UCLA Lambda Alumni Association: LGBTQ+ Alumni Career Launchpad
“To Be or Not to Be OUT at Work”

Panelist Professional Biographies

Steven J. Alves
Attorney
Alves Law Office

Mr. Alves defends employers, insurance carriers, and third-party administrators in workers' compensation and related matters throughout Southern California. His practice can be distinguished by his focus on providing value-added services rather than billable events. For his successful record at trial, he credits his clients. "The diverse backgrounds of my client base synergize well with my experience. When we work together, anything is possible."

Peter Gandolfo, MBA '03
ICF Certified Executive Coach
Gandolfo Group

Peter Gandolfo is a Hudson Institute certified executive coach (ICF PCC certified) who works with individuals and teams. He helps clients access their personal power as they make progress towards their goals. This ranges from taking greater ownership of their career and leadership style to building emotional intelligence and inclusiveness to help them be successful. He's worked with leaders (manager-level to CEO) at startups, Fortune 500 companies, and in between who work in banking, tech, healthcare, retail, real estate, management consulting, consumer packaged goods, and more. Group sessions he's facilitated include workshops for the UCLA Anderson CEO Forum Retreat, a coaching circle for gay men, and offsites on trust, DEI and more.

Peter's coaching career started at the Drucker Institute, a social enterprise grounded in the management principles of Peter Drucker. He also spent two years as a Career Advisor at the Parker Career Management Center at UCLA Anderson, and nine years in brand management and international marketing at Mattel. At Mattel, he founded and served as the first president for OPEN, an employee resource groups for LGBTQ+ employees and allies. Earlier work experience included product marketing for Ford Motor Company and advertising account management at FCB. He holds an M.B.A. with concentrations in Marketing and
Entrepreneurship from UCLA Anderson and a B.A. in Psychology and Pre-Med Studies from the University of Notre Dame. He's certified in the Hogan Assessment and StandOut, a strengths-based assessment. Peter has published articles for payscale.com and fatherly.com. He lives in Los Angeles with his husband and two young sons.

Patricia Châu Nguyễn, M.Ed.
Senior Director, Diversity Programs and Initiatives
UCLA Alumni Affairs

Patricia Châu Nguyễn serves as the Senior Director of Diversity Programs. For the past ten years, she has served in multiple roles in multicultural affairs, and diversity and inclusion work in higher education – ranging from intercultural living and learning communities, multicultural Greek life, summer bridge programs, multicultural centers, and social justice education. Most recently, Nguyễn served as the first assistant dean of students and founding director of the Asian and Asian American Center at Cornell University. She has presented at conferences such as the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education, NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, and ACPA College Student Educator International. Nguyễn also consults nationally on issues related to interfaith conversations, ethics, meaning-making and intersectionality in practice. She serves as a founding member of Racial Aikido, an affinity-based identity retreat that equips students of color at predominantly white institutions.

Nguyễn received her Master of Education in higher education and student affairs administration from the University of Vermont, and her Bachelor of Science in cellular and developmental biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Nguyễn’s experiences working with college students has fueled a commitment and passion to push institutions of higher education to build capacity towards diversity. She hopes to engage all members of the university, including alumni, to build inclusive campus communities.

Divya Sharma ’18, M.A.
Academic Coordinator & Assistant to the Allston Burr Dean
Harvard University

Divya Sharma (he/him/his) is a higher education advocate and a proponent for equity and inclusion for communities and individuals to realize their worth beyond institutions. As a graduate from UCLA B.A. ('18) in Global Studies and Columbia University M.A. ('19) in Higher
Education. Divya currently works at Harvard University with a dual appointment as a President of a local Los Angeles community school. As a California native, former community college student, first-generation student Divya uniquely understands the intersection of retention, community, and empowerment through action.

As a member of Lambda, Divya supports our Lambda Scholarship and leads Anti-Bias training for our Board. Presently, Divya is excited to blend student activism and Lambda’s history together through intentional community building projects and Alumni outreach. We all deserve a University that works for every one of its community members. As an ardent supporter of anti-racism, trans rights, and cultural exchange Divya is uniquely positioned to help support and bolster the collective action at the university level. Divya looks forward to collaborating with and challenging the University to continually support Lambda’s mission.