ALUMNI PROFILE

Grace-Ann Porpeglia
CMASAS Class of 2019

Grace-Ann Porpeglia, CMASAS Class of 2019, has charted an extraordinary journey from CMASAS to various academic achievements and impactful roles aiding the marginalized in her community as a social worker. As the CMASAS 2023 graduation commencement speaker, she imparted inspiration and wisdom on guests and the Class of 2023 alike.

Post-graduation, Grace-Ann attended Hartwick College in New York where she achieved a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Political Science, Criminal Justice, and Legal Studies. Graduating summa cum laude in just two years, she maintained a remarkable 4.0 GPA and garnered departmental distinction in both the Political Science & Pre Law department as well as the Sociology, Criminology & Human Services departments at just 18 years old. Her academic accomplishments were celebrated with honors, including National Political Science Honors (Pi Sigma Alpha), National Criminal Justice Honors (Alpha Phi Sigma), and International Sociology Honors (Alpha Kappa Delta). Grace-Ann's dedication extended to numerous leadership roles and research, presented at prestigious conferences.

Transitioning to the professional realm, Grace-Ann worked as a social worker for a community nonprofit, aiding individuals battling substance-use disorders, homelessness, and providing access to necessary resources.

During this time, she also earned certifications as a trained United States Figure Skating coach, specializing in children with special needs. Her passion for special education inspired her pursuit of a Master's Degree in Behavior Analysis at Pepperdine University.

Grace-Ann's time at CMASAS had a profound impact on her life. She values the relationships built with instructors, the flexibility of coursework that accommodated her commitments, and the kindness of the staff. CMASAS equipped her with crucial life skills such as time management, critical thinking, self-advocacy, and networking.

Notably, Grace-Ann's CMASAS experience transformed her from a student struggling to reach her full potential attending in-person school to an accomplished graduate student and seasoned professional. Her gratitude extends to several instructors including Carrie Kunkel, Dr. Vanessa Leon, Daisy Cheatham, Derek and Kim Ozment, Tami Warnick, Kim McEachen, and Trish Turner.

With genuine enthusiasm, Grace-Ann loves to promote CMASAS. She highlights its potential to provide a tailored education, fostering independence, and an unwavering sense of community. Her journey exemplifies the power of personalized learning and the profound impact CMASAS can have on students' lives.

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