International Careers Networking Night

Network with professionals whose work involves international engagement!

February 22, 2017 | 6:30pm
Miller-Ward Alumni House
Thank you to our sponsors:

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10 Tips for Making the Most of the International Careers Networking Night

This event happens once every spring and is for ANYONE who wants to explore international career paths! Join us and mingle with impressive Emory alumni and professionals whose works are international in nature.

1. When you arrive, you’ll receive a Guest Directory to review short biographies and photos of our invited guests. Give yourself extra time by arriving early. We will start with a brief Welcome address.

2. Immediately following the Welcome address, it’s time to mingle! Our guests will be positioned in different areas of the room. This is NOT a career fair, so guests will be mingling with students - not positioned behind tables. The “mixer” format is a lot of fun and makes networking less intimidating and more enjoyable for everyone!

3. Networking is nothing more than conversation between two people getting to know one another. Your STRATEGY is this: simply take an interest in your conversation partner! Introduce yourself with a smile and a firm handshake, then share your name and bits of information you think your listener might like to know about you (i.e. year in school, academic background, and potential career interests). But your main focus will be getting to know THEM.

4. If you’re still nervous, try watching others to see how they approach conversation. It’s okay to approach a student or group of students and a professional who are already talking. Walk up at a polite distance, make eye contact, listen, and await a verbal or nonverbal cue to join in. You will benefit from hearing others’ conversations - don’t wait in a single file line for your turn. Think CIRCLE! When someone makes eye contact, that’s your opportunity to politely break in and introduce yourself. Similarly, you can encourage others who might be shy to join in on YOUR discussions.

5. Think of what questions you’d like to have answered. Here are some examples:

- How did you get interested in this area of International work? What were you studying as an undergraduate?
- What personality traits and skills are critical for success in this area? What training or education is required?
- What’s your average day or week like? What do you enjoy most/least about your work?
- Can you suggest ways to gain experience to be more competitive for jobs/internships? Do you know someone else I should talk to outside of this event?

6. Keep an OPEN MIND - you will be surprised at some of the unexpected connections you’ll make with people who do not work for organizations on your “hot list”. If you spot someone standing alone, say hello and let them know how much you appreciate their visit to Emory. You will be surprised at some of the less obvious connections that exist between you, since many of our guests have worked in different environments and have multifaceted career paths and interests. Almost anyone can potentially introduce you to a colleague (potentially outside of this event) who shares your interests - if you only ask!

7. Don’t spend all of your time talking to one person. It’s a good goal to try to speak with 3-5 people at the event. Stretch your comfort zone: networking is one of the most effective tools in educating yourself about career options and finding the right fit in your next job, internship, volunteer role or gap year experience!

8. FOLLOW UP ETIQUETTE: Before leaving a conversation, it’s customary to ask each guest for a business card. This is very important, because you should plan to send a follow-up email as a way of saying thank you to those you spoke with. This forms a lasting impression and smooths the way for future contact. Building relationships is NOT a “one and done” - if you want to talk further, take the initiative to reach out again after the event, and into the future!

9. Our event organizers strive to attract a diverse group of participants. Occasionally, guests who planned to come have last-minute obligations that prevent them doing so. Let us know if there’s someone you missed and we will do our best to assist you in contacting them!

10. Thanks for coming - enjoy yourself, and have some great conversations!
Saya Ahmed, Refugee Resource Associate, International Refugee Committee
Saya Ahmed joined the IRC as a Refugee Resource Associate in Atlanta as a part of the Resource Development team that handles donor relations and community outreach. Prior to joining the IRC in Atlanta, Saya worked extensively for the United Nations and the Iraqi Ambassador in New York. She became familiar with the IRC while she was in Jordan working with female head-of-household Syrian refugees. Saya has experience with refugees from her time working at UNDP in Turkey and UNRWA in Jordan. Saya has a bachelor’s degree in International Studies and Middle Eastern Studies from Emory University.

Suzanne Blough, Assistant Director, Development; Georgia State University Rialto Center for the Performing Arts
Suzanne Blough has been actively involved in the field of International Education and Exchange for more than 20 years, and has studied, lived, worked and traveled throughout the world. As the former Director of the International Center at the University of California, Irvine, and the Permanent Residence Specialist at Georgia Tech, Suzy has counseled thousands of international students, scholars, faculty, researchers, medical professionals and accompanying family members. She has also worked closely with international and domestic students at various institutions, and on Semester at Sea. Recently, Suzy held the position of Community Programs Coordinator with the Georgia Council for International Visitors (GCIV), where she worked closely with the staff to create valuable international experiences and opportunities for the people of Georgia and emerging leaders from around the world. Currently, Suzy serves at the Assistant Director, Development for the Rialto Center for the Performing Arts at GSU, and greatly enjoys playing a role in fulfilling the Rialto’s mission to be the place "Where Atlanta Meets the World." Suzy received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory University and her Master of Education (M.Ed.) from the University of Georgia.

Lauren Brockett, Friends of Refugees
Friends of Refugees exists to empower refugees through opportunities that provide for their well-being, education, and employment. Café Clarkston provides employment assistance and internet access to resettled refugees residing in Clarkston and Stone Mountain. We see around 20-30 job seekers during our daily open hours and screen incoming visitors through resume building, online application help and job training programs. Lauren has personally placed over 1000 people in local jobs around Atlanta and annually train around 100 volunteers to provide career coaching to immigrants. Professionally, she thrives in new product development, cross-functional teams and projects that provide social impact for global communities. Spiritually, she is driven to welcome/reconcile the nations and helping people find their calling in the global workforce.
Nick Carlson, Mergers and Acquisitions, UPS

Nick graduated from the University of Georgia’s Terry College of Business with degrees in Business Economics and Management. During his time at UGA he helped start and run a business that would later be named to the UGA Alumni’s Bulldog 100 three times. Nick then transitioned and spent four years working in business and commercial banking for Wells Fargo. In 2013 he then moved to UPS, where he now works on the Mergers & Acquisitions team. There, he focuses mainly on international buy-side engagements in the Logistics, Transportation, and Operational Technology industries. Much of his time in M&A has been focused on engagements in the APAC region. Nick is currently an MBA Candidate at Emory’s Goizueta Business School in the MEMBA Class of 2018.

Lt. Anthony Chase, Medical Officer Recruiter, U.S. Navy

Upon graduating high school, Lt. Anthony Chase accepted a $250,000 scholarship to the U.S. Naval Academy where he majored in General Engineering and graduated in 4 years. Upon graduating and receiving his commission as an Officer in the U.S. Navy he began flight school training as a navigator. Shortly after the Department of Defense went through a downsize, he entered Corporate America as an Operations Manager for Sears, Pepsi, and Target in the Distribution Supply Chain industry. This role took him from Atlanta to Las Vegas and finally to Bakersfield, CA. During this time he remained in the Navy Reserves where he became a subject matter expert in war gaming. He returned to Atlanta in 2014 and took a sales role with a Military Head-Hunter by the name of Bradley-Morris where he helped dozens of military veterans with job placement. In 2015, he returned to active duty and is now serving in his current role as a Medical Officer Recruiter covering the states of Georgia and Alabama. In this role he awards full scholarships for Medical School, Dental School, Nursing School, and various other medical professional career paths.

Rahim Dhanani, U.S. Immigration Attorney, The Dhanani Law Firm, LLC

Rahim Dhanani’s legal practice has been focused in U.S. Immigration law for almost 20 years. He has extensive experience handling both business and family immigration matters.

Prior to starting The Dhanani Law Firm, LLC, Rahim worked for some of the largest business immigration law firms in the world and represented a variety of clients ranging from established Fortune 500 companies to startups with limited resources.

Rahim advises businesses on matters involving the hiring and transfer of international personnel. He routinely advises companies on issues pertaining to business and professional visas, PERM labor certifications, immigrant visas, consular representation and citizenship for foreign executives, managers and professionals. In addition to his experience in business immigration matters, Rahim also works extensively in family immigration matters including the preparation and filing of immigrant petitions based on marriage and fiancé(e) visa applications.
Joan Curran Darkortey, Co-Founder, Liberia Economic Development Initiative
Joan Curran Darkortey is the co-founder of Liberia Economic Development Initiative (LEDI), a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization working to reduce poverty and change lives in her native Liberia, West Africa. LEDI’s flagship project, currently underway, is to build the first modern public library in post-civil war Liberia. Joan is also employed as a Senior Analyst in Records and Information Management at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Emory University (2002), a Paralegal degree from Clayton State University (2005) and an Executive MBA from the Monte Ahuja College of Business at Cleveland State University (2014). In addition to running her nonprofit, she serves on the Cleveland State University Alumni Board of Directors. She is a 2014 Crain’s Cleveland Business Forty Under 40 recipient and a lifetime member of the Beta Gamma Sigma International Business Honor Society. She is married to LEDI co-founder, Rufus Darkortey, and is the mother of two boys, Rufus, Jr. (5) and Jeremiah (1).

Ray Donato, Phillipine Honorary Consul General
Raoul or “Ray” Donato was appointed as the Honorary Consul General by the late secretary of foreign affairs Raul Mangles during the government of Corazon Aquino. His appointment has been extended consecutively for the next 25 years. He recently received a certificate of recognition from the Philippine government for his dedicated services as the honorary consul general of the Philippines in Atlanta. He has received various citations from the former president of the Philippines Fidel V. Ramos. Consul General Donato obtained his college degree at de la Salle University in the Philippines. He then obtained his master’s degree in executive management at St. John’s University in New York. He also obtained an executive management course at the graduate school of business at Columbia University. Furthermore, he obtained a futures commodity trading certificate at pace university in New York City. He was the senior vice-president of Nissho Iwai American Corporation, the 6th largest trading house of Japan that had an annual sales revenue of over 110 billion dollars. After retirement he set up several companies that he continues to manage. In his career, he was involved in the oil and gas industry and metals industry. Mr. Donato was also appointed as the trade counsel for the Jamaican government and a member of the Asian-American commission under the former Governor Roy E. Barnes of Georgia. Consul General Donato was a visiting professor at the Fordham University in New York and a lecturer at the business school at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Megan Friddle, Director of the National Scholarship & Fellowships Program, Office for Undergraduate Education, Emory University
Megan Friddle received her PhD in American Studies from Emory University’s Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts after completing a MFA in English-Creative Writing at the Pennsylvania State University. She currently serves as Director of the National Scholarships & Fellowships Program in Emory University’s Office for Undergraduate Education where she advises students on academic and professional opportunities in the US and abroad, such as Fulbright Research/Study Awards and English Teaching Assistantships, UK Academic Awards (Marshall, Rhodes, Gates Cambridge), the Schwarzman Scholars Program, and the Luce Scholars Program.
**Tony Harper, Founder and CEO, One-World**

Tony Harper is the founder and CEO of One-World, a specialty pharmaceutical distribution company addressing early and expanded access needs of patients and providers around the world. Tony is a passionate visionary in regards to equality of patient care across borders and cultures. He founded One-World in 2001 on this principle and the philosophy drives the company today. Originally from a farming family in rural Virginia, his strong independent work ethic and down-to-earth style have translated well in developing his entrepreneurial visions. Tony’s curiosity in other cultures has taken him to many countries where he has witnessed the effects of limited access to proper treatment. More so, as a stage IV cancer survivor he has personally experienced the distress of such a diagnosis. Presently, he serves on the Executive Advisory Board for Kennesaw State University’s Entrepreneur Center. He was educated at the University of South Carolina and subsequently completed an International Management Program at the Southern Center for International Studies.

**Todd Harwell, Georgia Regional Recruiter, U.S. Peace Corps**

Todd Harwell is the Atlanta-area and west Georgia Regional Recruiter for the U.S. Peace Corps. He served as a Peace Corps Community-Based Environmental Management Volunteer in Perú from 2012 to 2015, responsible for the training and capacity-building of the park guards of a marine-protected area located near his community, as well as creating projects to broaden and strengthen ecotourism practices. Also in Peru, he led an Environmental Club in the local primary school, hosted a weekly radio program dedicated to discussing local health and environmental issues, and taught conversational English to local fishermen that were hoping to also gain work in the ecotourism industry. Todd is a native of Canton, GA, and received his B.S. in Marine Science from Coastal Carolina University and his M.S. in Environmental Education from the Florida Institute of Technology.

**Lauren Kent-Delaney, Director of Educational Programs, The Carter Center**

Lauren Kent-Delaney is the Director of Educational Programs at The Carter Center; a not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization founded by former President Jimmy Carter. The Center seeks to wage peace, fight disease and build hope in a world where people live every day under difficult, life threatening conditions caused by war, disease, and famine. Educational Programs oversees the marketing, recruitment, selection and supervision of the approximately 120 interns each year that work in Peace, Health and Operations at the Center. The goal of the internship program is to develop an informed, skilled and committed workforce serving peace and health needs around the world. Prior to her position at The Carter Center, she was a part of the Division of Campus Life at Emory University for 15 years and also held positions at Georgia Tech and Arizona State University. Lauren earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in Education and her master’s degree in Student Personnel Administration in Higher Education from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

**Hong Li, Director, Emory College Language Center**

**Professor of Pedagogy, Department of Russian and East Asian Languages and Cultures**

Hong Li holds a Ph.D. in Chinese linguistics from the University of Minnesota. She is the director of the Emory College Language Center and Professor of Pedagogy in the Department of Russian and East Asian Languages and Cultures. She teaches courses on Chinese language, culture and linguistics and advises study abroad in China. Her research focuses on Chinese language pedagogy and second language acquisition.
Berthine Njiemoun, Strategy and Operations Consultant, Deloitte Consulting, LLP
Berthine graduated from the University of Chicago with a B.A in Political Science. Ms. Njiemoun has experience in managing financial performance, strategic planning, and project plan development. While earning her Master’s degree in Public Health in Global Health at Emory University, she worked as a research assistant on studies aimed to analyze the effects of social capital on adherence to HIV care. She is skilled in quantitative data analysis through coursework and qualitative research methods by facilitating focus groups discussions, conducting in-depth interviews and using qualitative data analysis. She has experience with Photovoice, a qualitative participatory action research methodology that combines photography and social action and empowers participants through inclusion in the research process. At Deloitte, Ms. Njiemoun has supported operations of a program aimed at finding the cause of child mortality across Africa and South Asia. Currently, she is working on a CDC project to provide Zika resource to local health departments. Ms. Njiemoun is passionate about solving complex global health problems.

May Pang, 2009 Goizueta Business School alumnus and current Emory Law School JD student
Before returning to law school, May worked with Standard & Poor’s in Beijing, China covering the big banks in China by providing risk management consulting services to them. May has been working in the banking industry for over ten years with extensive experience in dealing, structuring, and underwriting in the corporate banking area. May previously served as the President of the Emory Alumni Association Beijing Chapter from 2014 to 2016.

Isiah Parnell, Deputy Chief of Missions, U.S. Embassy, Nairobi, Kenya
Isiah Parnell, a career Foreign Service Officer, is a member of the Senior Foreign Service and holds the rank of Minister Counselor. He currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Missions at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. Parnell joined the Department of State in 1984 and has served in eight overseas posts in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs and Africa. From 2006-2009, he was the Minister Counselor of Management affairs in Mexico City. Before assuming his position in Kenya, he was the Chargé d’Affaires at the U.S. Embassy, Kingston from 2009 through 2010, and then served as the Deputy Chief of Mission from 2010 through 2012. Parnell was born in High Springs, Florida. He earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, in Government and Economics; a M.A. degree in Urban Planning/Economics from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia; and has completed the coursework for a Doctorate in Public Administration from the University of Colorado Denver. Parnell served in the U.S. Army from 1981-1984. He is married to Tamice Gordon Parnell of Colorado and they have four daughters. An article in The Gleaner newspaper details Parnell’s life of service.

KK Pruitt, Consultant, Deloitte
KK Pruitt is a Consultant in Deloitte’s federal practice with over five years of public health program management and evaluation experience. Her areas of expertise include program design, implementation, and evaluation; continuous process improvement; and data analysis and management. Her career in public health began when she served in the Peace Corps in Cameroon as a community health agent, and she subsequently obtained her MPH from Emory University in Atlanta. KK's multidisciplinary background spans across multiple countries and includes experience in the federal, private, and non-profit sectors. For the past two years, KK has supported the CDC and its global partners to develop a standardized, robust process for the implementation of the IHR (2005) Joint External Evaluations in order to measure the capacity of national health systems to prevent, detect, and respond to disease threats.
Semra (Sam) Ramosevac, MPH, Program Manager and Career Coach, Office of Career Development, Rollins School of Public Health

Sam is the Program Manager and Career Coach in the Office of Career Development at the Rollins School of Public Health (RSPH), Emory University. Public health professional with the background in science and pharmacy, and 11 years of Biomedical Research/Clinical Trials experience (Emory University – School of Medicine). After completing her Master of Public Health (MPH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was the next step for 6 years in number of different roles as a consultant and Deputy Team Lead, within the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and the Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services (CSELS). The love for Emory University and networking connections gained over the years led her back to her new role at the Office of Career Development contributing back to our community, RSPH students and staff.

Sherezad Rehmann, Chief Marketing Officer, OPEN Atlanta

Sherezad Rehmann is an international business development strategist with a focus on sales, marketing and business development for the tech industry. A cross-cultural leader, Sherezad has experience working, studying and backpacking in 30+ countries. He is currently a Management Associate with the big data and analytics company, LexisNexis Risk Solutions, where he is working on various strategic projects as part of a leadership development program. His current project is focused on Telematics for the auto industry.

Sherezad is also involved in the community, serving as the Chief Marketing Officer for OPEN Atlanta, a non-profit with 11 chapters dedicated to business leadership and entrepreneurship amongst its 4,500 members internationally. Sherezad has a MBA from Emory’s Goizueta School of Business and a B.S. from Georgia Tech. He enjoys tennis, improv and freshly squeezed juice.

Carla Roncoli, Associate Director, Master’s in Practice Development Program and Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Anthropology, Emory University

Carla Roncoli is the Associate Director of the Master’s in Development Practice (MDP), an innovative interdisciplinary professional degree program that prepares students for careers in humanitarian and development organizations. She is also Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Anthropology at Emory University. Dr. Roncoli’s research focuses on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, especially in West and East Africa. Through extensive community-based research she seeks to understand how rural households perceive and manage multiple stresses – including those stemming from the realms of climate, environment, security, market, and health. Her research has informed the development of science-based decision support and early warning systems by international organizations and federal agencies, including, the World Bank, USAID, FAO, NOAA and USDA.

Laretia Williams, Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos

Laretia Williams recently returned from one year in the Dominican Republic at the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) home of over 230 orphaned, abandoned, and at-risk youth. As the visitor coordinator, she organized over 20 mission trips, engaged international donors and organized extracurricular activities for the children. Prior to NPH, she worked for six years within human resources and volunteer development at New American Pathways. Laretia is currently the human resources manager of a property management firm that is engaged with metro Atlanta refugee communities. She also provides local nonprofit consulting services and continues to support NPH. Laretia is a 2009 Goizueta Business School graduate with a Bachelor’s in Business Administration, concentration in managing organizations.
Taylor Woodruff, Chief of Protocol, Mayor Kasim Reed’s Office of International Affairs
As Chief of Protocol for Mayor Kasim Reed’s Office of International Affairs, Mr. Woodruff advises, assists and supports city officials on matters of diplomatic procedure. He plans inbound visits and welcomes diplomats, foreign officials and other distinguished guests to the City of Atlanta. Mr. Woodruff also assists senior staff to execute trade and business missions abroad and serves as the liaison to the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission and its 18 sister cities. Before joining the City of Atlanta, Mr. Woodruff served as the Program Manager at Sister Cities International in Washington, D.C. where he assisted communities across the globe in developing subnational relationships and served as the organization’s liaison to the U.S. Department of State and the Washington diplomatic corps.

Mr. Woodruff is a graduate of Arkansas State University and holds a B.S. in International Business Management.

Annie Zhu, Emory Exchange Student from Hong Kong
Annie Zhu is from Hong Kong and currently an exchange student at Emory. She has a passion towards secondary market and has the determination to explore her career in this field after graduation. Previously she interned in Citadel as a quantitative researcher and this summer she’s planning to join Morgan Stanley in Fix Income Sales and Trading Division. The variety of internships provide her with great industry exposure and gives her a lot of inspiration. She’s happy to take courses from Alternative Investment Center which gives her a lot of insights into this topic. She not only has she learned professional knowledge in class, but also made a lot of friends as well as experienced a colorful life in a different cultural environment.