

## 2018 Mentoring Fair Biographies

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### **Lieutenant Colonel Ariel Batungbacal - *United States Air Force***

Ms. Batungbacal is a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Air Force, and is a student at the National War College. She has served extensively overseas, supporting military operations in Asia, Europe and the Middle East. She is a term member of the Council of Foreign Relations, and previously served as a Southern California Leadership Network Fellow, and a Junior League Board Fellow. She received an Executive Master's in Leadership from Georgetown University, an MA in Diplomacy from Norwich University, a BA in Chinese and BA in Government/Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

### **Gretchen Bloom - *World Food Programme's Alumni Network***

Ms. Bloom has over 40 years of experience in international development and humanitarian assistance, beginning as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Togo. She is currently a Gender Expert for the World Food Programme's Alumni Network. Ms. Bloom has worked, lived and traveled in 100 countries, where she focused primarily on gender issues. She worked as the Gender Adviser in the ANE Bureau of USAID before joining the UN World Food Programme as the Senior Gender Adviser. She retired from WFP after serving 15 months in Kabul, Afghanistan. Since 2003, she has worked as a Gender Expert for WFP, USAID, DFID and the World Bank. Her interest in gender began when she earned her Master's degrees in sociology and community health in New Delhi at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

### **Nancy Boswell - *American University Washington College of Law***

Ms. Boswell is Adjunct Professor and Director of the US and International Anti-Corruption Law Certificate Program at American University Washington College of Law. Ms. Boswell is a member of the OECD Secretary General's High Level Advisory Group on Integrity and Anti-Corruption and is a mentor to State Department IJET Program Fellows. She serves on the USAID Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid's Subcommittee on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance and on the Board of Directors of the Ethics & Compliance Initiative. Ms. Boswell previously served as President and CEO of Transparency International USA and a member of the TI Board of Directors. She practiced international and trade law at Steptoe & Johnson and managed international financial matters at Citibank. She is a member of the ABA Section on International Law Anti-Corruption Committee and the IBA Anti-Corruption Committee.

### **Christina Bucton - *Department of State***

Ms. Bucton is a Foreign Service Officer with the State Department. She will serve as a consular officer at US Embassy Kuwait City, Kuwait starting in March 2018. She worked as a Department of Defense civilian for over eight years in Washington, DC and abroad. At the Defense Attaché Office, US Embassy Bucharest, Romania, Ms. Bucton conducted bilateral and interagency liaison and supported high level visits. Previously, she deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, and generated products for decision makers. She is interested in political and security developments in the Middle East and Europe. Ms. Bucton has a BA in Political Science from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego and studied in Jordan. She speaks some Arabic, Romanian, Spanish, and Tagalog, and enjoys volunteering with refugees.

### **Jeannette Chu - *PricewaterhouseCoopers***

Ms. Chu is a managing director at PricewaterhouseCoopers Advisory LLC where she leads the Export Controls and Trade Sanctions group. She advises clients on complying with national security regulations. She previously spent over thirty years in the federal government and worked at seven federal agencies. She was an American diplomat in China for 13 years, representing three agencies and serving as the principal advisor to the ambassador on border security issues including immigration, export controls and counterproliferation. Ms. Chu set up a vice-ministerial working group on export control cooperation and negotiated a key trade agreement with China's Ministry of Commerce. She is a frequent speaker and writer on China and trade and security issues.

### **Donna Constantinople - *KMA Communications***

Ms. Constantinople is a founding partner of KMA Communications, a management consultancy providing counsel to over 100 national and international corporations, industry associations, and non-profit organizations. The firm's work includes strategic staffing/executive recruitment, executive counsel/training, senior management/corporate governance, internal/external communications, special events, media and public relations. She holds degrees in political science/economics from Northwestern University and has served on the boards of the WFPG, Democratic Party's Women's Leadership Forum, Women's Campaign Fund, and National Trust for Historic Preservation/Decatur House.

**Rachel Cooper - World Bank**

Ms. Cooper is an Education Specialist (Consultant) with the Education Global Practice at the World Bank. She has been a member of the Systems Approach to Better Education Results—Engaging the Private Sector research program since 2014, where she has led work in the South Asia Region and in Fragile and Conflict Affected States, providing policy advice to governments on effective public-private partnerships in education. Ms. Cooper also helps to oversee work related to gender and education and student assessment systems and has previously contributed to lending operations in Africa. Prior to joining the World Bank, she managed a scholarship program for undergraduate women at the State University of New York to help students pursue careers in global affairs. She holds a Master's degree in International Educational Development from Columbia and a BA in Political Science from The George Washington University.

**Marleine Davis - Motorola Solutions, Inc.**

Ms. Davis is the Director of Government Affairs leading Motorola's government engagement in the Middle East, North Africa, Latin America, Central Asia, and parts of Europe. She is responsible for advancing Motorola's government affairs strategy, advocating for projects and public policy goals, and targeting business development initiatives in those regions. Previously, Ms. Davis played a key role in revitalizing the operations of the National US-Arab Chamber of Commerce both in the US and the Middle East. She has created many public/private partnerships that are flourishing today and has guided several successful delegations to and from the Middle East region. Her former training as a CPA appropriately positioned her to direct business growth, guide budgeting efforts, and improve financial projections. Ms. Davis' background includes more than two decades of experience in management and business development, finance and accounting, operations, project administration, and organization at a senior level.

**Luciana Debenedetti - Chemonics International**

Ms. Debenedetti is a Manager with Chemonics International's Latin America and Caribbean division, where she has supported projects in Colombia related to governance and economic livelihoods, human rights, and financial inclusion. She was previously the Network Associate at Namati: Innovations in Legal Empowerment, where she worked to develop a global network of legal empowerment organizations. In this role, she supported grassroots advocacy campaigns on the post-2015 development goals, and organized regional conferences and trainings in Uganda, Ghana, Jordan, and Argentina. As a 2010 Humanity in Action Fellow, she spent a summer in Poland studying the legacy of the Solidarity movement on the country's civil society and democratic development. Ms. Debenedetti graduated magna cum laude from the University of Maryland, where she was a member of the Gemstone Honors Program and a Banneker/Key Scholar. A native of Argentina, she is fluent in Spanish.

**Veronique Dockendorf - Embassy of Luxembourg**

Ms. Dockendorf has been the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Luxembourg in Washington, DC since the summer of 2016. She previously served as the Deputy Political Director in the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs from 2013 to 2016 and as a First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations in New York from 2008 to 2012. She joined the Luxembourg diplomatic service in 2003 after studies of history, international relations and political science in Strasbourg and Paris, France. Ms. Dockendorf is married and has three daughters. Follow: @VeroDockendorf

**Ellen Eiseman - Chemonics International Inc.**

Ms. Eiseman is a public health professional who has focused on healthcare management and supervision, capacity building, and organization development for more than 30 years. Her experience includes working in more than 25 countries in both the public and private sectors and all levels of the health systems helping NGOs, Ministries of Health, Hospitals, and Clinics improve the quality of the services they deliver. Currently a director in Chemonics' Global Health Division, Ms. Eiseman contributes to setting and attaining Chemonics' vision for health programs. She also serves as co-chair for the SID/W International Health and Nutrition Workgroup. She holds an MSOD from AU/NTL and an MPH from UCLA. She is fluent in Spanish and proficient in Portuguese.

**Doreen El-Roeiy - Department of Homeland Security**

Mrs. El-Roeiy is an Asylum Officer and recent graduate of the Presidential Management Fellowship at the Department of Homeland Security. She serves in US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), adjudicating cases and giving immigration benefits to asylum seekers in the US. As part of the PMF, Mrs. El-Roeiy served as the Migration and Human Rights Officer in the Political Office of the US Embassy in Greece. She also rotated at NASA HQ and the International Operations HQ of USCIS. In 2014, Mrs. El-Roeiy was a Fulbright scholar in Sweden, researching the protection of minority languages at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights. She has also worked at the United Nations and the State Department's Foreign Service Institute. Mrs. El-Roeiy obtained a BA from Brandeis University in International Relations and an MSc from the London School of Economics in Global Politics.

**Erika Elvander - Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Global Affairs**

Ms. Elvander is currently director of the Office of Asia-Pacific in the Office of Global Affairs at the Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to her position at OGA she worked on post-deployment health issues for the Department of Defense, and coordinated women's health research at the National Institutes of Health. She has also worked on US-Russia and US-Ukraine health activities. Early in her career she worked for a grassroots women's health organization. Ms. Elvander has an MA in World History and a BA in Asian studies. She has worked in public health for nearly 20 years.

**Andrea Ewart - DevelopTradeLaw, LLC**

Ms. Ewart is the Founder & CEO of DevelopTradeLaw, LLC, which provides business-oriented and practical legal and policy solutions on doing business internationally. She primarily works to expand the trade capacity-building support services of developing countries to facilitate their integration into the international trading system. Prior to founding DevelopTradeLaw in 2003, she was an International Trade Regulation & Legislation Associate at Holland & Knight LLP. During her 17 years working as an international trade attorney, Ms. Ewart has represented clients before and interfaced with both the US and foreign governments. She has advised on regulations related to US customs, the FDA, trademarks, and international transactions. Prior to receiving her JD from the University of Miami, she worked at the Academy for Educational Development as the Coordinator for USAID-funded NIS Exchanges & Training Project focused on 12 countries formerly part of the USSR. Follow: @developtradelaw

**Lauren Farello - Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs**

Ms. Farello, a Program and Membership Associate, joined the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (a program of the Aspen Institute) in August 2015 after a year abroad teaching English near Seville, Spain. As an Associate, she oversees projects and programs related to strengthening the small business sector in emerging markets and manages relationships with various global organizations within the ANDE network. Before teaching abroad, Ms. Farello was a Project Coordinator at the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District and, while pursuing her undergraduate degree, she interned with the Department of State and the Women's Foreign Policy Group. Ms. Farello holds a BA in International Affairs and a minor in Spanish from The George Washington University.

**Paula Feeney - Cardno Emerging Markets USA**

Ms. Feeney is senior advisor for business development at Cardno Emerging Markets USA. Previously, she served 27 years with USAID, including eight years in the Senior Foreign Service. Her overseas assignments included Georgia, Kazakhstan, the US Mission in Geneva, Barbados, and Nicaragua. At USAID in Washington, she directed the Office of European Country Affairs focused on 21 countries, and served as Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Europe in the Europe and Eurasia Bureau for 18 months. She has designed and/or implemented USAID programs in economic growth, health, governance, energy, environment, disaster response, and post-war reconstruction. Ms. Feeney has an MPH and ABD for a DrPH at Johns Hopkins University, as well as a BS from Georgetown University. She has worked in the Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe, Eurasia, and the Middle East.

**Pamela Fierst-Walsh - Department of State**

Ms. Fierst-Walsh works for the US Department of State as a Senior Advisor on conflict minerals and diamonds. She has extensive experience with US policy in Africa, including democracy and governance, counterterrorism, and humanitarian assistance. She served as Senior Advisor on Atrocity Prevention for US Under Secretary of State Sarah Sewall and as a Foreign Policy Fellow for Senator Edward J. Markey. She is a graduate of the National War College and the Maurer School of Law at Indiana University.

**Gina Fiore - The Pew Charitable Trusts**

Ms. Fiore currently works for The Pew Charitable Trusts as a Senior Associate on their Ending Illegal Fishing Campaign. In her role at Pew she works to link illegal fishing to the broader issues of transnational and financial crime. Prior to Pew, Ms. Fiore worked for Booz Allen Hamilton as a Senior Consultant, supporting offices within the Navy and the Army. She also spent five years working in the Department of Defense, deploying to Afghanistan to facilitate private sector investment. She has also interned in the House of Representatives, and has worked in the private sector. Ms. Fiore has a Masters in Historical Studies and Political Science from the New School University as well as two Bachelor degrees from SUNY at Stony Brook.

**Allison Ford - United Technologies, WFPG Board of Directors**

Ms. Ford is a manager of international government relations for United Technologies, a high-tech aerospace and building systems manufacturer with nearly 200,000 employees around the world. In her role, Ford monitors and analyzes developments in global policies that impact UTC's business and international operations. She is responsible for engaging with embassies, NGOs, and foreign and US government officials to advocate on behalf of UTC's international interests. Prior to working for UTC, Ms. Ford was a policy practice coordinator for Van Ness Feldman, an environmental and energy law firm with offices in Georgetown and Seattle. Ford graduated from Gonzaga University in 2004 with a BA in History and was a

member of the UTC Employee Scholar Program where she received her MPA degree in 2014 from George Mason University. She serves on the WFPG Board of Directors and its Executive Committee

**Susan Fridy - *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)***

Ms. Fridy is the Acting Head of the OECD Washington Center, where she works to better connect the OECD's unique research and best practices perspectives with policymakers and stakeholders in the United States and Canada. Previously, she led Public Affairs activities for the Center, overseeing outreach to key stakeholders and liaising with US government, Congress, civil society, and the private sector. She also coordinates public affairs events which communicate the OECD's analysis and policy recommendations focusing on a portfolio of economics, education, skills, innovation, taxation, and social policy. Susan has worked at the OECD since 2004. She holds a dual degree in French and International Relations from Kent State University.

**Kathryn Gest - *Gest Consulting***

Ms. Gest became an independent public affairs strategist and trainer in 2015 after a career as a journalist, Capitol Hill staff member, public affairs consultant and spokesperson for an NGO specializing in democracy building. She served eight years as director of public affairs at the National Democratic Institute (NDI); 11 years at Powell Tate | Weber Shandwick, where she co-chaired the international practice; 10 years as press secretary to US Senator William Cohen of Maine; and 16 years as a journalist. She has participated in 21 election observation missions and has conducted training sessions for parliamentarians, political spokespeople, press secretaries and journalists from more than 30 countries.

**Maureen Greenwood - *Wellspring Philanthropic Fund***

A recognized leader in international affairs, Ms. Greenwood has led advocacy-based efforts for global social justice, development and human rights for the last two decades. She currently is a senior program officer for child rights at Wellspring Philanthropic Fund. She also chairs the East and Southern Africa Working Group of the Elevate Children Funder Group. She previously served as the executive director of the Women, Girls and Population Program of the UN Foundation. She earlier led UNF's Universal Access Project to reach universal access to reproductive health, and was the founding director for Family Planning 2020, a multi-stakeholder partnership. Earlier she was managing director of government relations and advocacy development of Amnesty International USA. In the 1990s, she conducted human rights field work in the former Soviet Union for Union of Councils.

**Scott Harris - *Department of State***

Mr. Harris is a Policy Adviser in the US Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), where he specializes in transnational organized crime and international drug trafficking. In this position, he contributed to the 2011 White House Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime, and he currently coordinates Department of State efforts to curb the ongoing US opioid epidemic. He has been assigned to US embassies in Pakistan and Vienna, and served a legislative fellowship in the US Senate. Mr. Harris has also served as a US delegate to over 20 United Nations technical commissions on crime and drugs, as well as several US delegations to the UN General Assembly.

**Kate Howard - *Seewald Consulting***

Ms. Howard is an international development consultant. Her clients include the Department of State, the UN World Food Program, not-for-profits, and private sector companies. Ms. Howard began her career on Capitol Hill as a staff member on the Senate Agriculture Committee and in the office of Senator Alan Dixon. She held appointments in the Clinton Administration at the Departments of State and Agriculture. Ms. Howard's consulting work includes assignments in the US, Africa, Caribbean, and Central and South Asia including multiple assignments in Afghanistan. Most recently she mentored and trained on resource mobilization, organizational development, board governance, and proposal development. Ms. Howard is experienced in election monitoring, political campaigns and event management. She has served on not-for-profit boards and attended Georgetown University Law Center, Fletcher, Mount Holyoke College and Springfield College in Illinois.

**Jin In - *4Girls GLocal Leadership (4GGL)***

Ms. In is a speaker, author and social changemaker. She started 4GGL.org to revolutionize the way we see girls from human trash to our most powerful force for change. Her mission is to ignite the next generation of empowered women changemakers. Ms. In's focus is in peace and security. Her expertise is in women's empowerment, not merely equality. She conducted the first-ever women's empowerment surveys: Global and Syrian Millennial Women. Previously, she worked for the Bush Administration, leading the first for-girls, by-girls national health program that received 2001-2004 White House Award. She also led the newly created Global Action at Girl Scouts USA, a leadership organization for 2.3 million American Girls, working with 10 million girls in 145 countries. She also co-chaired girls' health at the first-and-only UN CSW for girls. Ms. In studied medicine, girls and women's health, and global affairs at UC Berkeley, NYU, and abroad. Follow: @4GGL

**Margo Jacobs - *Grameen Foundation***

Ms. Jacobs is the Vice President of Development and Communications for the Grameen Foundation, a global nonprofit that creates breakthrough solutions spanning financial, agricultural and health services. They use digital technology and strengthen local partner networks to design and deliver solutions that provide opportunities for women and families living in poverty. Ms. Jacobs has spent more than a decade assisting non-profits--with a focus on international and healthcare organizations--as both a development consultant and a front-line fundraiser. Through this work she has helped worthy causes realize the resources needed to continue their important work. Previously, she served as Director of Development, Campaigns for the UN Foundation, where she helped guide the fundraising and donor communication programs of the Shot@Life, Girl Up, and Nothing But Nets campaigns. Prior to that, she was a Vice President at CCS, one of the largest strategic development consulting firms in the industry.

**Cynthia Kierscht - *Department of State***

Ms. Kierscht, a Senior Foreign Service Officer, is the Director in the Office of Canadian Affairs in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, where she is responsible for advancing US strategic goals in the US's relationship with Canada. From 2013-2016, Ms. Kierscht served as the Cultural Affairs Officer in Bogota, Colombia. From 2011-2013, she acted as Bogota's Deputy Management Counselor, responsible for providing services to 42 agencies, and was the Coordinator for the Summit of the Americas. In Washington, she has served in the Bureau of Counterterrorism, in the Office of the Executive Director for WHA, on the Secretariat Staff and in the Operations Center, as well as in the Near East Bureau. Her overseas assignments include Rabat, Tripoli, Cairo, and Marseille. She speaks Arabic, French and Spanish. Ms. Kierscht earned a BA from Carleton College and a MPP from Harvard's Kennedy School.

**Anne Knight - *Office of the Under Secretary of Defense***

Ms. Knight is the Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. Within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, she has served as the Colombia Country Director, the program manager for DoD's "Section 1206" Global Train and Equip program, and as a foreign affairs specialist for DoD humanitarian assistance and disaster response activities. Ms. Knight also worked in strategic communication at US Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany. She began her career as a Presidential Management Fellow in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the State Department. From 1999 to 2002, she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Burkina Faso. Ms. Knight is the recipient of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service, among other awards. She holds an MA from Johns Hopkins SAIS.

**Stanley Kober**

Dr. Kober was a research fellow in foreign policy studies at the CATO Institute. His areas of expertise include the relationship between democracy and peace, with a focus on control over the war power. He has lectured frequently for the US Information Agency and his work has appeared in Foreign Policy, International Affairs (London), The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal. Dr. Kober previously worked on Soviet and defense issues at SRI International, the Center for Naval Analyses, and the Hudson Institute. He is a graduate of Georgetown University and received his PhD from Tufts University.

**Ruth Kurzbauer - *Department of State***

Ms. Kurzbauer recently retired from the United States Foreign Service/Department of State. Her 25 years as a US diplomat brought her to China, the former Yugoslavia, the Philippines, Canada, and Washington, where she served as consul, public affairs officer, political officer, international relations officer and press officer and as a Foreign Service Examiner for the State Department's Board of Examiners. Since retirement, Ms. Kurzbauer works as a State Department Foreign Service Rehired Annuitant for the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs and the Bureau of Human Resources. She recently completed temporary duty assignments at US embassies in Sofia, Bulgaria, and Beijing, China, and US consulates in Shanghai and Vancouver. Ms. Kurzbauer is an Art Information Volunteer at the National Gallery of Art and a member of The Washington Chorus. She speaks Mandarin Chinese, French, Serbian, and a bit of Spanish and Italian.

**Izza Leghtas - *Refugees International***

Ms. Leghtas joined Refugees International in 2016 as Senior Advocate focusing on Europe. Over the past year she has reported on the situation of non-Syrian refugees in Turkey, abuses against refugees and migrants trying to reach Europe via Libya, and the ongoing plight of refugees in Greece. Prior to joining RI, she worked as a researcher on Western Europe at Human Rights Watch where she covered migration, rights of refugees and asylum-seekers, discrimination and criminal justice. Before joining HRW, Ms. Leghtas worked at Amnesty International's International Secretariat in London as a researcher covering France and Spain and then as a researcher on the Maghreb, focusing on Tunisia and Morocco. Prior to that she worked as a legal assistant to a judge at the EU Court of Justice. She is fluent in English, Arabic, and French, and also speaks Spanish. Follow: @IzzaLeghtas

**Keri Lowry - *National Commission on Military, National & Public Service***

Ms. Lowry is the lead outside executive consultant brought into USAID to develop and begin implementing USAID's private sector engagement strategy on humanitarian assistance, disaster response, preparedness and resiliency. Ms. Lowry is the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Private Sector Exchange where she oversaw the Department's largest public-private partnerships. Previously, Ms. Lowry served as the Regional Director for Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa at the US Peace Corps, Senior Policy Advisor at USAID, the Director for Development, Democracy and Humanitarian Affairs at the NSC, the Deputy Executive Secretary at the NSC, and in numerous positions at USAID including Senior Advisor to the Administrator, Conflict Mitigation and Management Specialist for the Bureau of African Affairs. Prior to her career in government, she managed an international exchange program, was an after-school teacher at a homeless shelter, and a Peace Corps volunteer in Burkina Faso.

**Nancy Lubin - *JNA Associates, Inc.***

Dr. Lubin is president of JNA Associates, Inc., a research and consulting firm on the former USSR/Central Asia. She has lived, worked and travelled throughout this region for over 45 years, as a Congressional staffer; professor (Carnegie Mellon University); fellow at the US Institute of Peace and the Wilson Center; and as head of JNA since the early 1990s. She has consulted for over 80 private foundations, international donors/financial institutions, US government agencies and contractors, the media, and other private industry ranging from Fortune 100 corporations to small non-profits. Her cross-sectoral work, largely focused on corruption and navigating these informal economic/political systems; conducting political risk assessments, survey research & other analyses; consulting on TV/film productions; and advising corporations, donors, and legal counsel in the US, Europe and Japan. She holds a PhD, Oxford; BA, Harvard; and studied in Moscow, Leningrad and Uzbekistan.

**Rachel MacKnight - *Sycamore Strategies***

Ms. MacKnight is Vice Chairman of the Congressional Circle and Vice President of Outreach for the US-Asia Institute, a UN recognized NGO dedicated to creating dialogue between the people and governments of the US and Asian nations. A veteran of Capitol Hill, she served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Senator Barbara Mikulski and Senior Communications Director. Previously, she served on Senator Mikulski's staff as deputy press secretary and press secretary. Off the Hill, Ms. MacKnight worked for the Oregon Health & Science University, the National Endowment for the Arts and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She has traveled to Asia as both a Congressional Staff delegate and as a USAI liaison in charge of a delegation. She holds a BA in Journalism from the University of Georgia, has taken courses at Georgetown, and completed the Wilson International Center for Scholar's Congressional Foreign Policy Fellow program.

**Suzanne McGuire - *Office of the Under Secretary of Defense***

Ms. McGuire is the F-35 Liaison to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics). Prior to her current assignment she was a senior strategic planner in Strategic Plans and Policy (J5 Asia Division) with the Joint Chiefs of Staff which included a detail in the Office of the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Ms. McGuire has held previous positions with the US Southern Command, US Senator Mark Pryor's office, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, National Nuclear Security Administration/Department of Energy, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Prior to her federal service, Ms. McGuire worked as a contractor with the Air Force and the World Bank. She received her BA from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI and her Master of International Studies from the University of Sydney in Australia.

**Melissa Miller - *Department of Homeland Security***

Ms. Miller joined the Refugee Corps at the Department of Homeland Security in 2016. Her position entails interviewing refugees for eligibility to be resettled in the United States. She has also conducted asylum interviews within the United States. Previously, she worked as an immigration services officer and as an analyst at Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Prior to entering the immigration field, she worked as a contractor at the Department of Transportation and the Smithsonian, as well as in nonprofit sector. Ms. Miller earned her bachelor's degree in German studies from Mount Holyoke College and her master's degree in international affairs from Texas A&M University. She also studied for two years in Germany, and completed a State Department internship in Leipzig.

**Julie Niemczura - *Medical Care Development International***

Ms. Niemczura is an international health and development professional with over 12 years of experience. Currently Senior Program Manager with the NGO Medical Care Development International, Ms. Niemczura oversees the implementation of a portfolio of infectious disease prevention and control projects in West and Central Africa and Central America. Her projects aim to halt transmission of malaria, HIV, and Zika virus. She has experience working with donors including USAID, the IDB, Marathon Oil, Noble Energy, and the Department of Defense. Ms. Niemczura has an MPH from the University of Virginia, a BA in international political economy and international development from Tulane University, and speaks Portuguese, Spanish, and French.

**Krystle Norman - Department of State**

Ms. Norman is a diplomat with a passion for youth outreach and cultural exchanges. After learning Portuguese, she will start her fourth assignment as the Deputy Public Affairs Officer at the Embassy in Lisbon. She previously served as the Deputy Coordinator for Cultural Affairs Training at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute, where she trained, inspired, and empowered public diplomacy practitioners on how to advance foreign policy priorities overseas through speaker programs, exchanges, cultural events, and English language classes. She has also served as the Deputy Public Affairs Officer in Barbados and as an Economic and Consular Officer in the Dominican Republic. Ms. Norman is a Pickering Fellow, and prior to joining the State Department, she worked at the Embassy of Costa Rica in Washington, DC and the US Embassy in Ecuador. She holds a BA and MPP from the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Kim Phan - International Law Institute**

Ms. Phan is the executive director of the International Law Institute, an international non-profit training organization that works to foster prosperity through the rule of law. ILI trains government officials and practitioners from over 185 countries on procurement, trade law, alternative dispute resolution, judicial administration, banking, and finance. The Institute also conducts technical assistance including developing commercial laws and legal frameworks, preparing countries for trade and investment negotiations, capacity building, and institution strengthening. Ms. Phan has overseen projects in Nigeria, Vietnam, China, Philippines, Mauritius, Angola, Honduras, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and the APEC region. Ms. Phan has also worked at the US Embassy in Manila, where she served as the US' Asia Environmental Partnership Liaison to the Asian Development Bank, and regional director for the Asia Pacific Water Council.

**Elizabeth Ramirez - Arabella Advisors**

Ms. Ramirez is a director on Arabella's Managed Organizations team. She partners with institutional and corporate funders to establish and operationalize innovative models to achieve their social impact goals. Her projects are both domestic and international, and focus on issues including climate change, peace and security, youth wellness, and civic engagement. Ms. Ramirez brings diverse experience in US-based, global, and corporate philanthropy. She previously worked at the Social Impact Exchange, Levi Strauss Foundation, and UN Foundation. She has served on the advisory boards or steering committees of Atlas Service Corps, Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy, and Full Circle Funds Rising Leaders program. She has also served on the NY Womens Foundation Grants Advisory Committee and is currently an advisor for We Care Solar. Ms. Ramirez holds a BA from George Washington University. She is a dual citizen of the US and Brazil.

**Marjorie Rouse - Internews Network**

Ms. Rouse is Senior Vice President for Programs at Internews, providing strategic vision and technical leadership for program development globally. Previously, she was Vice-President for Europe, Eurasia and ICT Policy for Internews Network and also served as Regional Director for the Western NIS, based in Ukraine. She has worked for many media outlets developing programming, including a History Channel documentary on World War II in Ukraine, "Who destroyed Kyiv". In 1996, Ms. Rouse covered the Dole campaign and in 1997 she was a broadcast producer for the launch of Greater Boston for WGBH. An award-winning network news producer, Ms. Rouse was based in Moscow from 1988 to 1995, covering the former Soviet Union, as well as conflict in the Balkans, Chechnya, Somalia and Haiti for NBC News. She has a Masters in Russian Literature from SUNY Albany and is fluent in Russian.

**Deborah Saily - UN World Food Program, Retired**

Ms. Saily served 22 years with the United Nations, working for the World Food Program and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance. Her postings overseas included Italy, Kenya, South Africa, Switzerland and Uganda. She most recently served in Nairobi as deputy regional director for WFP's Bureau for East and Central Africa, overseeing humanitarian, recovery and development assistance in 8 countries including Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan. She also served as director of WFP's New York Office and as the Johannesburg-based emergency coordinator for an operation that provided food assistance to more than 10 million people in 6 drought-affected countries within Southern Africa. Prior to joining the UN, she worked with USAID in Ethiopia and International Voluntary Services in southern Sudan. She has also lived in Eritrea and Zimbabwe. She received her BA from Smith College and MS from American University.

**Andreas Sandre - Embassy of Italy**

Mr. Sandre is a Press and Public Affairs Officer at the Embassy of Italy in Washington, DC. He is the author of "Digital Diplomacy: Conversations on Innovation in Foreign Policy" (Rowman & Littlefield, January 2015) and "Twitter for Diplomats" (DiploFoundation and Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, February 2013). He was previously at the Italian Mission to the United Nations in New York. Mr. Sandre has contributed articles to the Huffington Post, the London School of Economics Global Policy Journal, and other publications, and has spoken at numerous international events, including TEDxStockholm and Mashable Digital Beltway, with a focus on digital diplomacy, digital communications strategies, and technology policy. Follow: @andreas212nyc

**Patricia Scroggs - Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program**

Ms. Scroggs is the director of the Rangel International Affairs Program, which promotes diversity in the State Department's Foreign Service. She leads a team that recruits and mentors students and young professionals for international affairs careers. A retired Foreign Service Officer, she served in diverse positions in Asia, Latin America, and Washington, including as Director of the Office of Regional and Security Policy for East Asia and in positions advancing US economic, environmental, security, and governance priorities. She holds an MA in International Relations from Johns Hopkins SAIS.

**Yvonne Thayer - Department of State**

Ms. Thayer has more than 30 years of experience as a diplomat, journalist, and program consultant. A retired Foreign Service Officer, she served in Latin America, Mozambique, Italy, and the Vatican, specializing in political, refugee, human rights, democracy, and anti-narcotics issues. Since retiring from the Foreign Service, she continues to work on refugee issues for the State Department, most recently in Lebanon, Jordan, Havana, and Baghdad. She also monitors refugee resettlement agencies throughout the United States. Ms. Thayer was Newsweek correspondent in Brazil. She graduated from the University of Minnesota and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. She speaks Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and some French.

**Mihaela Ulieru - IMPACT Institute for the Digital Economy**

Professor Ulieru is President of IMPACT Institute for the Digital Economy, advising several high tech start-ups and non-profits around the world. Aiming to make emerging technologies an integral component of policy making for a healthier, safer, more sustainable, and innovation-driven world, Professor Ulieru works with governments and organizations to achieve the true promise of the digital economy. Her research in distributed intelligent systems created a strong foundation for governance on Blockchain as an institutional technology after it revolutionized manufacturing, logistics and homeland security. She founded two labs and has been appointed to several boards including the Science Technology and Innovation Council of Canada (appointed by the Minister of Industry), Science and Engineering Research Council of Singapore, IEEE Women in Science and Engineering, and is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council.

**Mirna Vlasic - Embassy of Croatia**

Ms. Vlasic is Minister Counselor at the Croatian Embassy, where she is the Congressional Liaison, responsible for issues relating to transatlantic relations, gender, and the Western Balkans. For 14 months she was a Transatlantic Fellow at the Department of State. Prior to that she was the Advisor to the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, where she founded and managed the Centre of Excellence. Ms. Vlasic was a part of the Croatian Government EU accession negotiating structure, posted in the Office of the Chief Negotiator (2005-2011). She has also held posts in the Office for EU integration and the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Prior to joining the government, she worked for Swedish local authorities and Croatian NGOs. She is committed to training and educating interested stakeholders, and remains active with several Croatian NGOs. She holds a master's in environmental science from the University of Lund, Sweden.

**Nancy Walker - J Walkers Action Group**

Dr. Walker is a political organizer with the J Walkers Action Group and a mentor with Nancy's Wonderful Women. She has served in government, taught at several universities (including GW), and consulted for the UN and NGOs. She served as DoD's Director of the Office of African Affairs and inaugural Director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Before DoD, she worked on German and NATO issues at USIA. In 2007, Dr. Walker moved to Turkey, where she was a Visiting Scholar at Ankara and Bilkent Universities. She was the founding Director at the Atlantic Council's Africa Center and was an election observer in the DRC. She holds an AB from Harvard and Radcliffe and a DPhil from Oxford. She speaks fluent German and French, and conversational Spanish and Turkish. She completed MIT's Seminar XXI, was a Bosch Fellow, and was awarded Senegal's Order of the Lion.

**Ellen Wasylina - Transatlantic Global Advisory (TAGA) LLC**

Ms. Wasylina is CEO of the Transatlantic Global Advisory and Founder of the Green Economy and Sustainable Development Committee at the French-American Chamber of Commerce. She has extensive overseas expertise in France and the EU (just returning in 2016), with a focus on laws, policies, markets, and regulatory environments. She previously served as Sustainability Team Lead at The Spectrum Group, president and founder of the Paris-based think tank International Geostrategic Maritime Observatory, and Editor-in-Chief IGMO's Geostrategic Maritime Review. She was a cabinet member and former director of environment and sustainable development of a French city of 20,000 people (2008-2011), and a senior expert to Euroepaid in Algeria (2014-2015). Ms. Wasylina is author of two books in French on Ukraine and on European security, and was also an adjunct professor in Parisian business school. She speaks French and German fluently, as well as some Italian. Follow: @taga\_ew



**Colonel Cornelia Weiss - US Air Force**

Colonel Cornelia Weiss is the Senior IMA to 12 AF/JA (AFSOUTH) in the US Air Force. She supports legal interface with 31 LATAM countries, conducts legal engagements in support of USSOUTHCOM's Area of Cooperation strengthening rule of law and respect for human rights, and delivers legal advice on operations law, international law, military justice, and joint ethics regulations. After a judicial clerkship, she entered the Air Force through the direct appointment program in 1991. Her duties have included serving as an Acting Staff Judge Advocate on numerous occasions as well as working in both space and fighter wings, a MAJCOM staff, three separate COCOMs, and at the Air Force Legal Operations Agency. Colonel Weiss is a Joint Qualified Officer and holds a JD from the Vanderbilt University, Master's degree from Chile's National Academy of Strategy and Policy Studies, and a BA from the University of Utah.

**Megan Wilson - MW+ Consulting**

Ms. Wilson is an experienced executive with over two decades of experience in global and environmental health. She has managed large-scale US government, nonprofit, and private-sector health programs and is experienced in building capacity in cross cultural settings around the world. Prior to joining Medentech, she served as the Executive Director of the Association Beninoise pour le Marketing Social, a Population Services International network member in Benin, where she oversaw an \$8 million budget, 80 staff, and over 10 health projects. Ms. Wilson has also worked for the EPA, USAID, State Department, and the US House of Representatives. Her love of international development was sparked as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guinea. She has a Masters in International Development from Princeton and Bachelors in International Affairs from the University of Colorado in Boulder. Ms. Wilson speaks French and Dutch fluently.

**Donna Woolf - Department of State**

Ms. Woolf was a Senior Public Affairs Advisor to the Office of the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues. She is a Foreign Service Officer and has served in Brussels, London and Washington, DC. Prior to joining the State Department, she was a television producer working for the US Agency for International Development, and the former US Information Agency. She is originally from San Francisco, graduated with a History and Political Science degree from Tufts University and worked as a producer for CBS and PBS before coming to Washington.

**Melinda Wuellner - Council on Foreign Relations**

Ms. Wuellner has worked in CFR's Global Communications department since 2008. As Deputy Director, her work involves connecting CFR's brand and resources with its digital audiences through social media, email, advertising, partnerships with media organizations, etc. She also markets the organization's award-winning content to a variety of audiences. During her sixteen years in Washington, Ms. Wuellner has worked for the State Department, Foreign Policy magazine, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, the American Academy of Diplomacy, and WorldPublicOpinion.org. She holds a Master's degree in Global Politics from LSE, a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Certificate in Digital Marketing from NYU, and a Graduate Certificate in International Relations from the Universidad de Chile. In 2013, she was included in the Diplomatic Courier and Young Professionals in Foreign Policy list of the "Top 99 Foreign Policy Leaders under 33" and is a CFR Term Member.

**Hanane Zelouani Idrissi - National Endowment for Democracy**

Ms. Idrissi has over 15 years of experience in non-profits and democratic transitions in the MENA region, working both in the US and in the field. She worked with Counterparts International, National Endowment for Democracy, and Vital Voices Global Partnership. She has managed civil society programs and grants focusing on human rights, governance, accountability, political processes, women's and youth leadership, civic and political participation, and NGO capacity building. She led a leading women's advocacy NGO in Morocco (Union de L'Action Feminine) that led the One Million Signature Campaign for the reform of the Personal Status Law (Mudawana). Ms. Idrissi has spoken with numerous media outlets and published articles featured on Moroccan and US news websites and blogs. She has a Master's degree in Humanities and Social Sciences from Alakhawayn University in Morocco and is fluent in Arabic and French.