Speakers

Yar Ayuel, Ambassador, RefugePoint. Yar was born in from South Sudan. At the age of seven, she fled her village during the ongoing civil war. She eventually arrived in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya with thousands of other lost children. In the late 1990s, Yar became one of 89 Sudanese Lost Girls resettled to the United States. Yar was placed with a foster family in Massachusetts, attended high school, and college. Today, Yar is an American citizen, working mother, and wife pursuing her Master's degree in Business at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. She serves as an Ambassador for RefugePoint and speaks out on issues related to women refugees.

Julie DeVoe, Scholar Advisor, The Morehead-Cain Foundation. Julie joined the foundation’s Morehead-Cain Scholarship Program in 2012. She works with scholars to research their interests, source organizations and opportunities, and implement the logistics of successful summer internships. She worked as a high school science teacher through Teach for America in Atlanta and as a program coordinator at Vanderbilt University. Julie holds a bachelor’s degree in polymer chemistry from North Carolina State University and a master’s degree in education from Vanderbilt University.

Julie Dixon, Deputy Director, Center for Social Impact Communication (CSIC), Georgetown University. Julie teaches and manages CSIC’s operations, including research, curriculum and partnership development, outreach and communications. Prior to joining Georgetown, Julie was Assistant Director of the Center for Social Value Creation at the University of Maryland’s Robert H. Smith School of Business. She continues to work as a consultant, providing strategic communications, content creation, digital strategy development and training to a range of clients. Julie has a master’s degree from Syracuse University's S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.

Cheryl Hamilton, Associate Director for External Relations, RefugePoint. Cheryl joined RefugePoint in 2011 as a Communications Officer. In her current position she continues to manage communication activities while also participating in individual giving programs. In her first job she helped manage the unexpected migration of 2,500 Somali refugees to her hometown in Maine from 2001 to 2003. She also has traveled the United States leading refugee employment trainings as National Coordinator for RefugeeWorks, a program of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in Maryland. She is a graduate of Clark University.

Jacqueline Marie Lauer, Aid for Africa Scholar, Aid for Africa Endowment for Food and Sustainable Agriculture at Tufts University’s Friedman School. Jackie is a graduate student at Tufts University’s Friedman School of Nutrition and a candidate for a Master of Science in Food Policy and Applied Nutrition degree with a concentration on Humanitarian Assistance. She served as a community health promoter in the Peace Corps in Peru and as a health volunteer in Tanzania. She holds Master of Public Health, Bachelor of Science in Public Health, and Bachelor of Arts in International Development degrees, all from Tulane University. Jackie is the second graduate student to be funded by the Aid for Africa Endowment.

H.E. Liberata Mulamula, Tanzanian Ambassador to the United States. Before her appointment as Tanzania’s Ambassador Extraordinary to the United States last year, Ambassador Mulamula was Senior Personal Assistant to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. From 2006 to 2011 she served as the first Executive Secretary of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region, headquartered in Bujumbura, Burundi. She also served at the Tanzania High Commission to Canada and Permanent Mission to New York as Minister Plenipotentiary and Head of Chancery. Ambassador Mulamula received a Master’s of Arts degree in Government and Politics from St.
Deogratias Niyizonkiza, Founder and CEO, Village Health Works. Deo was born in rural Burundi and was a third-year medical student when he fled to the United States after surviving a massacre at a Burundian hospital in 1994. Deo received a B.S. in biochemistry and philosophy from Columbia University, attended the Harvard School of Public Health, worked at Partners In Health, and studied medicine at Dartmouth Medical School. In 2006, Deo established Village Health Works in Kigutu, Burundi, where he opened a health center in 2007. Deo has received many honors including the 2014 Dalai Lama Unsung Hero of Compassion Award. He also received the 2013 People to People International's Eisenhower Medallion Award, an honorary degree from Williams College in 2013, the 2011 International Medal Award of St. John’s University, and the 2010 Women Refugee Commission’s Voices of Courage Award.

Courtney Petersen, Senior Communications Officer, Tostan. Courtney leads Tostan’s global communications partnerships. She is based in the Washington, DC, office and works with colleagues in 12 locations across Tostan’s operations. She joined Tostan as a communications Assistant in 2011. Prior to that Courtney completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and International Development at Brigham Young University. While a student, she worked on various projects with ProLiteracy Worldwide, Community Development Network, CHOICE Humanitarian, and the Center for Women and Children in Crisis.

Travis Randall, Head of Marketing, Communication, and Outreach, Ubuntu Education Fund. Travis is responsible for creating and implementing Ubuntu’s media strategy, campaigns, and outreach. He has worked in nonprofit consulting, print media, and policy research. His work with USAID, the United Nations, British Parliament, and numerous charity start-ups took him to Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Travis graduated with honors from the Joseph Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver with a Bachelor and Master of Arts in International Development Administration.

Emily Rauch, Senior Interactive Producer, OmniStudio. Emily has nine years of website and online marketing project management experience. Prior to working at OmniStudio, she worked extensively with clients in the federal government, specifically members of Congress. Her areas of expertise include website design projects such as WordPress, Drupal, Joomla! and other open-source software. Emily will receive an MBA from the George Washington University in December.

Caryn Stein, Director of Content Strategy, Network for Good. Caryn manages the development and distribution of nonprofit content and training. She has helped countless nonprofits improve their fundraising campaigns and write more effective donor communications. A graduate of Purdue University, Caryn has 15 years of digital media experience, specializing in user engagement, audience development, and custom content solutions. Prior to joining Network for Good, Caryn led online community operations at iVillage.com.

Riché Zamor, Director of Digital Strategy, 4Site Interactive Studios. Riché leads the digital brand and content strategy engagements for social causes and campaigns. Prior to joining 4Site, Riché was a Social Media Strategist for Hill Holliday, where he helped leading brands better leverage content to engage their audiences via social media and manage their that engagement across social platforms. Riché, a former community organizer turned digital strategist, received a Bachelor’s degree in Community Planning from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.