



<b>Slate of Nominations for FIFSW Alumni Association 2022-2023 Board of Directors Overview</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Candidate</b>
First Vice-President	1) Priyanka Sahajpal
Second Vice-President	1) Michelle Allick
Outreach Co-ordinator	1) Angelina Coccimiglio 2) Priyanka Sahajpal

**The following pages detail the above candidates' bios and rationales.**



**Slate of Nominations for FIFSW Alumni Association 2022-2023 Board of Directors  
 Bios and Rationales**

**First Vice-President**

<b>Name &amp; Grad Year</b>	<b>Bio &amp; Rationale</b>
<p><b>Priyanka Sahajpal</b>            Grad Year: 2021</p>	<p><b><u>Brief Personal Statement</u></b>            I am a Registered Social Worker with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers. I am a Faculty-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (FIFSW) Alumni and an Alumni Association member. I have attained knowledge, skills, and experiences in social work, mental health, student engagement, and leadership, which are key aspects that strengthen my desire to make a difference in various settings. I am a South Asian immigrant and have faced challenges integrating into Canadian society. The discrimination and hostile treatment my family and I faced across systems led me to question whether change is only a concept or whether it can actually be instilled. This led me to pursue social work to make an effort to reduce hostile interactions and increase the presence of inclusive, equitable, and diverse spaces within institutions. I work as a Social Worker at a hospital and am always looking for opportunities where I can connect better with clients, create an environment where they can be their authentic selves, and uphold an anti-oppressive and non-judgemental approach throughout the interactions. Similarly, as an Alumni Mentor at FIFSW, I am continuously following the student’s pace, connecting them to resources, and empowering them along the way. I am interested in cultivating beneficial change that meets the needs of a diverse number of students, allows them to thrive in various settings, and supports them in achieving their ambitions. I am hopeful that I will work within a team to improve student success, reduce student isolation, and increase opportunities for expression, connection, and professional enhancement.</p> <p><b><u>Tell us why you want to run for this specific position on the Board:</u></b>            I am interested in running for the position of First Vice-President as I have been an active member of the Alumni Association and am interested in continuing to make significant contributions to support the FIFSW Alumni community. I currently serve as a FIFSW Alumni Mentor in which I provide guidance to graduate students on preparing for workplace settings, support them in narrowing down job interests, identify career</p>



goals, and prepare for job interviews. I have previously been involved in the creation of engaging initiatives and events for students at the Faculty. For Social Work Week, I created events and activities for students that allowed them to connect with one another, take part in leadership opportunities, network with professors, and reflect on creating positive changes in multiple settings. I am familiar of the needs that students within the Faculty present with and have experience in developing opportunities to support them in meeting their goals.

I am highly passionate about catering events, programs, and services to the needs of the students. If elected, I would carry out a needs-based assessment for students to fill out in order to effectively understand the concerns they may have in depth, events they are interested in seeing, initiatives that they want to get involved in, and opportunities they are interested in being part of to increase their chance of fulfilling their goals. Based on their needs, I would work collaboratively with the executive team to ensure plans are put in place to support students in taking the steps to achieve successful outcomes. My goal is to engage students in the decision-making process for programs, services, and events as they can speak to their experiences and hopes to a greater extent, hence, the needs-based assessments would allow students to become actively involved. I have highlighted my goals and aspirations below that I am dedicated to working on if I am elected:

- Create more networking events for students to connect with Alumni to receive an understanding of their pathways upon graduation.
- Coordinate more career panels with Social Workers from various specializations to support students in obtaining an in-depth understanding of the working world and how they can prepare themselves for the transition.
- Develop more mentorship and peer support programs for students to receive
- peer-based guidance from an Alumni or a group of Alumni who share similar interests and experiences.
- Create opportunities for students to connect with professors such as lunch and learns, meet the professors' night, and speed faculty-student networking events.
- Facilitate in-person and virtual spaces for BIPOC and LGBTQ2S+ students to connect, learn from one another, and discuss strategies that they are using to prepare themselves for graduation.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to facilitate workshops on topics such as managing stress, overcoming



imposter syndrome, effective job search techniques, job application writing skills, preparing for the workplace, making time for self-care, and working within multidisciplinary teams.

- Increase mental health and health services for graduating students to support them in attaining the skills to manage challenges throughout the program and achieve holistic well-being.
- Acquire more scholarship and bursary opportunities for students.
- Facilitate appreciation events for students and faculty who have made significant contributions within the field.
- Create engaging Alumni reunion gatherings and events.

I have previously fulfilled the role of a Board Member within the Psychology Association and Criminology and Sociology Association at the University of Toronto which strengthens my knowledge and skills to lead board meetings, prepare agendas, coordinate funding initiatives, and create needs-based events. I am also familiar with the various programs and resources available at FIFSW and will easily be able to connect students with the support they are looking for. Additionally, I have strengthened my leadership skills by creating needs-based programs, leading student engagement initiatives, and carrying out evaluations, which are aspects that I will carry forward within this role. My hope is to create a space for students, faculty, and executive members to feel heard, engaged, and connected. The Alumni Association has connected me with other students and has exposed me to a breadth of opportunities that have been beneficial for my professional goals. In order to show my appreciation for the support that I have received from the Association, I aim to fulfill the First Vice President position to support students with their professional growth and create a space for their contributions.



Second Vice-President	
Name & Grad Year	Bio & Rationale
<p><b>Michelle Allick</b>            Grad Year: 2002</p>	<p><b><u>Brief Personal Statement:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My educational background is in Social Work, Sociology, &amp; Urban Studies.</li> <li>• My work related experience includes immigrant settlement, child welfare, and crisis counselling in an EAP setting.</li> <li>• I enjoy reading mystery books, spending time with family &amp; friends, and arts &amp; culture.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Tell us why you want to run for the specific position on the board:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would like to become more involved in helping out with events.</li> <li>• Play a more proactive role in engaging alumni.</li> <li>• Continue to stay connected with the FIFSW community by giving back and learning.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Do you have a particular area of interest for a committee that you would be involved with?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I was involved with the admissions committee in 2021.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>What sector do you have experience working or volunteering with?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member at Large, FIFSW Alumni Association.</li> <li>• U of T Sociology Alumni Committee.</li> <li>• Arts &amp; Culture organizations.</li> <li>• KidCoach/Crew Captain, Future Possibilities for Kids</li> </ul>



Outreach Co-ordinator	
Name & Grad Year	Bio & Rationale
<p><b>Angelina Coccimiglio</b>            Grad Year: 2022</p>	<p><b><u>Brief Personal Statement</u></b></p> <p>As a recent graduate from the Faculty, I'm pleased to write you regarding the Outreach Coordinator vacancy. Coming to social work by way of the arts, I am passionate about creativity, community, and collaboration. I hold an Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts, a diploma Professional Photography, and certificates in Applied Media Communication and Digital Marketing. After a handful of roles at the intersection of social media and mental health (e.g.: Digital Marketing Coordinator of psychotherapy clinic Shift Collab, Group Admin for an online network of 2,000 social workers and therapists across Canada called <i>Best Practice</i>, or Producer on <i>Impostercast</i>, a podcast about feeling like an imposter), I knew it was time to dive deeper into the field of mental health.</p> <p>Moving through the 2-year MSW as the first cohort to have been fully virtual, I recognized the need for community-building and developed a handful of initiatives to foster a stronger sense of connection among my peers. These included the MSW Outdoor Social event series that allowed colleagues to connect in-person in a COVID-safe environment and the custom Class of 2022 apparel design that a number of fellow classmates now wear proudly to commemorate the unique virtual experience of the 2020-2022 cohort.</p> <p>In my recreational time, I am the creator of the <a href="#">Eavesdrop Series</a> project, a curated selection of found handwriting spanning the last ten years that was featured on <a href="#">BlogTO</a>, <a href="#">Breakfast Television</a>, CBC Radio One, and Susan Hay's Here and Now for Global TV. I work with other found materials to create collages such as <a href="#">this piece</a> that was a part of the FIFSW Art Action's student showcase, the Art of Resistance.</p> <p>A sample of my creative work can be found at <a href="http://www.acocci.com">www.acocci.com</a> and to view my work experience in more detail, please visit my <a href="#">LinkedIn</a>.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>



	<p><b><u>Tell us why you want to run for the specific position on the board:</u></b> Both my professional and personal experiences have taught me that we are each the sum of the support team around us and I feel privileged to now be a part of a network of brilliant social workers. I believe the Alumni Association is an important part of this nexus for the FIFSW community and I'm eager to continue applying my unique combination of arts-based skills with my newfound social work insight to bolster such connections.</p> <p><b><u>Do you have a particular area of interest for a committee that you would be involved with?</u></b> In the wake of the world's rapid shift to virtual spaces, I look forward to seeing the Alumni Association take great advantage of the connections that can be made over social media and other digital platforms. Leveraging these assets can bolster membership and event attendance, and strengthen our community as a whole.</p> <p><b><u>What sector do you have experience working or volunteering with?</u></b> In addition to experience with digital marketing, social media content creation, photography, and design, I also have experience in hospitality, event planning, fundraising, teaching and tutoring, and office administration.</p>
<p><b>Priyanka Sahajpal</b> Grad Year: 2021</p>	<p><b><u>Brief Personal Statement</u></b> I am a Registered Social Worker with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers. I am a Faculty-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (FIFSW) Alumni and an Alumni Association member. I have attained knowledge, skills, and experiences in social work, mental health, student engagement, and leadership, which are key aspects that strengthen my desire to make a difference in various settings. I am a South Asian immigrant and have faced challenges integrating into Canadian society. The discrimination and hostile treatment my family and I faced across systems led me to question whether change is only a concept or whether it can actually be instilled. This led me to pursue social work to make an effort to reduce hostile interactions and increase the presence of inclusive, equitable, and diverse spaces within institutions. I work as a Social Worker at a hospital and am always looking for opportunities where I can connect better with clients, create an environment where they can be their authentic selves, and uphold an anti-oppressive and non-judgemental approach throughout the interactions. Similarly, as an Alumni Mentor at FIFSW, I am continuously following the student's pace, connecting them to resources, and empowering them along the</p>



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**Tell us why you want to run for this specific position on the Board:**

I am interested in running for the position of an Outreach Co-ordinator as I have been an active member of the Alumni Association and am interested in continuing to make significant contributions to support the Faculty-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (FIFSW) Alumni community. I currently serve as a FIFSW Alumni Mentor in which I provide guidance to graduate students on preparing for workplace settings, support them in narrowing down job interests, identifying career goals, and preparing for job interviews. I have previously been involved in the creation and co-ordination of engaging initiatives and events for students at the Faculty. For Social Work Week, I created events and activities for students that allowed them to connect with one another, take part in leadership opportunities, network with professors, and reflect on creating positive changes in various settings. I am familiar of the needs that students within the Faculty present with and have experience in connecting students to opportunities to support them in meeting their goals.

I have several years of experience within the outreach and co-ordination sector. As a VP Marketing Director at the Psychology Association at the University of Toronto, I was responsible for recruiting marketing assistants, promoting events of the organization on various social media platforms, carrying out tabling initiatives to raise awareness to programs, promoting student involvement opportunities, and connecting with professors to spread awareness within classrooms about engaging opportunities that students can get involved in. Additionally, I collaborated with on-campus academic associations and student-engagement organizations to create events such as Meet the Professors Night, Alumni networking events, and Psychology Graduate Student Panels which resulted in an increase in interest and engagement among students. I also created attractive posters, flyers, brochures, and engaged students in reflection-based online discussions. As a VP Social at the Criminology and Sociology Society at the University of Toronto, I developed a communication plan that highlighted innovative marketing strategies, stakeholders involved, events for the academic year, and frequency of communication to students. Within this role, I co-ordinated resources, speakers, giveaways, and engaging material for events. As a Peer Mentorship Co-ordinator at the University of Toronto's Family Care Office, I developed outreach and recruitment initiatives online and in-





person to recruit peer mentors to carry out mentorship programs for student parents. The outreach efforts resulted in a significant increase in peer mentors who were interested in mentoring students. These positions have increased my understanding of effective outreach strategies, program organization, marketing initiatives, and student engagement efforts, which are skills I will bring forward within the role of an Outreach Co-ordinator.

I have highlighted my goals and aspirations below that I am dedicated to working on if I am elected:

- Create innovative outreach activities to draw in students interested in participating in programs and initiatives.
- Develop enjoyable, needs-based, and engaging opportunities that support students in connecting with one another and increase their ability to attain the skills required to meet their goals.
- Collaborate with departments within the University to spread awareness of the programs and initiatives that are being run by the Alumni Association.
- Form partnerships with other post-secondary institutions, community agencies, internal and external stakeholders to bring in speakers, co-ordinate resources, and implement engaging material.
- Collaborate with members of the executive team to create effective outreach plans along with communication strategies. Within these plans, I would highlight
- evidence-based outreach and communication practices that have a high success rate in engaging students and faculty.
- Utilize social media platforms to promote events, communicate with students, share information on how they can sign up for activities, and create online discussion opportunities.
- Increase the visibility of the Alumni Association to provide students with an understanding of the purpose of the Association and how they can get involved.
- Carry out evaluation surveys for students and faculty members to receive their feedback on events, initiatives, and programs in order to strive for improvement.

I have always been passionate about supporting students to follow their unique pathways. My involvement in student associations has allowed me to work within an executive committee to develop innovative outreach initiatives, engaging programs, and effective marketing strategies, which have resulted in high turnouts along with improved student success outcomes. I am also familiar with the various programs and resources available at FIFSW and will easily be able to connect students with the support they are looking



	<p>for. The Alumni Association has connected me with other students and has exposed me to a breadth of opportunities that have been beneficial for my professional goals. In order to show my appreciation for the support that I have received from the Association, I aim to fulfill the Outreach Co-ordinator position to support students with their professional growth and create a space for their contributions</p>
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