

LIFE AFTER POLITICS

April 30, 2021 | 1:00 - 3:00pm EST | Zoom



1:00 - 2:00

Life After Politics: Alumni Panel

- ***Charlotte Suka, Foreign Affairs Officer - Bureau of South Central Asia Affairs, Office of Afghanistan Affairs***
- ***Gabriel Noronha, Executive Director for two foreign policy initiatives based in Washington***
- ***Virginia Chambers, Digital Assistant - Michigan Senate Democratic Caucus***
- ***Michael Bluestein, Managing Partner - Grindstone Partners***

2:00 - 3:00

Flash Mentoring

UNIVERSITY
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The Woodrow Wilson
DEPARTMENT of POLITICS



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Career Center

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Charlotte Suka '19 (Panelist)

Charlotte Suka is a 2019 graduate of UVA, where she earned a B.A. in Foreign Affairs with a concentration in Economics. She currently works in the Bureau of South Central Asia Affairs, Office of Afghanistan Affairs as a Foreign Affairs Officer focusing on political military policy in Afghanistan.

She previously served in the Bureau of Political Military Affairs, Office of State Defense Integration (PM/SDI) as a program assistant where she supported the Foreign Policy Advisor (POLAD) Program. Prior to working in PM, Charlotte worked in the Bureau of Consular Affairs as a Passport Specialist in the San Francisco Passport Agency.



Charlotte is a previous participant of the United Nations Youth Assembly in August 2015 where she served with youth, leaders of non-governmental agencies, and United Nations ambassadors to discuss the 2015 United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the incorporation of youth leaders in the public sector.

While attending the University of Virginia, Charlotte served in a variety of administrative and political positions including but not limited to: Global Democratic Perspectives Intern at the University of Virginia Center for Politics, Communications Team Assistant Manager with the Office of the Dean of Students, and Legal Intern at the Legal Aid Justice Center. Charlotte currently lives in Washington D.C. and is passionate about developmental economics, Italian food, and racial relations in America.

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Gabriel Noronha '15 (Panelist)

Gabriel recently served as Special Advisor for the Iran Action Group at the U.S. Department of State, where he coordinated policy and directed the State Department's communications and congressional affairs for Iran. He previously worked as the Special Assistant for the Senate Armed Services Committee under Chairmen John McCain and Jim Inhofe, helping write and pass Congress' annual national security legislation. Gabriel also worked for Senator Kelly Ayotte from 2015-2016. Currently, he is Executive Director for two new foreign policy initiatives based in Washington. Gabriel graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 2015 with degrees in Foreign Affairs and Economics. He speaks Spanish, Russian, and Mandarin.



Virginia Chambers '20 (Panelist)

Virginia is a digital assistant for the Michigan Senate Democratic Caucus and primarily focuses on social media outreach. Prior to joining the Michigan legislative staff, she interned with Lake Research Partners, the Office of Governor Ralph Northam, Mothership Strategies, the Tom Tom Festival, and multiple political campaigns.

At UVA, Virginia majored in Government and Art History and minored in Urban and Environmental Planning. She also held executive board positions in the University Democrats and the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society. She vice-chaired the Charlottesville Area Transit Advisory Board and volunteered with Virginia's List. Originally from Richmond, Va., Virginia currently lives in Lansing, Mich., and is learning to appreciate Big Ten sports.



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Michael Bluestein '89 (Panelist)

Mr. Bluestein is the Managing Partner of Grindstone Partners, a provider of direct private equity investment and corporate finance advisory services in Northern Virginia. He founded the firm in 2009 to address a lack of capital and expertise in the small and mid-cap markets and brings over 30 years of investing and financial advisory experience to the firm. Grindstone targets family run businesses for investment, always in partnership with great management teams.



Previously Mr. Bluestein co-founded Oakcrest Capital and was a partner in Winston Partners, both small cap private equity firms. His sectors of experience include business services, infrastructure, niche manufacturing and healthcare services. Mr. Bluestein's early experience was in commercial and investment banking where he advised on M&A and capital markets transactions. Mr. Bluestein has served as Chairman or Director on nearly two dozen company boards and has advised many others. He currently serves on five private company boards.

Mr. Bluestein received a BA degree in Political Science from the University of Virginia and earned an MBA in Strategic Management and Finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia with his wife of 25 years and two sons.