2013 GW Graduate Profiles

These following students will be available for interviews from 8 - 9 a.m. on the morning of the commencement ceremony and immediately following. To speak with a graduate listed below, please contact Taylor Tibbetts in the Office of Media Relations at 603.714.0775 or taylor_t@gwmail.gwu.edu.

Alexander Zafran  
(student speaker)

Field of Study: Classical Studies  
GW Activities/Organizations: University Honors Program; Phi Beta Kappa; Chabad GW; GW Research Days 2013; Global Colonials Program; Student Alliance for Israel; Wooden Teeth; Strategic Crisis Simulation  
What I'll Miss about GW: The "Colonial Spirit." GW students awake each day with lion-like resolve, impassioned and prepared to succeed academically, professionally, and personally. This is a student body that converts challenges into opportunities and lets nothing get in the way of achievement.  
Advice to the Incoming Class: While at GW, defy and break out of your comfort zones. Delve wholeheartedly into new classes, cultures and adventures that you know nothing about, and become hungry for new knowledge and discovery. Embrace your curiosity and pursue the once-in-a-lifetime experiences that only GW can provide.

Angela Buckner

Field of Study: Law  
Why I pursued a law degree: I was impressed with the analytical skills a legal education provides and – as someone interested in transitioning to a new career – I was attracted to the flexibility of the degree. I knew that I wanted to use my life and work experience to advocate for people, and I wanted the flexibility to advocate in a great variety of fields for a great variety of interests.  
After Graduation: I will work at Nixon Peabody LLP, a law firm in D.C. I will also be an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve JAG Corps. Aside from that, I've recently joined a great public health non-profit organization, HIPS, and I look forward to doing some great work with them.  
GW Activities/Organizations: Black Law Student Association; Evening Law Student Association; LAMBDA, a LGBTQ legal organization; GW Student Bar Association  
Favorite GW Memory: When I attended oral arguments at the Supreme Court with my Federal Courts class.  
Advice to the Incoming Class: Join an organization. Law school – or anything for that matter – is what you make it. Join an organization, get involved, make friends and make connections. Being in D.C. is an invaluable experience. Enjoy your school, enjoy the city and don't let it pass you by. Also, be open to change. Your goals, likes, dislikes and passions will change. Even if you think you're sure, give something else a try. You never know what you'll find.
Dylan Fox

**Field of Study:** Business Economics and Public Policy  
**After Graduation:** Working full-time on my startup, Crowdvance, which makes fundraising for small organizations easy, effective and inexpensive.  
**GW Activities/Organizations:** Sigma Phi Epsilon; Men's Club Lacrosse team  
**What I'll Miss about GW:** Being a student! When you're a student, you have so much time to experiment and try new things, from making new friends and holding different internships to starting a company. There is so much to take advantage of at GW: world class individuals come to campus to give talks every semester, there are hundreds of free events held in D.C., and there are a tremendous amount of opportunities that you can't find elsewhere.  
**Advice to the Incoming Class:** If you're going to mess up, mess up quickly and get it out of the way. Then, focus on putting yourself in the best position possible to become the person you want to be in 10 years.

Ashwin Narla  
(Former Student Association President)

**Major:** Criminal Justice  
**After Graduation:** Teach for America Baltimore Corps Member  
**GW Activities/Organizations:** Student Association; Alternative Breaks; Colonial Inauguration; Intramural Sports; Greek Life  
**Favorite GW Memory:** Having the opportunity to moderate a conversation with Teach for America Founder Wendy Kopp.  
**Advice to the Incoming Class:** This is not the best four years of our lives. While it is fun, there is so much more to learn and explore after graduation. Reflect on the closing of one chapter and embrace the new opportunities of the next one. And always remember to Raise High!

Emily Rasowsky

**Field of Study:** Economics  
**After Graduation:** Project leader and co-founder of Ascension, a program funded by the Knapp Fellowship for Entrepreneurial Service Learning. Ascension provides yoga therapy for college students that are survivors of sexual violence and conducts research on the effects of yoga as trauma therapy.  
**GW Activities/Organizations:** President and co-founder, GW Students Against Sexual Assault; GW Bound; Student Health and Wellness Committee; GW's Title IX Taskforce; Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities; Alpha Delta Pi Sorority; GW STAR Tours  
**What I'll Miss about GW:** I will miss the students, administrators and mentors with whom I’ve built lasting relationships. These individuals have truly expanded my perception of what is possible and have challenged me to grow as a person and as a leader.  
**Advice to the Incoming Class:** Don’t question your instincts, even if they lead you somewhere you never thought you’d go. If you feel passionate about something and know you can make a difference – then do it!
Stefanie Sacknoff

**Field of Study:** Physician Assistant Studies  
**Why I chose GW:** When I interviewed at GW, I felt like the faculty and current students were very interested in getting to know the candidates and the experiences that brought them to the physician assistant profession. I felt very comfortable here, and I knew the program had a great reputation focusing on patient advocacy, leadership and serving the community.  
**After Graduation:** I hope to move back to San Diego, Calif. and work in Hematology/Oncology and stem cell transplant. I have a very strong connection with the San Diego community and the many selfless blood donors, medical professionals, family and friends who supported me through my illness.  
**What I'll Miss about GW:** Walking to class everyday, I would look down Virginia Ave. and see the Washington Monument. It was always a nice way to start my morning.  
**Advice to the Incoming Class:** The program can feel completely unmanageable at times but the end result is very rewarding. Just keep moving forward and remember you can do anything for two years!

Meredith Waters

**Field of Study:** Public Health  
**After Graduation:** I will be enrolling in GW's Masters of Health Services Administration program in the fall. I will also be a Presidential Administrative Fellow for the university.  
**GW Activities/Organizations:** GW Alternative Breaks; Women's Leadership Program; House Staff; Senior Interviewer for the Admissions Office; Dean's Council for Multicultural Recruitment; Student Association  
**Favorite GW Memory:** Sledding and playing in the snow with my friends during the 2010 Snowpocalypse, which happened in my freshman year. We had a week without classes and that week was the first time I felt at home in D.C. and at GW.  
**Advice to the Incoming Class:** I think Mark Twain said it best: “Never let school get in the way of your education.” The GW experience is so much more than taking classes and being involved in student organizations. Foster meaningful relationships with your peers and get to know D.C. and the world. Get out of your comfort zone and don't be afraid to be who you are.