



Harvard Graduate and Professional School Program Directors

1. Kent, Alexander J



Director of the GSAS visiting student program and the assistant director of admissions.

I've been at the Graduate School for 9 years, managing our visiting student program, as well as duties in financial aid and graduate admissions.

I earned my BS in international business at the University of Vermont, minoring in German, and I grew up north of Boston (Salem).

2. Peshkin, Catherine



Source: <https://hls.harvard.edu/graduate-program/administration-and-staff/>

Catherine received her B.A., J.D. and M.B.A. degrees from Duke University and is a member of the New York Bar. Prior to joining the Graduate Program, she was an associate and then partner in the corporate restructuring group at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in New York, having started her legal career as an associate in the business finance and restructuring group at Weil, Gotshal & Manges





LLP. Before attending law school, Catherine was the Assistant Director of J.D. Admissions at Duke University School of Law. Between practicing law and returning to academic administration, Catherine spent 18 months trekking and traveling in Nepal, India, Southeast Asia, New Zealand, Spain, Portugal, and the U.K.

3. Sarah Trautz



Source: <https://hls.harvard.edu/graduate-program/administration-and-staff/>

Sarah received her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and J.D. from the University of Virginia. During her legal career, Sarah worked as a health care regulatory attorney at several law firms and served as in-house counsel for a hospital and a software company. She also spent four years as a high school math teacher and holds a degree in Math for Teaching from the Harvard Extension School. Sarah grew up in Massachusetts and enjoys travel and many outdoor activities, including skiing, hiking, and running.

4. Dr. Shende, Suzanne



Dr. Suzanne Shende has been the Director of the Edward S. Mason Program and Associate Director of MPA Programs since 2013, and during that time has won awards for Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, and the Sue Williamson Spirit Award. Prior to coming to HKS, Suzanne co-founded and directed an award-winning NGO, the Garifuna Emergency Committee of Honduras, working with the Afro-Indigenous community in human rights defense,





disaster resilience, empowerment of women and youth, poverty reduction, sustainable agriculture, community led development, environmental protection and the preservation of traditional culture. She also coordinated global efforts with the international Network of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and with grassroots women's networks through Groots International and the Huairou Commission.

Before her 14 years outside the U.S., Suzanne was a staff attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights in NYC, where she worked on the case overturning US policy of imprisoning HIV+ Haitian asylum seekers at the US Naval Base in Guantanamo, Cuba; for a Civilian Complaint Review Board, and against racist, homophobic and other bias-related violence. She also worked as a staff attorney fellow at the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project, with particular attention to the rights of low-income Women of Color, as a consultant at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and was a co-founder of and activist in Black AIDS Mobilization and the Caribbean-identified Lesbian and Gay Alliance. Suzanne has a B.A. from Yale University and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School.

5. Occhipinti, Anne



Source: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ecpe/faculty/anne-occhipinti/>

Anne Occhipinti is the Assistant Dean for Professional Education at the Harvard Chan School. In addition to overseeing the administration of the MPH program at Harvard Chan, Anne conducts leadership development trainings for hundreds of students. She also coaches for the Harvard Administrative Fellowship program and the Public Health Leadership Concentration. Anne's experience in higher education has included a broad range of areas including: teaching, training, student affairs, residence life, counseling, crisis management and international education.

Prior to her time at Harvard, Anne enjoyed some time managing the student affairs division at New York University in Florence, Italy. Anne has worked for several universities, language schools, a mental health agency and her own intercultural consulting company. This experience enables her to focus leadership training for a wide variety of settings whether working with physicians or undergrads. Anne holds a MA in Counseling Psychology from Boston College and a BA from Colgate University. In addition, she was





awarded a Resident Fellowship from the Harvard University Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Outside of her professional life, Anne is a big fan of yoga, the performing arts, her kids and all things Italian.

6. Kharajian, Ani L.



Ani L. Kharajian has extensive experience in Executive Education and has spent decades helping organizations build their leadership pipelines.

Ani has directed numerous HBS focused, custom and international programs. She has been tasked with assessing the viability and potential success of HBS programs in strategic locations such as China, India, Africa and Latin America to help expand the School's footprint in those regions.

She has worked to build long term productive relationships with leading organizations in the U.S., Latin America, China, Europe, India and Africa to help recruit the best companies and participants to HBS Executive Educations programs.

In 2014, Ani refocused on making inroads to Africa by building a pipeline of top companies to help support the success of the new "Senior Executive Program – Africa" launched in 2016. Ani currently oversees the General Management Program and continues to build global bridges at HBS.

Ani is the President of the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA), a non-profit organization with global reach based in Watertown, MA. She has a B.A. in International Relations and Spanish from Tufts University and completed the Harvard Business School Program for Management Development (PMD 78) in 2003.

Ani speaks Armenian and Spanish and has lived, worked or traveled to fifty-two countries to date and keen to see the rest of the world in the coming years.





7. Hughes, Lisa



Lisa Hughes joined Harvard Business School in 2000 after 13 years of general management experience in the land development and telecommunications industries. Her 21 year tenure at HBS has been with the Organizational Behavior Unit, the Leadership Initiative, and since 2007 as a Director in Executive Education. For the first 8 years of her Directorship, she ran a portfolio of short “Focused” programs, and for the last 6 years she has been the Director of the Program for Leadership Development. Since it had been a big part of Lisa’s work at the Leadership Initiative to participate in the design and execution of a handful of executive education leadership programs and also in the design of PLD, it is truly a joy to be its Director, working with now her second Faculty Chair, both of whom have come from the Organizational Behavior Unit, where she began her tenure at HBS.

8. Good, Victoria



Victoria (Vicki) Good is the Advanced Management Program Director at Harvard Business School Executive Education, where she is responsible for a portfolio of programs in addition to AMP, including Women on Boards, The Reflective Leader and distinctive alumni events. Vicki’s previous positions at Harvard Business School include Director of the General Management and Owner/President Management Programs, the governance portfolio of programs, and Manager of the Corporate Governance, Leadership and Values Initiative project. Prior to joining HBS, Vicki was in sales for Cognos Corporation. Vicki is actively engaged in her community, and currently





serves as Corporator for the Arlington Boys and Girls Club and board member (and founder) of Arlington Youth Lacrosse. She is a member of various professional organizations, including UNICON, and has enjoyed various levels of engagement in many youth, civic, educational and religious organizations, including the American Cancer Society and The Children's Room. Vicki has her B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts and her Masters in Business Administration from Babson College. She and her husband raised their three sons in Arlington, MA where individually and as a family, they continue to participate in many community organizations.

CAS Staff Directors' Biographies

- **Nthatsi Quella**



Source: <https://africa.harvard.edu/people/nthatsi-quella>

Nthatsi Quella is the Office Director, for Harvard University Center for African Studies (CAS) Africa Office in Johannesburg, South Africa. She oversees the day-to-day operations and works closely with the CAS Faculty Director and Executive Director to implement the programmatic agenda of the Africa Office. Nthatsi first joined the Center in the Cambridge office in 2014, overseeing student programs and the Center's outreach efforts. Upon her return to South Africa in 2018, she briefly worked at the Harvard Business School, Africa Research Center before re-joining CAS in May 2019.





- **Rosaline Salifu**



Source: <https://africa.harvard.edu/people/rosaline-salifu>

Rosaline Salifu is the Associate Director for the Center for African Studies. Coming from Ghana, West Africa, Rosaline studied International Development at Brandeis University and has extensive experience in student events programming. Prior to coming to the US, Rosaline lived and worked in Japan and Ghana coordinating and managing educational programs for students and international trainees. With interests in educational events management and international students counseling, Rosaline oversees all Center affiliated events, programs, and fellowships.

- **Alex Taylor**



Source: <https://africa.harvard.edu/people/alex-taylor>

Alex Taylor is the Executive Director of Harvard University's Center for African Studies, where he is responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations of the Center. He works closely with the Oppenheimer Faculty Director and Faculty Executive Committee to implement the Center's programmatic agenda, budgetary oversight, and fundraising. Alex also serves as the operational





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liaison to the Center's Africa Office in Johannesburg, South Africa. He presently serves as Secretary of the Association of African Studies Programs.

Prior to joining CAS, Alex has worked with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Brigham & Women's Hospital, and Boston University's African Presidential Archives & Research Center. He holds a BA in International Relations and BS in Journalism from Boston University, a MS in Management from Emmanuel College, and an ALM from the Harvard Extension School.

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