



ICAP 2018

INTERNATIONAL CAREER ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

**THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION
1750 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, SUITE 300, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006**

**Dr. E. Thomas Rowe, Director
International Career Advancement Program
Josef Korbel School of International Studies
University of Denver
Denver, CO 80208
<http://www.icapaspen.org>**

ICAP is jointly sponsored by the University of Denver and the Aspen Institute.

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We owe special thanks to the United Nations Foundation for providing the facilities for this introductory session.



INTERNATIONAL CAREER ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

AGENDA

- 8:30-9:00 a.m. *Light Breakfast*
- 9:00-9:15 a.m. Introductions
- 9:15-10:30 a.m. **Session 1: “Leadership Styles and Effectiveness”**
Ambassador (ret.) Peter Romero (Experior Advisory)
- 10:30-10:45 a.m. *Break*
- 10:45-12:00 noon **Session 2: “Experiences with Diversity and Inclusion”**
Travis Adkins (ICAP 2007, InterAction)
Ginny Barahona (ICAP 2009, Create Labs)
Carmen Cantor (ICAP 2012, State Department)
Negin Sobhani (ICAP 2013, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine)
- 12:00-1:30 p.m. *Lunch*
- 1:30-3:00 p.m. **Session 3: “Career Development: Lessons Learned”**
Nicholas Bassey (ICAP 2009, USAID)
Nima Patel Edwards (ICAP 2003, FEMA)
Linda Etim (ICAP 2006, Gates Foundation)
Abigail Golden-Vasquez (ICAP 2002, Aspen Institute)
- 3:00-3:15 p.m. *Break*
- 3:15-4:45 p.m. **Session 4: “Career Planning and Development”**
Gihan Fernando (American University)
Sandra Rivera (ICAP 1998, US International Trade Commission)
- 4:45-5:00 p.m. Concluding Remarks
- 5:00-7:00 p.m. ICAP Alumni Association Reception

MID-CAREER PARTICIPANTS: ICAP 2018 FELLOWS



MARIA MACARENA APUD

Maria Macarena Apud, a 2018 State Department ICAP Fellow, is the Energy Officer in the Office of Economic Policy and Summit Coordination, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State. She is the lead action officer and advisor on regional energy issues for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA) at the U.S. Department of State. Maria facilitates coordination of U.S. energy policy, and analyzes and provides advice on energy trends, events, and issues and their impact on broader U.S. foreign policy objectives in the Western Hemisphere. Maria started her career at the Department on the Colombia desk. Prior to joining the State Department, she worked on Capitol Hill for a U.S. Member of Congress for more than four years. Maria holds an M.A. in International Affairs with concentrations in International Economic Affairs and Latin America from the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University (GWU) and a B.A. in Political Science and Psychology from GWU. Maria is a native Spanish speaker and has an intermediate knowledge of French.



FRANCISCO BENSCOSME

Francisco Bencosme, a 2018 AIUSA ICAP Fellow, is the Asia Pacific Advocacy Manager at Amnesty International USA. Francisco has testified in front of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, numerous Congressional briefings, and has been quoted in the *NYT*, *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Associated Press*, *ABC News*, *Reuters* and *Politico* on U.S. policy towards Asia. Since 2013 Francisco has worked for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on U.S. foreign policy in the East Asia/Pacific and South Asia regions. Francisco also assisted on State Department/USAID budget/oversight and appropriation issues. He was also the President of the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association and a board member of the Foreign Affairs Congressional Staff Association.

Francisco has a Master of Science in Foreign Service (Georgetown), a graduate certificate from the USAF Air University, and a Bachelor of Arts (Wake Forest) in Political Science, Minors in Middle East and South Asia Studies and Communications. Francisco is fluent in Spanish.



AMMARA BOKHARI

Ammara Bokhari, a 2018 USDA/FAS ICAP Fellow, is a Program Manager at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service where she manages international agricultural trade programs to improve foreign market access for U.S. products, build new markets, and strengthen the competitive position of U.S. agriculture in the global marketplace. During her time with USDA, Ammara has implemented various Cochran Fellowship and trade capacity building programs, collaborated with high-level foreign government officials and diplomats, negotiated with public and private entities, and spoken at workshops and conferences around the world. Prior to joining USDA, Ammara worked as a Business Development and Strategy Analyst for a start-up beverage company where she helped launch an energy drink in the U.S. Ammara is also a co-founder of Thaakat Foundation, a non-profit organization with global aid projects around the world. Ammara holds an undergraduate degree in Finance from the University of Illinois and an MBA from Johns Hopkins University.



THOMAS W. BULLOCK

Commander Thomas W. Bullock, a 2018 US Navy ICAP Fellow, attended Penn State and Rutgers Universities where he graduated with Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees in mathematics in 1995 and 1998, and also studied French. Following graduation, he served as an instructor at Rutgers University and Brookdale College prior to being commissioned at the U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School in 2002. He is a graduate of the Joint Professional Military Education programs at the U.S. Naval War College, College of Naval Command and Staff and the Joint and Combined Warfighting School at the Joint Forces Staff College.

Upon completion of initial nuclear power and submarine officer training, CDR Bullock reported to USS Memphis (SSN 691) where he served from 2004-2007. After leaving USS Memphis, CDR Bullock served as the Submarine Division Officer Shore Assignments Detailer at Navy Personnel Command (PERS-42) from 2007-2009. Following completion of the Submarine Officer Advanced Course, CDR Bullock reported aboard USS Annapolis (SSN 760) as the Combat Systems Officer, responsible for five divisions, the ship's weapon and sensor systems, and the planning and execution of all operations. After his tour onboard Annapolis, CDR Bullock served as the Aide to Commander, Submarine Forces from 2012-2014.

CDR Bullock most recently served as the Executive Officer of USS Columbia (SSN 771) from 2015-2017. As second in command he led the ship through the preparation, planning, and completion of a Western Pacific deployment before reporting to his current assignment as the Deputy Executive Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (seven awards) and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards). CDR Bullock is most proud of having been a part of three crews that collectively earned two unit awards, three Battle Efficiency awards, and the Atlantic Fleet's Battenberg Cup.



MATTHEW CASPER

Matthew Casper, a 2018 USDA/FAS ICAP Fellow, currently works as Monitoring and Evaluation specialist in the Monitoring and Evaluation Staff of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His educational background in international relations and applied economics led him to this role two years ago. Before this, he started in USDA as an intern through the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities in the front office of OCBF. He eventually was hired full time to work on international exchange programs; he remained there for one year until ultimately arriving to his current role. Before USDA, Matthew worked on privacy policy at the Census Bureau before deciding to enter the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University. He made this switch to gain technical expertise in applied economics and international development. Before all of this, he originally made his move to Washington, D.C. from Minnesota 11 years ago to begin his undergraduate program at George Mason University. Matthew is originally from Minnesota; he has also spent a fair amount of time in Puerto Rico generally in the summer months and over holidays to spend time with his mother's family. His parents met in the Peace Corps and decided to start a family afterwards. He grew up with three older sisters who all pushed him to work hard due to their professional accomplishments in industrial engineering, mathematics, and biomedical engineering. He believes his drive in international affairs came from his parent's original work in the Peace Corps.



JUSTIN CHOE

Justin Choe, a 2018 USDA/FAS ICAP Fellow is an economist at the Global Commodity Analysis Division, Office of Global Analysis, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, where he analyzes global markets and trade trends of various commodities including oilseeds, grains, and vegetable oils. Justin participates in numerous official government reports, including the monthly WASDE publication, and also works on other projects that are expected to appear in peer-reviewed journals. In his free time, Justin enjoys watching basketball and cooking Korean food for his wife and son. Justin holds a PhD in applied economics from Cornell University, and a MA and BA in applied economics from Seoul National University.



KALAMOGO COULIBALY

Kalamogo Coulibaly, Ph.D., is currently a senior international economist at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) in Washington DC. Also, he often teaches courses such as principles of economics, energy economics, and managerial economics at the University of Phoenix. He has teaching experience at other colleges and universities in the United States. Dr. Coulibaly holds a Ph.D. in economics from American University in Washington, DC and a Master's degree in economics development from Clermont-Ferrand (France). Dr. Coulibaly has been a senior international economist with the Federal government for the last ten years. He worked for three years at the United States Postal Service where he developed postal prices and lobbied on behalf of the U.S. Postal Service at the United Postal Union in Switzerland on postal issues. He led the preparation and production of the Annual Policy Reports (APRs) at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) from 2012 to 2016. Dr. Coulibaly also assesses the developmental impact of projects of OPIC-supported projects. In FY2017, Dr. Coulibaly was on a detail in the African Bureau of African affairs at the State Department. While there, he was the desk officer for Guinea, Togo, and Benin as well as the regional economics officer for West Africa. Dr. Coulibaly helped shape U.S. policy toward Guinea, Togo and Benin on political, economic, consular, and other matters. Furthermore, he helped raise the economic profile for the countries in West Africa to increase U.S. investment and trade. He spearheaded two business roundtables and related discussions on investment opportunities and investment climate in Togo and Cape Verde. He was the point of contact for the preparation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act forum held in August 2017 in Togo. Before joining the U.S. Federal Government in 2008, he worked with international organizations e.g., the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. He worked on various areas including the Common Performance Assessment System (COMPASS) report, macroeconomics, growth diagnostics, trade and rural sector finance, and debt sustainability analysis. Dr. Coulibaly has co-authored a numbers of articles and working papers. He likes traveling and attending professional conferences. Dr. Coulibaly is currently married and is the father of two children.



LORENA DAVALOS

Lorena Davalos, a 2018 DOL/ILAB ICAP Fellow, is a committed public servant with 13 years of experience in the fields of international development and project management. Ms. Davalos has been working for the US Department of Labor in the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), in the Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, & Human Trafficking (OCFT) since 2011. She manages a portfolio of over \$33 million in grants to reduce exploitative child labor in Latin America. She holds a Master's degree in International Policy Studies from the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), and Bachelor's degree in International Agricultural Development from the University of California-Davis. Ms. Davalos has served as the co-chair of the ILAB Diversity & Inclusion Committee to promote a diverse and inclusive workforce by fostering collaboration with individuals from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences. Ms. Davalos is a California native, but has been living in DC area since 2008 where she is raising her two children. Ms. Davalos is passionate about international development, food, financial independence and always thinks about moving back to California when it snows in DC.



MARIBEL DURAN

Maribel Duran, a 2018 Aspen Institute ICAP Fellow, is the Assistant Director for Strategy and Operations with the Education & Society Program at the Aspen Institute. In this role, Maribel oversees the operations, financial, and administrative functions for the program, and helps lead the strategy development and continuous improvement and alignment of the program’s programmatic and policy efforts. Maribel is also the co-chair of the Institute’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council and member of the Richard Salinas Foundation Scholarship Committee.

Previously, Maribel served eight years under the Obama Administration at the U.S. Department of Education. In 2009, she joined former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan as Special Assistant in the Office of the Secretary. Later, she served as Chief of Staff for the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, informing the Administration’s P-20 policy and programmatic efforts on behalf of the nation’s Latino students and families, including helping to secure over 150 private-and-public sector commitments with a collective investment of over \$335 million to build on and accelerate federal, state, and local investments in high-quality education for the nation’s Hispanic community, and launching the Federal Interagency Working Group to strengthen and align federal policy efforts with local initiatives. Maribel also served as Chief of Staff for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, member of the White House Council on Women and Girls Federal Taskforce and the Education Department’s Diversity and Inclusion Working Group.

Maribel began her career at the Chicago Public Schools helping to advance the school district’s mission of providing a high-quality education to the city’s children. She holds a bachelor of English Language and Literature *magna cum laude* and an honorary doctorate in education from Southern New Hampshire University. Maribel sits on the board of trustees for Southern New Hampshire University and is a board member for the Institute on Educational Leadership. Maribel was honored as “40 under 40” by the Leadership Center for Excellence and has been featured in national conferences, including a Ted Talk, for her continued commitment to diversity, gender and education equity, and social justice.



Ji FREDRIKSEN

Lieutenant Commander (Sel) Ji Fredriksen, a 2018 US Navy ICAP Fellow, reported to Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii's Public Works Department, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, in December 2016 and is currently serving as the Facilities Engineering and Acquisition Division (FEAD) Deputy Director, overseeing the Category III/IV Construction Contracting ("SABER Team") Branch and Facilities Support Contracts (FSC) Branch.

Fredriksen was born in Seoul, South Korea and moved to Alexandria, Virginia at the age of twelve. She enlisted in the Navy in July, 1998 as an Engineering Aide and attended A-School in Fort Leonardwood, Missouri. She has had many important assignments in the U.S. and abroad.

She was commissioned in 2008 through a Seaman to Admiral-21 (STA-21) program upon completion of her Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, graduating with Magna Cum Laude from Auburn University in Alabama. She reported to Post Graduate University of Washington for Master of Science in Civil Engineering in December 2015 and graduated with 3.94 GPA in December 2016.

Fredriksen is a registered Professional Engineer in state of Washington, Seabee Combat Warfare (SCW) officer, JPME Level I qualified, a Master Training Specialist (MTS), PWD Cert Level II qualified, and Level II certified acquisition professional. Awards include Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medals (five awards), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and other unit and service awards.

Fredriksen is married to Lt. Cmdr. Robert Allen Fredriksen of Bottineau, North Dakota, who is currently stationed in Commander Pacific Fleet. They have a four-year-old son Liam and a two-year-old daughter Emma.



CIBELES GARCIA BURT

Cibeles Garcia Burt, a 2018 USAID ICAP Fellow, is a member of USAID's Foreign Service. Cibeles is the Regional Project Development Officer at the USAID/Southern Africa Mission which provides services and support to 14 countries in the region. She recently served at the USAID/Bureau for Food Security where she coordinated the United States Government Global Food Security Strategy country plans for 12 target countries. Cibeles has also served as Program Officer in Rwanda and Mexico where she led a team of monitoring, evaluation, learning, and GIS specialists and supported activity and project design, and gender integration. Cibeles is on the board of USAID's Women@AID and Hispanic Employee Council of Foreign Affairs Agencies (HECFAA), two of the agency's affinity groups.

Before joining USAID, Cibeles worked in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa on sustainable development initiatives in education and youth development. She also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ghana and the Dominican Republic. Cibeles has also worked with the Environmental Protection Agency and with the private sector for several companies, including Procter and Gamble and General Mills.

Cibeles holds a Master's degree in International Education from New York University and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and Global Engineering from the University of Michigan. She is fluent in Spanish and has learned Twi, Nahuatl, Quechua, and Haitian Creole. Cibeles has four children and a husband who is also a Foreign Service Officer at USAID. Cibeles enjoys travelling and spending as much time as possible with her children.



RAZI HASHMI

Razi Hashmi, a 2018 State Department ICAP Fellow, is a congressional advisor in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) at the U.S. Department of State. He previously served as a Washington-based foreign affairs officer on INL counternarcotics and rule of law programs in Afghanistan. Prior to that, he was a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) where he worked on public affairs, congressional testimony in former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson's office, and innovation and emergency management policies.

In 2017, Razi was appointed to serve as a member of the Governor's Virginia Asian Advisory Board (VAAB). He has also previously worked in local government, political campaigns, Capitol Hill, and non-profit management. He was a 2015 Sorensen Political Leadership Program (PLP) participant with the University of Virginia.

Razi received a Master of Public Policy (MPP) in 2012 from George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government, and a Bachelor's in international studies in 2006 from Dickinson College.



YASMEEN HIBRAWI

Yasmeen Hibrawi, a 2018 State Department ICAP Fellow, is a U.S. Diplomat with the State Department, currently based in Washington, D.C. A career member of the Foreign Service, Yasmeen joined the State Department in 2010. Her first assignment was in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, followed by a tour in Stockholm, Sweden. After Sweden, she returned to Washington, D.C. where she worked with the UN to generate new commitments from 50 countries to meet refugees' most urgent needs to advance President Obama's 2016 Leaders' Summit on Refugees at the UN General Assembly in New York. She currently works in the Bureau of Public Affairs' International Media Engagement office, focusing on international media outlets such as Al Jazeera Arabic, Al Arabiya, BBC Arabic, etc. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Yasmeen worked for Boost Mobile as a Customer Insight Manager. She has a BA in Communications/TV/Film from California State University, Fullerton and an MBA from Pepperdine University. She is a native of California and speaks Arabic and Swedish.



JEFFREY HSU

Jeffrey Hsu, a 2018 USITC ICAP Fellow, is a Supervisory Attorney in the Office of Unfair Import Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. Jeff grew up near Cleveland, Ohio. Jeff received a Ph.D. from Cornell University (Dept. of Geosciences), a J.D. from Cornell Law School, and a B.A. with Honors from Wesleyan University. He is a member of the New York, New Jersey, and DC bars, and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. Jeff supervises attorneys in intellectual property related investigations at the ITC. Before the ITC, Jeff was in private practice as an IP litigator, and was in-house IP litigation counsel at a Fortune 500 company. In private practice his representations included the Government of Jordan before the U.N. Compensation Commission, and the family of Sister Dorothy Stang, a nun who was assassinated in the state of Para, Brazil. Before becoming a lawyer, Jeff worked as an international exploration geologist for a major oil company, where work took him to Mexico, Costa Rica, Columbia, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Denmark (North Sea), and China (South China Sea). In his free time Jeff enjoys biking, building bikes, skiing, windsurfing, ceramics, and playing piano (badly).



ANTOINETTE HURTADO

Antoinette Hurtado, a 2018 State Department ICAP Fellow, is a public diplomacy-coned Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Department of State. She has served overseas as a political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Canberra, Australia; as a consular officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; as the Special Assistant to the Director of Communications and Public Diplomacy at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan; and as the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See. She has also had several Washington assignments, including serving in the 24/7 Bureau of Intelligence and Research watch office and as an advance officer for the Secretary of State. Most recently, she was in the Bureau of International Information Programs' Office of Public Engagement, managing teams working on public engagement campaigns and youth networks in Africa and Latin America. She is currently a Lawrence Eagleburger Fellow at Jose Andres's company, ThinkFoodGroup. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, and a Master in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.



LIN JONES

Lin Jones, a 2018 USITC ICAP Fellow, is an international economist at the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC). She joined the USITC in 2011 and has published on empirical trade topics such as global value chains, trade in value added (TiVA), trade statistics reconciliations, and IPR protection and exports. Since 2014, she has been leading two multilateral projects, the APEC TiVA Initiative and the North America TiVA project. She has written for various USITC reports, including U.S. Trade and Investment in Sub-Saharan Africa; Trans-Pacific Agreement: Likely Impact on the U.S. Economy and on Specific Industry Sector; Africa Growth and Opportunity Act; and Digital Trade in the U.S. and Global Economy 2. She gave numerous presentations at various OECD, APEC, ADB, and UN conferences and meetings. Lin received a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) and a Master of International Business from the University of Sydney (Sydney, Australia).

Lin Jones' early career experience includes a certified public accountant, a published book writer, and a professional photographer. The wanderlust in Lin Jones has taken her to fifty countries and territories in the world. She hiked in Mount Cook in New Zealand, the Annapurna range in Nepal, the Incan trail in Peru, the West Highland Way in Scotland, and the Dingle Peninsula loop in Ireland. Other than travel and hiking, Lin Jones also enjoys playing piano, meditation, painting, and reading.



MAHNAZ KHAN

Mahnaz Khan, a 2018 USITC ICAP Fellow, is an International Trade Analyst at the U.S. International Trade Commission, specializing in textile and apparel trade and data privacy issues. She provides industry expertise to the Executive Office of the President, Congress, and federal agencies on international trade issues. In her role at the USITC, she has led investigations on environmental goods, trade preference programs, and rules of origin. Mahnaz previously worked at the Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration as an international trade compliance analyst, where she conducted antidumping and countervailing duty investigations. Prior to joining the government, Mahnaz worked as a securities fraud analyst at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. She has also advised businesses on international corporate matters while working as a law intern in the United Kingdom, Italy, and India.

Mahnaz has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Boston University, with a concentration in finance and operations and technology management. She earned a Juris Doctor from Chicago-Kent College of Law, specializing in International and Comparative Law. Mahnaz is a recent graduate of the Excellence in Government Fellows Program through the Partnership for Public Service. She is proficient in Urdu-Hindi and has a working knowledge of Spanish. She lives in Virginia with her husband and two daughters.



MARITA LAMB

Marita Lamb, a 2018 State Department ICAP Fellow, is a Foreign Service Officer with Department of State. She is on the Consular career track. Since July 2017, she has served as a Deputy Coordinator in the Foreign Service Institute's Orientation Division where she is responsible for the onboarding of all incoming Foreign Service Generalists, Specialists, and Limited Non-Career Appointees. Her previous assignments include being a Watch Officer in the Department's nerve center, the Operations Center in Washington, D.C. (2016-2017); Consular-Political rotation in Bogotá, Colombia (2014-2016); and Vice Consul in Dhaka, Bangladesh (2011-2013). Marita joined the State Department in August 2010 and was a proud recipient of the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship in 2008. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Spelman College in Political Science with a concentration in International Studies and a Master of Public Policy degree from Georgetown University. Prior to joining the Department, Marita served as a Rural Health Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic and worked briefly as a case manager in a HIV Primary Care Facility in Philadelphia, PA where she was born and raised. She also briefly worked for the Office of Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-CA) in Washington, DC and the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation in Little Rock, AR. Marita speaks Spanish and Bengali. A member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Marita very much enjoys opportunities to mentor youth, particularly those with an interest in a career in international affairs.



JENNY LU MALLAMO

Jenny Lu Mallamo, a 2018 CFR ICAP Fellow, is the associate director for global communications and media relations at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington D.C. In this role, she leads media relations efforts and provides editorial and strategic communications support to promote CFR's experts and publications. In addition to booking interviews, pitching op-eds, organizing press briefings and conference calls, she also coordinates media strategy for high-profile events and publication roll-outs.

She previously coordinated media relations at the New America Foundation and was a research assistant at the Brookings Institution. While at Brookings, she helped to launch an internal women's mentoring network, which just celebrated its tenth anniversary. She started her career in Washington DC as an intern at CNN.

She currently serves as Communications Chair on the advisory board of the Harvard Women in Defense, Development, & Diplomacy alumni group, and is also a Term Member at the Council on Foreign Relations. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Kenyon College with degrees in International Studies and Modern Languages, and has a Master's degree in public policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. She has published articles in TIME and in Pacific Standard magazines. She is also a military spouse – her husband is C130 pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps.



DANI MANISCALCO

Danielle Maniscalco, a 2018 State Department ICAP Fellow, serves as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State. In her current capacity as energy officer for North and Central America in the Bureau of Energy Resources, she works to advance U.S. energy security and foreign energy policy goals. Dani entered the Department of State in 2010 as a Thomas R. Pickering Graduate in Foreign Affairs Fellow. An economic officer, she has worked at U.S. embassies in Hanoi, Tegucigalpa, and Caracas. She has also served at U.S. Consulate General Basrah and in the Department's Office of Energy Exporting Countries, prior to the creation of the Bureau of Energy Resources. During a twelve-month assignment in the Department of State's Executive Secretariat, she had the privilege of preparing and advancing overseas travel for both Secretaries Kerry and Tillerson. Dani is passionate about mentoring, professional development, and helping to prepare the next generation of U.S. diplomats for success. To this end, she currently serves as the Department's Pickering and Rangel Fellow Association (PERFA) board mentoring chair.

Dani received a Master of Arts in international affairs and energy management and policy from Columbia University. She also studied graduate-level Technology Policy courses at MIT and received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Villanova University. Dani, along with her incredible parents and twin sister, is a proud Bostonian. She has an adopted Venezuelan cat named Bo and loves reading, running road races, enjoying outdoor activities, watching sports, and spending time with family and friends in her free time.



ALEFIA MERCHANT

Alefia Merchant, a 2018 USAID ICAP Fellow, is the Feed the Future Coordinator for USAID Guatemala. Alefia joined USAID in 2010 and has served in Pakistan, Nigeria, and Thailand as an Agriculture Development Officer.

Prior to joining USAID, Alefia worked with a number of development organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ACDI/VOCA, Banyan Global, and Relief International, where she mainly focused on food security analysis, value chain development, and micro-enterprise development.

Alefia received her B.A. from New York University and a dual M.A. in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development from the University for Peace in Costa Rica and American University.



BINTOU NJIE

Bintou Njie, a 2018 State Department ICAP Fellow, is Foreign Affairs Officer serving as Policy Officer for Afghanistan and Pakistan in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

Ms. Njie joined the Department of State in May 2015. From 2014 to 2015, Ms. Njie was a professional staffer on the Senate Judiciary Committee focusing on the immigration and juvenile justice issues. From 2007 to 2014, she served as a Senior Analyst at the Government Accountability Office. In this capacity, Ms. Njie oversaw the development of reports on topics such as immigration, law enforcement, and intelligence gathering.

Ms. Njie earned a B.S. in Political Science from Tennessee State University and a M.A. in International Relations from American University. She lives in Washington, D.C, where she recently purchased her first home.



BRYAN NORRINGTON

Bryan Norrington has served as Director of the Office of International Research Programs (OIRP) of U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) since December 2017. OIRP is responsible for ARS' liaison with its international partners and Mr. Norrington is the principle point of contact in ARS for international activities. Previously, Mr. Norrington had served as a Senior Food Defense Analyst at USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), where he worked with Government agencies at all levels, industry, academia, and other organizations to develop and implement strategies to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from intentional adulteration of the food supply. He initially joined USDA as a Public Service Leaders Scholar and worked as an international economist and trade specialist at the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) prior to joining FSIS. At FAS, he helped maintain and expand markets for U.S. animals and animal products and led the development of targeted technical assistance and capacity building programs. Mr. Norrington earned his B.A. in International Political Economy from Colorado College and M.A. in International Policy and Conflict Management from Johns Hopkins, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.



LYDIA NYLANDER

Lydia Nylander, a 2018 USAID ICAP Fellow, is a born and bred Londoner of Sierra Leonean descent, who uprooted and moved to Washington DC, over a decade ago. She gained her Bachelors of Law at the University of London and has a Masters in International and Comparative Law from the George Washington University Law School. Ms. Nylander serves as a Risk Management Advisor in USAID’s Government to Government Risk Management Division, providing technical advice and policy guidance on broad international projects with national, sub-national and sector-level impact related to sustainability and country ownership. Prior to her tenure at USAID, Ms. Nylander assumed senior community engagement roles at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and supported program development at the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) at the US Department of Justice. Ms. Nylander is the former Director of Grants Management and Resource Development at the National Association of Consumer Advocates – the nation’s leading consumer advocacy organization. In this capacity, she oversaw the Institute for Foreclosure Legal Assistance, \$15 million dollar foreclosure defense project which provided legal representation to families facing foreclosure due to abusive subprime mortgages. Ms. Nylander served as a founding member for The Africa Society's Youth Advisory Committee - formed as a direct outgrowth of the National Summit on Africa, whose mission is to engage and educate Americans about Africa’s people, culture, history and economy. Ms. Nylander is a former Commissioner for the Mayoral Committee on Women for the District of Columbia and Chair for the Mayor’s Commission on African Affairs, where she advocates for the needs of the diaspora community living and working in the District of Columbia. Ms Nylander is also on the Board of Directors for Trade plus Impact, an international platform designed to increase women-led social enterprise in Africa and the Middle East. Ms Nylander has volunteered her time and talents to 1000Women project, designed to find innovative solutions to the health and safety challenges facing women in the shea industry. Working in conjunction with health practitioners, academia, and innovation labs and alongside women-led shea cooperatives, the 1000Women project seeks to find efficient, indigenous solutions to the risks associated with the production of shea for use in cosmetics and chocolate manufacture.



GAMAL PALMER

Gamal J. Palmer is the Founder and CEO of Global Eye Entrepreneurs, an organization creating a multi-cultural network where male entrepreneurs of color are provided with rigorous leadership and business development, mentorship, and resources to own thriving and sustainable businesses. Palmer is also the Senior Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles where he oversees a myriad of leadership programs, board and professional development for a 200-person workforce. In addition, Palmer leads workshops around the country on diversity and inclusion, leadership development and social innovation. Earlier in his career, Palmer co-founded the New York-based Theater Arts collective, “Company Cypher,” which missioned to transform the conversation around skin tone prejudice and racism.

Palmer earned an MFA and a Post-Graduate Associate from the Yale Schools of Drama and Management (SOM) in Business Organization & Leadership Development. While at Yale, Palmer co-created and lectured the study-abroad course, “Arts in Action: Theater and Public Health in Swaziland and South Africa” and the graduate school program, ‘The Quest for Social Justice Through Music Theater and Religion in Tanzania’. In 2014, Palmer served as a Los Angeles Global Justice Fellow. Palmer delivered the TEDx Talk ‘Your Impact Artist Equation’ at Occidental College. In addition, Palmer completed The dSchool at Stanford University, The Team Management and Leadership Program and the Federation Innovation Leadership Lab. Palmer was a committee member for the Culver Studios City Expansion Commission, LAMDA Legal’s Leadership and Culture Council, The Wallenberg Institute for Ethics and was a previous board member for the Working Classroom in New Mexico. A native of Philadelphia, Palmer is the youngest of nine children and was highly influenced by his activist parentage.



NINA PHAM

Nina Pham, a 2018 USDA/FAS ICAP Fellow, works as an Agricultural Economist in the Office of Global Analysis (OGA) at USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). In her current post based in Washington, D.C., Nina leads OGA's regional market analysis for Central America, South America, and Vietnam, and is responsible for managing the agency's usage of various data subscriptions. Nina also spearheads a cross-program area initiative that creates resources for higher-level managers and policy analysts to utilize in outreach programs and trade negotiations. Additionally, a former board member and active member with the FAS Junior Professional Advisory Committee (JPAC), Ms. Pham works to support JPAC's core objectives, which are to strengthen skillsets and provide resources necessary for career advancement for young professionals in FAS.



RADHA RANGARAJAN

Radha Rangarajan, a 2018 Gates Foundation ICAP Fellow, is a Senior Program Officer with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She currently serves as advocacy lead for the foundation’s work in Florida and manages a portfolio focused on policy and advocacy for K12 and Post-Secondary education. Before joining the foundation, Radha taught at the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) system as part of their ESL teaching faculty, teaching courses focused on developing oral and written proficiency. Radha also worked at the International Monetary Fund in External and Media Relations for six years, where she served as a primary media contact for print and broadcast media outlets including, the Financial Times, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Agence-France Presse, France 24, Al Jazeera, Dow Jones, Bloomberg News and BBC. Radha earned her M. Ed. in Curriculum Instruction and Design and Multicultural Education, from George Mason University, an M.A. in International Politics from American University, and a B.A. in International Relations and French from George Mason University.



OWEN SHIEH

Owen Shieh, a 2018 US Navy ICAP Fellow, is the Training Department Head (GS-13) at the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) in Pearl Harbor, where he is responsible for the 24/7 operational watch training of all U.S. Navy and Air Force personnel at the command. Previously, Mr. Shieh served as the Weather & Climate Program Manager at the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, where he led a national team of subject matter experts and instructors who developed and delivered hazardous weather and climate Federal Emergency Management Agency certified training courses for state and local emergency managers and responders across the United States and its territories. With over a decade of experience as a meteorologist in academia, government, and private sectors, Mr. Shieh is skilled in scientific research, operational forecasting, and effective communication for decision support. Holding an M.S. in Meteorology and having been educated at Cornell University, the University of Oklahoma, and the University of Hawai‘i, his research specialties are in tropical and mesoscale meteorology, with expertise in the dynamics of tropical cyclones and severe convective storms. Mr. Shieh’s more recent research interests fall at the intersection of weather and security, including emergency management, interagency decision support, and resource protection in the face of forecast uncertainty. To this end, he is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Political Science.

Mr. Shieh is actively engaged in field programs and civil-military projects across the United States and the Asia Pacific. He was featured as a TEDxHonolulu 2013 speaker (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKY67isKGSw>) and has been invited to speak as a keynote at conferences and universities around the world, including Australian National University, National Central University of Taiwan, Naval Air Facility Atsugi, and the U.S. military service academies. Mr. Shieh is a recipient of the 2017 Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award (Oceanographer of the Year/Matthew Henson Award), National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2009-12), AMS/Industry Graduate Fellowship (2007-08), AMS Father James B. Macelwane Award (2007), NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship (2005-07), The Weather Channel John R. Hope Scholarship (2006-07), AMS/Industry Minority Scholarship (2003-04), National Weather Association David Sankey Minority Scholarship in Meteorology (2004), and the Naval Weather Service Association Scholarship (2003).



ALICE SHUKLA

Alice Shukla, a 2018 State Department ICAP Fellow, is currently serving as Libya Desk Officer in the Office of Maghreb Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA) in Washington, DC. Her portfolio covers all aspects of U.S. policy towards Libya, with a particular focus on issues of security, economic growth, democracy and governance, education, and human rights and transitional justice, within the Department and with other U.S. agencies. Previously, Ms. Shukla served as NEA Strategic planning officer from 2010-2014 covering regional and multilateral issues for the Middle East and North Africa. She has also served in the State Department’s Presidential Travel Support Office, Global Information Services Office, at the U.S. Consulate Thessaloniki, and the U.S. Embassy Athens. She has won numerous State Department performance awards and was recognized by the Greek-America Foundation as a Forty Under 40 leader. Ms. Shukla is a graduate of the American University in Washington, DC and the University of Michigan- Ann Arbor, and studied Turkish in Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey as a Critical Language Scholar and ARIT Fellow. A native of West Bloomfield, MI she speaks Modern Greek, Turkish, French, and some Arabic and Armenian. She enjoys traveling, spending time with her family and friends, playing the piano, and supporting the performing arts.



HEATHER JOY THOMPSON

Heather Joy Thompson, a 2018 State Department ICAP Fellow, is a diplomat, international affairs expert, and attorney. She has spent a decade as a career Foreign Service Officer at the United States Department of State. Heather Joy has lived, worked, and traveled in nearly 40 countries on six continents. She has received numerous commendations from the Department of State and has twice received its prestigious Individual Meritorious Honor Award. She is currently a Diplomat in Residence and Senior Fellow at UCLA. Heather Joy served for two years at the United States in Embassy Mexico City, Mexico, where she worked as an Economic Officer. Heather Joy previously served at the Department of State’s headquarters in Washington as Staff Assistant to Ambassador Thomas Kelly in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, where she managed operations and outreach. Her first assignment took her to the U.S. Consulate General in Johannesburg, South Africa, where she served as the Chief of American Citizen Services and co-founded Abafazi Ambassadors a mentorship program between female diplomats from the U.S. Mission in South Africa and students from The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls. Heather Joy is a native of Southfield, Michigan. Her interest in international affairs began in early childhood and took root during her junior year at Spelman College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts. Heather Joy started her career as a Peace Corps volunteer in Burkina Faso, West Africa. Heather Joy earned a Juris Doctor from Wayne State University Law School where she was the Kenneth V. Cockrel Scholar. As a law student, she studied international trade and negotiations in Thessaloniki, Greece, and Passau, Germany. She is a member of the Michigan Bar Association. Prior to joining the Department of State, Heather Joy worked for Sean “Diddy” Combs. Heather Joy has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, *Where Are They Now?* and in the pages of the *New York Times*, *Town & Country Magazine*, *Ebony*, *JET*, *Essence*, and *PEOPLE.com*. In 2017, she was recognized by Ambassador Roberta S. Jacobson for her mentorship of young diplomats and for her leadership of Embassy Mexico City’s Black History Month Committee. Heather Joy is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; in 2011, she co-hosted *Reintroducing Rosa* – a celebration which reexamined the civil rights movement and the pivotal role Rosa Parks played. She is passionate about the arts, design, and food. She speaks fluent Spanish, conversational French, and some Italian.



CHRISTINA TILGHMAN

Christina Tilghman, a 2018 State Department ICAP Fellow, joined the U.S. Department of State in 2010 as a Foreign Service Officer. Her previous overseas assignments included South Africa and Canada. Christina also served domestically in the Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues, Bureau of International Information Programs, Bureau of African Affairs, and National Security Council at the White House. In her next assignment, Christina will serve as Spokesperson for the U.S. Consulate General in Karachi, Pakistan. She holds a B.A. in History from Hampton University and a Master’s degree in Public Policy focusing on International Development from the University of Maryland, College Park. Christina is originally from the Washington, D.C. area, but her hometown is Hampton, Virginia.



DR. AN "MIKE" TRAN

Dr. An "Mike" Tran, a 2018 US Navy ICAP Fellow, is a member of Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) International Program Foreign Military Sales (FMS) team, serving as a Program Analyst for Building Partner Capacity (BPC) projects which help enable the military capabilities of developing international partners and for the newly formed Non-Standard FMS team which provides and supports our international partners with capabilities that are not common to traditional NAVAIR programs. Prior to supporting these initiatives, Dr. Tran was a Biological Scientist and served as a Technical Project Lead for the Advanced Concepts and Rapid Transition Division at Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD). Dr. Tran has been with NAVAIR since February 2015, and supports the rapid insertion and transition of advanced technologies, systems, sensors, and weapons to enable programs of record, as well as deliver direct insertion of capabilities to meet urgent fleet needs. Prior to his appointment at NAWCAD, Dr. Tran was a Program Manager and Senior Scientist at Navmar Applied Sciences Corporation (NASC) in Lexington Park, Maryland where he first started developing and prototyping multi-modal contact-less biometrics systems for rapid personnel screening and physical access control. He also worked for the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of Guelph as a Senior Research Associate where he conducted microbiological and structural biological research to determine the outer membrane structure and modification of Gram-negative bacteria, such as *Escherichia Coli* and *Helicobacter pylori*. Dr. Tran was born in Vietnam and his family were among the refugees who fled Vietnam by boat after the war in hopes for a new life and opportunities in America. Dr. Tran earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Murray State University, a Master's degree in Biological Sciences from East Tennessee State University, and a Doctorate in Biomedical Sciences from Quillen College of Medicine – East Tennessee State University.



ELISA WALTON

Elisa Walton, a 2018 USAID ICAP Fellow, coordinates USAID's strategic planning efforts in West Africa and serves on the board for the Hispanic Employee Council of Foreign Affairs Agencies. She recently joined FEMA's surge capacity force response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, helping hurricane survivors register for assistance and navigate the process. She has also worked in USAID's policy bureau, developing operational policy guidance, and on environment and climate change programs. Prior to government service Elisa worked as a journalist and led development efforts at the Women's Business Institute of Puerto Rico. She volunteers as a Spanish-English translator with community organizations and enjoys any chance to get outside, including hiking and rock climbing.



BYRON WILLIAMS

Byron L. Williams, son of Shirley J. Williams, hails from the famous city of Las Vegas, NV. He works with the U.S. Peace Corps as a Diversity Outreach Specialist in the Office of Recruitment and Diversity building and implementing the strategy to reach underrepresented groups for Peace Corps service. Before becoming an employee, he served in Lesotho as a Youth Development sector volunteer 2003-2005 and then a second time as a married couple with his wife in Ukraine as education sector volunteer 2011-2013.

He became strongly interested in international relations as a high school student learning Spanish in his predominantly Black and brown secondary education institution. His college internship with a local councilman's office is what sparked his interest in local politics then international politics and foreign policy.

Thanks to chance meetings in 2014 with ICAP alumni Nicholas Bassey of USAID and Ana Escrogima of Department of State Williams strove to become a competitive candidate while also informing many of his secondary and higher education contacts and their students about ICAP, Global Access Pipeline, and other international affairs opportunities, fellowships, and paths.

Standing alongside his stupendous wife, Denise Williams, they have worked to make a better life for their family and the communities in which they've called home. As parents of two young sons they are instilling in them the pillars of love, community, responsibility, and service.

Williams draws professional inspiration from former U.S Ambassador to Ghana (1965-1968) and Peace Corps architect Franklin H. Williams, and dear friends Dwayne Matthews and Trinishia Samuels. He aspires to become a Department of State Foreign Service Officer, Public Diplomacy cone.

In his free time, he likes to ride his bicycle, raise his pun acumen, and lose to his four-year old in foot races.

SENIOR OFFICIALS AND ALUMNI ATTENDING INTRODUCTION

Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley (ICAP 1997) is currently CEO of Abercrombie-Winstanley Consulting, LLC. Prior to her recent retirement from the U.S. Foreign Service, she had a 30 year career as a diplomat, including service as the longest serving U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Malta. Through a series of senior positions that included advising the Commander of U.S. cyber forces on our foreign policy priorities, expanding our counterterrorism partners and programs as Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism, and Coordinating the largest evacuation of American citizens from a war zone since World War II, her professional life has played out almost daily in international media.

She began her formal work in teaching and leadership development as Chairwoman for Middle East Area Studies at the Foreign Service Institute where U.S. diplomats are trained. Earlier in her career, she served in Baghdad, Jakarta and Cairo before taking on the position of Special Assistant to Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, for the Middle East and Africa. Her Middle East assignments include election monitoring in the Gaza Strip and, an extraordinary assignment where she actively supported gender equality in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the first woman to lead a diplomatic mission there. In addition to the State Department, she has held senior positions at the Defense Department and at the National Security Council of the White House. Prior to that, she was a fellow on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the then Ranking Member, Senator Joseph Biden. Ms. Abercrombie-Winstanley is the recipient of the Maltese Order of Merit, Department of State Meritorious and Superior Honor Awards, including "For acts of courage during an attack on the U.S. Consulate General, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on December 6, 2004 by al-Qa'ida terrorists."

Over the years, Ms. Abercrombie-Winstanley has been a keynote speaker for a variety of organizations including IESAbroad, The Cleveland City Club, TrueBlue Inclusion; The University of Denver, The University of Malta and Johns Hopkins University Bologna Center. She is an in-demand panelist and moderator at some of the most respected international think tanks including The German Marshall Fund, CSIS, The World Affairs Council and The Council on Foreign Relations on issues ranging from U.S. Mid-East Policy, how diversity and inclusion improves U.S. foreign policy making, cyber security challenges and counterterrorism. She is a strong proponent of excellence through diversity across organizations and strives to break down barriers to the full participation of women and minorities.

As a Head of Mission she had fiduciary responsibility for, and oversaw the management of multi million dollar budgets for diplomatic missions in Saudi Arabia and Malta. She led staffs of 150-200 employees from multiple countries. As Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism, she was responsible for a budget of \$300 million. She has been an active Board and Executive Committee member for The Forum on Education Abroad, SAIS Women Alumni Network and the International Career Advancement Association.

Ms. Abercrombie-Winstanley, a Cleveland native, has degrees from The George Washington University and The Johns Hopkins University and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She sings with the Washington Performing Arts Society and has been published by the New York Times, The Foreign Service Journal and the New York Review of Science Fiction.

Travis L. Adkins (ICAP 2007) is the Director for Global Governance & Civic Engagement at InterAction. Mr. Adkins joined InterAction from Capitol Hill, where he served as the Democratic Staff Director for the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Human Rights and International Organizations. In this capacity, he was a leader in legislative and policy formation for the Africa Region in the House Foreign Affairs Committee. During his tenure, Travis was deeply engaged in the U.S. response to a wide variety of issues on the continent, including: the Ebola outbreak in West Africa; the peace process in South Sudan; U.S. support to combat Boko Haram, and a wide range of initiatives supporting U.S.-Africa trade and investment, as well as improved governance.

Prior to his Hill tenure, Mr. Adkins spent 15 years working in conflict and post-conflict settings in nearly 50 nations throughout Africa and the Middle East with leading international NGOs and several branches of the United Nations system – on issues including emergency humanitarian assistance, democracy and governance, and youth development. As a 2010 International Affairs Fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations, Travis was a Practitioner-in-Residence with the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP); where his work focused on the implementation of the final stages of Sudan’s Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

He holds a B.A. in African History from Fisk University and M.A.’s in Education and International Affairs. Travis has also served as an adjunct professor with New York University, Ashesi University (Ghana), and Webster University - teaching courses in Africa and Middle East Area Studies, as well as international development. He has been a regular contributor to the BBC on Sudan, South Sudan and the greater horn of Africa, a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations and an International Election Observer in several nations throughout Africa and the Middle East.

Ginny Barahona (ICAP 2009) is a community development leader in the nexus of strategic partnerships and programs. She is currently the Chief Advisor to Create Labs that builds community based technology hubs providing education and job training for low-income residents in New York City. Previously, she led strategic partnerships and communications at Keep a Child Alive, a NY based NGO supporting pediatric care and treatment for children and adults living with HIV in Africa and India. She also served as a member of the foreign policy team at Hillary for America. In the Obama Administration, Ginny served as a Senior Advisor at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) where she facilitated the execution of USAID Forward — a global strategy to improve sustainability by embracing new partnerships, investing in innovation, and demanding a renewed focus on results. There, she also focused on the role of development in national security, worked on strategic communications and outreach for USAID’s work in Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance and connected the Philippine American diaspora to the Agency’s disaster response efforts during Typhoon Haiyan. Before joining USAID, she worked with the International Rescue Committee in the Democratic Republic of Congo; the Afghan Women’s Network in Afghanistan; and Sesame Workshop in New York on international Sesame Street co-productions in Asia, Africa, Middle East and Latin America. She began her international career in the Dominican Republic in 2001 as a Fulbright scholar examining parent participation in primary school education. Ms. Barahona graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia and Georgetown University in the great District of Columbia.

Nicholas M. Bassey (ICAP 2009) is Division Chief, Frontier Partnerships for the U.S. Agency for International Development's Global Development Lab (the Lab). This team strategically fosters the Lab's Center for Transformational Partnerships' "disrupt" portfolio through alliances with non-traditional stakeholders. The Center seeks to develop innovative ways to leverage and unlock private sector resources for international development. Prior to this role he led the Research and Innovation Fellowships program, also at USAID, which built models for knowledge exchange by connecting American graduate student researchers with key organizations in developing countries to collaboratively apply science, technology, and innovation to complex development challenges.

Nicholas served as Director of University Programs for the U.S. Peace Corps, establishing and nurturing relationships with a range of higher education institutions involved in international development. Nicholas also served the Peace Corps as Director of Placement. In this position he oversaw the selection of applicants, including applicant qualification and invitation procedures; managed the operations of the Placement Office; assured placement program planning and evaluation; and participated in activities which established and defined the agency's Volunteer recruitment and placement goals.

Before joining the Peace Corps staff, Nicholas was Director of the Institute for International Public Policy at the UNCF Special Programs Corporation (UNCFSP). There he administered all aspects of a fellowship program designed to increase diversity in the international affairs workforce and the creation of partnerships and infrastructure to support international education programs at Minority Serving Institutions. Nicholas also served as Assistant Vice President for Program Development at the Council for Opportunity in Education, an organization dedicated to expanding access to higher education; Deputy Director of the CDF Freedom Schools program at the Children's Defense Fund; and Assistant Program Manager at the Morehouse College Office of Community Service. He earned a B.S. degree in Biology from Morehouse College and an M.A. in Higher Education Administration from the George Washington University.

Carmen G. Cantor (ICAP 2012), a career member of the Senior Executive Service, is the Director of the Office of Civil Service Human Resource Management (CSHRM) in the Bureau of Human Resources at the U.S. Department of State. CSHRM is the lead Civil Service office for career development, executive resources, policy and accountability.

Previously, she served as the Executive Director for the Bureaus of Educational and Cultural Affairs and International Information Programs, the Executive Director of the Bureau of Counterterrorism, the Deputy Director of the Office of Recruitment, Examination and Employment and has held several positions within the Office of Civil Rights and in the Bureau of Human Resources. Outside of the Department of State, she has served as Director of the Office of Civil Rights at the Foreign Agricultural Service, the Director of Equal Employment Opportunity of the U.S. Federal Maritime Commission in Washington and has worked at the U.S. Postal Service in Washington, DC, Florida; and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Ms. Cantor is currently the Leadership Liaison and formerly a past President of the Department of State's Hispanic employee affinity group, HECFAA. Previously she was on the Board of the University of Puerto Rico Alumni Association (UPRAA) in Washington, DC. and was a member

of the Girl Scouts, the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives, the Gallup Panel and Civil Air Patrol.

Ms. Cantor received a Certificate in International Migration Studies from Georgetown University's School of Continuing Studies, an M.A. in Labor Relations from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico, and a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus. She has attended executive courses at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government; Cornell University; the Center for Creative Leadership, the Air War College, and others. She is also an alumna of the National Hispana Leadership Institute and the Aspen Institute's International Career Advancement Program.

Ms. Cantor was raised in Puerto Rico and speaks Spanish.

Chandrima Das (ICAP 2013) serves as the Peacekeeping Policy Director at the Better World Campaign, the advocacy arm of the UN Foundation. Ms. Das is the resident expert on UN Peacekeeping Operations and educates Congress and the Administration on the value of UN peacekeeping as an effective part of the U.S. national security toolbox. She spearheads thought leadership and authors policy papers and field reports on UN Peacekeeping. She leads Congressional Delegations to the field to see firsthand the work of UN Peacekeepers. She also served as a special advisor for the UN High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, providing an American perspective to the panel and her expertise on conflict resolution.

Previously, Chandrima worked at the United States Institute of Peace as a consultant and research assistant writing training curricula on negotiation, mediation, and conflict resolution. Her training curricula were used to train local government officials in Iraq and Sudan. She has also worked for CHF International in South Sudan on basic services programs and combating gender-based violence. During her graduate study at George Mason University, Chandrima was a research assistant for the Terrorism, Transnational Crime & Corruption Center, looking at human and arms trafficking routes.

Ms. Das holds a master's degree in Peace Operations. She received her bachelor's in Political Science from Syracuse University. Chandrima is an International Career Advancement Program Fellow and serves as President of the ICAP Alumni Association, which works to elevate under-represented groups in international relations and U.S. foreign policy. She is also a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She lives in Washington, DC and is married to Brent Woolfork (ICAP 2012), and they have a two-year-old daughter, Asha.

Ambassador Ruth A. Davis is an internationalist who retired from the US Department of State in 2009 with the rank of Career Ambassador. She served as Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor in the Bureau of African Affairs from 2005-2008. She was previously detailed to Howard University as Distinguished Advisor for International Affairs. Her earlier assignments in the US Department of State include Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Human Resources (2001-2003), Director of the Foreign Service Institute (1997-2001), Ambassador to the Republic of Benin (1992-1995), and Consul General in Barcelona, Spain (1987-1991). She has also been posted in Kinshasa, Nairobi, Tokyo and Naples as a Consular Officer. She has received two Presidential Distinguished Service Awards, the Arnold L. Raphel Memorial Award for mentoring, the 2005

Department of State Equal Opportunity Award, the Secretary's Distinguished Award conferred by Colin L. Powell, the ICAP Award for visionary leadership and fostering diversity within foreign affairs and the American Foreign Service Association's Lifetime Contributions to American Diplomacy award.

Ambassador Davis earned an MSW from the University of California at Berkeley and her alma mater, Spelman College, and Middlebury College conferred honorary LL.D degrees on her. She has served as President of the Thursday Luncheon Group (TLG); Chairperson of the Charles B. Rangel Fellowship Selection Committee and Vice President of the Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs. She is presently chair of the International Women's Entrepreneurial Challenge (IWEC) which advances women's interest in international business and chair of the International Mission of Mercy, USA, which responds to natural and man-made disasters.

Nima Patel Edwards (ICAP 2003) is currently a Lead Policy Analyst at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration. During her time with FEMA, she has developed and coordinated responses to legislative language for NFIP reauthorization slated for September 2017, developed and implemented policies and operational functions in line with best practices and internal control standards, and led a broad based, multi-agency study and framework on flood insurance affordability focusing on underserved populations. Nima also served on working groups for FEMA's White House initiatives on resilience and disasters for at-risk populations. Prior to FEMA, Nima was a Senior Analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, an independent nonpartisan federal agency that studies federal government programs and develops recommendations on how to make government more effective in delivering services and spending taxpayer dollars. During her time with GAO, Nima led significant reviews, including post-Katrina evaluations of NFIP, U.S. funded anticorruption programs in sub-Saharan Africa, emerging market bank supervision, international assistance to Russia and international efforts to provide debt relief to developing countries. Prior to her work at GAO, she held positions in a number of international relief organizations including Catholic Relief Services, the International Rescue Committee and the Lutheran World Federation. She has also worked in countries experiencing conflicts or post conflict environments including southern Sudan, Rwanda and the Balkans. She developed, managed and expanded an innovative and highly successful \$1.5 million rehabilitation program in the Vukovar region of Croatia. Nima was also an evaluation specialist seconded to the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Integration in Rwanda where she participated in a survey of aid related programs in the country. Nima has also worked at the U.N. Development Fund for Women in New York and for a local Indian NGO in New Delhi, India. Nima received her MIA from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and her B.A. in Economics and History at the University of Pittsburgh. She was a fellow for the 2003 International Career Advancement Program (ICAP) for highly promising professionals from underrepresented groups in Aspen, Colorado and currently serves on the Advisory Council for the ICAP board. Nima was elected by Board of Governors of the D.C. Bar to serve as a member of the Attorney Client Arbitration Board—where she previously served as an arbitrator. She is certified as an adult trainer, facilitator, and as a diversity trainer—she taught GAO auditing skills and course on implicit bias at GAO's Center for Performance and Learning. Nima fluently speaks French and Gujarati

Linda Etim (ICAP 2006) is the Senior Advisor for Africa Program Advocacy, Policy and Communications at the foundation. She supports the foundation's policy and advocacies strategies in Africa. Ms. Etim most recently served as the head of the Africa Bureau for the U.S Agency for International Development (USAID) where she was responsible for more than \$7 billion of assistance funding to 46 countries in Africa as well as over 1,000 staff. While at USAID, Ms. Etim oversaw efforts for stabilizing fragile states and promoting transformational development through the full range of foreign assistance programming. This included peace and security, democracy, good governance, health systems strengthening, including Ebola response, economic integration, education and humanitarian assistance.

Ms. Etim brings nearly two decades of development and national security experience including as the Director for African Affairs at the White House National Security Council, the U.S Mission to the United Nations security representative, and the Department of Defense analyst. She has served on the World Bank Working Group on remittances and mobile money as well as on the Board of Directors for the U.S Africa Development Foundation (USADF), the Millennium Institute and the Young African Leaders Initiative.

Gihan Fernando currently serves as Executive Director at the Career Center of American University. He has extensive experience in higher education administration with a focus on career services, and before joining the AU community, held progressive leadership positions at the law schools at Georgetown University, Cornell University and New York University. He served as the President of the Board of Directors of NALP, the Association for Legal Career Professionals, from 2007-2008. Gihan is admitted to the District of Columbia and New York State bars, and before entering higher education practiced law at the McKenna & Cuneo firm (now McKenna Long & Aldridge) in Washington, D.C. He completed his JD degree at Georgetown University Law Center and his BA in Political Economy at Johns Hopkins University. He grew up all over the world, primarily in Africa and Asia, and enjoys traveling to visit family and friends in Sri Lanka.

Ambassador James I. Gadsden, a retired U.S. Foreign Service Officer, worked from 2011 to 2016 as Senior Counselor for International Affairs at the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, with responsibility for providing counsel and guidance for the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program. From 2008 to 2011, he was a Diplomat-in-Residence and Lecturer in Public and International Affairs at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He served as Deputy Commandant and International Affairs Advisor at the National War College in Washington, D.C. from 2005 to 2007, U.S. Ambassador to Iceland from 2002 to 2005, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs from 1997 to 2001, and Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Budapest from 1994 to 1997. Earlier, he was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Paris, the U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels, the U.S. Embassy in Budapest, and the U.S. Trade Center in Taipei. He has chaired the Policy Council of the Una Chapman Cox Foundation and served on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Diplomacy, the Board of Advisors of the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, the Board of Directors of the Senior Living Foundation of the Foreign Service, the Board of Directors of EcoHealth Alliance, and the Board of Trustees of the Little Red School House and the Elisabeth Irwin High School (LREI). He has also been a member of the Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs. Ambassador Gadsden completed his undergraduate degree in economics at Harvard University, his Master's Degree in East Asian Studies (Chinese Studies) at

Stanford University, and further graduate work in economics at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He is married to Sally Freeman Gadsden. They have two adult sons.

Benjamin (Benny) Garcia (ICAP 1998) is a Foreign Affairs professional with over 40 years of experience as a Foreign Service Officer with the US Department of State and as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He has served in Santo Domingo, Guatemala City, Port au Prince, European Bureau, Lima, Brasilia, US Mission to the United Nations, Columbia University School of Public and International Affairs, Vienna, Baghdad, and the U.S. House of Representatives. He now serves as a Senior Advisor in the Office of Continuity Counseling within the Human Resources Bureau at State.

Benny is married with two children and a German Shepard. He hails from the New York City metropolitan area. Benny is a retired attorney and retired naval reserve officer. Benny graduated from the United States Naval Academy and Southern Methodist University School of Law

Abigail Golden-Vázquez (ICAP 2002) currently serves as Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program. This is a policy program whose goal is to improve understanding of the growing Latino community and its critical importance to the future of the United States. For 8 years prior she developed and managed the Institute's geographical (Africa, Central America, India, Middle East, and China) and topical leadership initiatives (education and environment) that comprise the Aspen Global Leadership Network with the goal of stimulating a new generation of local leaders poised to play a greater role in the civic engagement of their countries. As a Vice President at the Aspen Institute she is part of the executive management team working on strategy and representing the Institute publicly. Abigail joined the Aspen Institute from the German Marshall Fund (GMF) in 2006 where she was a senior manager and director of External Relations responsible for partnership development, congressional relations, and public outreach. Abigail holds a B.A. in Political Science and Spanish from Amherst College and an M.A. in International Relations and Latin American Studies from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. She is a National Hispana Leadership Institute Executive Leadership Fellow and an International Career Advancement Program Fellow. She has attended leadership training at the Center for Creative Leadership and at Harvard Kennedy School.

Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins is Founder and President of the Board of Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security. It all started when Ambassador Jenkins realized that an organization of women of color was needed to encourage and actively develop leadership in areas that affect them most globally: Peace, Security and Conflict Resolution. Jenkins is also a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Jenkins was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2009 as Special Envoy and Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, U.S. Department of State (DOS). She served in that position until January 2017. Jenkins promoted a coordinated U.S. effort on threat reduction globally. Jenkins was the DOS lead for the 2010 - 2016 Nuclear Security Summits and the U.S. Representative to the G7 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. She led diplomatic efforts promoting the Global Health

Security Agenda (GHS), helped establish the GHS NGO Consortium, and founded the GHS Next Generation Network. As Program Officer for US Foreign and Security Policy at the Ford Foundation from 2005-2009, she supervised a grant to the International Career Advancement Program (ICAP) that led to the establishment of the Global Access Pipeline (GAP).

Charlotte Kea (ICAP 2000) currently serves as Deputy Director of the Office of Gifts and Grants Management at the Peace Corps and is the former President of the International Career Advancement Program Alumni Association (ICAP AA). She is an experienced professional with over twenty years in government, nonprofit and corporate program and business development. Ms. Kea has accrued a strong track record of results-oriented successes. These include: securing over \$19 million in assets US and non-US, managing and implementing multi-country, cross-sector agreements, strategic planning and partnership development. With strong leadership, multi-cultural and communications skills, she brokered bi-lateral agreements with the governments of the Russian Federation, Mongolia, Pakistan, and administered business agreements in the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Germany, and Italy among others. Ms. Kea has held senior consulting positions for corporate and nonprofit organizations, including working to establish Iridium LLC and eight years in the international divisions of US Department of Commerce, NASA, and the Congressional Research Service.

Ms Kea has served as President of the Smith College Alumnae Association and a Trustee of Smith College. She sits on the Boards of Operation Respect and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Smith College Club of Washington. Ms Kea holds a master's degree in Soviet studies and global conflict from the University of Denver, Colorado and a bachelor's degree in French from Smith College, Massachusetts. She also studied at the University of Geneva in Switzerland and at the University of Paris, Sorbonne IV in France. Ms Kea speaks Danish, French, and Russian.

Sandra A. Rivera (ICAP 1998), PhD, serves as Associate Director of the Office of Economics at the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) where she develops and implements strategic, fiscal and long range planning, and other trade research projects focused on advising Congress and the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on the impact of potential trade agreements. In addition, Dr. Rivera supervises the front office (MPAs, research assistants and Economics Internship Program). She helps leads 45 PhD and MA level economists to provide expert economic advice on current and potential trade policy issues.

Highlights of her career accomplishments include (a) development of a 10-year strategic plan for The Center for Global Trade Analysis, training and, as part of an international team, training South American Economists in Buenos Aires, Argentina on GTAP framework modeling, (b) 10 years of the development and supervision of an exceptional internship program training budding economics majors on what real economic work entails through engagement with senior economic staff on strategic projects; and (c) and a fellowship awarded by the National Hispana Leadership Institute (NHLI) Executive Leadership Program (which included the Leadership Development Program at the Center for Creative Leadership and Harvard's Executive Leadership Program at the Kennedy School.)

Dr. Rivera's mentoring and service activities are extensive. Her current role include the VP of Finance, International Career Advancement Program Alumni Association and have included Hispanic College Fund; Hispanic Youth Symposium, NHLI's college level Latinas Learning to Lead Program. As a Public Speaking professional, she trained 1500+ Latino, Asian and African American youth on leadership and public speaking in a single year. Other board positions have included Treasurer, DC International School and EW Stokes Elementary; Global Access Pipeline Project (GAP); William Smith Alumni Association, President and various leadership roles for HUD Toastmasters (DC), Ballston Toastmasters (VA), and Geneva Toastmasters (NY); HHS/Education Child Care Center Board (Washington DC). Awards include William Smith College Lifetime Distinguished Service Award; District 27 Area Governor of the Year, Toastmaster of the Year, Geneva TM/District 65 and DC/District 27; and Stop the Silence: Stop Child Sexual Abuse Outstanding Service Award.

Dr. Rivera earned her Ph.D. in International Economics from University of Kentucky, MA from University of New Mexico in Economics and BA at William Smith College in Economics and Spanish Literature.

Sarah Ro is a Senior Associate of the People and Culture team at the United Nations Foundation, where she helps to manage the internship program, onboarding, payroll process and other HR functions. Previously, she interned at Target Corporation for two consecutive summers as a part of their executive team leadership program aimed at training and developing future leaders. Sarah is a graduate from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, with a degree in Business Management. She also studied abroad at Ewha Woman's University in Seoul, South Korea and speaks fluent Korean.

Ambassador Peter F. Romero is co-producer and moderator of the weekly podcast "American Diplomat; Real Stories Behind the News". These episodes contain entertaining and informative conversations with our country's career diplomatic practitioners as they relate their personal stories centering on the What? Why? and How? of diplomatic practice. Mr. Romero enjoyed a 25-year career as a US Foreign Service Officer. He was Charge of our Embassy in San Salvador during the implementation of the peace process that ended the 14-year civil war there. As Ambassador in Ecuador, he led a team which assisted in ending the border war between Ecuador and Peru. As Assistant Secretary of State for the Western Hemisphere Bureau in the State Department, he was the first to conceive of Plan Colombia, a highly successful, multi-year security assistance program that recently resulted in a peace agreement in Colombia, ending the fifty-five-year war. He is the recipient of several Department awards, to include the Baker-Wilkins Award for Leadership and the Superior Honor Award, among others. After a second career in investment banking Ambassador Romero now advises governments on effective security strategies, teaches and lectures at US military service schools, as well as colleges and universities throughout the country.

E. Thomas Rowe is currently an Associate Professor of International Relations at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies (JKSIS), University of Denver, and directs the Masters in International Administration there. He is the founder and Director of the International Career Advancement Program (ICAP) and co-founded and is Senior Adviser and Treasurer of the Global Access Pipeline (GAP). He previously served for nine years as Dean of the Graduate School of International Studies (now the Josef Korbel School) and for five years as Associate Dean. He was

earlier on the faculty of the University of Connecticut and of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and has been a visiting faculty member at the University of Colorado in Boulder and the Institut für Politikwissenschaft at the University of Tuebingen in Germany. He has spoken widely in the United States, Europe, Ghana and Costa Rica. He has received grants from a large number of governmental agencies, foundations and other organizations.

Professor Rowe completed his undergraduate training at the University of Michigan and his MA and PhD degrees at the University of California-Berkeley. Professor Rowe's broad areas of specialization are in international politics and international organization, with particular attention to the United Nations, international human rights and conflict management and resolution.

Professor Rowe has published several book chapters, a monograph on the United Nations and articles in *International Organization*, the *American Political Science Review*, the *Journal of Conflict Resolution* and *Relaciones Internacionales*. He has served as President of International Organization Section of the International Studies Association, as President of the Western International Studies Association, as a member of the Executive Board of Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA), as a member of the National Policy Board of the Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Program and as a member of the National Selection Committees for the Rangel Fellowship Program and for the Thomas Pickering Fellowship Program. Professor Rowe has been active in the community in Connecticut, Virginia and Colorado. He currently serves on the Executive Board and as Treasurer of the Denver Council on Foreign Relations (DCFR).

Emita Samuels serves as Associate Director of ICAP and as Senior Admissions Counselor at ECTI University. She is passionate about education at all levels and seeks to make a contribution every day to increase and improve access to education. She has her BA and MA in Education from the University of Denver. She has over 35 years of experience in higher education administration and student services working with the underrepresented. She has served as an Admissions Counselor at Jones International University, as Director of Student and Community Engagement at the Women's College of the University of Denver, as Dean of Student Services and Registrar at the Community College of Denver, as Registrar at the University of Denver's College of Law and as Director of Student Affairs at the Graduate School of International Studies (now the Josef Korbel School) of the University of Denver. Originally from Panama, she began her undergraduate studies at the University of Panama before coming to the United States and completing her education here. She became a US citizen in 2008. Emita is married to Tom Rowe and has been associated with ICAP program from its inception in 1997.

Negin Sobhani (ICAP 2013) has over 10 years of experience in international research partnerships, innovation programs, and grants management. Her expertise in STEM partnerships for startup research entities includes academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and private industry. Negin joined The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in 2018 to lead the U.S.-Egypt Science and Technology Joint Fund. Previously, Negin was with Aramco at the Houston Research Center, where she worked as a Collaboration Advisor and a Technology Planning Analyst, implementing the Stage Gate innovation process and overseeing research collaborations for three research centers. Prior to that, she worked as a Project Manager with Qatar Foundation Research and Development in Doha, where she served as the primary point of contact

on international research partnerships. Before this, Negin worked for almost 5 years at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Washington D.C. and Saudi Arabia, in several roles related to global collaborative programs and competitive research funds. Negin has a Master of Arts in International Studies from the University of Denver and completed her undergraduate studies at University of Colorado.

Brent Woolfork (ICAP 2012) is a Director of Government Affairs at the Center for American Progress, where he works on policy issues related to national security, energy, environment, education, and Puerto Rico. Before joining CAP, Brent was the managing director of congressional affairs at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) where he was responsible for leading the agency's engagement on Capitol Hill. Prior to OPIC, Mr. Woolfork spent 11 years in Congress. He served as a senior adviser on two House committees, including six years on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where he advised on a range of issues, such as energy, Central Asia, State Department operations, and international broadcasting. Brent wrote legislation signed into law to improve diplomatic security at the State Department and contributed to successful legislation to bolster U.S. support for Ukraine. He previously was a legislative and administrative aide for Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) and worked on East Asian security at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Brent holds a Master of Science degree from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Arts in international relations from Rollins College. He is a member of the International Career Advancement Program Alumni Association Board and a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member.