



## 2006 ICAP Mid-Career Professionals

**Adrian Alvarez** is a native of El Paso, Texas on the U.S./Mexican border. He worked on the Eastern coast of Sri Lanka with Catholic Relief Service (CRS) to respond to the 26 December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami from February 2005 to July 2006. In Sierra Leone, he served as an International Development Fellow to support CRS's transition from emergency programming to long-term development after the country's civil war. As a David L. Boren NSEP fellow, Adrian traveled extensively throughout Brazil documenting and reporting on human rights abuses for the Rio de Janeiro-based Global Justice Center and helped write a book on summary executions. As a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Fellow, he worked as a research assistant for the World Bank's NGO and Civil Society Unit. As an undergraduate, Adrian was an Institute of International Public Policy Fellow, a program administered by the United Negro College Fund to increase the number of under-represented minorities in the field of foreign affairs. Adrian is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, conversational in French and can joke in Tamil. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Latin American Studies and Government from the University of Texas at Austin and a Masters of Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

**May Baptista** is currently serving as a Consular Officer at the US Consulate in Tijuana, Mexico where she facilitates cross-border cooperation and communication with Mexico. May leads several outreach programs to educate the public about consular issues and careers in the Foreign Service. Prior to her current assignment, she served as a Vice Consul in the US Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia where May not only earned a Group Superior Honor Award and a Group Meritorious Honor Award for adjudicating visas, but also worked with US and Colombian law enforcement authorities against visa fraud and wrote speeches for the Consul General. While working in the Economic/Commercial Section at the US Embassy in San Salvador, El Salvador, May analyzed American investor attitudes and labor productivity. In 2000, she worked closely with the State Department's Spokesperson while interning in the Bureau of Public Affairs, Office of Press Relations.

Ms. Baptista was the recipient of the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program. May graduated cum laude from California State University, Long Beach with a Bachelor of Art's degree in international studies and received a Master's degree in Pacific International Affairs at University of California, San Diego. In 1999, May also participated in the Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship Program at Princeton University.

**Karen Burress** currently serves in the U.S. Department of Commerce as a Senior International Trade Specialist with her efforts mainly focused on market access and compliance issues in West and Central Africa. In 2004, she was selected to serve as a Trade Advisor to the Office of the U.S. Executive Director. Ms. Burress' formal training includes a degree in Political Science and

French from Bowie State University and a Masters degree in International Management Technologies/ International Commerce/Marketing from the University of Maryland.

Before joining the Department of Commerce in Washington, DC, she served as the Commercial Specialist in the U.S. Embassy in Accra, Ghana; worked as an Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal; promoted private sector development and trade related development issues in agribusiness in Sub-Saharan Africa while working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and USAID.

**Sylvia Cabus** was born in the Philippines and grew up in Southern California. Her interest in international relations and cultural exchange began with family trips to the Philippines and subsequently as an exchange student to Japan, the former Soviet Union, and Australia. After graduating from the University of California at Berkeley with a major in history, Sylvia taught ESL in California and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon. She received an MA in international relations from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of the Johns Hopkins University, where she worked as a program assistant at the Canadian Embassy's liaison office with international financial institutions and with the Centre for Population and Development Activities. She then joined Catholic Relief Services and was posted to Kenya, Morocco, Mali, and Burkina Faso. In September 2006 Sylvia joined Heifer International as program officer for gender equity. Sylvia's technical expertise is in gender and development, project development/management, and training. She is married to Mohamed Ahammam, a fellow development professional who is currently on the Peace Corps/Burkina Faso staff.

**Linda Etim** is currently a Horn of Africa analyst with the Department of Defense. Linda triple majored at the University of Wisconsin, earning a BA in International Relations, French, and Portuguese with a minor in Agricultural Economics. Prior to working for the Department of Defense, Linda was involved in several non-profit organizations, including two years as the Outreach Coordinator for the Civil Rights Defense Coalition in Wisconsin and S.O.S Racism in France. In her capacity as an Institute for International Public Policy fellow and as a student, Linda has lived in four countries. Her areas of concentration remain African politics and security.

**Robert R. Fernandez** is Chairman & President of The Hispanic Community for Policy (HCP), a new national grass roots lobbying organization for US Hispanics to promote US foreign and related domestic policy. HCP's primary mission is to enhance education, participation and leadership of Hispanics in public policy. As Chairman & President of a non-profit in pre-launch phase, Mr. Fernandez' responsibilities include strategic organizational planning, Board of Directors development, accounting, legal and IRS administration and set-up, membership recruitment, and resource and legislative planning. Mr. Fernandez is also completing short-term research and logistics contracts with Vital Wave Consulting and Command Decisions Systems & Solutions, respectively.

Prior to creating HCP, Mr. Fernandez helped create and manage The Hispanic Alliance for Free Trade (HAFT). HAFT has been credited with helping secure the passage of DR-CAFTA free trade agreement by quickly developing and organizing successful lobbying events such as a White House fly-in and lobby day attended by 190 HAFT members. President Bush spoke to HAFT before the final vote, less than five months after HAFT was created. Mr. Fernandez has

also organized trade policy forums and fundraising events for the California Council for International Trade, National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC), Hispanic Council on International Relations, and Inter-American Economic Council; created a strategic new membership marketing plan for NFTC; and served as emergency logistics coordinator for a Virginia Department of Transportation project in crisis under intense public and media scrutiny.

Mr. Fernandez holds a Master of Pacific International Affairs from the Graduate School of International Relations & Pacific Studies (IR/PS) at the University of California, San Diego. He received the Joseph Grunwald Memorial Award, one of two scholarships awarded by faculty, given in recognition of significant contributions to the promotion of inter-American understanding by a graduating student. Mr. Fernandez received his B.A. in Business Administration Marketing from California State University, Fullerton.

**Yvonne Gonzales** joined the U.S. State Department as a Foreign Service Officer in 2003. She is currently en route to Jakarta, Indonesia where she will serve her second tour in the consular and economic sections of the U.S. Embassy. Previous to this she was the Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Panama where she managed the post's cultural and exchange programs. Before joining the State Department, she was an intern in the political section of the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. She also interned at the National Democratic Institute in their Latin America Division and in the home and Washington, D.C. offices of Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez.

Prior to making a career change to international relations, Yvonne was a high school teacher of Spanish and Social Studies in Southern California. She earned her B.A. in Political Science from California State University, Fullerton and her M.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. She completed a semester of Spanish language studies at the Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Mexico. She also spent a summer in Yerevan, Armenia as part of a university Christian outreach team.

**Cuong Quy Huynh** is a *Presidential Management Fellow* at NASA. Mr. Huynh analyzes over twenty-five Earth and space science programs totaling in excess of \$213 million, and he works with program executives to handle their budgets and finances to prevent cost overruns. In 2004, Mr. Huynh worked at the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance as a *Legislative Fellow*. He worked on international trade and tax issues for the Committee, specifically focusing on China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In particular, he researched and wrote international trade memoranda to advise the Chief Trade Counsel of the Senate Committee on Finance regarding international trade markets between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its international partners China, Japan, South Korea, India, and Australia. In addition, Mr. Huynh summarized over 45 international tax and trade provisions regarding the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. He also wrote memoranda on China's yuan currency exchange and its effect on U.S. international trade. Mr. Huynh graduated with a law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law as a *Thurgood Marshall Fellow*. He also graduated with a master's degree in public policy from The University of Chicago as a *Woodrow Wilson Fellow*. Mr. Huynh received international affairs training from Princeton University with the support of the Woodrow Wilson National

Fellowship Foundation. Mr. Huynh graduated with a bachelor's degree in Sociology with honors from UCLA. He is a member of the Washington International Trade Association.

**Storm P. Jackson** was sworn in as a Foreign Service Officer in October 2002 by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. He recently returned to Washington DC and is an Operations Officer in the Nuclear Risk Reduction center in the Bureau of Verification, Compliance and Implementation of the Department of State. In this capacity he is responsible for the receipt, transmission and dissemination of messages mandated under different Conventional and Chemical Arms Control Treaties. From 2002 to 2004 Storm was assigned to the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos, Nigeria. In his first year, he served as a Consular Officer and interviewed Nigerians wishing to visit the U.S. as well as those immigrating to be reunited with family members. In his second year he was the Information Officer and the primary contact for international and local media. Before leaving for Nigeria, Mr. Jackson worked in the Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs in the Bureau of African affairs on a planning team for the Presidential Visit to Africa and an AGOA conference. As a Thomas Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellow, Storm served in the Office of Caribbean Affairs in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs in Washington working primarily on the confirmation of Ambassadors and OAS issues. Overseas, he interned in the U.S. Embassy in Windhoek, Namibia as the Ambassador's Staff Assistant and Political Officer. He also spent time as a development consultant in Kampala, Uganda working with a local HIV/AIDS NGO.

Storm did his graduate work in International Affairs at Columbia University 's School for International and Public Affairs in New York City. He also has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy from Howard University in Washington, DC. Mr. Jackson was born in New York but has West Indian roots having grown up in Guyana. He now lives in Alexandria, Virginia with his wife and their two cats.

**Julie Kim** is currently a regional section head in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service (CRS), a non-partisan governmental agency within the Library of Congress. CRS provides in-depth and non-partisan research and analytical support to the U.S. Congress. Ms. Kim manages and oversees the work of CRS' team of analysts specializing in European, Eurasian, and Latin American Affairs. She previously served as head of the Middle East and Africa section. Ms. Kim is by training a Specialist in European Affairs, with a focus on the western Balkan region and east central Europe. She has authored numerous studies for Congress on the western Balkans, including the breakup of Yugoslavia, the wars in Bosnia and Kosovo, and U.S. policy. She has also authored works on east central Europe and transition, Euro-Atlantic political and security issues, Congress and foreign policy, and parliamentary research functions. She has worked at CRS since 1990 and has received numerous awards for exceptional service and achievement. Ms. Kim is a graduate of the National War College (MS in National Security Strategy), Georgetown University (MS in Foreign Service), and Brown University (BA). She also studied international law in Vienna, Austria, under a J.W. Fulbright grant.

**Kismet Little** is an Institute for International Public Policy (IIPP) Fellow who received her master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2004. She received her bachelor's degree from Clark Atlanta University (CAU) in 2002 where she majored

in Political Science and minored in Chinese. During her matriculation at CAU, she studied in China for one year under the sponsorship of IIPP and the National Security Education Program. Kismet enjoys learning different languages, traveling, reading, and practicing Chinese calligraphy in her spare time.

**Eduardo Martínez** is an Economist at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). Prior to joining the LAEDC, Mr. Martínez was a Macroeconomic/Finance Officer in the Office of Economic Policy and Summit Coordination in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. State Department in Washington, DC, from 2004 to 2006. In this position, Mr. Martínez coordinated and developed policy on international finance, macroeconomics, and the Millennium Challenge Account. From 2002 to 2004, he served as the Natural Resources Officer in the same office covering agriculture, energy, environment, and foreign assistance issues. He was awarded two Meritorious Honor Awards for his efforts on international coffee policy and for his role in coordinating the reentry of the United States into the International Coffee Organization. Mr. Martínez has traveled to Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay to represent the United States in international meetings and discussions with foreign governments on behalf of the State Department. From 1999 to 2002, Mr. Martínez served as an international economist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in Washington, DC working on export and import price indexes. He also conducted research on U.S.-Mexico manufacturing operations and transfer pricing practices of multinational corporations.

Mr. Martínez graduated from California State University at Fullerton with a BA in International Business and from California State University at Long Beach with a MA in Economics. He has served as a volunteer staff member with award winning high school marching bands and winter guard ensembles in the Southern California and Middle Atlantic areas. Mr. Martínez is mentor to college students and recent graduates through the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

**Chris Matias** has over a decade of experience in nonprofit management with an emphasis on program design, organizational development, building strategic and community partnerships and working for and with multicultural communities. His career began in East Harlem, New York as the Associate Director and Educational Coordinator for Harlem RBI, a youth leadership program combining athletics and educational programs which has since received national recognition. Chris then became the founder of a nonprofit organization in upstate New York dedicated to youth development and civic engagement, primarily working with emerging Hispanic populations in suburban and rural communities. After 5 years with the organization as its President & CEO, Chris left to pursue graduate studies at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University for a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Arts in International Relations. Chris Matias is currently the Executive Director of the Public Policy & International Affairs Fellowship Program (PPIA), a national program dedicated to preparing students from diverse backgrounds for leadership positions in government, nonprofits, international organizations and other positions working for the public interest.

**Saafir Rabb** is founder and Principal Consultant of Managing Opportunity, Inc. - a strategic planning and international development consulting firm. In 2005, he produced a half-day

seminar, *Creativity, Culture, Capacity From Geneva to Tunis* for the Information and Technology and International Development Journal (MIT Press), parallel to the United Nation's World Summit for the Information Society in Tunisia, 2005. He also assisted in strategic planning for *We Are the Future* Quincy Jones/The Listen Up Foundation, Rome, Italy, 2004. From 2002-2005, Mr. Rabb was the COO of the I Can't We Can grassroots drug recovery program. As COO, Mr. Rabb developed micro-business initiatives to sustain and expand the organization's capacity, and co-authored the Health and Human Services component of the Baltimore City's *Park Heights Area Master Plan* in 2005-2006. He produced a promotional video, established ICWC's real estate portfolio; which led to the organization's certification as a Community Housing and Development Organization, and is developing a 48-unit low-income housing complex using 9% tax credits.

During 1999-2004, Mr. Rabb coordinated an annual study-abroad program for 15-25 American students at the Abu Nour Institutes in Damascus, Syria. In 1998-1999, he worked as a research associate for the Center for International Development and Conflict Management at the University of Maryland. During that time he was also an independent consultant for both The Atlantic Council of the United States and the Washington, D.C. Mayor's Office. Mr. Rabb has led multiple delegations of young Muslim-Americans to study in the Middle East ( Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia ) and Southeast Asia ( Malaysia and Singapore ) on a volunteer basis. He has also lectured in various locations across Africa, Asia, and North America. Mr. Rabb holds a B.A. in Government and Politics/African American Studies from University of Maryland and a Certificate in Arabic and Islamic Jurisprudence from Abu Nour in Damascus Syria.

**Janine Scott Shines** has worked as an International Development Professional for approximately 15 years in various countries in Africa ( Niger, Burundi, Rwanda, Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali ). She has a B.S. in Computer Science from Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia and an MBA with a concentration in International Management from Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. Currently, Janine is the Country Director for Catholic Relief Services in Bujumbura, Burundi. She is a native of St. Louis, Missouri and married to Maurice L. Shines.

**Aaron David Snipe** is a career member of the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service and currently serves as desk officer in the Office of Iranian Affairs. Prior to joining the Iran Office, Aaron was Watch Officer in the Department's Executive Secretariat Operations Center where he routinely briefed the Secretary of State and other senior department officials. Aaron returned to Washington in 2005 after completing a two-year assignment as a Consular/Political-Economic Officer at the United States Embassy in Ethiopia. In his capacity as Second Secretary, Aaron managed the relations of the four US Government agencies implementing PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) programs in Ethiopia as post's interagency PEPFAR Coordinator. Before joining the State Department, Aaron worked in the financial services industry as an analyst at UBS, and more recently as an Assistant Compliance Director at MetLife Securities in New York City.

Aaron's commitment to public service began in his hometown of Boston, Massachusetts during his days as a National Park Service Park Ranger. After graduating from Emerson College and Suffolk University Law School, he spent two years in southern Japan teaching English to primary and secondary school students. Aaron enjoys reading, snowboarding, and photography.

**V. Kate Somvongsiri** is a Crisis, Stabilization and Governance Officer in the U.S. Agency for International Development's foreign service. She joined the foreign service in May 2006, after having served in the civil service at USAID since 2002 as a Democracy Specialist in the Office of Democracy and Governance. In that capacity, she was a part of the Rule of Law and Human Rights division with responsibility for covering Asia/Near East issues. She has designed programs, conducted democracy assessments, and managed projects in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Nepal, India, Lebanon, and East Timor, among other countries. She also specializes in post-conflict rule of law issues and worked briefly in the State Department's Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS). Kate joined the agency initially as a Presidential Management Fellow.

Kate holds an M.A. in international affairs (with a concentration in human rights) from Columbia University 's School of International and Public Affairs and a B.A. in letters from the University of Oklahoma. She has previous experience working for a local NGO in Thailand providing assistance to, and promoting the rights of, Burmese refugees and migrant workers; working for Columbia University 's Center for the Study of Human Rights; and in State Department in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. Kate is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, having served as a water/sanitation and community development volunteer in Nepal from 1997-1999. She speaks Nepali, Thai and is conversant in Spanish. Outside of work, she is a fervent believer in escapist pastimes, including reading non-work related books, watching sports, practicing yoga, taking aimless walks, and eating too much dessert.

**Dr. Mischa Thompson** is a Professional Staff Member of a Subcommittee of the United States Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee where she provides counsel to the Subcommittee ranking member, Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) on issues of national security and foreign policy. Prior to this position she worked in the House of Representatives for Congressman Gregory Meeks as a Legislative Assistant and Congressman Charles B. Rangel as a Fellow on foreign policy and trade issues. A primary focus of her work included working with international organizations and institutions to develop solutions to problems of social exclusion in Latin America. This included the introduction of the first legislation acknowledging African descendants of the slave trade in the Caribbean and Latin America, some of the first Congressional trips to the Western Hemisphere focusing on Afro-Latinos, and numerous media events on capitol hill on the issue.

A graduate of Howard University in Washington D.C., Dr. Thompson received her PhD from the University of Michigan where her doctoral research focused on the measurement and alleviation of stereotypes that contribute to socio-economic disparities found between different gender and race groups. Dr. Thompson's unique experiences as policymaker and researcher, coupled with her numerous travels to European, Latin American, Asian, and African countries have provided her with increased insight into linkages between U.S. foreign policy and research.

**Juliet Wasswa-Mugambwa** is a program officer at the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, where she works on contributing to the expansion of the horizons of the analytical work by providing new insights in the domain of international development cooperation. Currently, she is engaged in the preparation of substantive reports of the Secretary-General on development cooperation issues that are considered by the United

Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. These reports provide the basis for coherent and effective policy guidance to the development cooperation of the United Nations system. The key tool for this is the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the General Assembly. She participates in evaluation studies and country missions to assess the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the United Nations system's development cooperation. Ms. Wasswa-Mugambwa has had a unique opportunity of serving the United Nations in a variety of offices ranging from: the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Her areas of interest include: trends and perspectives in international development cooperation ♦ including: (a) financing for development cooperation; (b) health and environment ♦ gender and youth dimension of HIV/AIDS, intersection with human rights and gender-based violence; (c) sustainable development; and (d) information communication and technology.

Ms. Wasswa-Mugambwa has an MA in International Economic Development from University of Denver, and a BA in International Management, Computer Information Systems from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota (with Leadership Award for her graduating class, one of the highest honors for a student at the College of St. Scholastica).

**Kristin Wells** is a Counsel for the House Committee on the Judiciary, reporting to Representative John Conyers (D-MI), the Committee's Ranking Democrat. Her responsibilities include advising committee Democrats on policy, legislation and strategy relating to immigration, refugees, asylum, terrorism and foreign policy matters. Prior to joining the House Judiciary Committee in the fall of 2001, Ms. Wells spent three years as a litigation associate at the Washington, D.C. office of the law firm of White & Case LLP, specializing in international disputes. She also clerked for the Constitutional Court of South Africa and worked for the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa. In addition, Ms. Wells' work experience includes tenures working on immigration issues at the U.S. Catholic Conference, lobbying Congress on U.S. foreign policy and asylum policy for TransAfrica (a non-profit advocacy organization), working on women's rights issues for an Afro-Brazilian women's organization in Sao Paulo, Brazil and working for several news media entities.

Ms. Wells earned her law degree from Columbia Law School, where her studies focused on international law, human rights and civil rights. She holds a Master's Degree in International Politics from American University and a Bachelor's Degree in History and International Development from Brown University. She is a native of Washington, DC and she lives there with her husband and their two young children.

**Carmencita Whonder** serves as the Minority Staff Director on the Subcommittee on Economic Policy to United States Senator Charles E. Schumer. She is the Senator's principal advisor on the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. She responsible for issues ranging from economic policy, the securities and commodities market, banks and financial institutions, federal monetary policy, housing, and trade policy. Prior to joining Senator Schumer's Office, Ms. Whonder worked as a Leadership Education Counselor for Gates Millennium Scholars Program (GMS), a \$1 billion initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. At GMS, she designed

the Leadership Development Program, funding strategies, and wrote the original program policies and procedures. Ms. Whonder was also a member of a seven-person team that allocated \$50 million a year in grants. In 2000, Ms. Whonder worked in Geneva, Switzerland at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a United Nations specialized agency. At WIPO she completed a rotational assignment in the Arbitration and Mediation Center and the Least Developed Countries Unit. Prior to joining WIPO, Ms. Whonder worked as an International Program Fellow with Ambassador Linda Tarr-Whelan, former United States Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, to launch an international division at the Center for Policy Alternatives (CPA).

Ms. Whonder holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in Business Administration from Howard University in Washington, DC. She also has a Diploma in Advanced Spanish Grammar, Conversation and Composition from the Universidad de Pontificia de Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain, a Certificate in Intellectual Property and Cross-sector issues from the WIPO Worldwide Academy in Geneva, Switzerland. Ms. Whonder is a Socrates Scholar at the Aspen Institute, a Fellow at the Woodhull Institute for Ethical Leadership, and a Member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

**Lorelei Williams** was born and raised in the South Bronx and Harlem, New York. For the last ten years, she has worked to empower youth throughout the African Diaspora, including the US, South Africa and Brazil. From 2002-2003 she lived in Bahia, Brazil as a Fulbright Scholar. In Bahia, Williams founded the POMPA project in partnership with the Steve Biko Cultural Institute, one of the premier college prep programs for afro-descendent youth in Brazil. POMPA's mission is to train low-income Afro-Brazilian college students for public service careers. The charter class of twenty-one POMPA students graduated successfully in January 2005 and has interned in the city's leading public institutions. Many students now have a permanent job at organizations where Afro-Brazilians are under-represented, such as the State Legislative Assembly of Bahia, The Municipal Secretary of Education, local television stations, foundations and non-governmental organizations. Five of the alumni have launched their own micro-businesses or non-profit organizations. The second class of POMPA students was launched in February 2006 with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

In addition to her work with youth, Williams has also been an analyst at Accenture (formerly Andersen Consulting), a Production Editor for the Harvard Journal of African American Public Policy and has interned at the White House and the South African Parliament. Lorelei currently works as a consultant for Ford Foundation, Brazil Foundation and a South African non-profit, the Project People Foundation.

Lorelei holds a B.A. in Political Science and African American Studies from Yale University and a Masters Degree in Public Policy (International Development and Non-Profit Management) from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She lives in New York City.