lives? The school gives you the invaluable opportunity to both know and be known.

Similarly, you cannot buy credibility. A master of public policy degree gives you a leg up in all fields impacted by the policy spectrum, from international to corporate. Additionally, where else do you actually read the books of which you have only read interpretations or summaries? I speak of the works of Marx, Adam Smith, Madison, Locke, and others. The mix of theoretical and practical disciplines has provided me with the tools to evaluate various statistical and economic arguments related to bills I analyze, while concurrently keeping in mind the philosophical and historical underpinnings of the policies each bill seeks to address or implement. □



Anthony

ARCHIE

ANTHONY ARCHIE

Policy Fellow
Pacific Research Institute
Sacramento, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2004
Double Specialization: Economics
and State and Local Policy

BA, Economics and Political Science,
Pepperdine University, 2002

A decorative flourish consisting of several overlapping, curved lines that form a stylized, calligraphic shape, resembling a large letter 'M' or a similar monogram.

With international events grabbing news headlines, the impact of state and local policies is often overlooked. But at the Pepperdine School of Public Policy, I was able to double-specialize in economics and state and local policy, a combination that allowed me to examine California's most pressing issues. This was most apparent during the Policy Research Seminar, where I used my training to analyze the state's workers' compensation problem.

Our team produced a proposal that rivaled those of policy think tanks, drawing acclaim from a number of individuals, including some of Governor Schwarzenegger's policy advisors. As a result of my experience, I am now a Sacramento-based policy analyst at the Pacific Research Institute, writing and speaking on issues such as tax policy, property rights, and legal reform. □

A professional portrait of Dinesa Thomas, a Black woman with glasses and a light-colored blazer, standing in front of a modern glass building. The building's facade features the 'NEW CENTURY' logo. The image is framed by a white border.

Dinesa

THOMAS

DINESA THOMAS

Assistant Vice President of
Governmental Affairs
New Century Financial Corporation
Irvine, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2002
Double Specialization: Economics
and State and Local Policy

BA, Political Science
and African Studies,
San Diego State University, 2000



At the Pepperdine School of Public Policy I experienced a great learning environment because of a cohort that consisted of students from various regions of the country and the world, as well as varying political perspectives. I was able to hear and examine alternate views on public policy issues and offer my own.

Working with my cohort on the Policy Research Seminar was a tremendous help to my professional development. During the seminar presentation, we had an opportunity to present our thesis paper to a panel of experts in a given field, which gave me the initial confidence to go into the private and public sectors to deliver information to key stakeholders in my industry. □



Jason
ROSS

JASON ROSS

PhD Candidate
Georgetown University
Washington, District of Columbia

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2001
Specialization: American Politics

BS, Business Management,
Oral Roberts University, 1995



Where most public policy programs simply give students analytical tools, Pepperdine demands that students place those analytical tools in service of the wisdom and perspective gained by thinking deeply about the constitutional, historical, and moral dimensions of our pressing public policy problems. In such a complex and rapidly changing world, citizens and policy makers increasingly look to experts for guidance, but even the most sophisticated analytical tools cannot help if they address the wrong questions.

The master of public policy degree program is designed to train students to discern the right questions. Looking back at my own experience and the experiences of my classmates after years away from Pepperdine, I am proud to see the contributions we have made in our chosen fields by asking the right questions, and I know these contributions will only grow greater over time. □

A woman with dark, curly hair, wearing a black blazer over a light-colored top, stands with her arms crossed on the stone steps of the National Library of Medicine building. The building's entrance is visible behind her, featuring a dark stone wall with the text 'NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE' in gold lettering. The sky is clear and blue.

NATIONAL LIBRARY
OF
MEDICINE

Katia
DELRAHIM

KATIA DELRAHIM

Research Associate
Center for the Clinical Trials Network
National Institute on Drug Abuse
National Institutes of Health
Rockville, Maryland

MBA, Johns Hopkins University, 2006
Specialization: Management

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2005
Double Specialization: Economics
and International Relations

BA, Biological Anthropology,
University of California,
San Diego, 2001

Coupled with a strong emphasis on ethical conduct, the practicality of the curriculum at the School of Public Policy not only prepared me for a successful career in public policy, but also afforded me with the unique opportunity to explore my interests in public health. The skills that I gained from my experiences at Pepperdine—whether in the classroom, during my internship at one of the White House policy offices, or on the cobblestone streets of Tbilisi, Georgia—have strengthened my ability to effectively analyze problems, seek solutions, communicate information, and collaborate across disciplines. Not only have these skills been crucial in my professional career, but they have also been at the core of my success in expanding my academic career.

Upon graduating from Pepperdine, I have successfully pursued an MBA and will soon commence on the journey of obtaining a PhD in public health. The education that I received from the Pepperdine School of Public Policy has been invaluable in preparing me to undertake these endeavors. □

A portrait of a man in a dark suit and striped tie, smiling slightly. He is positioned on the right side of the frame. The background is a large wooden bookshelf filled with books, with a small framed photo on one of the shelves. A white rectangular border is overlaid on the left and bottom portions of the image.

David
VELA

DAVID VELA

Field Deputy
Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor
Gloria Molina
Los Angeles, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2001
Double Specialization: Economics
and International Relations

BA, Biological Anthropology,
University of California,
Los Angeles, 1999

Each day I am faced with the opportunity to make a decision that affects thousands of lives. The School of Public Policy at Pepperdine prepared me to make these decisions in a sound and thoughtful manner. I like to think of public service as an extension of my formal education. As a student, I learned how to analyze and write policy, which made me a valuable asset to many of the elected officials I have served.

My concentration in economics brought on a passion for economic development which is greatly needed in the urban pockets of Los Angeles County. My concentration in international relations was helpful in creating ties with foreign dignitaries who visit the Southland to learn about our local economy. My degree was instrumental in securing a place of employment, but most of all, it allowed for me to fulfill my dream of serving the public and making a difference in the lives of many. □

A portrait of Kimberlee Ross, a woman with long brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark blazer over a light-colored ribbed top. She is smiling and has her hands clasped. The background features a large map on the left and a bookshelf on the right. The text 'Kimberlee ROSS' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Kimberlee
ROSS

KIMBERLEE ROSS

Senior Contracts/Policy Advisor
World Vision
Washington, District of Columbia

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2001
Specialization: International Relations

BA, Communications,
Westmont College, 1997

The Pepperdine School of Public Policy laid the groundwork that has helped me to think deeply about the issues I face every day. The Great Books curriculum enabled me to spend the time necessary to understand how government came about and what it should be about.

Before attending Pepperdine, I had a background in faith-based nonprofit organizations, and I knew how much regulatory policies impact faith-based organizations. I wanted to help shape these policies. I am now the senior contracts/policy advisor for World Vision, and I could not have gotten here if not for the regulatory research and work I began while at Pepperdine. In addition, the school's professors took the time to advise and put me in contact with well-known scholars in this regulatory arena. From these relationships I was able to build a network, procure a fellowship at a think tank, and eventually get the job I have now. □

HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES
interfaith
community services

Melisa
CARROLL



MELISA CARROLL

Grant Writer
Financial Management
InterFaith Community Services
Escondido, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2000
Double Specialization: Economics
and International Relations

BS, Journalism, Austin Peay
State University, 1994

*I*n the non-profit sector, it is becoming increasingly necessary to understand the dynamics of working collaboratively with the government, political leaders, private sector, and community-at-large. The training through Pepperdine's School of Public Policy equipped me to think independently but work cooperatively with others trying to achieve the same mission. The economics specialization prepared me to take on a financial leadership role to develop resources as a government grant writer working with agencies such as Housing and Urban Development, the Veterans Administration, and the Social Security Administration. As I gained more experience, I oversaw the financial management for the agency. Pepperdine taught me not only technical skills but reinforced that integrity is the most valuable skill a leader can possess. □



Set in motion a national mission over
by the Department of Homeland Security
consist

Charity

AZADIAN

- Presidential Dir
- Security Di
- Federal M
- Programs & I
- Funding &

CHARITY AZADIAN

Policy Analyst
Department of Homeland Security
Office of the Governor
State of California
Sacramento, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2001
Specialization: International Relations

BA, International Studies
(International Management),
Pepperdine University, 1999

The most important career opportunities I have had came about because of my alumni connections with the Pepperdine School of Public Policy and because I had completed a master of public policy degree. When interviewing with a senior scientist at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, he said that I was selected from a pool of candidates for a variety of reasons, but more importantly because of my postgraduate education and my fluency in several languages.

When you take on the responsibility of reading, researching, and writing for two years, you not only become proficient in the principles of public policy, but more importantly you become a well-rounded person. I am confident that I can complete any research project or meet tight deadlines because I have been well trained and can always find a solution. □



Matthew

SEE

MATTHEW SEE

Investigator
California Bureau of State Audits
Sacramento, California

Guest Lecturer in Political Theory and
Philosophy
William Jessup University
Rocklin, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2003
Double Specialization: American
Politics and International Relations

BA, International Studies,
Prairie Bible College, 2001

At Pepperdine I not only learned the “how” of public policy, but also the “why.” We grappled with the ideas of justice and virtue and learned how to make good policies and laws. I have taken this experience—kindled with passion to live a life of purpose, service, and leadership—to Sacramento to help state and local governments perform better and at times reevaluate their purpose and way of doing things.

But I went further still: I went to the Middle East, where I worked alongside the Iraqi people as they learned how to participate in their dearly purchased freedom. I helped them as they sought to identify problems in their districts and neighborhoods and subsequently implement solutions to those problems. Now that I am home again, I am looking forward to taking all of these experiences back into the classroom where I might spark the imagination of others who desire to do justice and love mercy. □



Sara
CARMACK

SARA CARMACK

District Director
U.S. Representative Ed Royce
40th District (R-CA)
Fullerton, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2002
Double Specialization:
American Politics
and International Relations

BA, History, University of
California, Davis, 2000

The professors, curriculum, and internship opportunities at the Pepperdine School of Public Policy provided me with the single most rewarding experience of my educational career. The school provides more than just a quantitative, cold look at policy—it also reminds you that real people are affected by policy changes every day. Too often in society the policy experts are separated from the political experts, and neither side sees the relevance of the other’s arguments. Pepperdine provides the type of education that balances the two sometimes-opposing forces and makes successful policy a reality.

In the debate surrounding various pieces of legislation, I have on numerous occasions brought the arguments back down to their most fundamental aspects, frequently questioning members of Congress on how James Madison or Thomas Jefferson would feel about their proposed amendment. By studying those who were willing to risk everything to found this great experiment on democracy, I hope to be able to develop policies one day that will honor the dreams and the legacy of those founders. □



Leah
PEASE

LEAH PEASE

Foreign Service Officer
U.S. Department of State
Belfast, Northern Ireland

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2001
Double Specialization: American
Politics and International Relations

BA, Spanish and Social Science,
Harding University, 1997

The Pepperdine School of Public Policy was ideal training for a career in the Foreign Service. Whether serendipitous or planned into the curriculum, the first-semester core courses were the best study guide available for taking the Foreign Service written exam. The second and more difficult part of the Foreign Service entrance exams is the oral exam. Essentially, successful candidates are those who demonstrate sound decision making and can successfully defend their stance on a given issue under various degrees of pressure. I can think of no better arena in which to prepare for this type of exam than in the classrooms and corridors of the School of Public Policy.

Daily at Pepperdine I was challenged to back up my policy decisions or ideas based not only on careful economic analysis, but also on my belief system and ethical principles. The program challenged and taught me not only to always ask the big questions, but to defend them succinctly and soundly. In my career with the Department of State, I regularly face situations which require quick decision making and articulate defense of my decisions. □

Jason

PATES



JASON PATES

Associate
Booz Allen Hamilton
McLean, Virginia

MPP, Pepperdine University, 1999
Double Specialization: Economics
and International Relations

BA, Economics, Pepperdine
University, 1995

I had some apprehension heading into a public policy graduate program, fearing that I would be narrowing my future career trajectory to include only public-sector positions. I can now say from experience that earning a master of public policy degree at Pepperdine can lead to terrific career opportunities in all employment sectors. Course work in applied economics and public finance greatly contributed to my success in the Presidential Management Fellowship assessment process and a job with the U.S. Treasury Department.

The degree paid further dividends in my work as a management consultant, where Pepperdine's use of case studies and emphasis on teamwork were great preparation for problem-solving sessions with leadership at Verizon Communications as well as the Department of Defense. Public policy means more than just civil service, and I am pleased to report the versatility of the master of public policy degree extends beyond what I anticipated. □



Jianhui
HU

JIANHUI HU

PhD Candidate
Pardee RAND Graduate School
Santa Monica, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2004
Double Specialization: Economics
and International Relations

BS, Business Administration,
Renmin University of China, 1996

I did not fully realize what I obtained from the master's degree program at the Pepperdine School of Public Policy until recently. When I look back, I can see clearly each step where I made progress little by little toward my future, and I now realize the role the School of Public Policy played by opening the first door which led me to where I am today.

The program gave me a set of analytic skills as well as shaped my mind and helped me to realize how I can instigate change in better ways. I especially cherish the latter, and I believe that competency afforded me the opportunity to study at RAND. We can get skills from various institutions, but it is the habit and the way of thinking that truly differentiates people. □



Damion

TRASADA

DAMION TRASADA

Executive Director
Uplift Institute
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2006
Double Specialization: American
Politics and State and Local Policy

BA, African-American Studies
Temple University, 2001

I have always considered myself a social entrepreneur. I look for creative ways to reconcile the need to earn money with my personal passion to serve others. Operating a small staffing firm along with a nonprofit organization that works with local agencies to provide career training and educational services allows me to satisfy both interests. We are developing a model for private-public partnership encouraged by the School of Public Policy and reinforced in my strategy and tax classes in the state and local policy specialization. □

The School of Public Policy equips its graduates with knowledge and skills that are valuable across many disciplines. Graduates have chosen careers in all segments of the public sector, including local, state, and federal governments and nonprofit organizations. Other graduates chose the private sector with careers such as consulting, research, and lobbying.

Alumni have received career opportunities from the following list of organizations. Classifications of organizations are determined by the nature of the work executed by alumni.

AMERICAN POLITICS

British Petroleum
Capital Campaigns
CIA
Congressional Research Service,
Library of Congress
FBI
Family Research Council
Federal Election Commission
The Heritage Foundation
Hoover Institution, Stanford University
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
The Livingston-Solomon Group
National Institutes of Health
National Safe Haven Alliance
Naval Criminal Investigative Service

New America Foundation
New Century Financial Corporation
Reason Public Policy Institute
Rosenow Spevacek Group
SAIC
U.S. Attorney's Office
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of State
 Bureau of Public Affairs
 Science and Technology Directorate
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Investigations Services
U.S. Navy, Judge Advocate General

ECONOMICS

Booz Allen Hamilton
Department of Treasury
EconOne
IBAR Settlement Company
Institute of Economic Affairs, Kenya
Kraft Foods

LECG LLC
Mercer Consulting
RAND
Reason Public Policy Institute
Smith Barney
SunAmerica Affordable Housing Partners
World Bank

STATE / LOCAL

California Bureau of State Audits
California High School Exit Exam Office
California State Assembly Republican Caucus
California State University, Sacramento
Center for California Studies
Cerrell Associates, Inc.
City of Anaheim, California
City of Culver City, California
City of Ladera Heights, California
City of Lewisville, Texas
City of Malibu, California
City of Oroville, California
City of San Diego, California
City of Santa Ana, California
City of Santa Clarita, California
City of Sarasota, Florida

City of York, Pennsylvania
County of Los Angeles, California
 Department of Mental Health
 Office of Supervisor Gloria Molina
County of San Bernardino, California,
Office of the Mayor
eCivis, Inc.
Envicom
Interfaith Community Services
Iowa Democratic Party
Land Solutions, Inc.
League of California Cities
Missouri State Senate
The Olson Company
Pacific Technologies Inc.
Port of Los Angeles
Resource Design Technology
The Robert Group

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
Schmitz & Associates, Inc.
State of California
 Department of Finance
 Department of Homeland Security
 Department of Transportation
State of Colorado, Office of the Governor
State of Florida, Department of Education
State of Tennessee
 Finance and Administration
 Tennessee Center for Policy Research
Uplift Institute
U.S. Representative
 Jon Porter, Nevada
 Ed Royce, California
 Linda Sanchez, California
U.S. Senator, Elizabeth Dole, North Carolina
YMCA

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Amnesty International
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CIA
IU-Kenya Partnership
Jackson State University
Leonie Industries LLC
National Assembly of the Republic of Korea

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs
Pacific Research Institute
Peace Corps
Raytheon
United Nations, International Criminal Tribunal
for the Former Yugoslavia
U.S. Agency for International Development
U.S. Army International Security Cooperation Policy

U.S. Department of State
 Bureau of Intelligence and Research
 Cameroon
 Ireland
 Middle East
U.S. Embassy, Romania
World Vision International

A man in a dark suit and patterned tie stands in a grand, ornate legislative chamber. The room features high ceilings with a large chandelier, red curtains, and rows of wooden desks. The lighting is warm and golden.

Peter

MONTGOMERY

PETER MONTGOMERY

Director
California Government Relations
British Petroleum
Sacramento, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 1999
Specialization: Economics

BA, Political Science, University
of California, Davis, 1992

*M*y professional and personal horizons were greatly expanded when I made the leap of faith and joined the inaugural class of the Pepperdine School of Public Policy. I received a world-class education, made great friends, and developed a network which has enabled my success post-graduation. I chose the economics specialization in order to add a strong quantitative background to complement my experience in government and politics.

As the director of California government relations for one of the world's largest energy companies, I find myself utilizing, on a daily basis, the tools provided me by the public policy faculty—whether it be statistics, labor economics, or organizational behavior. I would not be where I am today without Pepperdine and the School of Public Policy. □

A woman with short reddish-brown hair, wearing a black blazer over a white top, stands in front of a large, classical-style building with many columns. She has her hands clasped in front of her. The scene is outdoors on a sunny day. The text 'Kimberly CATES' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Kimberly
CATES

KIMBERLY CATES

Analyst
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, District of Columbia

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2004
Specialization: International Relations

BA, Political Science, Pepperdine
University, 2002

A master of public policy degree from Pepperdine not only provided me with the necessary skills to be competitive in the public policy marketplace, it also fostered a fundamental understanding of how to be a leader guided by morals and ethics. It is Pepperdine's emphasis on leadership and ethics that sets it apart from so many other schools of public policy. Another key element unique to the school is faculty members who personally invest in their students. On a daily basis I use the knowledge and wisdom I gained from the faculty both in and outside of the classroom, and I will always be in debt to them for the impact they had on my professional and personal life. □

The views put forth by this employee are done so in her personal capacity based on her own personal knowledge and should not be construed as the official views of the Department of Justice or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

A professional portrait of Johanna Falzarano, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark navy blue blazer over a white collared shirt. The background is a lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. A thin white rectangular border is visible on the left and bottom edges of the image.

Johanna
FALZARANO

JOHANNA FALZARANO

Environmental Analyst,
Associate Project Manager
Envicom Corporation
Agoura Hills, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2003
Specialization: International Relations

BS, Wildlife Biology, Colorado
State University, 2001



Whether you are the employer or employee, one thing you should always demand of yourself is professional integrity. I hold my professors at the School of Public Policy in high esteem in this regard. Through their own integrity they help reinforce the principle that you will not earn, let alone maintain, respect unless you are true to your craft, exhibit sound judgment, and treat others with respect. In the end, it will be meaningless if you increased your company's bottom line, or furthered your cause's end, if you have tarnished your name in order to do so.

Whether you have simply broken appointments or been so drastic as to lie under oath, when you step out of your office for the last time, you should be proud of, and comfortable with, whatever your peers will say about you thereafter. □



Jeffrey M.
JONES

JEFFREY M. JONES

Research Fellow
Hoover Institution
Stanford University
Stanford, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2002
Double Specialization: American
Politics and Economics

BA, Political Science,
Wheaton College, 1993

*M*y experience at the Pepperdine School of Public Policy moved me from a place of interest in the arena of politics to a point of impact through my work as a research fellow at the Hoover Institution. I encountered professors who encouraged a high level of scholarship and continually challenged me to think and write clearly—expectations that prepared me to reach a national audience through journals, newspapers, and the Web.

Courses in economics and political philosophy taught me to formulate solutions that take into account both the rational and normative nature of policy. Over all this, the call to possess a leadership mindset prompts me to look for ways to improve myself, those I work with, and the institution I serve. □

A portrait of Lisa Dumouchel, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a black blazer over a white collared shirt. She is smiling and has her arms crossed. The background is a scenic view of Washington D.C. during cherry blossom season, featuring the White House, the Washington Monument, and many trees in shades of pink and red. The text 'Lisa DUMOUCHEL' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Lisa
DUMOUCHEL

LISA DUMOUCHEL

Foreign Affairs Officer
Regional Security and Arms Transfer
U.S. Department of State
Washington, District of Columbia

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2004
Double Specialization: American
Politics and International Relations

BA, International Business
Administration,
Northern Arizona University, 2000

The Pepperdine School of Public Policy deepened my understanding of the ideological debate in America. While that may sound like an academic exercise, it has provided great insight into policy making here in Washington, D.C., and at the Pentagon. The school's focus on the U.S. Constitution and the history I learned have been critical to my participation in meaningful policy formation.

In addition to traditional book learning, the curriculum's emphasis on teamwork and interpersonal skills development has been invaluable in my workplace and enabled me to compete successfully as a Presidential Management Fellow against candidates of other top-ranked schools. □

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a black blazer over a light blue button-down shirt, stands on a city street corner. She is smiling and has her arms crossed. The background shows a street with a blue sign that reads "Larchmont Village", a yellow truck, a dark car, and a building with a corrugated metal fence. The scene is set during the day under a clear blue sky.

Samara

ASHLEY

SAMARA ASHLEY

Account Executive
Cerrell Associates, Inc.
Los Angeles, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2002
Double Specialization:
American Politics
and International Relations

BA, Sociology and Black Studies,
University of California,
Santa Barbara, 2000

Earning a master's degree from the Pepperdine School of Public Policy helped prepare me for a successful career in both government and public relations. The practical foundation I received through the school's intense core classes and the skills I learned during my summer internship taught me the importance of applying policy theories to real-world applications. In my current position with one of the state's leading public relations firms, I am responsible for developing public policy strategies as well as conducting public affairs and community outreach programs for various clients.

The degree I earned from Pepperdine, in addition to the experience I gained working for the California State Senate, provided me with the skills needed to develop effective public affairs and public policy strategies. □



Ryan
MILLER

RYAN MILLER

Legislative Correspondent
Office of U.S. Senator
Elizabeth Dole (R-NC)
Washington, District of Columbia

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2004
Double Specialization:
American Politics and Economics

BA, Psychology,
Baylor University, 2001

*M*y Pepperdine master's degree in public policy gave me a solid foundation to succeed in my job in Washington, D.C. The focus on both the quantitative and qualitative sides has provided me with a good framework to examine policy in the position that I am in today. It provided me the necessary background in both American politics and economics which I have relied on over and over again in my position working for the Senate.

I am required to process a vast amount of information and come up with meaningful insight on a given subject set. Thanks to the rigorous academic schedule of the program, I have been prepared for the demands of my profession. □



Abigail

ETTINGER

Saturn is

Saturn, the planet
Like Jupiter, it is
rings are mostly ice

one of Saturn's 30
rings glides across

ABIGAIL ETTINGER

Risk Communications Specialist
Launch Approval Planning Group
NASA-Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Pasadena, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2002
Specialization: American Politics

BA, American Intellectual and
Civil Rights History, University
of California, Davis, 2000

*A*s a practicing political operative, I appreciated (and still do) how Pepperdine's rigorous curriculum and open-door policy with professors enriched my understanding of politics, political history, leadership, and what it takes to be a true statesman in today's political ballgame. I was fortunate to work for Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn upon completion of my master's degree in public policy. A fellow Pepperdine alumnus, Mayor Hahn embodied our traditions of dignity and leadership in government. Serving Jim Hahn for more than four years as harbor district director, I directed his public relations, events, government relations, and public affairs operations from south Watts to San Pedro and the mayor's seven-mile waterfront redevelopment project.

Using my political education and leadership experience, I ventured into risk communications for controversial deep-space and planetary exploration programs. As one of three risk communications specialists for NASA-JPL, I work to create better understanding of controversial programmatic elements in the world's leading space missions. □



David
BLECHERTAS

DAVID BLECHERTAS

Department Head of Planning
and Zoning
West Manchester Township
York, Pennsylvania

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2004
Double Specialization:
American Politics
and International Relations

BA, History, Lock Haven University,
2002

The longer that I am out of school, the more I value the education I received at the Pepperdine School of Public Policy. The intensity and challenge of the course work made the transition into the professional world much easier for me. This in turn helped me to advance my career goals faster than I would have expected. As my career progresses, I find that the importance of the leadership skills and moral components of the school cannot be overestimated.

Working in government is never simple and rarely are issues black and white, but with a strong foundation such as that Pepperdine instills in students, you can be successful regardless of the situation. □



Jennifer
LAKE

JENNIFER LAKE

Analyst in Domestic Security
Congressional Research Service
Washington, District of Columbia

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2001
Double Specialization: Economics
and International Relations

BA, Government, University
of Texas at Austin, 1998

I can unequivocally state that I could not be successful in my work at Congressional Research Service (CRS) without my experiences at the Pepperdine School of Public Policy. At CRS we are expected to respond both to the immediate as well the longer-term research needs of Congress. The most important aspect of the program was the exploration of the idea that all policy questions do not lend themselves to a quantitative or to a strict cost-benefit analysis.

Qualitative analysis plays an important role in policy making. The School of Public Policy taught me that asking the right questions, particularly when framing an issue, is often the most important step. The skills I acquired while at Pepperdine assist my day-to-day work in a fast-paced environment that regularly confronts analysts with different policy challenges. □



Victor
DIAZ DE LEON

VICTOR DIAZ DE LEON

Foreign Service Officer
U.S. Agency for
International Development
Mexico City, Mexico

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2002
Specialization: International Relations

BA, International Relations
and Marketing,
St. Edwards University, 1996

The diverse mix of people and ideas at the Pepperdine School of Public Policy allowed for meaningful discussions and interactions. Whether we were talking about politics, economics, or values, our conversations benefited from an assortment of opinions and beliefs. Addressing current events and reviewing fundamental foundations have been of an immense help in understanding how and why people formulate their perspectives and decisions; critical in my position as a foreign service officer for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

As I deal with a wide range of personalities and ideas, I have relied heavily on my education to rationalize and devise processes and policies specific to managing an overseas governmental office. I mostly utilize the concepts of managing for results and asking the right questions to address difficult situations, as being in an office comprised of American citizens and locally employed staff makes for interesting dilemmas and requires innovative resolutions. □



Geoffrey
SEGAL

GEOFFREY SEGAL

Director of Government Reform
Reason Foundation
Arlington, Virginia

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2000
Double Specialization: Economics
and State and Local Policy

BA, Political Science, Arizona
State University, 1997



As a society we face many challenges in the years ahead. The way it has always been done is no longer acceptable. It will take great leaders to develop and implement innovative public policy solutions. The Pepperdine School of Public Policy is giving students the necessary tools to create those solutions and lead.

Operating in today's policy environment requires a mastery of several unique disciplines—economics, communications, philosophy, strategy development, and implementation. It is also critical to have a deep appreciation and understanding of the founding documents that created this great nation. With a core curriculum that blends these areas, the school trains its students to systematically review policy options, challenge conventional thinking, and innovate. In doing so, it effectively prepares students for the real world of policy analysis, development, and advocacy. □



Sonja
THORINGTON

SONJA THORINGTON

Auditor
California Bureau of State Audits
Sacramento, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2006
Double Specialization: Economics
and State and Local Policy

BA, Film and Video, Pennsylvania
State University, 2003

Traveling to New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to conduct research and interviews for the Policy Research Seminar proved to be a defining moment in my life. That experience illustrated gaps in policy making in one city, enabling us to see the importance of good policy making elsewhere. It is so easy in policy education to miss the forest for the trees and to forget that what we learn here transcends political affiliation, religious denomination, and cultural and ethnic background.

At its heart, public policy is about community and a dedication to the people within our local, national, and worldwide communities. I will forever love Pepperdine and the opportunity to interact with professors who are each intimidating in the scope of their knowledge and brilliant in the depth of their dedication. My time at Pepperdine presented me with a diverse education that complements the spirit of commitment to others and demands positive changes from us all in the future. □



Ryan

STORM

RYAN STORM

Principal Program Budget Analyst
Department of Finance
State of California
Sacramento, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 1999
Specialization: Economics and
State and Local Policy

BA, International Political Economics,
Pepperdine University, 1997

Looking back to my specialization courses in economics and state and local policy, I cannot imagine any better training for my career in state government. In my undergraduate course work, the instruction laid a good academic foundation of economic theory and political science. However, those courses left me wondering, “What is the point? How is this going to help change the world for the better?” During my two-year career at the School of Public Policy, my professors challenged me every day to make a practical impact on my world and my sphere of policy influence. In my capacity today as a principal developer of California’s annual budget, I am responsible for analyzing policy ideas presented by legislators, lobbyists, and bureaucrats.

Generally, these three constituents attempt to persuade from either heavily academic or pragmatic vantage points. I am grateful for my education because it equipped me with incredible discernment in my chosen career path—an ability to identify policy rooted in sound economic and political theory, which can have a positive, long-standing impact and withstand the political whims of our day. □



Limena
DEL CARPIO

XIMENA DEL CARPIO

Extended Term Consultant
World Bank
Washington, District of Columbia

MPP/MBA, Pepperdine University, 2000
Specialization: International Relations

BS, Business Administration,
Pepperdine University, 1998

The institution I work for envisions “a world free of poverty.” Although this is a simple concept to grasp, the challenges it presents to young economists and policy makers are enormous. I come to work every day knowing that my efforts make a difference in people’s lives and hoping that someday we will fulfill our vision.

The joint MPP/MBA degree from Pepperdine helped me discover the passion I have for economic development through a diverse curriculum and countless interactions with experienced professors. It is empowering to have a broad set of skills that allow you to work in a place that is not only challenging, but also extremely rewarding. □

A man with short brown hair, smiling, is wearing a dark navy blue suit jacket, a light blue dress shirt, and a dark red tie. He is standing on a pier or dock, leaning against a large yellow buoy. In the background, a large grey naval ship is docked, with the number '47' visible on its side. The sky is overcast and grey.

Brian

DRISCOLL

BRIAN DRISCOLL

Special Agent
Naval Criminal Investigation Service
San Diego, California

MPP, Pepperdine University, 2004
Specialization: International Relations
BA, English, Villanova University, 2002

I graduated from the School of Public Policy with a specialization in international relations and I now serve as a special agent with the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) at the Southwest Field Office in San Diego, California. As a federal law enforcement officer, I proudly help to support the NCIS mission to prevent and solve crimes that threaten the warfighters of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps by pursuing three strategic priorities: Prevent Terrorism, Protect Secrets, and Reduce Crime.

The education and experiences that I received at the School of Public Policy have proved invaluable in my developing career. The program provided me with a solid foundation of analytical, leadership, and organizational skills while at the same time placing important emphasis on ethics and a moral fabric necessary to successfully serve our county and its people. □

The Pepperdine School of Public Policy is built on a distinctive philosophy of nurturing leaders to use the tools of analysis and policy design guided by spiritual and ethical principles to effect successful implementation and real change. It prepares graduates for careers as leaders and seeks also to strengthen the institutions which lie between the federal government and the individual, including the family, religious organizations, volunteer associations, local and regional government, and nonprofit organizations.

The campus of Pepperdine University in Malibu, California



