

Graduate Program in  
Economic Development

NEWSLETTER

Congratulations,  
graduates!



## *A Bittersweet Ending!*

We're ecstatic for our graduates who hail from the following countries: China, India, Lithuania, Nepal, Pakistan, South Korea, and the United States. Welcome to the GPED alumni family!



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# MESSAGE FROM GPED DIRECTOR, DR. KATHRYN ANDERSON

Hello, GPED alumni and friends!

Graduation is just around the corner, and we have to say goodbye to another fantastic class of GPED students. This year has been full of activity. Our entering class was large -- 28 students from eight countries.

We had visits and seminars through the GPED Forum from five GPED alumni: (1) H.E. Mr. Dian Triansyah Djani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations from the Republic of Indonesia (class of 1991); (2) Khaliungoo (Hailey)

Ganbat, Centerragold Mining Company, Mongolia (class of 2017); (3) Wondimu (Wondi) Manalew, Ph.d. candidate 2019, Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis (class of 2014); (4) Rebecca West, L.E.T.S. Play, Chile and the US (class of 2014); and (5) Enver Guney, Managing Director, Head of the Executive Committee and a Board Member of Uni-Mar Energy Investments, Ankara, Turkey (class of 1987). A sixth Forum visitor was Damir Esenaliev, an economist from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Sweden. All of our visitors gave excellent presentations to the group and met with students individually and at happy hour. We love to showcase our graduates and demonstrate to the current students how a Master's degree in economics from Vanderbilt can help you develop a successful career.

We had a second great experience through our Research Seminar with a Field Experience. This year, we went to Chile during spring break; 13 students went with Professor Andrade and me. Amalia Lucena (class of 1995) helped set up our meetings and travel, and we appreciate all of her efforts for our group. We met with officials who managed poverty programs in Chile, and more importantly, we interacted with beneficiaries and social workers. We learned so much about how these programs actually work in practice. You cannot get this information from journal articles.

We welcomed last summer the newest member to our GPED staff -- Kelly Erdman. Kelly took the lead in revamping our social media activities. I hope you all follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. You can also access on YouTube several videos from first and second-year students. Check them out! I think these videos are really good and explain, better than I can, what a GPED experience can do for you. Thank you to all of our students who helped us this year with our social media presence. And thank you Sharon Wallace, Kelly Erdman, Professor Ben Eden, Professor Ana Regina Andrade, and Professor Eun Jeong Heo for your hard work during the admissions process. Our admission date ended on April 15, and it looks like we will have another large incoming class! It will be a challenge to keep up with so many interesting and really smart students.



**Continued**

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## MESSAGE FROM DR. ANDERSON (CONTINUED)

I will direct the GPED for the next two years and then -- retirement is calling. My son married on May 4 and there is always hope for grandchildren. Kelly is getting married in July to Daniel Limina. We actually pulled off a surprise bridal party for her this spring. What a happy start to the new year for both of us!!



Thank you all for your support over the years to the students in our program, other alums, and to the GPED staff. And if you are in the United States on business or for a vacation, I hope that you will come to Nashville for a visit. We are a booming, fun city -- not just for country music any more!!

## Graduate Spotlights



**Jinho An, South Korea**

Following graduation, Jinho plans to return to South Korea with his family and continue his work with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy as the Deputy Director.



**Chulmin "CM" Choi, South Korea**

After graduation, CM plans will go back to his role as a Director with the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.



**Rūta Dėlkutė, Lithuania - December 2018 Graduate**

Ruta Delkute returned to her previous company, Public Policy and Management Institute (PPMI), in a new role as a Public Policy Researcher in Vilnius, Lithuania.





**Shatakshi Gupta, India**

Shatakshi has accepted a fully-funded Ph.D. offer at George Washington University to further her studies in Economics. Congratulations, Shatakshi!



**Dinesh Karki, Nepal**

Dinesh has an offer to continue his employment with Preverity, Inc. He worked with this company during the last year under Curricular Practical Training (CPT) at Vanderbilt.



**Jiatong Li, China**

Jiatong will be continuing her studies at Vanderbilt in the Economics doctoral program, fully-funded. Congratulations, Jiatong!



**Mingke Li, China**

Mingke has a job offer and will be returning to China to start this position.



**Yuzhi "Zack" Lin, China**

Zack will be working as a Statistical Research Specialist with the State of Tennessee Department of Revenue.



**Moonki Min, South Korea**

Moonki will return to his position of Deputy Director within the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of South Korea.



**Laura Nettuno, United States**

Laura is continuing her studies at Vanderbilt University in the Economics doctoral program, fully-funded. Congratulations, Laura!



**Shanren "Jasper" Pan, China**

Jasper is continuing his studies in the doctoral program for Finance, for which he received a fully funded offer at Rutgers University. Congratulations, Jasper!



**Hina Sherwani, Pakistan - December 2018 Graduate**

Hina has accepted an offer as a Research Analyst in Washington D.C. with Impact International.



**Sahesha Upadhyay, Nepal**

Sahesha has accepted an offer with Acumen, LLC as a Data and Policy Analyst in Washington, D.C. Congratulations, Sahesha!



**Jiaqi Wang, China**

Jiaqi is continuing his studies at the University of Connecticut in the Economics Ph.D. program, fully-funded. Congratulations, Jiaqi!

**Congratulations to all graduates! You will be missed.**

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## Interdisciplinary Engagement: Turner Family Center (TFC)

During the spring semester, three GPED students participated in the Project Pyramid course, an interdisciplinary program open to all graduate students at Vanderbilt through the Owen Graduate School of Management that "uses in-classroom and hands-on learning experiences to meaningfully engage with socially conscious organizations across the globe, while establishing market-driven solutions that help fulfill their missions."

First-year student Hana Bacaj and second-year students Shatakshi Gupta and Sahesha Upadhyay were selected through the competitive application process. The international immersion component of the course took them to three different countries for 1 week over spring break in March of 2019. Hana traveled to Ecuador, Shatakshi went to Greece and Sahesha visited Ethiopia.

Hana was part of a consultancy project for an Ecuadorian social enterprise - Waykana, a winner of the Sustainable Development Goals Pitch Prize competition at a UN Conference. Waykana sells organic energy tea and aims to scale up sales in the United States. Hana served as leader of an interdisciplinary team that evaluated multidimensional poverty in the tea sector in Ecuador. The team met with representatives from organizations such as Pro Ecuador, Endeavor, and TaxFirm and examined the public-private ecosystem that enables the promotion of Waykana beyond national borders. The team provided marketing research on U.S. trends in tea, superfoods and healthy foods that will help Waykana determine consumer preferences in these domains and strategies to target U.S. consumers on social media to create an active and loyal, digital community that Waykana can leverage for future U.S. operations.



**“Being part of this project during the spring semester was an excellent opportunity for me to gain practical skills in international development and social impact.” -Hana**



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## TFC (Continued)



Shatakshi was part of an interdisciplinary team that consulted with Welcommon Hostel to make the enterprise more self-sustainable and efficient in their social programming. Welcommon Hostel is a social enterprise located in Athens, Greece which invests its revenue from the hostel customers into social integration programs for the refugees in Greece. The hostel brings in student volunteers from other countries and the local Greek community and runs social activities like Greek and English language classes, cooking and dancing activities. The hostel is a center for social and job integration for Greek locals, migrants and refugees. Shatakshi and her team stayed at the Hostel for a week and witnessed the operation of these programs. After talking with the students, volunteers and the other key stakeholders involved, Shatakshi gained an in-depth perspective on the poverty and difficulties in the lives of migrant populations and the reluctance and hurdles involved in their social integration. The team learned how the Hostel makes a difference in the lives of refugees and will provide the organization with recommendations and resources to improve program operation in the future.



**“Immersive, experiential learning opportunities like this one, combined well with traditional classroom education, created a rich growth experience for me.” -Shatakshi**



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## TFC (Continued)

**"Working with other graduate students from various disciplines at Vanderbilt was another unique aspect of the experience; I gained different perspectives on tackling the common issue of “poverty” and creating a social impact through the experience." -Sahesha**



Sahesha's team of four students spent the first week of March in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They worked with a social enterprise named Damascenes that produces essential oils from herbs produced by women farmers in Bonga. Sahesha spent the week meeting Damascene's partners and observing the production plant. She also visited several NGOs and consulting companies that provide support to the organization. Towards the end of the week, they shared their experience and knowledge in the area of social enterprise at an event with an audience of 20-30 individuals from Damascene's network.

The trip was a valuable opportunity to gain insight into the entrepreneurial ecosystem of Ethiopia. Sahesha was excited to learn that the idea of social entrepreneurship is gaining prominence and the country is moving from the traditional aid-based model towards a more sustainable, community-led model of development through social enterprises.





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# Interdisciplinary Engagement: Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health

Over the past several years, GPED students have taken advantage of the opportunity to earn a graduate certificate in Global Health. Congratulations to second-year students Hina Sherwani and Mingke Li, who completed the certificate this past fall and spring respectively.

First-year GPEDer from Indonesia, Johan Kasim, and Mingke Li participated in the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health Case Competition in February. The Global Health Case Competition is an opportunity for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from diverse disciplines and backgrounds to collaborate in developing innovative solutions to a global health problem.

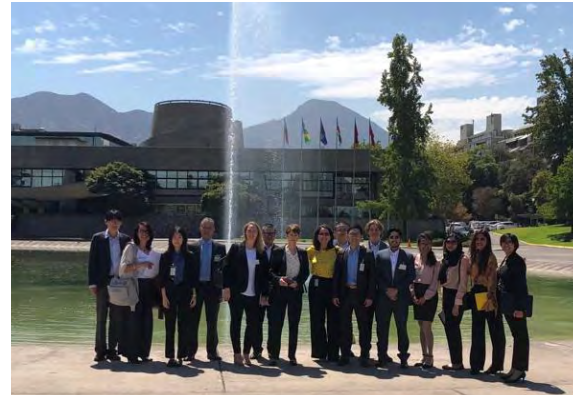
Johan was part of the multidisciplinary team – consisting of graduate students from the medical school, public health, and economics as well as undergraduate students majoring in biology and chemical engineering – that later represented Vanderbilt at the International Emory Global Health Case Competition held at Emory University in March. They received a case related to post-natural-disaster action strategy, specifically in the case of cyclones and hurricanes. The Vanderbilt team chose to focus on Mexico, and their solution was to use the Mobile Unit Surgical Trailer (MUST) in collaboration with local governments. They pinpointed several units of MUST that could be easily and reliably deployed in high-risk states, and they also created a command system that was aligned with the Mexican national reaction team. Though the Vanderbilt team did not win (the University of Melbourne took home first place), Johan gained invaluable insight from being part of the Vanderbilt team. "It's been a truly priceless experience for me working with an amazing team. We received so much support from students outside the team and disaster experts."



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# Fieldwork Trip - Chile

## March 2019



In the research seminar with a field experience (ECON 7930), 12 students examined poverty and vulnerability in Chile and evaluated the impact of two anti-poverty programs (Chile Solidario and Ingreso Etico Familiar). This seminar combined in-class instruction with field experience in Chile to learn about these two innovative anti-poverty programs and to examine their impact. The field research component was partially funded by the GPED, which allowed students to observe the implementation of these programs and witness their impact on the lives of the extremely poor and socially excluded. By using their analytical capabilities and communication skills, students had the opportunity to interview beneficiaries of these programs in their own communities and exchange knowledge with policymakers, students, academics, and agents who design, implement, and evaluate the impact of such programs.

In the first part of the course, students were organized into groups of three. Each group summarized the main features of both programs and created a literature review on published reports and findings. Students used CASEN datasets to manipulate and estimate multi-dimensional poverty and measures of inequality and to develop a profile of the extremely poor. Each group wrote a report on their main findings about poverty and inequality in Chile at the regional level and across different demographic groups.

During the mid-semester trip to Chile, the students met with the beneficiaries, social workers and officials from different organizations and agencies that design, implement, monitor and evaluate these programs. Furthermore, each group collected primary data by interviewing the beneficiaries, social workers, students and leaders from NGOs and international organizations about the challenges, priorities and solutions. Students learned about the complexity of policy design, implementation, and evaluation and the importance of inter-agency cooperation for the development of effective anti-poverty programs. The students also had the opportunity to enjoy tourism activities while in Chile, including a visit to the South of Chile in Puerto Montt and the Island of Chiloe.

When they returned from Chile, the students organized and analyzed the information collected during the field research visit. Each group estimated the family's intensity of poverty, poverty head-count, and their multi-dimensional poverty index (MPI). Based on both primary and secondary data, the students estimated the degree to which Chile Solidario reached and Ingreso Ético Familiar is reaching their targeted population. Students reported Chile's current development challenges, priorities, and policy recommendations from different points of views: beneficiaries, social workers, NGOs, academics, administrators, policy makers, and policy evaluators. Based on the field experience and knowledge learned in the first segment of the course, each group of students prepared a country report of their main findings. They will facilitate a presentation at the GPED forum seminar series in the Fall 2019 semester.

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# Fieldwork Trip - Chile



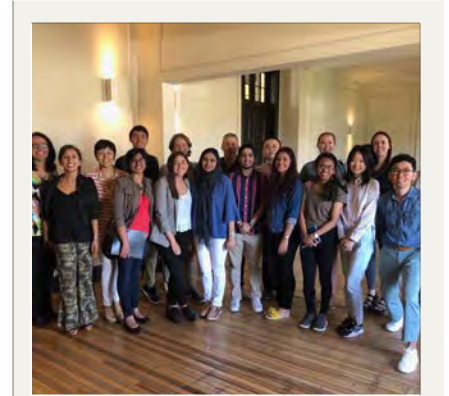
Exploring the fishing industry in the south of Chile



Professor Andrade and Dr. Anderson with local guide and GPED alumna, Amalia Lucena Rincones



At the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean headquarters



Group picture following a meeting with beneficiaries



Interviewing beneficiaries of all ages with the help of translators



Everyone learning about the various industries in Puerto Montt



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# Professional Development

Since 2017, the GPED has offered to help its students attend one approved professional conference, workshop, or other activity during their studies in the GPED. Students are often able to combine GPED funding with other sources of campus funding to have their complete costs covered. Recipients are required to submit an experience report that highlights what they learned at the conference or event and how it is useful to their educational program at Vanderbilt and career goals. In addition, the GPED has introduced an internship course in which students may enroll if they wish to have an internship listed on their transcript or if international students need to be enrolled in an academic course for the purpose of Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Academic Training (AT).

**This academic year, the GPED has supported the learning experiences of the following students:**

- Shatakshi Gupta, Young Scholars Initiative North America Regional Convening, Los Angeles, CA, 2019
- Dinesh Karki, Preverity Inc. Internship (CPT).

## Young Scholars Initiative North America Regional Convening

Shatakshi was invited to present her research work at the YSI Regional Convening for North America, held in Los Angeles, CA from February 22nd - 24th, 2019. The YSI is an international community comprised of students, young professionals and researchers. YSI is supported by the Institute for New Economic Thinking in New York.

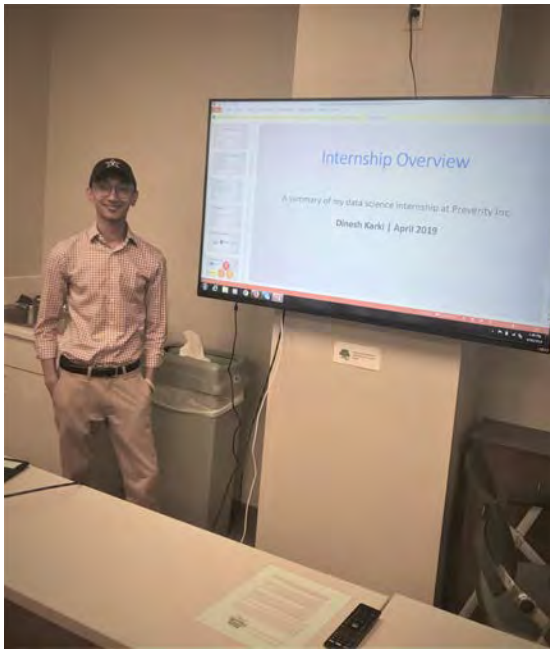
Shatakshi is a member of the Gender and Economic Working Group of the YSI and presented her research on “What the Future Holds for Missing Women: Evidence from India”. The convening was a great opportunity for Shatakshi to present her ideas to and receive feedback from accomplished scholars and mentors. She was also able to network with other students who approach economic problems from different disciplinary perspectives.

Shatakshi met with other young scholars from other regions, attended keynote speeches from prominent economists such as Nobel Prize winner George Akerlof (pictured below), and received feedback on her work from renowned feminist economist Julie Nelson. She also had the opportunity to participate in short intellectual talks about blind spots in economics in which concepts that are vital to economic life are often overlooked or inadequately incorporated in contemporary economic thought. Shatakshi is grateful for being able to be a part of the wonderful experience!



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## Professional Development (Continued)

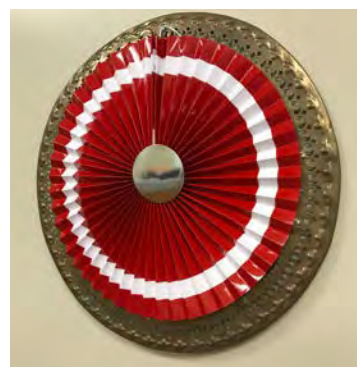
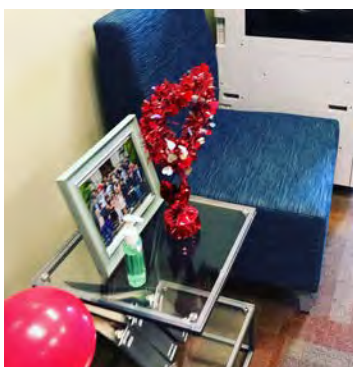


Second-year student Dinesh Karki of Nepal presented a summary to the GPED program director and staff of his internship work as a Data Analyst with Preverity, Inc., a start-up company providing services to medical malpractice insurance companies. Dinesh's main tasks included predictive modeling, feature engineering, data visualization and database management. Following his internship, Dinesh was offered a full-time position with the company. Congratulations, Dinesh!

## Spring 2019 Events

### Valentine's Day Celebration

Each year the GPED celebrates Valentine's Day with sweet treats and fun, frilly decorations for all to enjoy. This year's celebrations were no different! Check out the festivities, below!





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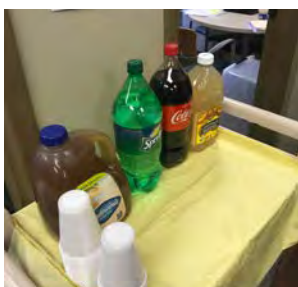
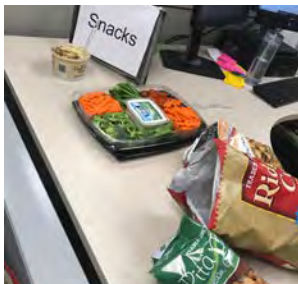
## GPED "Spirit Day" Class Photo

We started a new tradition of taking a class photo wearing the GPED apparel our students have ordered this year. See the fun shot below!



## Birthday Pizza Party

We continued our annual celebration of throwing a party for those whose birthdays are in the months of January through June with an assortment of pizzas, snacks, and desserts. This Spring's celebration consisted of a fun raffle, as well!





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## Spring 2019 Events (Continued)

### GPED Forums Featuring Alumni, Rebecca West and Enver Güney

For this Spring's forums, we hosted members of the GPED alumni community, Rebecca West and Enver Güney. Rebecca's forum was a wonderful informational experience for those students who were embarking on the ECON 7930 field experience in Chile. Enver's lecture focused on his career and how he advanced professionally. Thank you both for taking time out of your busy schedules to facilitate a forum!



**Rebecca West, 2014 Graduate**  
Thursday, February 7, 2019  
Garland Hall 101, 4:00-5:20 pm  
Project Manager, People Manager, SEO Content Strategist at Toptal  
"L.E.T.S. Play and Experiences Working in Chile"



**Enver Güney, 1987 Graduate**  
Thursday, April 18, 2019  
Garland Hall 101, 4:00-5:20 pm  
Executive Managing Director and Board Member of Uni-Mar Energy Investments  
"Who is Enver Güney? What accomplishments I have succeeded in my business life after Vanderbilt. How I see the recent economic developments in the world."



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## Spring 2019 Events (Continued)

### Student Worker Appreciation Lunch

Each Spring the GPED student workers are treated to lunch by the department to show appreciation for their hard work and dedication throughout the school year. This year's lunch was at Nada. Thank you Sahesha, Jasper and Shatakshi for all of the time and energy you've spent working on an assortment of projects in the GPED office.



### Class Photo

Our annual class photo took place on a beautiful, sunny day in April.





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## Spring 2019 Events (Continued)

### Awards Dinner

A week before Commencement each year, GPED students, their families, faculty, deans, directors and staff of the program come together for a delightful evening to honor our students. The program offers several awards in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and service to others:

- **James S. Rosemary Worley Award:** In 1997, alumni of the Graduate Program in Economic Development, friends and family of Emeritus Professor James S. Worley and his wife Rosemary established an award in their names which is given annually to outstanding students in the first-year class. The criteria for receiving this award include, but are not limited to, academic merit, interest in further study in economics, and commitment to economic development. The awards were presented this year by the following children of Jim and Rosemary: Marian Worley, Susan Meador, and Paul Worley.
- **William Edward Ferguson, Jr. Award:** Endowed by Mr. Ferguson, Graduate School registrar emeritus, in 2003, this award is given annually to recognize students in the Graduate Program in Economic Development for service to humanity and a commitment to community service and volunteerism, and is presented to first-year students. The awards were presented this year Dr. Ruth Schemmer, Assistant Dean for Career Development in the Graduate School.
- **Mouzon and Sultan Siddiqi Citizenship Award:** Mouzon and her late husband Sultan Siddiqi opened their family to all students, staff and faculty. Their warmth, kindness and openness created an environment of love and companionship within the GPED. Mouzon and Sultan demonstrated true citizenship. To honor this extraordinary couple, the GPED office set up the Mouzon and Sultan Siddiqi Citizenship Award. This award is given to a student in the first-year class who displays many of the characteristics that define Mouzon and Sultan: kindness, inclusion, helpfulness and altruism. This student is a problem solver, a confidante, a friend. The award was presented this year by Mouzon.
- **GPED Award:** Presented by the GPED to second-year students, it recognizes citizenship, leadership, and helpfulness toward fellow students.
- Lastly, several academic achievement awards were presented to students graduating at the top of their class: Most Outstanding Student, Outstanding Student, and Academic Excellence awards.





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## Spring 2019 Events (Continued)

### Awards Dinner

This year's dinner took place at Maggiano's Little Italy for the first time since the University Club closed its doors in 2018. Guests enjoyed an assortment of mouth-watering appetizers, fresh salads, and delicious pasta dishes along with two tasty desserts. The evening started with a welcome message by Dr. Anderson; dinner followed her remarks. During the meal, Dr. Anderson continued with a speech recapping the school year. After this, GPED student representatives, Christian Suarez and Shanren Pan, presented their video which summarized more of the social life of the students throughout the year. Following this video, the awards were distributed to all of the winners. Overall, it was a wonderfully fun and memorable evening!



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## Spring 2019 Events (Continued)

### Outstanding Student Awards:

Jiatong Li, China  
Jiaqi Wang, China

**Congratulations to the following  
award winners!**

### The James S. and Rosemary Worley Award:

Roshani Naresh Bulkunde, India  
Munib Inam, Pakistan

Maria Ayub Silat, Pakistan (not pictured)  
Duan Zhang, China (not pictured)  
Fangyu Zhong, China (not Pictured)



### Most Outstanding Student Award:

Chulmin Choi, South Korea



### GPED Award:

Sahesha Upadhyay, Nepal  
Yuzhi Lin, China



### William Edward Ferguson Jr. Award:

Hana Bacaj, Kosovo  
Khodadad Shoayb, Afghanistan





## Spring 2019 Events (Continued)

### Award's Winners

#### Academic Excellence Awards:

Shatakshi Gupta, India

Mingke Li, China

Laura Nettuno, United States

Shanren Pan, China (not pictured)

#### Mouzon and Sultan Siddiqi Citizenship Award:

Jonghyung Youn, South Korea (not pictured;

award accepted by classmate Kang Cheon)



### More Photos of the Awards Dinner





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## Spring 2019 Events (Continued)

### End-Of-Year Party

This year's end-of-year party was held at Dr. Anderson's house! We enjoyed delicious food catered by House of Kabob.

It was fun seeing all of our graduates together one last time with their friends and family in a relaxed environment before they attended commencement the following morning then headed off to their future endeavors.

Thank you, Dr. Anderson, for hosting us at your gorgeous home!





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## Spring 2019 Events (Continued)

### Commencement 2019

Commencement was held on Friday, May 10th, 2019. The rain held off and a fun day was had by all! We are proud of all of our graduates and were especially thrilled to see Sahesha Upadhyay carry the Graduate School's banner.



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# Advice from the 2018-2019 Student Representatives

Each year, GPED students vote for two of their peers from both the first and second-year cohorts to serve as class representatives. As part of their role, student representatives organize events, facilitate collaborative activities with other departments on-campus, order class apparel, and help support their classmates with a variety of matters.



**Shanren (Jasper) Pan**  
**Year 2 Representative**

**Christian Suarez**  
**Year 1 Representative**

"My advice for GPED students is live close to campus, collaborate on school work, exercise regularly, and be positive. School work can be hard but make sure you utilize office hours and the free tutoring service. Coming up with fun things to do in Nashville may be hard at times. Just be creative! You can go to a state park, go to a free concert, or play some sports! School life is more manageable if you have a good social life and a positive attitude to balance it out. Good luck to you! You have made it this far to come to a great program in an amazing school and you will sure do great here as well!"

"Take advantage of everything this school and city has to offer. There are so many opportunities outside of the classroom to grow as a student, a person, or just have fun!"



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# Student Testimonials



**Ruta Delkute | Lithuania**

"GPED provided me with an excellent opportunity to learn and grow, not only in academic sense, but also personally. I had to communicate with peers from all over the world, learned from them and with them. I engaged into a field research that allowed to get to know Paraguay as well as my own country. And on top of that I received a lot of support to reach my career goals. I am graduating knowing that I have everything it takes to have a career I always wanted."



**Shatakshi Gupta | India**

"The GPED is an exceptional program with a flexible course structure and amazing career opportunities. The two years I've spent in the program at Vanderbilt has been some of the most cherished years of my life."

Over the years, we've collected numerous endorsements from current students and alumni through letters, phone calls, emails and visits. It is not uncommon for current and former students to contact us and reflect and share their experiences from their time in the GPED. This year, we decided to take some of these stories and showcase them on our website as video testimonials and quotes, as seen below.



**Sahesha Upadhyay | Nepal**

"The GPED has certainly exceeded my expectations! I have thoroughly enjoyed the classroom experience, the incredible field-experience in Paraguay as well as my interactions with friends from all over the world. Also, the GPED community is very close-knit, which makes it unique from other graduate programs. I really appreciate all the support I've had from Sharon, Kelly and Prof. Anderson to make the best out of my two years at GPED. I believe that GPED has provided me with all the right resources and skill set to start my career as a development professional."

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# Spring Semester Student Spotlights



**Chulmin "CM" Choi**

Chulmin (CM) Choi is one of our stand out second-year students from South Korea. CM is currently employed with The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea as a Legislative Researcher. After more than 10 years of service, C.M. was selected as a recipient of the Korean National Assembly's Long-Term Fellowship for Overseas Study. The aim of the Fellowship is to develop a promising young official of the Korean National Assembly by sending them abroad for two years of post-graduate study. The GPED has a strong history of training Korean government officials like CM, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with the Korean government in the years ahead!



**Laura Nettuno**

Laura Nettuno, of Falls Church, Virginia has been instrumental in assisting with student recruitment efforts. A recipient of the James and Rosemary Worley award, during her time at Vanderbilt Laura served as a teaching assistant and program ambassador, and she attended the Southern Economic Association conference and participates in frequent research projects. Currently, Laura is working on a paper that looks at financial inclusion in Papua New Guinea. After she graduates Laura plans to travel to Europe during the summer months and then continue her studies at Vanderbilt by joining the Ph.D. in Economics program starting in the Fall of 2019.



**Mingke Li**

Mingke Li of Beijing, China is a second-year student who has a passion for entrepreneurship and conducting research. Most recently, Mingke participated in the VIGH Case Competition 2019 and was involved with the Paraguay study abroad trip for academic credit at Vanderbilt. Mingke is a very ambitious young woman with clear goals and strong abilities. We have no doubt she will excel in her professional life after Vanderbilt!



**Shatakshi Gupta**

Shatakshi Gupta is an outstanding second-year student from Dehradun, India. Since joining the GPED, Shatakshi has been involved in many activities and events on-campus while maintaining excellent grades. Shatakshi holds a student worker position in the GPED office, serves as a program ambassador and recently studied abroad in Greece through a course offered through the Turner Family Center (TFC). She also audited many courses on top of her full-time class load at Vanderbilt. Shatakshi is a wonderful leader and someone that many of the first-year students gravitated to for support and guidance while navigating the GPED. We will miss Shatakshi after she graduates this May and leaves to study in a Ph.D. program at George Washington University.

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# Alumni Updates



**Shijie Shi (left)**

Shjie, former student and GPED Assistant Director, joined us as a special guest at our awards dinner in May. Shijie is now serving as a Data Analyst at The World Bank in Washington D.C. where she lives with her family.



**Maryam Gul (right)**

Maryam is currently living and working in Washington D.C. as a Data Analyst at Teach For All. Maryam returned to Nashville and visited Vanderbilt during a long holiday weekend in March. Thanks for visiting us, Maryam!



**Muhammad Yunus**

We are thrilled to see that one of our notable GPED alumni, Muhammad Yunus, will be honored with a portrait in Kirkland Hall next year as part of the Vanderbilt Trailblazers initiative!



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# Lasting Impressions

## Send us your news!

All of us at the GPED enjoy receiving updates from alumni about their professional or personal lives. Please email us news about your job and family. Have you moved to a new city or country? Are you retired or considering a career move? What have you been doing since you graduated from Vanderbilt? In future newsletters, we hope to include a special section listing our alumni news.

Additionally, we are currently in the process of updating information in the GPED alumni roster. If you could send us your most current email, address, phone, current position and employer, and any title (Dr., Dean, Professor, for example), we would really appreciate it. We have many gaps in the roster that we would really like to fill! Also, if you are interested in receiving a copy of the roster, we are happy to email it upon request.

## Make a Gift to the GPED

We have highlighted the impact of the Worley and Siddiqi families to the GPED and the scholarship awards named in their honor. If you would like to contribute to either of these funds that provide scholarship support to current GPED students, you may do so online via the following links:

**James S. and Rosemary Worley Fund:**

[vu.edu/worley](https://vu.edu/worley)

**Mouzon and Sultan Siddiqi Citizenship Award Fund:**

[vu.edu/siddiqi](https://vu.edu/siddiqi)

In addition, you may choose to give to the GPED gift fund that is used for special program initiatives.

Our website contains detailed information about various ways to give to one of the GPED funds listed above, whether it be online, by sending a check, or another method. Please see <https://as.vanderbilt.edu/gped/giving.php> for details.

Since the GPED is not informed directly of gifts to any of our funds, we ask that you please send us an email to [gped@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:gped@vanderbilt.edu) indicating the intent of your gift so we may appropriately acknowledge it. You will receive a receipt from Gift and Donor Services, but we would like to thank you personally for your generosity to future generations of GPEDers!

## Connecting Future GPEDers

Know any good potential GPED students in your networks? If so, please connect them to us via [gped@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:gped@vanderbilt.edu)! We are happy to answer any questions via email, WhatsApp or a Skype call, and we gladly help arrange campus visits for prospective students as well.



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# Keep in touch!

## Contact Information

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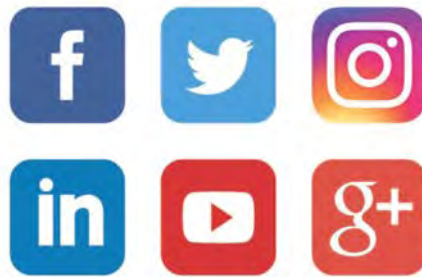
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