Dear PACE Students,

Congratulations Class of 2019/2020! We, the School of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement’s (PACE) faculty, are so grateful to have had you as our students and are extremely proud of all you have accomplished. Simply being a student in a PACE program means that you are engaged, and come from a place of concern and caring. Success after graduation does not necessarily mean securing any particular kind of job or starting on any particular career path — it means approaching the world critically, questioning the unexamined, speaking truth to power, and approaching people and problems with sensitivity and empathy. Success of the kind that I am alluding to does not even require sacrifice, but it does entail a devotion or commitment to a certain mode of being. We are in difficult, uncertain times. The impacts of the health crisis and the tragic, deplorable murder of George Floyd cannot and must not be ignored. Feelings of frustration, disappointment, depression, anxiety, anger, and rage are natural, real, and utterly legitimate. Yet, to quote Martin Luther King, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only the light can do that.” So as much as we must grieve and rage, we must also shine some light. Our light comes in the form of recognition of our amazing students, and especially, now, those who are graduating. I know that you, our graduating students, will go out into the world and strive to make it a better place. But don’t feel defeated if you find you can’t change what is around you. As the poet Rumi intoned, “Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.” And having graduated from SFSU, you have done just that. So, go forth knowing that you have the enduring support and gratitude of your professors, a major success under your belts, and the world is at your feet.

Sincerely,
Jasper Rubin, Director, School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement
PACE would like to acknowledge the 2019/2020 graduates and those students who have received special recognition

Recipients of Master of Arts in Gerontology

Mia Enriquez
Emily Ham
Linda Hutchinson
Steven Shewmake

Lorelei Alano Sullivan
Ismael Tellez
Connie Yuen
Kelly Zhu

Recipients of Master of Public Administration

Kathleen Aquino
Jessica Bank
Minji Calderon
Isabel Chalker
Alex Choi
Jenny Choi
Kenny Chu
Jorge Contreras
Lissette de la Rosa
Luis Alberto De Paz Fernandez
Daniel Paz Gabriner
Joshua Halvorson
Andrei Hluski
Daniel L. Keith
Eunice H. Kim
Katelyn Kirk
Maggie Lam
Derrick Lee
Cindy Lin
Richard Lopez-Albinana
Karlyn McCloskey

Katherine Jo McGee
Chelsea McNutt
Jesse R. Medina
Carmelisa Andrade Morales
Rhea Nichole Munoz
Phung Nguyen
Somayeh Nikooei
Darshika Patel
Chris William Thomas Pflaumer
Melissa Plageman
Danilo Quintanilla
Griselda Resendiz
Baldemar Ruppert
Sabreena Sahota
Camarin Sanford
Claire Stone
Faith Tandoc
Sharlana Turner
Michelle Joy Wang

Evan Xu
Recipients of Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies

- Kahlil Brewer
- Heaven Tuyet-Ngoc Bui-Ong
- Francesco Delgado
- Isabel Dow
- Pepper Falcon
- Allison Gomez
- Landon Guzman
- Karina Hammoud
- Kirstin Haverland
- Sonum Kaur
- Rory Lapham
- Madeleine Martin
- Gilbert Jai Martinez
- Tatiana M. Pineda

- Jensen Ponciano
- Eunice Quintanilla
- George Reyes
- Azucena Salas-Esparza
- Alondra Sanchez
- Liri Shabtai
- Alexis Shelton
- Beatriz Smith
- Allison Sotelo
- Seles Tong
- Sara Tuz
- Andrea Zelaya-Mendoza
- Jin Zhu

Recipients of Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies

- Steven Clinton
- Tyler Hodges
- Mercedes Lambing
- Sara Nilsson
- Nina Omomo

- Alicia Phung
- Keana-Lynn Reyes
- Leizel Rivera
- Romika Tirkey
- Sydney Van Wagenen

Recipients of Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning

- Ben Adamo
- Ciana Adams
- Irene Flory Bolds-Hatten
- Sofia Bresciani
- Kimberly Bustos
- Ashley Carskaddon
- Valerie Cuevas

- Akil Jefferson
- Liz Larios
- Omar Larrea
- Robert Letters
- Amy Luna
- Cecelia Mariscal
- Danielle Miranda
College of Health and Social Sciences Undergraduate Hood

Announcement of Awards 2019/2020

Being named college hood is an especially significant honor. This student is selected by the chairs and directors of all of the departments and programs in the college from among the entire body of students graduating in Spring 2020 to represent the college.

Anne Marie Tran

Anne Marie is a remarkable individual who has faced serious health related adversities in her family and who has developed a deep curiosity for the interconnections between urban planning and public health. She is the daughter of immigrants from Vietnam who has embraced her parent's culture by taking care of them and her sibling with special needs.

Anne Marie served as Teaching Assistant for our USP Data Analysis course twice. In this role, she developed lessons on literature reviews and applying concepts such as spatial analysis and thematic mapping to real-world issues and helped students navigate this quantitative methods course with great empathy.

Anne Marie is the recipient of the prestigious Willie L. Brown Jr. Fellowship that placed her at the San Francisco Department of Public Health. She is also the recipient of CHSS’s Professor Morris R. Lewenstein Scholarship (2019).

Anne Marie’s work experience includes three years at Friends of Children with Special Needs where she supported community integration and healthcare literacy among populations under-utilizing services for which they were eligible. Her current role as the occupational health intern for the National Park Service is furthering her public health training. Her work encompasses a variety of assessments and mitigation strategies to reduce risk factors that adversely affect human health and safety. Her role recently
changed to working under the US Public Health Service Officer stationed at Fort Mason for the COVID-19 response.

Anne Marie has been accepted to UC Berkeley’s Master of Public Health program in Environmental Health Sciences.

The School of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement
Distinguished Student Achievement

These graduate and undergraduate students are identified by their programs and departments as exemplary representatives of the college:

Environmental Studies
Karina Hammoud, in recognition of her academic performance.

Alondra Sanchez, in recognition of her service to campus and community. Alondra was an Internal Affairs Liaison for the Environmental Resources Center (ERC) on campus, and worked on food rescues, tabling, writing resolutions, attending AS/Sustainability/Intern meetings, and planning.

Gerontology
Connie Yuen
Connie Yuen maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her graduate studies, belongs to Sigma Phi Omega Gerontology Honor Society, and awarded the 2019 Long-Term Care Administration Scholarship. She served as a Research Assistant in the preparation of a book on Assisted Living Administration and Management, and completed research examining the Chinese culture and how cultural expectations impact family caregivers. Connie has worked in aging services for 18 years; she is passionate about enriching the lives of older adults. She completed the Administrator-in-Training internship, earned the Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) administrator state certification, and now works as the Healthcare Administrator at St. Paul’s Towers.

Public Administration
Katherine Jo McGee
Katie McGee is a Drama and Media teacher at Alta Vista School since 2016. She teaches and designs media and drama curriculum for middle school-age students. She is passionate about art education. She conducted a research on Building Accountability for Comprehensive Arts Programming in California Public Middle Schools. Using data from the United States Census Bureau, the California Department of Education, and The Arts Education Data Project, she found that the higher the socioeconomically disadvantaged, Hispanic and Latino, and Pacific Islander student populations, the less likely it is that a California public middle school provides comprehensive arts programming. Secondly, the higher a district’s median household income or median home value, the more likely it is that a California public middle school provides comprehensive arts programming. She proposed to require that all public schools include information about their VAPA (visual and performing arts) programming on their Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP) and hold local municipalities accountable for providing comprehensive VAPA programming for all of their students.
Phung Ngoc Nguyen
Phung focused her coursework around comparative education and poverty studies to build on her previous MA studies in Equity and Social Justice in Education from SF State. She conducted research that looked at college readiness rates of English language learners in California’s public high schools. Her policy brief analyzed California’s Local Control Funding Formula, culminating in various strategies that the CDE can provide school districts to improve public participation in decision-making. She currently serves as the Lead Admissions Counselor in In the International Undergraduate Admissions Office at SF State.

Christopher William Thomas Pflaumer
Achieving a 4.0 GPA over the course of the program, Chris supported original research in the area of bureaucratic deconstruction and how government systems can be overtly and covertly damaged. This research was presented at the Western Social Science Association Conference in May 2019. As president, vice president and member of the International City/County Management Association Chapter, he organized skills workshops, supported panels and networking events, and ran the chapter’s first service project at St. Anthony’s Dining Hall in the Tenderloin. Chris also represented SFSU at the 2019 NASPAA-Batten student simulation competition.

Melissa Marie Plageman
Melissa is a Pi Alpha Alpha honor society member with a 3.97 GPA. She conducted research on social media influences in civic engagement presented at the Spring 2019 student showcase. She studied abroad in Aarhus, Denmark and Bangkok, Thailand in 2018. Melissa has served as V.P. and President of SFSU’s International City/County Management Association (ICMA) student chapter and is the Communications Officer for SFSU’s Pi Alpha Alpha chapter. She has organized student mentoring events, career workshops, panels, volunteer opportunities, and socials for the MPA and SFSU community. She was a participant of the NASPAA-Batten student simulation competition in 2019 and department nominee in 2020. Melissa currently serves as a student resource and speaker at new student orientations, campus events, and study abroad informational sessions.

Urban Studies and Planning
Akil Jawahar Jefferson, in recognition of his service to the program and the campus. Despite unusually difficult personal circumstances, Akil has always devoted himself to his coursework and to his fellow students. In class, Akil could always be counted on to ask the difficult questions and push his fellow students to think more deeply about course topics. Outside of class, Akil continued to push the envelope of student engagement whether that be through teaching an EXCO class, organizing and supporting his peers, curating online forums on course topics for his classmates, or reaching across the university to find professors who could help him take his learning to the next level. Akil has been an exemplary representative not just of the program, but of the university.

Anne Marie Tran, in recognition of her academic performance.

The School of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement
Barbara Jordon Award
Each year, PACE honor students not only for excellence in academic and other achievement, but also who take time to demonstrate exceptional community and civic engagement. These are students who go the extra mile, and have generously volunteered their time to better their
communities and serve others, and we are often the recipient of their commitment! We call these awards the Barbara Jordan awards to honor the work of the Civil Rights leader, whose passionate service as a US congressperson is credited with expanding voting rights, creating consumer protections, and making banking services more accessible.

**Environmental Studies**

**Isabel Dow**

In spite of financial and family caregiving challenges, Isabel is a caring and involved citizen, giving back to the university and broader community through volunteer work. As evident from her range of volunteer work and professional and/or internship positions, Isabel is committed to the field of environmental studies. One of Isabel’s key strengths is to connect well classroom concepts and out of the classroom practices and experiences. She would constantly bring in her learnings from her habitat restoration internship and volunteering knowledge and experiences in the classroom that enriched student group discussions. In Summer 2019, she was selected for a prestigious habitat restoration internship at Kokee National Forest of Kauai. Finally, and very importantly, Isabel has a strong will and commitment to help others, especially through education. The care and counsel of the environment and others has been the main focus in her life professionally, and personally. Isabel has, for example, worked on beach cleanups, worked with the San Francisco Food bank in packaging food, and worked on community gardening projects. In her classes, Isabel was always prepared to help and support other students. It was obvious that she strived to create a stimulating environment in which all students could learn together.

**Jensen Ponciano**

Jensen transferred to SFSU in the Fall of 2017. She quickly joined the Pacific Islanders Club (PIC), an organization rooted in social justice. Jensen deeply connected with the organization’s mission that “it’s important that we show our solidarity and support communities who are often overlooked just as we are.” In the Fall of 2018, PIC was invited by a group of students organizing a call-to-action to honor the 50th anniversary of the student strike in 1968. This inspired her to work and advocate for communities suffering from injustices much like her own. Last year SFSU held multiple events for Climate week. Jensen marched several miles through the streets of San Francisco alongside activists of all ages and attended the Climate Justice Rally held in the Malcolm X Plaza on campus. She has been active representing the Pacific Islanders Club, speaking for her community and similar communities across the Pacific whose livelihoods are being threatened due to the detriments of climate change. She asserts the importance of speaking out. Her passion and purpose in life and in getting an environmental studies education is to study environmental issues through an ethnic lens that will help bring awareness and justice to her and similar communities.

**Gerontology**

**Emily Ham**

Emily Ham became a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) in anticipation of applying to a graduate nursing program. Instead, Emily started at Sage Eldercare Solutions as a Personal Care Attendant, and has worked directly with clients and residents in skilled nursing and assisted living facilities. Her role with Sage Eldercare Solutions grew after becoming a Care Coordinator to support the Care Management team and their clients. After being recruited to a coordination position within Sage’s Home Care team, her interest in eldercare blossomed.
Ismael Tellez
Ismael Tellez interned with UCSF PREPARE team as a Project Policy Analyst I (Research Program Assistant). He began working with the PREPARE team as a Visiting Scholar in May 2019 to recruit study participants and collect data related to advance care planning and medical decision-making. Ismael provided support on a range of projects related to the advance care planning research program, including participant recruitment and interviews, Spanish translation, advance care planning outreach and PREPARE For Your Care support.

Kelly Zhu
Kelly Zhu served as a Geriatric Care Manager (GCM) intern with ABHOW operating as HumanGood. In its pursuit to redefine the meaning of aging well for adults 55 and older, ABHOW and be.group officially evolved into HumanGood. While the name is new, its mission is not. HumanGood serves about 13,000 residents in 111 communities across California, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Idaho, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Kelly provided assistance in community engagement and volunteered her time to serve the local elderly.

Public Administration
Carmelisa Morales
Carmelisa is an Associate Planner in the City of Daly City’s Economic and Community Development Department. She is interested and passionate about public policy, public service management, and housing. She conducted a research on San Francisco Inclusionary affordable housing program: “Inclusionary Requirements: An Analysis of the Productivity and Effectiveness of San Francisco’s Inclusionary Affordable Housing Program”. With secondary data consisting of all projects in San Francisco with inclusionary requirements submitted from 1988 through 2017, her longitudinal study confirmed that the adoption of the program and its subsequent amendments have not increased the number of below market rate units proposed and constructed in SF. The findings of her study also concluded that there was a significant increase in developers paying the In‐Lieu Fee instead of electing to include BMR units in their projects after the program was adopted.

Gerontology would also like to recognize the following students:
Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Geriatric Care Management Scholarship
Mia Enriquez is a certified RCFE Administrator. For the past 13 years, she has owned and operated Tara Hills Care a 6-bed board and care home for the elderly. Mia has helped improve the lives of residents by developing and managing individualized care plans, connecting them to supports and services, and finding creative solutions so that they are able to live their best life possible. She genuinely finds joy in helping families seek solutions that work for them and one that promotes safety, well-being and quality of life.

Anabel Pelham Gerontology Scholarship
Steven Shewmake is an honorable discharged combat veteran and started his gerontology internship at the VAMC Palo Alto. For more than 60 years, the VAMC Palo Alto has partnered with affiliated colleges and universities across the country to train new health care professionals and enhance Veteran health care. The VAMC conducts the largest medical education effort in the U.S. When COVID-19 started, Steven transitioned his internship to St. Paul’s Towers where he worked with elders in a long-term care community.
Stay in Touch with the School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement!

The School of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement (PACE), is a collaborative interdisciplinary unit of public affairs-oriented scholars that delivers degree programs in Environmental Studies, Gerontology, Public Administration, and Urban Studies and Planning. Students in these programs are immersed in a problem-oriented learning environment that extends beyond the classroom and into the community, the public arena, and the world. Building on an ethos of social justice and sustainability, faculty prepare PACE graduates with the critical and analytical skills necessary to understand and address the issues and challenges of the twenty-first century.

Congratulations, Graduate! You may be receiving your degree and graduating, but we hope to have you as a member of our family for many years to come. Once you graduate, you will no longer be a student but you will become a member of our valued alumni network in The School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE).

The School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement listservs allows current students and alums to stay up to date on current events and opportunities, important dates, career trajectories, etc. Please contact PACE at pace@sfsu.edu and visit pace.sfsu.edu for information on how to subscribe to our listservs.