

Heller Alumni Association Board Biographies 2025-2026



Farhat Jilalbhoj
MA SID'14, President

Farhat is a dynamic social impact leader with 15 years of progressive experience in managing and scaling innovative programs. She leverages experience in strategy, analysis, implementation, and business planning to make data-driven decisions. Her technical expertise includes children, youth, families, education, health, hunger, livelihoods, and protection. She recently started a new position as a Regional Program Officer at Fidelity Foundations. She previously worked as the Senior Director of Strategy in the Office of the President at Save the Children. She also worked as an Senior Strategy and Management Consultant with BroderickHaight Consulting and, before that, as a Project Manager with TDC. She also worked for Catholic Relief Services and Peace First. While at Heller, she was a Peace Corps Paul D. Coverdell Fellow and Brandeis India Initiative Fellow. She also participated in cultural events and other student activities. She graduated Cum Laude with a BA in International Affairs from the University of Mary Washington. Farhat has worked across the United States and in over 15 different countries.



Anupama Sharma
MS'08, Co-Vice President

Anupama is an MS program alumna and also completed her MBA in health care management at the Indian Institute of Health Management and Research. She serves as Principal Technical Advisor for Health Economics and Financing at MSH India, where she plays a key role in business development and leads research and health financing projects. With more than 20 years of experience in research, health service delivery, health financing, and digital health, she has worked in both non-profit and for-profit organizations across India, Afghanistan, and the United States. She is passionate about leveraging data and innovation to improve health outcomes and systems, especially in low-resource and remote settings. Throughout her career, she has worked with a diverse range of donors, governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector. Her research encompasses a broad range of domains, including public health, quality improvement, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), gender-based violence (GBV), and food security. She also serves as a national assessor for quality of care with the Ministry of Health in India.



Laura Alpert
BA'96, MM'98, Co-Vice President

Laura has served as Chief Advancement Officer at MAB Community Services since February 2022. Headquartered in Brookline, MA, MAB is a statewide nonprofit organization that empowers people with a variety of disabilities to live their best lives. A member of MAB's executive leadership team, Laura oversees development, marketing, communications, public relations, and events. The advancement team also coordinates an international Boston Marathon team and the United in Stride program (www.unitedinstride.com), where visually impaired athletes and sighted guides connect at no cost to them to achieve athletic and wellness goals.

For nearly 30 years, Laura has worked for leading nonprofit organizations in Greater Boston and New York's Capital Region. She has been a senior manager since 2007, led teams of up to six professionals, vastly increased organizational visibility and impact, and raised more than \$150 million in philanthropic support. From November 2018 through February 2022, Laura was the Vice President of Philanthropy at Boston Arts Academy Foundation, which supports the city's only public high school for the visual and performing arts. Laura earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Brandeis University and the Heller School at Brandeis. With a fierce commitment to expanding opportunity, she proudly serves as co-Vice President of The Heller School's Alumni Board and on Boston Arts Academy Foundation's Advisory Council. Laura recently served as an Advisory Member for the Women in Leadership program at the University of Vermont Grossman School of Business and volunteered for The Trustees of Reservations.



Norman Abbott
MBA '21, MPP '21

Norman is a seasoned public affairs and government relations professional with over a decade of experience in policy advocacy and stakeholder engagement across the public, nonprofit, and healthcare sectors. He is currently employed as a Senior Government Affairs Specialist at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in Boston. In this capacity, he works with stakeholders and legislators to advance housing, economic development, arts and culture, and clean energy policy. Before joining MAPC, Norman worked for elected officials and nonprofits serving Massachusetts and New England. Most recently, he served as the Regional Director in Congressman Seth Moulton's office, where he assisted with economic development and transportation policy as well as outreach to a wide variety of stakeholders. Norman also worked in the Executive branch as an aide to Governor Deval Patrick before joining the New England Anti-Defamation League, where he helped advance the agency's state and local civil rights legislative agenda. Norman holds dual master's degrees in Public Policy and Business Administration from Brandeis University's Heller School and a B.A. in Political Science from Wheaton College.



Oluwaseun Ayanniyi
MS'12

Oluwaseun Ayanniyi is a Contracts Manager at UNICEF Supply Division and is based in Copenhagen, Denmark. At UNICEF, her work involves ensuring an uninterrupted supply of affordable vaccines of assured quality for children for the prevention of diseases. She is a seasoned health supply management professional with experience in contracts management, procurement, supply chain management, market research and data analysis, capacity development, process management, and demand forecasting. She has extensive work experience with non-government organizations, UNICEF, USAID, Global Fund, and Ministries of Health in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia. Previously, she was a Quantification Advisor at John Snow Research and Training Institute in Arlington, Virginia, where she supported countries in their quantification for health commodities. She began her career as a Pharmacist in Nigeria. Working as a pharmacist and volunteering sparked her interest in public health, which led her to apply for the International Health Policy and Management course at Heller. Seun also holds a certificate in Leadership and Management from the University of Washington, a Master's in International Health Policy and Management, a Bachelor's in Pharmacy, and is a Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP).



Ariella Camera
MA SID'13

Ariella recently joined the World Bank's Health Nutrition Population (HNP) Global Practice Unit as a Senior Partnerships Specialist. She is an international development and global health leader with more than 15 years of experience strengthening primary health care systems, mobilizing cross-sector partnerships, and managing multi-country portfolios across low- and middle-income countries. At USAID, she served as Deputy Director of Primary Health Care (PHC), where she led the agency's flagship PHC initiative, launched under Dr. Atul Gawande, across 17 countries, advancing equitable access, service quality, and health system resilience. She also forged a \$90 million partnership with the Global Financing Facility to scale PHC reforms in 36 countries, aligning financing, technical assistance, and country-led implementation to accelerate results.

Previously, she was Deputy Director at USAID's Bangladesh Mission, where she managed the Office of Population, Health, Education, and Nutrition (2017–2019), overseeing integrated health programs to improve maternal, newborn, and child health, and learning outcomes through coordinated, systems-focused approaches. Earlier roles included U.S. health policy work focused on community-based health initiatives and national-scale insurance platforms, informing her focus on equity, accountability, and locally led development.



Dr. Isaac Cudjoe
MA COEX'18, Immediate Past President

Isaac is a community organizer, social entrepreneur, and equity strategist who has served on the alumni board since July 1, 2019. Dr. Cudjoe is a collaborative and strategic leader with demonstrated success as an active participant and in partnership with domestic and international organizations in developing countries and within the United States. He is currently the CEO of Peace First Inc., a global organization that elevates the voices and unleashes the power of young people worldwide to create meaningful change in their communities. He has used his training from the Young African Leaders Initiative and the African Middle Eastern Leadership fellowship to help communities inspire social change agents to do more and be more for the places they call home. He has a doctorate in public policy and administration. His dissertation, *Discrimination Threats for U.S.-Born Latinx During the Trump Administration*, explored whether and how U.S.-born Latinx young adults experienced discrimination during U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigations, arrests, and deportation during the Trump administration. Now, Dr. Cudjoe uses systems thinking to work on grassroots and local levels to help communities identify context-specific ways to transform problems in lasting ways. Working alongside the Heller community, he wants to help construct a more robust and equitable system for alumni relations that prioritizes belonging. He believes that Heller's commitment to equity, inclusion, and diversity must also extend to its alumni, which begins with building bridges in all directions of our community. He wants our alumni to think of Heller's community as a warm embrace, wherein their expertise and contributions are enthusiastically welcome.



Alexandria Glaize
MA SID'17

Alexandria Glaize is the Director of Growth Marketing at BetterMynd, a mental health platform partnering with more than 150 colleges and universities to expand access to online therapy for students. In this role, she leads initiatives that strengthen institutional relationships and elevate the national conversation on student mental health.

She has built her career on one guiding principle: helping people actualize their full potential. Before joining BetterMynd, Alexandria served as Head of Partner Marketing at Mentor Collective, where she scaled the company's growth engine and deepened partner engagement, and at True Blue Inclusion, where she supported senior diversity and inclusion leaders in addressing complex organizational challenges.

Passionate about the intersection of technological innovation, the future of work, and equity, Alexandria finds joy in cultivating relationships and creating opportunities to connect solution-driven ideas, actions, and people in meaningful ways. She holds an MA in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management and a BA in Business Administration and Management from Milligan College.



Shahzad Ismail
MA SID'17

Shahzad Ismail is a distinguished development practitioner and social entrepreneur with over two decades of experience designing and leading impactful programs across South Asia, emerging markets, and developing economies (EMDEs). He is the Founder and Executive Director of two nonprofit organizations, under whose leadership the organizations have attained consultative status with the United Nations and affiliations with several international intergovernmental bodies. Throughout his career, Shahzad has directed initiatives that focus on poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability, disaster relief, education, and inclusive economic development.

His work reflects a commitment to community empowerment, environmental resilience, and ethical governance. Academically, Shahzad holds a Master of Arts in Sustainable International Development from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, where he graduated with high distinction. He also holds an M.A. in Political Science and a Ph.D. in Public Policy. His academic journey has been supported by several prestigious international fellowships, including the Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship, the Swedish Government's SIDA Fellowship, and the Malaysian Government's MTCP Scholarship.

A prolific writer and policy researcher, Shahzad has authored numerous peer-reviewed papers and articles focused on climate change, trade, water policy, governance, and community-led development. His work bridges academic rigor with practical experience, offering data-driven solutions to complex development challenges.

In addition to his nonprofit leadership, Shahzad is a social entrepreneur who established a local manufacturing initiative in Pakistan to boost employment, promote exports, and enhance economic participation for marginalized populations. He currently serves in influential international roles, including as a Board Member for South Asia at the International Association for Community Development (IACD), Overseas President (USA) at the National Peace Council for Interfaith Harmony of Pakistan (a government body), and as a member of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP).



Bishar Jenkins, Jr.
MPP'20

Bishar was the Policy and Programs Manager at Society for Public Health Education in Washington, DC. Before that, he worked as a Public Health Educator with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. After graduating from Heller, he was a Health Policy Fellow for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation as well as a Health Policy Fellow in the Office of Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, US House of Representatives, in Washington, DC. Bishar was the 2020 graduation

speaker for the MPP Program and previously helped with the Heller Community Reading for Social Justice Initiative and New Student Orientation Facilitator in August 2020.



Abraham Leon, Jr.
MPP'24

Abraham is a recent graduate of the Master of Public Policy Program at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, concentrating on Economic and Racial Equity. In August of this year, Abraham became the Bilingual Small Business Liaison for Union Square Main Streets. He is a first-generation college graduate with an Associate of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Salem State University. He is a lifelong MA resident and first-generation Puerto Rican mainlander raised in Lawrence and Dorchester, now living in Wakefield, MA, with his husband. His professional experience includes over a decade as a Behavioral Health Counselor throughout the North Shore and as a Harm Reduction/Needle Exchange Site Coordinator in Jamaica Plain. Before starting graduate school, he was a Certified Resident Service Coordinator working with multifamily, elderly, and disabled affordable housing communities in Boston, Lawrence, Lowell, Methuen, and Westford. He is looking forward to career opportunities in policy work related to state and local levels or conservation organizations. Fun Fact: He is a long-time fan of roller coasters.



Prince Mujumbe Salama
MA SID'20

Prince is a seasoned professional with over 10 years of experience leading projects across entrepreneurship, gender-based violence, healthcare, nutrition, community development, and conflict sensitivity. He holds a Master's degree in Sustainable International Development from the Heller School at Brandeis University and a bachelor's in information management systems from Université Lumière de Bujumbura. Most recently, Prince worked with Search for Common Ground in Chad, overseeing research and monitoring & evaluation for a program aimed at strengthening the resilience of communities affected by forced migration linked to climate change and conflict in eastern Chad. He is also exploring opportunities in AI and technology while pursuing a certificate in Full Stack Programming. He is also PMP certified. Prince previously served as Associate Researcher with the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan, and for six years held leadership roles at ICART, a research center co-founded by the Panzi Foundation and the University of Michigan. Fluent in French, English, Swahili, and Lingala, Prince is multicultural, self-driven, and a recipient of both the Barbara Wakefield Award and the Maurice J. and Fay B. Karpf & Ari Hahn Peace Endowment Award.



Katherine Nace
MPP'24

Katherine is a policy and data analyst dedicated to advancing racial and economic equity through public policy, research, and community engagement. Currently serving as Policy Director in the Office of Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas, she leads strategic policy initiatives and collaborates with diverse stakeholders to drive legislative change. With a Master of Public Policy from Brandeis University and a background in psychology and statistical methods, she brings experience across local government, research institutions, legal advocacy, and federal agencies. She has worked on issues ranging from harm reduction and prison reform to voter access and diversity, equity, and inclusion in public grantmaking. Her approach integrates rigorous data analysis, mixed methods research, and community-informed strategy to improve public systems and services. A former Peace Corps volunteer and a Segal Fellow, Katherine is committed to public service that is both data-driven and rooted in equity. She was also the 2024 recipient of the Barbara Wakefield Award.



Ahmad Naveed Noormal **MA COEX'16**

Naveed Noormal is a senior advisor, communications strategist, and former diplomat with over a decade of experience partnering with senior leaders across government, media, and the corporate sector to shape policy, drive strategic transformation, and deliver impact in complex global contexts.

A proud Heller graduate, Naveed's commitment to equity and social justice began with grassroots initiatives advancing education access for displaced and marginalized children. That same mission continues to guide his work today - amplifying underrepresented voices, shaping inclusive narratives, and advancing evidence-based policy solutions. A Fulbright Scholar, UK Aspen Fellow, Asia Foundation Development Fellow, and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Young Leader, Naveed brings an interdisciplinary and international lens to systems change. He holds a BA in Law, an MA in Conflict Management from the Heller School (cross-registered at Harvard), and an MBA. Now based in London with his family, he combines strategic leadership and social impact with a deep passion for cross-cultural dialogue, public diplomacy, and ethical leadership. Naveed is honoured to serve on the Heller Alumni Association Board and remain engaged in the School's mission to advance sustainable, equitable change around the world.



Bria Price **MPP'19**

Bria Price is the Senior Manager of College Success for Achieve Atlanta, a nonprofit organization in Atlanta, Georgia. The mission of Achieve Atlanta is to ensure that Atlanta Public School System students have access to college and succeed once they get there. As a college success manager, she works with incoming college students, on-campus student ambassadors, and college support partners on 11 college campuses in Georgia and Scholars across the United States. Bria's work in the public-school systems has created a passion for further research on the impact of outreach and emotional support for students during their college years. Bria received a Bachelor of Arts from The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. It was during her time at Wooster that she felt the tug to work with students in underserved communities. She spent the first three years following Wooster serving in the AmeriCorps program, City Year-Washington, D.C., from AmeriCorps Member to Impact Manager. In 2016, Bria was named an AmeriCorps Alum fellow for the Eli J. and Phyllis N. Segal Citizen Leadership Program. It was the example of citizen leadership demonstrated by fellow Segal Fellows that led Bria to pursue the master's in public policy program at the Heller School. During her time at Brandeis, Bria was active in several organizations: Heller Student Association, Founding Member of the Black Graduate Student Association, and worked in the Segal Citizen Leadership program as a liaison to Segal Fellows. In 2019, she received the inaugural Heller Award for Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity. One of Bria's personal goals is to create a non-profit organization, Melanin Book Mobile. A mobile library of books to serve underserved communities of Melanin children with books written by Melanin authors.



Margo Rosenbach **BA'78, PhD'85**

Margo Rosenbach is a seasoned health policy expert with four decades of experience in research, evaluation, and technical assistance for federal and state clients. She has focused on improving access, quality, and outcomes in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Margo is passionate about quality measurement and improvement in Medicaid and CHIP, particularly in maternal and child health (MCH), oral health, behavioral health, home and community-based services, and experience of care. She retired from Mathematica in May 2024, where she was Vice President, and previously served as Executive Vice President of Health Economics Research Inc. She founded Rosenbach Consulting LLC, a woman-owned small business providing strategic consulting, advisory, and analytics services. Her expertise

includes program assessment, policy analysis, data analysis, strategic communications, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, workgroup facilitation, complex project management, business operations, and business strategy. Her ability to launch new initiatives is attributed to the breadth of her subject matter and methodological expertise and the depth of her management experience. She has a Ph.D. in health policy from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. She has been a member of WBL (Women Business Leaders in the U.S. Health Care Industry) since 2017. In addition to serving on the Heller School Alumni Association Board, she currently serves as an associate member of the Brookline (MA) Council on Aging, as a citizen member of the Brookline Age-Friendly Cities Committee, and a member of the Board of Directors of Temple Beth Avodah, Newton, MA. She is excited about the opportunity to help chart the direction for the Heller School and to support students in their journey at Heller and beyond.



David Scott
MPP'17

David Scott is an experienced development and project management professional with over 10 years of leadership experience and 8 years in fundraising. He has worked in human services and child welfare for many years, supporting foster youth, homeless young adults, public housing residents, and low-income students. Currently, David oversees institutional giving at Rising Ground, a \$200+ million human services organization. He holds a Master of Public Policy from Brandeis

University and a Bachelor's in Environmental Studies and German Studies from Bowdoin College. David brings a focus on housing and economic policy to his work.



Ashley Connors Sherwin
MBA'11

Ashley is the co-founder of Giving Credit, the credit reporting agency for community finance that aggregates peer-lending transactions in trusted social networks, leveraging social underwriting to expand access to mainstream credit. She has committed her career to scaling innovative, community-led solutions that drive better financial outcomes for people with low to moderate incomes and their communities. Ashley has spent the last 20 years leading organizations focusing on the intersections of strategy, partnership development, communications, financial

management, and revenue generation. She most recently served as the Chief Operating Officer for SaverLife, a nonprofit and advocacy organization using technology to improve the financial health of people living on low to moderate incomes. She was the Vice President of Partnerships and Revenue. While there, she led the efforts to grow annual revenue from \$3M to \$30M while developing UpTogether's strategic action plan for scale and building its partnerships team. She partnered with the technology team to raise and disburse \$200M in COVID-19 cash relief during the pandemic's early months. Ashley received her B.A. in Secondary Education and English from the University of Nevada, Reno, and her M.B.A. in Social Impact Management from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.



Sheilanee Shona Sen
MBA/MPP'15

Shona is a community development professional with over ten years of experience managing programs, raising and deploying capital, and providing technical assistance to community-based organizations through the public, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors. She is currently a Program Officer with The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. Before her current role, she was a Senior Program Officer for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) - an organization committed to forging resilient and inclusive communities across America. Shona is passionate about

dismantling racist systems and structures and human-centered approaches to community building and design that

contribute to positive, long-term health and economic outcomes. She holds a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Public Policy from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management from Brandeis University and a BA in Government from the University of Texas at Austin.