



2024
Washington
Week
March 11–13



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

**CROWN FAMILY SCHOOL
OF SOCIAL WORK, POLICY,
AND PRACTICE**

Advancing a More Just and Humane Society

2024 Washington Week

March 11-13



Contact

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The University of Chicago
Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice
969 E. 60th St. | Chicago, IL 60637 | United States of America

Monday, March 11th Events

8:30AM - 11:00AM Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW

White House Fellows:

Mariah Sklyr AM '18, Bryan Smith, William Godwin

This is an opportunity to hear from three rising leaders—all UChicago alumni—who are helping lead federal agencies. They will discuss how their focus on equity has prepared them for senior roles in government.

11:30AM - 12:30PM Lunch

1:00PM - 2:00PM Council of Institutional Investors
1730 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Room 275
(UChicago)

James Crowe, AM '17, Research Manager

CII educates members, and the public, about best corporate governance practices. James serves as staff liaison to the CII board committee responsible for developing and updating CII's policy positions. James will focus his presentation on his career path, how to make career tradeoffs, and information specific to the DC area.

4:00PM - 5:00PM Office of National Drug Control Policy,
Executive Office of the President
1800 G Street NW
9th Floor

Peter Gaumont, AM '93, Senior Policy Analyst President Crown Alumni Association Board

Peter works to develop drug control policy and coordinates implementation across federal agencies. Specifically, Peter focuses on expanding recovery support services workforce and organizational infrastructure, eliminating barriers to recovery, reducing stigma and increasing substance use literacy.

Peter will focus on his career journey from Crown to today and will speak to the world in the federal government and executive office developing and implementing policy across federal agencies.

6:00PM - 8:00PM Welcome Reception Kick Off
Hotel Zena
1155 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20005

Please join us for drinks and light bites as we kick off Washington Week, the Crown Family School's annual Career and Leadership Development program. Catch up with fellow alumni and connect with current students who are exploring career paths and opportunities in the Washington, D.C. area.

Tuesday, March 12th Events

10:00AM-11:30AM National Association of Social Workers
750 First Street NE
Suite 800

Sarah Butts, Director of Public Policy
Dina Kastner, Public Policy and Advocacy Manager
Ja'Bree Harris, Public Policy and Advocacy Manager
Sarah, Dina, and Ja'Bree will present on NASW's policy portfolio, recent success, and opportunities. They will also cover information about their career trajectories and ways to get involved with policy practice and/or Macro careers.

12:00PM-1:00PM Lunch

2:00PM-4:00PM Department of Transportation
Presentation Location:
250 M St SE

Carlos Monje, Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy
Under Secretary Monje will give us a tour of the Transportation Department (the government's most interactive, engaging building) and then discuss with us how the Biden Administration is distributing funds through the Inflation Reduction Act to help our nation's most underserved communities.

Wednesday, March 13th Events

8:30AM - 11:00AM East Wing White House Tour

11:00AM - 12:00PM Fairfax County Government
1730 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Room 275
(UChicago)

Jennifer Van Ee, AM '11 Deputy Legislative Director
Jennifer is a lobbyist on behalf of Fairfax County, who builds relationships with state legislators and other localities to advance Fairfax County priorities. Jennifer's advocacy topics include elections, courts and criminal justice reform, budget, and general processes.

11:30AM-12:30PM Lunch

1:30PM - 2:30PM Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
455 Massachusetts Ave NW

Abra Lyons-Warren, AM '13, MPP '13, Director of Cross-Sector Initiatives
Abra currently leads the Housing Is Initiative, an effort aimed at better aligning housing with other sectors like education and health to improve life outcomes for low-income individuals and families. Abra will talk about what she does, the different skills needed for this work, her favorite classes at Crown and Harris, and job hunting in D.C. from Chicago.

3:30PM-4:30PM US Department of Health and Human Services,
Administration for Children and Families
330 C Street SW
4th Floor

Maggie Quinn, AM '10, Associate Deputy Director
Maggie provides strategic and operational direction for the Office of Child Care, in partnership with the Director and Deputy Director. She oversees policy, federal administration budget, tribal, process improvement, data systems, and staffing activities.

6:00PM-7:30PM Group Reflection Gathering
1730 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Room 275

Informational Interviews

Students can choose from alumni in various sectors to meet for Informational Interviews while in DC. The career experiences range from direct practice, to social administration, policy, academia, and government.

Lindsay Bostwick, AM '07

Title: Statistician, Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics

Bio: After 6 years of working as a research and policy analyst for the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, Lindsay earned a PhD in Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, and subsequently worked for the non-profit Justice Research and Statistics Association. As a statistician with the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Lindsay is responsible for overseeing and creating new national criminal justice data collections and conducting research and analysis. Lindsay also writes policy recommendations, reports, and presents policy-relevant research findings.

Peter Gaumond, AM '93

Title: Senior Policy Analyst, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President

Bio: When Peter began at Crown, he intended to follow the clinical pathway. He started his current career path working in state government, then moved to consultation, and eventually, federal government. Peter works to develop drug control policy and coordinates implementation across federal agencies. Peter focuses on expanding recovery support services workforce and organizational infrastructure, eliminating barriers to recovery, reducing stigma and increasing substance use literacy. Peter is also the President Crown Alumni Association Board.

Dr. Jeffrey Glick, AM '75

Title: Professor, McCourtSchool of Public Policy, Georgetown University

Bio: Until his retirement in the summer of 2019, Dr. Glick was a Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications in the Department of Homeland Security. He was responsible for review of federal cybersecurity preparedness and response capabilities in regards to major cyber events. Dr. Glick is an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University, and a Professor of Practice at Virginia Tech.

David Manolof, AM '21

Title: Bilingual Therapist for Ayuda, Social Services

Bio: Before relocating to Washington DC, David worked as a bilingual therapist for a year on the North West side of Chicago. Now, at Ayuda, David provides individual and group therapy services in Spanish and English, develops individualized service and treatment plans, and offers clinical recommendations and advocacy for clients. Ayuda is a non-profit that, for the past 50 years, has been providing Legal and social services to immigrants that have been a victim of a crime in the US.

Marilee Muirhead, AM '03

Title: Senior Policy Analyst, Integrated Resilience, Department of Air Force

Bio: Marilee has experience providing clinical and prevention services at all levels of education: middle school, high school, and university. Marilee then became a clinician for the federal government, before transitioning to policy work. Marilee is currently a senior policy analyst in prevention of interpersonal and self-directed violence, harmful behaviors, sexual assault, harassment, suicide, substance abuse.

Marion Scotchmer, AM '07

Title: Chief Operating Officer, Community Connections

Bio: Marion has over 16+ years working at Community Connections in various roles of leadership: Clinical Case Manager, Supervisor, Director, and now Chief Operating Officer. Community Connections provides behavioral health, residential services, and primary health care for clients coping with mental illness, addiction, and the aftermath of trauma and abuse.

Jennifer Van Ee, AM '11

Title: Deputy Legislative Director, Fairfax County Government

Bio: Jennifer has worked as a federal contractor, training on justice issues serving victims of crime. She also provided intake and counseling services while working at an international adoption agency. Jennifer is currently a lobbyist on behalf of Fairfax County, who builds relationships with state legislators and other localities to advance Fairfax County priorities. Jennifer's advocacy topics include elections, courts and criminal justice reform, budget, and general processes.

Melissa Wade, AM '05

Title: Managing Director of Mental Health, KIPP DC

Bio: Melissa served as a school social worker in the south side of Chicago from 2005-2012 at the elementary through high school levels. From 2012-2014, she served as the Dean of Student Supports at the high school level. Once she moved back to the DC area in 2014, she continued work in the role as Director of Student Support at KIPP DC in their flagship high school. In 2016, she was promoted to Social Work Manager, and then to the Managing Director of Mental Health in 2020. As Managing Director, she oversees the mental health and behavioral supports across KIPP DC's network of eighteen public charter schools, pre-k through 12th grade.

Student Profiles



Sarina Balraj (she/her)

Year and Program: 2nd Year A.M. Full Time, Clinical Concentration

Career Aspirations: Post-grad I will be working with justice impacted young people at Storycatcher's Theatre's Changing voices program. I aspire to grow in my clinical skills as a therapist, build meaningful relationships with those I work with, and engage in advocacy to better unjust systems. I am interested in spending my career exploring the way that we tell stories and how those stories impact our understandings of who is deserving of our compassion.



Christopher Barsotti (he/him)

Year and Program: 2nd Year A.M. Full Time, Social Administration

Career Aspirations: I am still considering a career path. I am very interested in policy and advocacy work and could see myself as a policy analyst at a nonprofit or even working in government. I would also be interested in research based program management on a more direct service mezzo level.



Maya Bauer (she/her)

Year and Program: 1st Year SSL Full-Time

Career Aspirations: I am interested in mission-driven social sector leadership within the arts, social impact, or philanthropy. I came to Crown to engage the intellectual rigor to amplify and deepen my impact. Mid-career, with 15 years of professional experience in organizational development and leadership in public health, equity, social impact nonprofit, and government I'm excited to work generatively, strategically, and creatively to solve intractable social problems and create a better world. I have realized that, as somewhat of a generalist, I thrive working on a range of projects and issues and have developed robust skills to support this adaptability.



Muaz Chaudhry (they/them/he/his)

Year and Program: 2nd Year SSL/MPP Dual Degree

Career Aspirations: Nonprofit Management/Social Sector Consulting/ DEI/Research



Alec Chavez (he/him)

Year and Program: 2nd Year EEP, Social Administration

Career Aspirations: I'm not entirely sure at the moment of my career path, but I really want to work in advocacy and policymaking, maybe lean in to public service. I also know I want to focus on addressing a few issue areas: immigration, housing, voting and civil rights, and education. My field is at the Latino Policy Forum, so I have more experience with policy at the moment. I really care about making a positive impact on society.



Diego Garcia Montes de Oca (he/him)

Year and Program: 1st Year A.M. Full Time, Clinical Concentration

Career Aspirations: I want to restart the CMH Act of 1963. Rather, find a way to create mental health clinics that address specific issues to different neighborhoods in Chicago. There are community funded organizations that have created great impact to individuals- yet there could be more federal money. Much more federal money. To that end, I want to have at least a decade of direct practice experience and engage in local politics. At some point, I would like to become a father.



Ayan Hassan (she/her)

Year and Program: 1st Year A.M. Full Time, Social Administration

Career Aspirations: I am still not 100% sure but I am interested in advocacy through social policy advocacy and program evaluation. I have many interests including in housing, immigration, and the criminal justice system.

Student Profiles



Manya Kapur (she/her)

Year and Program: 2nd Year A.M. Full Time, Clinical Concentration

Career Aspirations: I aspire to provide evidence-based, culturally sensitive mental health treatment and interventions, especially working with underserved populations where stigmatization and ostracization systematically inhibit intervention, service provision or reform efforts (e.g. incarceration, homelessness & substance use). I hope to develop my clinical competency in skillfully and ethically delivering strength-based and trauma-informed care, geared towards empowering individuals towards self-actualization, achieving their goals, and reaching their potential. I am especially interested in providing therapeutic services to individuals and communities involved with violence, crime and incarceration working within the framework of a continuum of care model to ease rehabilitation and re-entry.



Esther Kim (she/her)

Year and Program: 1st Year ADV, Social Administration

Career Aspirations: I hope to work in workforce development on federal, state, or county systems levels, as well as with community based and grassroots organizations. I intend to see this aspiration through after my time at Crown through first working client, individual or program coordination jobs at workforce development organizations in Chicago, and then apply that crucial knowledge to macro-systems levels positions. I hope my work will be an interdisciplinary application of all I've learned at the University of Chicago-- from data analysis to intergroup dialogue and motivational interviewing. Ultimately, I hope to return home to O'ahu to contribute to rebuilding a thriving economy that serves Native Hawaiian and locals.



Nia Lennan (she/her)

Year and Program: 2nd Year A.M. Full Time, Clinical Concentration

Career Aspirations: My desired career path includes opportunities that will assist in the forward movement of those who are disadvantaged and/or experiencing suffering. Whether that is carried out through clinical practice or policy analysis and implementation, that is my north star.



Shiyu Lin (she/her)

Year and Program: 1st Year A.M. Full Time, Social Administration

Career Aspirations: I am an international student from Mainland China. I will keep working in the nonprofit sector and focusing on Asian Americans if I can work in the US. In the long term (5-10 years later), I plan to come back to my hometown (in Fujian or Hunan province) in China to explore the possibility of community-level social work.



Ronald Lizcano (he/him)

Year and Program: 1st Year SSL Part-Time

Career Aspirations: After graduating from the University of Chicago and the Crown School, I am excited to advance my career in LGBTQ+ civil rights, focusing primarily on policy work. My time at Crown has provided me with a strong foundation in social sector leadership, fueling my passion to advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. I aspire to play a significant role in developing and executing policies that ensure equality, safeguard rights, and tackle the distinct challenges LGBTQ+ individuals encounter.



Simran Nanda (she/her)

Year and Program: 2nd Year A.M. Full Time, Social Administration

Career Aspirations: I intend to work in Child and Family Policy and Youth Development. I consider myself to be a mezzo practitioner and wish to pave a career path at the intersection of policy advocacy and community organizing. For the coming year, I wish to work in Chicago, IL.



Bisola-Mariam Obinyan (she/her)

Year and Program: 1st Year A.M. Full Time, Clinical Concentration

Career Aspirations: Upon graduating from Crown, I plan to pursue a law degree (parttime) in the DC area, while also expanding the reach of ideyforyou (a life coaching and creating consulting company) in Africa and in the United States.

Student Profiles



Urvi Patel (she/her)

Year and Program: 1st Year A.M. Full Time

Career Aspirations: As I navigate through the dynamic career landscape, my ambition extends beyond the immediate horizon of my 20s. I aspire to transition into the realm of socially administrative work, leveraging my experiences and skills to contribute to broader systemic change. Setting my sights on a globally significant organization, the United Nations. The UN (specifically UNICEF) stands out as the epitome of my professional aspirations, representing the nexus where my passion for social well-being converges with the vast potential for positive change on a global scale.



Tushi Patel (she/her)

Year and Program: 1st Year A.M. Full Time, Clinical Concentration

Career Aspirations: I'm a little unclear about the trajectory of my career in social work, however I am interested in both clinical and social administrative practices on a mezzo scale. My interests within this career range from migrant rights, education, human rights, and ecological/environmental justice. I'm interested in elevating different forms of knowledge and narratives of marginalized groups through storytelling, i.e. film. Overall, I aspire to integrate ecological justice within my practice as a social worker by understanding, addressing, and mitigating the consequences of climate change and building resilience. Following my time at Crown, I hope to continue to learn and expand my skills and knowledge with a Ph.D. in International Human Rights.



Sheibani Patel (she/her) (Not Pictured)

Year and Program: 2nd Year ADV



Quinn Pennington (they/them) (Not Pictured)

Year and Program: 2nd Year MPP/MSW Dual Degree

Career Aspirations: Quinn (they/them) is a dual degree MPP/MSW student. They are passionate about the need for programs, policies, and policymaking processes to be trauma-responsive. While this need spans policy areas, Quinn is particularly focused on public health, environmental justice, and disaster recovery. Complementing their clinical focus on trauma, resiliency, and recovery, Quinn's policy skillset includes communications and program evaluation.



Madeleine Phelan (she/her)

Year and Program: 1st Year SSL Full-Time, Social Administration

Career Aspirations: I hope to continue my work in the field of educational equity and child-related non-profit work.



Doria Qu (Not Pictured)

Year and Program: 1st Year SSL Full-Time



Lilah Ravinuthala (she/her) (Not Pictured)

Year and Program: 2nd Year A.M. Full Time



Andrea Rivera-Martinez (she/her)

Year and Program: 2nd Year EEP, Social Work, Social Policy, and Social Administration

Career Aspirations: Andie aspires to pursue a career in policy, research, and community work to improve the socioeconomic mobility of underserved groups and disinvested communities in Chicago and in her native Puerto Rico. She is particularly interested in community-engage research methods and participatory planning and policymaking, approaches she wants to guide her praxis. Currently, she is interning as a Research Intern at UChicago's Inclusive Economy Lab, where she supports the team in analyzing data to understand the impact of the Chicago Resilient Communities Pilot and the Cook County Promise Guaranteed Income Pilot, a steppingstone for the type of work she envisions to do after graduating. She hopes to return back to her home country to work in, for, and alongside communities for systemic changes that would create better socioeconomic development opportunities and quality of life on the Island.

Student Profiles



Anusha Somani (she/her)

Year and Program: 2nd Year A.M. Full Time, Social Administration

Career Aspirations: I'm hoping to take positions/role in policy and research. I'd like to work on bridging the gap between research findings and policy implementation. The sector I'm broadly interested is justice reform and policy.



Juliet Stills (she/her)

Year and Program: 1st Year A.M. Full Time, Social Administration

Career Aspirations: I am still exploring different career paths within the Social Administration pathway. I enjoy working with children and program planning, however, advocacy work is also a passion of mine, so I am exploring the community organizing and policy work arena in my second-year field placement.



Michael Winters (he/him)

Year and Program: 2nd Year A.M. Full Time, Social Administration

Career Aspirations: After graduation, I hope to work in Chicago as a community organizer and partner with organizations that engage marginalized communities impacted by the criminal legal system.



Ben Zhang (he/him)

Year and Program: 1st Year SSL Full-Time

Career Aspirations: International NGO or foundations

Bio: A film producer from China turned graduate student for nonprofit management, naively, and a little bravely, hoping to contribute to social justice.



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