



2018 Global Development and Humanitarian Aid Training Program

Speaker Bios

Sarah Boal returned to the Pittsburgh region in 2014, completing a Master's in Public Administration in Public & Nonprofit Management from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. Having spent a decade running youth development and cradle to grave educational programs for a variety of nonprofits, Sarah jumps easily between the nitty gritty details and the 10,000-foot view of things. Her current role as Director of Talent & Initiatives at Brother's Brother Foundation, an international humanitarian aid organization, allows Sarah to use her varied skills on a daily basis. Sarah's passion project is Friends of Southeast Alaska, a nonprofit startup, that partners with Native communities in the Alaskan panhandle to provide educational programming and community building repairs during the summer months. She is a member of the NLC National Spark! Talk Committee, a Spark! Coach, a member of the North Hills Community Outreach Speakers Bureau, the Cochranon Community Fair Parade Committee, and serves as a volunteer Program Director for Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center. In her free time Sarah enjoys travel, and cooking for friends.

Jess Bonnan-White is a disaster studies scholar teaching in the Criminal Justice Program at Stockton University in Galloway, NJ. In addition, she serves as both the secretary and the director of education & training at the Forge Center. Jess currently teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in homeland security, conflict resolution, peace studies, criminological theory, and emergency management. Her most recent work can be found published in Contemporary Justice Review, PLOS Currents – Disasters, the Journal of Trauma & Dissociation, the Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Peace Review, Agriculture and Human Values, and the International Association for Emergency Management (IAEM) Bulletin. With domestic and international fieldwork experience, she focuses her scholarship on emergency preparedness and response in conflict areas and exploring social processes that increase community resiliency. She holds an MA and PhD in Anthropology from Northern Illinois University and The University of Iowa, respectfully, as well as a postgraduate certificate in Conflict and Peace Studies from the University of North Carolina – Greensboro. She volunteers with the American Red Cross – New Jersey Region as a volunteer in Public Relations, Disaster Services, Restoring Family Links, and Services to the Armed Forces. She is also an instructor with the American Red Cross, teaching international humanitarian law and mass care topics.

Nicholas Chakos has over 20 years of experience innovating and managing emergency aid and development programs. Currently he is Managing Partner of Next Tier Strategies, a firm specializing in strategic growth and turnaround strategies for public and private initiatives. From 2012-2016, Nicholas served as Executive Director and CEO of FOCUS North America, a nonprofit corporation with operations in 50 cities across the United States. Mr. Chakos is also co-founder of PRIMR, a healthcare company that pioneered marketplace data analytics for ambulatory clinics. He also teaches project management and evaluation at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School for Public and International Affairs. Previously, he was a director for an international humanitarian aid group, where he managed a \$200 million portfolio of projects in Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. From 1996-1998, Mr. Chakos was the Tanzanian Prime Minister's Commissioner for HIV/AIDS Awareness in Rural Areas.

Chelsea Cornwell holds a Master's of Social Work from the University of Connecticut and will shortly be completing a Master's of Science in Disaster Resiliency Leadership from Tulane University. During her graduate school years, Chelsea worked as a research assistant and interned with the International Association of Schools of Social Work as an NGO representative to the United Nations. Prior to graduate school, she worked as a victim advocate for survivors of sexual assault, completed two years as an AmeriCorps member in Virginia, and directed a summer camp for youth. Chelsea originates from Pennsylvania and holds a B.A. in Social Work from Elizabethtown College, where she minored in Peace Studies and spent two semesters studying abroad in The Gambia and Northern Ireland. Chelsea was a participant in the 2016 Atlantic Hope exercise and joined the Forage Center Staff in 2018 after returning for the 2017 and 2018 programs as a Controller/Evaluator.

Jack E. Demos, MD first completed a medical mission experience in the early 90s when he accompanied a colleague to the Philippines. Inspired by this experience, Jack founded SurgiCorps International in 1994 – an organization that provides free surgical and medical care to people in need around the world. Since retiring from his own practice in 2008, Jack has been present on every SurgiCorps Mission abroad, which includes 70 different missions in 19 countries across the globe. He supports the continued growth of the organization by assessing new trip opportunities, cultivating volunteers and leading by example. He is a graduate of University of Pennsylvania Medical School and completed a General Surgery Residency at Berkshire Medical Center in Massachusetts, and a Plastic Surgery Residency at Western Pennsylvania Hospital in Pittsburgh. He is board Certified in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery for more than 25 years.

Justin Forzano is the founder and chief executive officer of CameroonFDP, a FIFA Football for Hope-supported initiative, with the mission to improve the lives of youth in Africa through the game of soccer by promoting health, education, and leadership through youth-led, neighborhood-based soccer leagues. In addition, Justin is the director of programs at Pittsburgh Soccer in the Community, responsible for providing refugee, immigrant, and youth in under-served neighborhoods, access to sport-based development programs. He also serves on the board of directors of Steel City F.C., a women's soccer team in Pittsburgh dedicated to inspiring girls in the region through sport. He is a graduate of the University of Dayton with a Bachelors in Civil Engineering and holds a Master's of Public Policy Management from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. He is an Albert Schweitzer Fellow for Life.

Thomas Grant is an active member of the Zelienople Rotary Club and ShelterBox USA – a partner of Rotary International. As polio survivor himself, he and his wife are passionate about educating others on the Rotary mission to eradicate polio worldwide. Tom spent most of his life living in the suburbs of Philadelphia. He received a Masters from the University of Pennsylvania in Political Science and taught as a high school social studies teacher for 35 years – concentrating on nonwestern cultures. Over his career he founded several exchange programs between his school in Pennsylvania and schools in Japan, and has been involved in international exchange programs for more than 40 years including those through Rotary International. Tom moved to the Pittsburgh region (Zelienople) in the early 2000s and became an Ambassador for Shelterbox in November 2011. Tom and his wife remain active Rotary Club members.

Judy Hale Reed's career is rooted in improving the rights of the most vulnerable, and in particular, addressing gender equality, victims' rights, and human trafficking issues, including implementation of laws, capacity building, and coordination of anti-trafficking efforts in the US and Eastern Europe. She has worked with the OSCE Mission to Moldova as the Anti-Trafficking and Gender Equality Program Manager and as a consultant to UN agencies on anti-trafficking programs and social service system development; she has also served as a judicial law clerk and worked as a general practice attorney. Ms. Hale Reed has authored two chapters *Addressing the Problem: Community-Based Responses and Coordination* in the book Human Trafficking: Interdisciplinary Perspectives (Routledge, 2013) and *Multidisciplinary Collaboration: Working with Other Professions* in the book Working with the Human Trafficking Survivor: What therapists, human service and health care providers need to know (Routledge, anticipated 2019). Ms. Hale Reed served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Republic of Moldova from 1999-2001, and holds a Juris Doctor, a Master of Public Administration, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Women's Studies. Currently, she is the Legal Advocacy Manager for the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, is involved in the Western Pennsylvania Human Trafficking Coalition, and teaches a course on Human Trafficking as an adjunct professor at Chatham University.

Emily Markham serves as the Assistant Director of Global Engagement at La Roche College. In addition to assisting in the development of the annual *Global Development and Humanitarian Aid* Training Program, Emily also coordinates a variety of on-campus global education programs designed to build a greater global awareness and cultural understanding across the campus. These include the College's International Education Month initiative and annual *Global Problems, Global Solutions* conference. In addition, she works closely with international student retention efforts and initiatives. Emily holds a Masters of Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh with an advanced certificate in West European Studies and a Bachelors in Global Policy Studies from Chatham University.

Mirno Pasquali works as a Site Operations Manager with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) at the Kutupalong Megasite in Bangladesh. He provides direct management of Camp 19, which consists of approximately 20,000 individuals. In this capacity, he is responsible for site planning, the creation of community structures (including safety committees, community leader committees, women committees, and Imam committees), as well as disaster preparedness for the upcoming rainy season. This experience builds from many years working in the field. Prior to joining IOM, Mirno held previous positions with the Danish Refugee Council in Iraq, Médecins Sans Frontières in Tanzania, and with ACTED in the Za'atari Camp in Jordan, among others. He is a graduate of Allegheny College with a degree in Environmental Studies and Political Science, and has completed a variety of certification programs to advance in the field.

Jeff Ritter, Ph.D. has been a professor at La Roche College for 21 years in communication, media and technology, and film and video. In that same time frame he has been involved with documentary video, as well as education in developing countries working on education projects in Kosovo, Liberia, and Rwanda. Teaching on topics like development, the internet and technology have also helped to develop his areas of interest like micro-payments, drones for emergencies and crowd sourcing information, and data with mobile phones.

Taylor Seybolt, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. His teaching and research areas include humanitarian intervention, the "responsibility to protect", military intervention and peace operations, post-conflict peace-building, and conflict mediation and resolution, among other related topics. He is the author of *Humanitarian Military Intervention: The Conditions for Success and Failure* (Oxford, 2007) and co-editor of *Counting Civilian Casualties: An Introduction to Recording and Estimating Nonmilitary Deaths in Conflict* (Oxford, 2013). Prior to joining the University of Pittsburgh, He was a Senior Program Officer at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, DC, where he established grant-making programs in Nigeria and Sudan. During his time in Washington DC, he also served as an advisor to the Genocide Prevention Task Force, co-chaired by Madeleine Albright and William Cohen. He has taught at the Johns Hopkins School for Advance International Studies and George Washington University, and was previously a Leader of the Conflicts and Peace Enforcement Project at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Sweden.

David J. Smith is the president of the Forage Center. He works nationally with higher education and professional groups to promote conflict resolution and peacebuilding approaches to addressing differences. Previously, he was a senior manager and program officer at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, DC. David has been on the faculties of Georgetown University, Towson University, Goucher College, and George Mason University. He was a U.S. Fulbright Scholar teaching at the University of Tartu in Tartu, Estonia. David has written widely about graduate and undergraduate education in the Chronicle of Higher Education, Conflict Resolution Quarterly, Journal of Peace Education, and ACResolution. He is the author of *Peace Jobs: A Student's Guide to Starting a Career Working for Peace* (Information Age Publishing) and a co-author of *USIP Special Report 246, Graduate and Professional Practice in International Peace and Conflict*, which makes recommendations for best practices in experiential education in the field. In 2015, he received the William Kreidler Award for Distinguished Service to the field of Conflict Resolution by the Association for Conflict Resolution. David holds degrees from American University (BA), George Mason University (MS), and the University of Baltimore (JD).

Jessica Smith works as a Disaster Program Specialist for Allegheny County with the American Red Cross of Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter, a position she has held since June 2017. In this role, she works closely with the preparedness, response, and recovery programs and services organized by the local chapter. Through this role, she has also had the opportunity to deploy to St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands to assist with mass care and sheltering. Prior to joining the Red Cross, Jessica interned with the City of Pittsburgh's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security as well as the Global Disaster Preparedness Center hosted by the American Red Cross in Washington DC. Jessica holds a Masters of Public and International Affairs with a focus on Security and Intelligence as well as Civil Security and Disaster Management. As a student in the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School for Public and International Affairs, she led two working groups through the Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies. The first focused on gangs, trafficking and alternative governance in Central America. The second addressed the impact of natural disasters on a city's overall fragility or resilience – focusing on cities most at risk for natural disaster.

Erika Strassburger is a Member of the Pittsburgh City Council, representing one of nine districts that make up the City of Pittsburgh. Prior to joining City Council, she worked for nearly a decade for environmental advocacy organizations including PennEnvironment and Environment New Hampshire. Through this, she took the lead on several legislative victories including the passage of renewable electricity standards, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and building efficiency and appliance efficiency standards. Councilperson Strassburger serves on the board of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Parking Authority, the PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center, and Conservation Consultants Inc., an organization that helps families create healthier, safer, more energy efficient homes. She graduated with honors from Bucknell University with a degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in International Relations.