My name is Reanne Cunningham Chilton and I am running for the position of Vice President of Legislative Affairs (VPLA) for the academic year 2021-2022. I am a rising 4th year in the doctoral program in Clinical Psychology. I have a M.A. degree in Education and have been a part of the WSU community for nearly 10 years. Serving on the Legislative Affairs committee this year, I’ve learned so much about the legislative process, policy, and advocacy. I’ve had the privilege of testifying before a State Senate committee on behalf of reproductive rights; to advocate for improved student health insurance with key university administrators; and to meet with the State Senate majority floor leader’s team to discuss legislation that affects graduate students. I’ve seen firsthand that graduate students being at the table makes a difference. I’ve seen what a dedicated team can do to identify concerns, collect information, and engage stakeholders in discourse that lays the groundwork for change. It’s through this type of work we are able to provide meaningful, data-driven recommendations. I have long held the belief that we all have roles to play in changing people’s lives. As a therapist I typically get to do that on an individual basis, but as a legislative advocate I’ve had the chance to consider how a change in policy can enact a change in the lives of whole communities. Advocacy teaches one to be patient and hopeful; rarely would we get to see sweeping changes occur overnight. More often, it’s the small victories; the subtle changes in language, the addition of another representative voice, the
seeds that are planted in policymaker’s minds that slowly work to change the tides. As frustrating as this can be at times, it is also a great joy, to consider how these small changes will meaningfully affect students I will never meet. We all have a responsibility to leverage the privileges, skills, and opportunities afforded to us in service of others. It’s been an honor to work with the current VPLA, James, who exemplifies the ideal of the servant-leader. I hope to uphold this legacy of leadership with humility, openness, and dedication. If elected, I will continue to strive to improve the lives of graduate students through advocating for improved healthcare, higher stipends, better working conditions/mentor training, increased access to mental health resources, access to childcare and housing, and support for international students, non-traditional students, and parents. I was the first person in my family to graduate from college, much less to go on to an advanced degree. While not having family who can guide me in this area has had its challenges, one advantage it has given me is that I didn’t grow up hearing that graduate school was supposed to be hard, that we are supposed to not be paid well or not have acceptable healthcare and working conditions. So, it has never seemed normal to me that these things are the reality of the graduate student experience. The things graduate students are asking for are not outrageous or exceptional, they should in fact be normal. I’m committed to making this a reality. Please vote for me, Reanne Cunningham Chilton, for VPLA. Thank you and Go Cougs!
I am Behnaz Molaei, Ph.D. student of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering (BSE), located at the WSU-IAREC, Prosser. I am currently GPSA senator of BSE department and in the past, I have served as a treasurer and president of Prosser Graduate Student Association (PGSA) in 2018 and 2019, respectively. Serving in PGSA positions helped me to hear Prosser graduate student’s concerns and deliver their message to the WSU-Pullman administrative. Then in 2020 as GPSA senator, I have learned and practiced how to communicate and collaborate professionally with the broader community to address graduate student's concerns (Stipend, Housing, and Healthcare) at Pullman campus and RECs effectively to help the WSU administration and faculties to find the solutions for them. If I am elected as the GPSA-CAHNRS Representative, I will do my best to perform my duties as directed by GPSA constitution. Also, I will continue supporting graduate students at our college (CAHNRS). The year 2020 was the time that we realized that most of the responsibilities can be done by today’s communication technologies, so as the REC graduate student, I will be available virtually (and in-person in Pullman when Pandemic is over) to fulfill the requirements of this position. Thanks for supporting me. Go Cougs!
I am writing to express my interest in becoming a College Representative of the Graduate School at the GPSA for the 2021-2022 academic year. I am the College of Arts and Sciences' College Representative and a Director of the Travel Grants Committee during the 2020-2021 academic year. My hands-on experience at the executive board, senate, and committees get me more skills to advocate better on behalf of WSU graduate and professional students and facilitate interdisciplinary communication within the graduate and professional student community. Part of my duties is being a representative of the GPSA executive board at different committees across the University, including the Pullman campus's strategic plan committee, the advisory panel of the A2i joint program between NC and WSU, employee excellence award committee, and housing and dining board. As a person who studies in two majors of Anthropology and Psychology at the graduate level, I believe that being in graduate school is about research and developing communication, self-improvement, and leadership skills. I want to improve my professional experience by learning alongside fellows at GPSA on how to navigate the University's political landscape and create better conditions by providing academic, professional, and financial support services for graduate and professional students. I also think that my active participation in GPSA will help me gain new skills and schedule my time selectively to accomplish my responsibilities. If I am given the opportunity, I believe that my previous education and experiences have equipped me well to serve in this position.
I am a 3rd year PhD student from the department of Anthropology. Running for this position gives me a unique opportunity to get myself involved with the organization. This will allow me to interact with students from various walks of life, major, and background. GPSA has been a valuable asset to the graduate and professional students and therefore I wish to contribute to the important decision-making policy of the organization. As mentioned earlier, GPSA has been a valuable asset. From the very beginning I have benefited from many of the programs that GPSA has to offer. Other than that this provides as an excellent platform for advocating for the professional and graduate students.
I served the GPSA 2019-20 committee as a senator along with the Association of Bangladeshi Students and Scholars (ABSS), an RSO of WSU as a President in the 2019-20 executive committee. After that, I served GPSA 2020-21 executive committee as the college representative. Having experience as a senator and a college representative, I learned how to serve the graduate students in my college. Besides that, as an executive member of GPSA, I have carried out a role as a chair of “Awards & Scholarship Committee” that leads me to help graduate students from other colleges as well. Last year was very different for all of us, and all the graduate students faced issues to deal with the pandemic. I and my committee extended our grant program to help more students to work with their research and dissertations. I understand that the needs of a graduate student have evolved a lot last year and will continue to change in the coming year. I believe that understanding the continuously evolving needs of graduate students will put me in a better position to work for my constituents in the coming year. If I get elected, I will expand the capacities of “Awards & Scholarship Committee” to reach and help more graduate students, shaped around the “new normal environment. My goal as a college representative is to increase the engagement of students, reach more students to learn about their concerns, and come up with steps to help all the graduate students in our university. Besides that, engineering college (VCEA) has many international students. As an international student myself, I believe I can be a good representative for my college and will be able to carry out their concerns to the administrations. If I get your vote to represent VCEA college, I hope I will be able to use the opportunity to better advocate my constituents.
I am running as a senator for the Carson College of Business. As I represent the Carson college of Business graduate and professional students in the senate meeting, I will ensure consistent and timely communication between the department and GPSA. I will make sure that we are all aware and utilizing all relevant and information, maximizing the opportunities the GPSA provides for us graduate and professional students. I will also make sure to communicate and commit to the fulfillment of all concerns, ideas and insights from the students to the GPSA.
I'm honored to have the opportunity to run for the senator election in GPSA with this strong desire to repair the relationship of the student body with the GPSA Senate. I'm passionate to work for the welfare of the graduate students of our college and I hope to apply my wide range of experience to be the voice of graduate students in solving their problems. If elected, I'll honestly adhere to my duties as a senator and will work to build an inclusive graduate student community.

Xin Xin, Crop and Soil Sciences, Ph.D. Student

I am a senator for Department of Animal Sciences from Fall 2020 to Spring 2020, and I have been enjoying the time working with GPSA. GPSA is a great platform to meet friends and get involved in university's business. The atmosphere in GPSA is one of the things make me feel fit-in and not alone. Phd research and living abroad can be very stressful and lonely, and GPSA has been providing me the opportunities to interact with people who are in the same situation as me. From the bi-weekly meeting I learn more about university’s policies and bring up the concerns we have as graduate students. The past
year had not been easy on us especially with the stuck of our research and social distancing, but I am glad that GPSA tried every possible way to help graduate students and provided a lot of resources from financial and mental aspects. For next year, with the pandemic still going on, I want to continue being a communication bridge between GPSA and my department.
Senator for Plant Pathology

Samodya Jayasinghe, Plant Pathology, Ph.D. Student

I joined the department of plant pathology as a graduate student in Fall 2018. Since my first semester at WSU, I have been participating in the activities organized by the GPSA and have gained substantial benefits. As the treasurer of the Plant Pathology Graduate Student organization (2019-2020), I had the opportunity to communicate with the GPSA officers and get a closer look at how the organization contributes to the academic and professional development of the graduate student community at WSU. Now I believe it is my time to get to work and contribute to the amazing work GPSA has been doing and help the development and resolve issues faced by the WSU graduate student community. I would be privileged to represent the department of plant pathology. I would always be available and ready to bring student issues to light and speak up for the student body of plant pathology.
Senator for the School of Food Science

Arshdeep Singh, School of Food Science, Ph.D. Student

I am a first-year PhD student in the School of Food Science and would like to offer my name for the Senate position. My interest in this position stems from my deep belief in the importance of shared governance at all times, but particularly in times of COVID-19 pandemic. I want to represent our department in the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) to have a voice in solving graduate students’ issues. Also, I would recommend deserving students from our department to be considered for travel and registration grants. I will make sure that our department is included in the GPSA’s annual agenda. This opportunity will help me exhibit my leadership skills and serve the graduate community on a personal level. The Senate nomination would provide me with the opportunity to commit my time and resources to strengthen the GPSA. Thank you for your consideration.

Debomitra Dey, School of Food Science, Ph.D. Student
I would love to be a part of the GPSA Senate for the academic 2021-2022. I served as GPSA Senator and worked for the Professional Development Initiative committee for the past two years. I am grateful to GPSA for providing me with an amazing opportunity to contribute to the student community at WSU. This year, I aim to serve the student community better by advocating for rights and raising their concerns to the Senate. I understand graduate school is difficult, with the deadlines, research projects, and proposals, and being away from home for international students. Still, we all can work together and make the graduate school experience better.
I am a 3rd year Ph.D. student in Economics running for the position of GPSA Senator 2021-22. This is my 2nd time applying for the post. GPSA is the best platform to engage in activities outside our regular academic routines. The Senators’ position comes with a lot of responsibilities along with the capacity to work for fellow students, address and bring to notice their concerns and make a difference. It is also a great platform to meet students from other departments and campuses of WSU and address departmental issues. I have served as a senator for the academic year 2019-2020 and it has been a great experience so far. I have also served as a peer mentor for the peer mentor program from the International Programs Office, WSU during Fall 2020. I believe my experience as the PR Chair and Treasurer for the Indian Students Association (ISA), WSU for two consecutive years add to my ability to interact, address necessary issues and bring together students for certain causes or events. I sincerely hope to continue serving as a Senator of the School of Economic Sciences and work to bring the necessary changes.
Representing Research & Extension Center (REC) students as your REC Senator this past academic year has been rewarding. Through this position I have built more connections and brought more attention to issues many REC students face on a regular basis such as housing, stipend, and healthcare concerns. I feel that we have made real headway in making our voices heard, and I would be honored to continue being the elected voice of REC students as I help find solutions for our issues through GPSA and WSU administration.
As a Ph.D.-seeking history student, I am seeking to be an at-large Senator for the College of Arts & Sciences. I have served during the 2020-2021 year as the Senator for the History department. I hope to carry on the cause within the larger GPSA body of graduate and professional students to the best of my ability. I have been an English professor for the last 21 years, while serving on faculty union executive councils and similar organizations over two decades of graduate and professional experiences. As an older graduate student, as well, I am interested in expanding existing understanding of the different needs for the diverse population of graduate students at WSU. Also, with my extensive background in higher education across the nation at various land-grant universities, I bring an experienced perspective to GPSA as a whole. Thank you; I look forward to the opportunity to serve again.
I am Derrick Bonney, a Ph.D. statistics student. Throughout my life, I have always been fascinated by the contributions to society, the past, and supporting the needy. This interest started right from High school to college when I set up an NGO to support the Needy and Homeless (donating to Opportunity Center for Homeless, Texas). I have been privileged to be a member of many international organizations such as the American Statistical Association, International of Black Actuaries and had the opportunity to present at many conferences such as STATFEST, JSM. I want to run for the Senator position because I want to contribute my quota to our great university. I want to bring all experience I have gained from working with people, organizations on board to lift our institution high. My community service roots go deep and I strongly believe in diversity and am able to work in a team and also work with each and every one. I am hoping to be given an opportunity to serve greatly on this senator committee
I would like to represent the graduate and professional students of the department. My plan is to help them enrich their social, academic and professional experience at WSU. I want to represent their views and voices at the GPSA senate floor and advocate on behalf of them at the highest possible level to increase affordability and accessibility. My goal is to facilitate their interdisciplinary communication within the graduate and professional student community and work for the betterment of their experience during this journey.

Zahra Armanfard, Physics and Astronomy, Ph.D. Student
students. It has been an interesting experience to communicate both the university and students' concerns and interests in both directions and I hope to continue being a voice for the students.
Hi, my name is Charles Allen Ross, and I am a first-year Ph.D. student in the American studies department. As a new member of the Cougar family, I am looking for different ways to get engaged with the community. Additionally, I am looking for ways in which I can serve the cougar community. I plan to help make the experiences for all graduate and professional students more equitable and memorable. In doing so, I want to create opportunities for you all to build community and networks across departments, in order to help make your time at WSU worthwhile. Personally, I realize how isolating graduate and professional schools can be, so I am pursuing this office so that I may help others feel welcomed and a sense of family at WSU! Go Cougs!

**Claudia Skinner, School of Languages, Cultures, and Race**
Graduate school involves an incredible number of challenges for students, challenges that, without the right support and structural responses, can become barriers. I am running for the position of GPSA Senator because I want to be a part of the effort to prevent and address barriers to graduate students pursuing their educational needs and goals. Graduate student experiences vary based upon a number of different factors, factors that link students in community with one another. These student communities have specific needs with regards to access and support. I myself am an international PhD student studying at the School of Languages, Cultures, and Race and am working in an assistantship with Student Affairs. I am also a bisexual woman and I deeply value queer community. I hope to bring the knowledge I have gained from my positions and experiences, which I share with many other students, and apply it to the role of GPSA Senator. My goal, if elected, would be to take a co-coalitional approach to the issues we face, learning from each other how to craft solutions that are informed by the commonalities and differences of our graduate and professional student population.
The GPSA has several programs that have benefitted me in the past, it is time that I do my part to ensure that those programs continue to exist, and that the GPSA continues to be an advocate for graduate students throughout the WSU system. I have received two B.S. degrees and an M.S. degree from this university, and I believe in it. In order for WSU to meet its potential as a force for good, a robust interaction between students, faculty, and administrators is critical. I would like to do my part to ensure that the GPSA continues to effectively support graduate students, while also helping the university to grow and better support all of its students, faculty and staff.
I would like to be a senator since it will allow me to represent my college as well as my department. I want to advocate for graduate students in my department on matters like increasing stipends and improved healthcare. I have already represented SBS in the previous year and was able to assist students in receiving money for their virtual conferences. I hope to be able to serve my department further as we continue to maneuver through this pandemic.
As an aspiring sociologist and an active volunteer, I have dedicated myself to bettering the world around me in any way I can. I believe that all students deserve an equitable experience during their time at WSU, and I am committed to maintaining a strong connection among the individuals of my department and the greater WSU community. I have multiple years of experience representing student concerns from a combination of academic departments in conversations with my undergraduate university president, the student government association, professorial committees, and the heads of academic departments. Therefore, I hope to put my skills to good use and continue the hard work of senators who have served before me to include the voice of my peers in all discussions that may affect them and advocate for the outcomes that will best serve their needs.
Senators for the College of Communication

Anastasia Vishnevskaya, Communication, Ph.D. Student

During these past two years, I have served as a College Representative, chairing GPSA Internal Affairs and University and Student Affairs Committees. These experiences showed me how much the GPSA does to support our graduate and professional students and advance their academic success. I’d like to further continue my involvement with the GPSA and contribute to the development of better strategies for serving our graduate and professional students. I am applying for a senator position to be a reliable and effective liaison between graduate students in the College of Communication and the GPSA as I believe the GPSA would be more efficient in serving our students if the voices of each and every one of these students are heard. I am confident that my leadership skills, fruitful experience with student involvement, work ethic, and internal perspective on issues will be an asset for the GPSA in its service to our graduate and professional students.

Jocelyn Mckinnoncrowley, Communication, Ph.D. Student

I am running for a GPSA Senate position to better advocate for students. It is important to me that grad students are respected both as staff and students. More importantly, that they are treated with the dignity of researchers,
educators, learners, and humans. I value advocacy in all its forms and understand how having a seat and voice at the table can change discussions. As I had a class conflict last semester, I could not apply for the senate position. I currently serve on the Community Response Team as a graduate representative.
For many years, I have seen leadership as a means to serve the people, in this case, it is to represent the graduate students in the department of Educational Psychology by standing as an intermediary between them and the GPSA senate, and also to disseminate information to them. It was a great honor to serve my colleagues in the last senate and would be a privilege again to serve them in the forthcoming academic session.

Oluwafemi Sundaym, Kinesiology and Educational Psychology, Ph.D. Student
I chose to apply for this position because I have a firm conviction that my experience and incredible passion would serve the student society at Washington State University. This call for service is an excellent opportunity to represent the entire WSU Students' interest, mostly the International Students. I believe that it is the Student Senate's sole responsibility to care for the students' needs, concerns, and ideas for which they serve. Hence, I will like to act as a bridge between Washington State University and the communities I serve. The ability to serve in this capacity will provide a forum in which issues and concerns about students' welfare, especially the International students in Washington State University, may be considered. I want to be a voice in important decisions that may positively impact our university communities. As a current President of the Nigerian Students and Scholars Organization, I have witnessed most international students' struggles regarding their needs and concerns. This understanding is one of the reasons I volunteered to serve and be a mouthpiece for our students. As a senator, my service will directly impact students' lives on campus both now and for years to come.

Senators for Teaching and Learning

Amira Albagshi, Teaching & Learning, Ph.D. Student
I have been a senator in GPSA since 2019, so I have been more comfortable in the position and in GPSA in general. There are other students from my college who have been doing a great job keeping students updated about GPSA and services for grad students. However, I noticed that faculty and students in my major, special education, feel more comfortable to contact me and ask questions about GPSA and the services they provide. It feels great to gain students’ trust and interest in getting my recommendation. It is nice to practice the leadership skills within my group. I am also interested in the position for next year because that will help me stay connected to grad students during the last year of my program here at WSU.

Humberto Jimenez Fernandez, Teaching & Learning, Ph.D. Student

Hello! My name is Humberto Jimenez Fernandez. I am currently a student in the college of education. I am applying to this position because I believe I have the required skills to be part of your team. I have more than three years of teaching experience at a four research university. I was recently honored to be part of the Ph.D. team in education. My hard work and dedication have given me the opportunity to continue pursuing a high level of education with the
ultimate goal of becoming a language college professor at WSU-Pullman. I am asking you for an opportunity to consider my application to make a positive impact in our community. Thank you.

Senator for Molecular Plant Science

Andrew Herr, Molecular Plant Science
As the MPS Senator for the 2019-2020 year, I have worked in the general senate body and on the budget committee to improve graduate students' lives on campus and our department. Over this past year, I have gained insight into how RSO funding operates and what opportunities are present for funding use in our department and fight for fee reductions and covid aid. Moving forward, I hope to continue to voice MPS students' concerns to the Senate and the University and inform students of opportunities for leadership, entertainment, and volunteerism.

Senators for the School of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science

Abodh Poudyal, School of Electrical Engineering, Ph. D. Student
I have always had this leadership potential in me from my early childhood -- whether it be getting selected as a team leader for a school trivia group or represent your department team in a sports event. My core strength is my persistence in completing a task. I remember getting stuck at a chess puzzle for days until I got it right, which happened to be a simple three move puzzle. I know it is not okay to get stuck in trivial stuff but what you learn from it is the most crucial aspect of leadership. For me, a leader is not the one who brings success in one go but has reached every possible failure to know that there is a better solution somewhere else. In the past, I have worked as a team leader of Communication and Information Management for AIESEC Nepal. I was one of the founding members and a former secretary of Electrical Club, IOE, Nepal. Currently, I am an active student member of IEEE and Tau Beta Pi Honors Society and treasurer for the Nepali Student Association at WSU. I believe that my leadership experiences supplement my candidacy for this position.

Ali Shakeri Kahnamouei, School of Electrical Engineering, Ph. D. Student

As an international Ph.D. student, I think I know most of the issues that the graduate students are dealing with, and I would be able to help by having this position.

Partha Sarker, School of Electrical Engineering, Ph. D. Student
My name is Partha Sarker and I am a third year PhD student in the School of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science. I have been serving as a GPSA senator for 2020-21. I have experienced GPSA’s tremendous work to support our graduate and professional students. I believe that my involvement with GPSA would be a great way to contribute to and speak out for other graduate students. I am hopeful that my experience with the student involvement and international perspective on issues will be useful to GPSA committees. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Samir Sbai, School of Electrical Engineering, Ph. D. Student

It is with great pleasure, passion, and privilege that I submit my application to run for and serve on the GPSA as a Graduate Senator. As a member of the GPSA, I hope to improve the quality of life on and off-campus. I want to work with the school administration in order to give more internship and work opportunities for international students. Furthermore, I want to coordinate with the campus police to make the campus safer for students. Cheaper housing for all the students is also one of my main goals. I look forward to working with faculty and bringing new energy to the senate in order to continue the amazing work that has been accomplished these
past few years. I hope you will consider me for this position and look forward to hearing from you.

Senators for the School of Mechanical & Materials Engineering

Arjak Bhattacharjee, School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, Ph.D. Student
I’m Arjak Bhattacharjee, a 3rd year Ph.D. candidate at the school of mechanical and materials engineering. I would like to run for a senator post as I’m interested to act as a liaison between the GPSA and dept. of MME. As a senator, I would like to discuss various departmental/GPSA policies with students thus it can benefit all of us with a proper implementation. I would also like to bring the department’s/GPSA’s attention to resolve any kind of issues (academic/funding related etc.), which the students may face due to the current pandemic. I would like to be a part of the international affairs committee, but I’m open to serving on other committees as well. I worked as a senator during my M. Tech studies at IIT Kanpur, India and I also have taken leadership positions in various philanthropic student clubs at IIT Kanpur. I directed India’s first documentary on ceramics, named oneness with the infinite, which won two international awards. I won a presidential Gold medal at IIT Kanpur, which was given to me by the current president of India. Given my experiences, I’m confident that as a senator, I’ll be able to perform my duties sincerely.

Sushant Ciliveri, School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, Ph.D. Student
I would like to serve as a part of the GPSA Senate for the year 2021-22. I have taken up major positions of responsibility working in a team, during my undergraduate days which certainly help me develop as a professional along with my academic commitments. Being a graduate student is quite difficult with research deadlines and commitments, and I anticipate that working as a GPSA senator would diversify my day-to-day work experience along with research, and help me learn more about professional values such as team-work, leadership, and responsibility which will result in my overall development. I have been working as a graduate student for over two years now, and I am quite familiar with the challenges faced by graduate students. I feel that by being a part of the GPSA committee, I would be able to contribute to the student community. If given, an opportunity to work as a GPSA senator, I would be fulfilling my commitments as a GPSA Senator along with research responsibilities and work in a team thus making my experience as a graduate student an enriching one.
Senator for Molecular Biosciences

Jacob Woodbury, Molecular Biosciences

SMB students conduct crucial research and educate the scientists of tomorrow. These perspectives are invaluable for WSU, a land-grant institution that serves our entire state. As a GPSA Senator I will seek to take these perspectives and WSU’s land-grant mission to better serve us as students. SMB needs to be represented at GPSA!