

Introducing the 2022 GSPIA Student Cabinet



Jordyn Kamasa (she/her)

Hello, my name is Jordyn Kamasa and I am the new GSPIA Student Cabinet President! I am a first year MPIA student majoring in Security and Intelligence Studies. When I am not working on my studies, I work for the Ridgway Center managing its social media accounts and co-hosting a podcast Called Bunker's Cable (premiering in the spring). I am also on the student executive board for Women in International Security (WIIS) here at Pitt and manage its social media accounts. In addition, I am part of a Ridgway Center working group currently researching the historical trends and implications of the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan for the FBI. When I am not studying or working, I enjoy playing with

my dog, cooking, listening to music, hanging out with friends, painting, and flower arranging. I look forward to meeting and working with you all soon. Hail to Pitt! My email is JTK50@pitt.edu and my phone number is 215-932-6082.



Evelyn Zamora-Vargas (She/Her)
Vice President

I am a Cuban-American MPIA/SIS student originally from Miami, FL. I am a native Spanish speaker but am also proficient in French and in the process of learning Portuguese. I have a BS in Psychology and a BA in Philosophy from Pitt, alongside certificates in Transatlantic Studies and West European Studies with a specialized focus on France. I completed a yearlong exchange program in Reims, France, at SciencesPo where pursued an additional certificate in Business and Economics. Currently, I am serving on the executive board for the Students of Color Alliance here at GSPIA and I am a member of Women in International Security (WIIS) at Pitt. I have experience working with diverse

communities. I am extremely extroverted and like to engage with my fellow students. I am familiar with Pitt's campus and have many connections within the Pittsburgh community. I actively participate in activities hosted by the university and have met many of my peers, so I understand what their expectations are. I am on campus almost every day and have established a good rapport with the students that frequently visit the lounge. My email is evs8@pitt.edu and my phone number is 305-804-5608.



Katelan Hudson (she/her)
Director of Communications

Hello! My name is Katelan Hudson and I am excited to serve as the Director of Communications for GSPIA Student Cabinet. I am a MPA student and also a Pitt employee as the Admissions and Recruitment Coordinator for the College of Business Administration. I have a Bachelor's in Political Science from an all-women's college, an experience I am glad to say that I have. During my undergraduate career, I served as Class President and am excited to bring my experiences to Pitt. Originally being from South Carolina, the Pittsburgh weather has been quite the adjustment but I have been loving being a part of Pitt. Hail to Pitt! My email is knh50@pitt.edu and my phone number is 803-477-0006.



Chloe Esquivel (she/her)
Director of Equity & Diversity

Chloe Esquivel has spent most of her life in Texas, moving to Pittsburgh this year to continue her educational journey. She received her bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies in 2020, and continues to focus on the region in her studies. As the Director of Equity and Diversity, she hopes to continue initiatives for inclusivity and act as an effective liaison between students and faculty. My email is cie10@pitt.edu and 512-688-7193.



Jessie Biltz (she/her)
Director of Finance

I'm a first year MPIA Human Security major with a minor in Energy and Environment. I'm also a native Pittsburgher and proud of it! This semester I will be interning with the City of Pittsburgh's City Planning office, where I will be working in the Sustainability and Resiliency department. I look forward to serving as the Director of Finance and networking with GSPIA students, faculty, and staff! My email is jcb188@pitt.edu and my phone number is 724-980-4016.



Carla Gomez-Briones (she/her)
International Student Representative

Ecuadorian. Carla is passionate about public and social policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially in gender, economic development, and environmental issues. For the past 5 years, she worked for the United Nations Development Program in Ecuador, Barbados & Eastern Caribbean, and Albania. She is a fellow for the Center for Latin American Studies and a Fulbright Scholar. My email is cag222@pitt.edu and my phone number is 412-990-8551.



Joseph Marlitt (he/him)
MPA Representative

Joseph Marlitt is a graduate student in the Master of Public Administration program at University of Pittsburgh concentrating on Urban Affairs and Planning. He is a native of Portland, Oregon and holds a bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from Whittier College. He is the GSPIA Student Cabinet MPA Representative and Event Coordinator for the Center for Governance and Markets. His research

at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs has centered around land-use development, brownfields, zoning, and how local authorities utilize and value their assets. Professionally, Marlitt has worked in higher education admissions at Linfield University, restaurant consulting, bartending, and opened a bouldering gym. You can often find him fully caffeinated at a coffee shop or spending time in his Homestead home with his fiancé, dog and two cats. My email is jcm179@pitt.edu and my phone number is 503-309-3070.



Kaleigh Dryden (she/her)
MPIA Representative

Kaleigh is a third year joint degree student (JD/MPIA) studying security and diplomacy as related to outer space and national security. Before graduate school, she became a paramedic and got her B.S. in emergency medicine. Since then, Kaleigh has worked in the non-profit and government sectors, as well as with several research centers at GSPIA including the Ridgway Center where she leads a working group, the Center for Metropolitan Studies where she completed her GSPIA internship, and CAASI where she worked with the Police Union Contracts group. She is excited to represent the MPIA students this year and welcomes questions about all things including the

degree program/Pitt, job/internship searching, and conducting research. My email is kan84@pitt.edu and my phone number is 703-626-3358.



Abigail Peace (she/her)
MID Representative

Abigail is currently a third semester student at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, pursuing her Master's in International Development and majoring in Government and International Public Management. During 2022, Abigail will be serving on the GSPIA Student Cabinet as the MID Representative. After graduating from Washington & Jefferson College in 2019, she

joined the Peace Corps and served as a health volunteer in The Gambia for seven months before being evacuated due to COVID-19.

Through previous class as well as hands on experiences, Abigail's current region(s) of interest are West Africa and the United States, with the primary focus being food security and development in both regions. This semester, she will also be interning with the City of Pittsburgh, City Planning Department as a Food Policy Intern.

An interesting fact about Abby is that she was born and raised on a farm in rural Indiana, PA and grew up showing sheep and pigs across the country. Although they've scaled down their operation since she and her sister have grown up, her parents still have an assortment of animals, many of whom came from rescue situations. My email alp243@pitt.edu and my phone number is 724-422-0080.



Erin Miller (she/hers)
MPPM Representative

My name is Erin Miller and I am serving as the 2022 Student Cabinet MPPM Program Representative. I am a full-time staff member at the University, within the School of Social Work, at the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC). I have been in the field of child welfare since 2014, beginning my career working directly with children and families at a local county children and youth agency.

I have been employed at the CWRC for three years as a Quality Improvement Specialist. In this role, our team works collaboratively with the Office of Children, Youth and Families and county children and youth agencies to identify strengths and challenges within child welfare that impact positive outcomes for children and families served by the system. My passion through my work is to provide a voice for some of our most vulnerable populations, while also supporting mechanisms that drive continuous quality

improvement in our child welfare system. My time at GSPIA has provided a wealth of opportunities to further my education and enhance my professional skills. I look forward to connecting with students, faculty, administration, and staff during my time as the MPPM Student Cabinet Representative.

In my personal time, I am actively involved in my church and community and enjoy spending time with my husband and two children. My email is emm208@pitt.edu and my phone number is 717-250-9792.