

Young Atlanticist Summit 2012 Chicago Delegates

Afghanistan

Haseeb Humayoon

Founding Partner and Chief Executive Officer, QARA Consulting, Inc.

Haseeb Humayoon is the founding partner and CEO of QARA Consulting, Inc., a Kabul-based public affairs and business advisory firm. Prior to establishing QARA, Humayoon worked in policy analysis, advising and project management positions inside Afghanistan, and briefly in the United States. In addition to appearing frequently on TV and radio, he has published several papers as well as opinion articles in outlets such as *The New York Times*, and in the United States Institute of Peace book *"The Future of Afghanistan."* He has also recently authored *"Reclusive Resources: Afghanistan's Mineral Wealth and Need for Formalization and Transparency"*—based on research in ten mineral rich provinces of the country.

Ahmad Waheed

Research Analyst, Naval Postgraduate School

Ahmad Waheed is a research analyst with the program for culture and conflict studies at Naval Post Graduate School (NPS) in Monterey, California. Previously he worked for the United Nations and the Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales (AIESEC) in Afghanistan. His research focuses on the political and social development of South Asia, particularly Afghanistan and Pakistan. Waheed received his BA in economics from Kabul University and in 2007 was awarded a Fulbright scholarship which led to his master's degree in international policy studies, with a specialization in international development at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS). Waheed was president of AIESEC in Afghanistan, one of the largest international student organizations, present in more than 100 countries and 1,100 universities worldwide.

Armenia

Shake Badalyan

Head, Armenian Youth Atlantic Association

Shake Badalyan currently leads the Youth Department of the Armenian Atlantic Association while also working as a project coordinator for the International Center for Human Development. Previously she worked as a financial analyst for the Armenian-Russian joint venture RusAI-ArmenAI. She received her degree from the Armenian State University of Economics where she graduated with an honors diploma in 2002, and is currently engaged in long-distance learning at the University of Wales (MBA, project management).

Valentina Gevorgyan

Cofounder, Democracy for Development

Valentina Gevorgyan is the cofounder of the NGO Democracy for Development, based in Yerevan, Armenia. Prior to founding this organization, she worked as an aide to the chief of staff in the office of the Armenian president. She holds an MA in political science and international affairs from the American University of Armenia, specializing in the foreign policy of developing states. Her research interests include democratization and the policymaking process, as well as regional security issues.

Bulgaria**Iveta Cherneva**

Executive Director, ICWords, Ltd.

Iveta Cherneva is the executive director of ICWords Ltd, a research consultancy firm. Cherneva is a writer and practitioner in the spheres of security, human rights, and sustainability. Her career includes work for the United Nations, US Congress, Oxford's Global Economic Governance Programme, and a number of nonprofit institutions. She is the author of the books *Trafficking for Begging* (2011), editor of *The Business Case for Sustainable Finance* (2012), and a coauthor of *Beyond Market Forces: Regulating the Global Security Industry* (2009).

Hristiana Grozdanova

Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Hristiana Grozdanova has been a foreign policy adviser to the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria since January 2011. Prior to her appointment, she worked for the Prime Minister's Office as an expert responsible for monitoring the decision-making process and implementation of EU law in the internal market (2006-10). She has also worked in the Cabinet of the EU commissioner for consumer protection. Grozdanova is the author of numerous articles and brochures on EU citizens' rights and instruments for their protection. For her work solving the problems caused by the misapplication of EU law, she was awarded with the title of "SOLVIT Goodwill Ambassador."

Canada**Alexander Slater**

Associate, O'Melveny & Meyers LLP

Alexander Slater is a litigation associate in the New York office of the law firm O'Melveny & Myers LLP. He has served as a foreign policy advisor and speechwriter to US Senator Charles Schumer, a law clerk to Judge Barrington Parker at the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and a special assistant to the commissioner at the New York City Department of

Consumer Affairs, where he was an urban fellow. He holds a BA in history from Yale University, a JD from Harvard Law School, and an MPhil in international relations from Oxford University, where he was a commonwealth scholar.

Croatia

Denis Avdagić

Director, North Atlantic Integrations Promotion Organization (OPSA-NAPO)

Denis Avdagić is the director of North Atlantic Integrations Promotion Organization (OPSA-NAPO) and the NATO.hr web portal (www.nato.hr). Avdagić graduated from the University of Zagreb with a degree in sociology studies and has attended numerous seminars dealing with NATO strategic and media issues. He has organized numerous conferences, appeared in many newspapers, television, and radio programs, and was recognized as one of the ten most influential bloggers in Croatia in 2009.

Czech Republic

Ondrej Ditrych

Research Fellow, Institute of International Relations, Prague

Ondrej Ditrych, PhD, is a research fellow at the Institute of International Relations, Prague, a Czech Foreign Ministry think tank. He read political science and international relations at Charles University in Prague and the University of Cambridge. He writes on transatlantic security issues, EU external affairs and politics, and security in the Caucasus. A Fulbright Scholar, he was a doctoral research fellow at the Belfer Center, Harvard University (2007-08).

France

Anne-Yolande Bilala

Market Research and Strategic Planning Manager, DRS Defense Solutions

Anne-Yolanda Bilala currently manages Market Research and Strategic Planning for DRS Technical Services, a US defense contractor. She provides analysis of market and industry trends that influence corporate investment and business thrusts. Bilala formerly served as a senior marketing and strategic planning specialist for URS Corporation and has held a number of other strategic marketing positions. She holds a bachelor's degree in international business from Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Rouen, France, an MBA from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, California, and is currently completing her master's studies in law in international security and defense at the Université Pierre Mendès France-Grenoble II.

Benoit Gomis

Research Analyst, Chatham House

Benoît Gomis is a research analyst at the International Security Program of Chatham House, where he focuses primarily on European security and defense, Franco-British defense and security cooperation, counter-terrorism, drugs, and organized crime. He previously worked at the Directorate for Strategic Affairs of the French Ministry of Defense in Paris and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels. He holds an MA in political science from Sciences Po (Aix-en-Provence) and an MSc in politics and government in the European Union from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Georgia**Shalva Dzidziguri**

Georgian Mission to OSCE

Shalva Dzidziguri is currently working as a post graduate fellow at the Georgian Mission to the OSCE. As an army peacekeeper he spent seven months in Baqubah, Iraq and participated in various joint military trainings which Georgia hosted with NATO member states. He completed his MA degree in international relations and European studies at Central European University, Budapest, where he specialized in EU–Russia relations.

George Gamkrelidze

Analyst/Researcher, New Generation – New Initiative

George Gamkrelidze is a researcher/analyst for the organization New Generation – New Initiative where he is responsible for strategic analysis, project planning and monitoring, providing policy papers, and organizing education programs. In 2006 he was accepted into a research program at the University of Gdansk in Poland where he successfully defended his research thesis on Georgia and problems of international security. Gamkrelidze has BA and MA degrees in economics from Tbilisi State University, where he studied Commerce and Marketing. Gamkrelidze is the co-editor of the book, *Challenges of Globalization and Integration* and has authored many articles on the subject.

Germany**Dustin Dehez**

Political Consultant

Dustin Dehez is a senior expert in the peace and security section of the Global Governance Institute and a member of the young foreign policy experts of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation. He graduated from the University of Durham, UK, where he was a student of Modern History and wrote his dissertation on “Keeping the Door Open – Pre-Colonial Trade in

German Togo.” Dehez has spent considerable time in Africa and studied topics including terrorism, civil-military tensions, and comparative politics in Africa. He is part of the Royal African Society, German United Nations Association, and British International Studies Association. He blogs at <http://dustin-dehez.blogspot.com>.

Greece

Lia Kaltsa

Scientific Advisor, Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Lia Kaltsa is a scientific advisor to the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previously she worked as a researcher for the University of Thessaly, an election observer in Sarajevo, and as a freelance journalist. She is a PhD candidate at King’s College, London in the War Studies and Mediterranean Studies Department. In 2005 she received her MA with “high merit” in European Studies, also from King’s College.

Hungary

Varga Gergely

Visiting Fellow, Johns Hopkins SAIS Center

Varga Gergely is a visiting fellow at the SAIS Center for Transatlantic Relations (Johns Hopkins University), Washington DC. He is currently working towards his PhD in international security studies from Corvinus University in Budapest. He is a member of Europa Verietas Foundation as well as the Association of Political Science Discourse.

Peter Rada

President, Corvinus Society for Foreign Affairs and Culture

Rada is an associate professor at the Eszterházy Károly College and the ELTE University as well as president of the Corvinus Society for Foreign Affairs and Culture, a Hungarian think tank. Previously he has been a visiting scholar at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, and at Columbia University. He holds a PhD in political science and an MA in diplomacy and security policy from the Corvinus University, Budapest. He has published several articles and book chapters on the topics of failed states, conflict management, and state building.

Italy

Benedetta Berti

Associate Fellow and Lecturer,

Institute for National Security Studies and Tel Aviv University

Benedetta Berti is currently an associate fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) and lecturer of Middle East Studies at Tel Aviv University, where she previously worked as a Neubauer research fellow from 2008 to 2010. She earned her PhD and master's at Tufts University's Fletcher School where she specialized in international security, international law, and Middle Eastern politics. Her dissertation was "The Power of Politics vs. the Politics of Power: Exploring the Political Activism of Armed Groups."

Enrico Biasiolo

Investment Officer, World Bank Group, International Finance Corporation

Enrico is part of a three-member team to raise an emerging-markets focused equity fund, focused on Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, which has successfully raised \$1 billion from global sovereign wealth investors. Enrico is currently an MBA and international relations candidate at The University of Chicago. He holds a BSc in engineering from Politecnico di Milano, and a MSc in engineering from Politecnico di Milano and Ecole des Ponts et Chaussées / Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, both with high honors.

Mario Ganau

Neurosurgeon and Nanotechnologist, University of Trieste, Italy

Mario Ganau is a practicing neurosurgeon, currently enrolled as a PhD candidate in the Graduate School of Nanotechnology at the University of Trieste (Italy), with a thesis focused on the proteomic analyses of High-Grade Gliomas. Mario has also studied management, entrepreneurship, and bioethics in top universities such as London School of Economics (2009) and Harvard Medical School (2011).

Latvia

Ansis Spridzans

Senior Associate, Sorainen Law Firm

Ansis Spridzāns is a senior associate in banking and mergers and acquisitions with an international law firm. His previous experience also includes business and marketing management in banking.

Lithuania

Laura Dzelzyte

*Senior Climate Finance Advisor,
Minister of the Environment, Government of Lithuania*

Laura Dzelzyte advises governments and supranational organizations on climate strategies and carbon finance and is a member of the UN Adaptation Fund board. Laura has been serving as a senior political advisor to the government of Lithuania and as a negotiator in the international

climate negotiations for the past three years. For her work in sustainability initiatives, Laura has been listed as one of thirty-five exceptional women under the age of thirty-five by Shell and Management Today group. She studied law at the University of Sussex and sustainability leadership at Cambridge University.

Morocco

Dr. Samir Battiss

Lecturer and Research Associate, Quebec University, Montreal

Dr. Samir Battiss is a lecturer in the department of political science and an associate researcher at the Center for Foreign and Security policies studies at Quebec University in Montreal (UQAM). He teaches several courses dealing with international security policies and Europe. In 2011, he earned the NATO Mediterranean Dialogue Program Grant and was Visiting Fellow at the *NATO Defense College* (NDC). He holds a PhD from the Sorbonne University.

Netherlands

Benjamin Bilski

Executive Director, Pericles Foundation

Benjamin is the founder and executive director of The Pericles Foundation, a new think tank based in London. He holds degrees in science and philosophy, and is currently working in international law and strategic studies for his PhD dissertation research and other projects. He was the principal author of *Towards a Grand Strategy for an Uncertain World*, written with five former chiefs of staff, widely read on both sides of the Atlantic, and which influenced the new NATO Strategic Concept. He has published and lectured on Machiavelli and Plato.

Norway

Erlend Leonhardsen

Advisor, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Leonhardsen is a lawyer specializing in international law. He is currently employed in the Legal Department of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he advises on legal issues related mainly, but not exclusively, to public international law, international trade law, and EU law. He is also a research fellow (on leave) at the University of Oslo, Faculty of Law, where he is writing a PhD thesis and teaches international law. He has published nationally and internationally in academic and general publications on various issues related to *inter alia*, human rights law and international military operations, international investment law, and national and international emergency law. He was educated at the University of Oslo and at Georgetown University.

Poland

Anna Maria Barcikowska

Senior Officer, European Defense Agency

Anna Maria Barcikowska joined the European Defence Agency (EDA) in March 2007. She serves as a Senior Officer for policy issues at the Industry & Market Directorate, where she is responsible for developing policy options with regard to the impact of defence budget cuts and the austerity challenge; ramifications of the wider EU policies on defence; and relations with third countries, in particular the U.S. She is also in charge of the Agency's project that aims at identifying possible measures to limit barriers to the transatlantic defence industrial cooperation.

Prior to her work at the EDA she was a Senior Expert for international cooperation at the Polish Ministry of National Defence. She has also had various placements within think tanks, including the British American Security Information Council, where she worked on missile defence issues.

Ms. Barcikowska holds a Masters Degree in International Relations from the Warsaw School of Economics and a Joint Masters Degree in European Studies from the Warsaw School of Economics and Institute d' Études Politiques, Paris (Sciences Po). She was also a Danish Government Fellow at the University of Southern Denmark.

Dominik Jankowski

Expert-Analyst, National Security Bureau of the Republic of Poland

Dominik P. Jankowski specializes in Euro-Atlantic security (NATO) as well as the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU. Since 2010 he has been working as Expert Analyst at the National Security Bureau of the Republic of Poland. Previously he served as Senior Expert at the J5-Strategic Planning Directorate of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces (2009-10) as well as foreign policy expert at the President Aleksander Kwasniewski "Amicus Europae" Foundation (2007-10). He graduated from the Warsaw School of Economics, National Defense University in Warsaw and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. Currently he is pursuing a doctorate at the Warsaw School of Economics.

Portugal

Francisco Galamas

Research Associate, Security Studies Institute, Lusofona University in Lisbon

Currently Francisco is a Research Associate on bio risk at the Institute for Security Studies (ISES) at Lusofona University. In the past, he has held positions in the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Disarmament and Nonproliferation division), Portuguese Ministry of Defense (National Defense Policy Directorate—disarmament, arms control and nonproliferation affairs) and was

the Executive-director of the Portuguese Catholic University Think-tank *Forum Intelligence* (Forintel).

Ivo Sobral

Assistant Professor, University Fernando Pessoa

Ivo Sobral is an assistant professor specialising in International Relations and Middle Eastern Affairs. He was the coordinator and founder of the masters program in International Relations with the Arab and Islamic World at University Fernando Pessoa. He is currently a defence advisor for National Defence, editorial adviser for the Portuguese Institute of International Relations, and a guest commentator and analyst for many media outlets including RTP, Radio France International, JN, and NHK World. He has a PhD in history, institutions and international relations of extra-European countries from the Faculty of Political Science at University of Pisa (Italy).

Romania

Corina Murafa

Public and Regulatory Affairs Expert, OMV Petrom

Corina Murafa is currently a public regulatory expert with OMV Petrom and coordinates international research work in education with the Romanian Academic Society. Her professional background includes working in management consulting in the private sector (Deloitte) and in the Energy and Environment Sections of the United Nations Development Program. She co-founded and is presently advising the ORICUM Association, one of Romania's most innovative NGOs, which works in the sector of creative industries/education.

Serbia

Jelena Petrovic

Doctoral Researcher, War Studies Department, Kings College, London

Jelena Petrovic is a PhD candidate at the War Studies Dpt. King's College London with a dissertation on factors influencing NATO conditionality effectiveness in the Western Balkans. She holds an MPhil and MA in international relations from the University in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia. She worked as a research analyst in the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy and interned in the Advanced Research and Assessment Group (ARAG) of the UK Defence Academy and The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies. Jelena is also a frequent contributor in domestic and international peer reviewed journals.

Slovakia

Kristina Mikulová

Correspondent, The Economist, Consultant, World Bank

Kristina Mikulová is a PhD candidate in politics at Nuffield College, Oxford University and a correspondent at *The Economist*. She is also an adjunct fellow at Center for European Policy Analysis. She co-edits B'link, one of Slovakia's few foreign policy blogs. Mikulová previously worked as a reporter at various media outlets, including the *Financial Times*' editorial office in Prague and *The Moscow Times*. Mikulová holds an MPhil in Russian and East European Studies from St. Antony's College at Oxford University and a BA in political science and international relations from Charles University in Prague.

Peter Pindjak

Chief State Counselor, Slovak Ministry of Defense

Peter Pindják serves as Chief State Counselor at the Bilateral Affairs Section of the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic, where he coordinates U.S.-Slovak defense cooperation. He received a BA and BM from the Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern State University and an MPIA from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA). While studying in Louisiana, Peter became one of the first Slovaks ever to attend a four-year US Army ROTC program with permission of the US Army Cadet Command and the Slovak Ministry of Defense. He is a recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholarship.

Slovenia

Špela Kranjc

Researcher, Department of Political Science, University of Ljubljana

Spela currently works as a full time researcher and a Teacher's Assistant at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana - Department of Defence Studies. She is also pursuing a PhD in the field of International Security Studies the University of Ljubljana where she studied Political Theory as an undergraduate. She has worked as a member of the Protocol team for the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and as a secretary for the Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia. She recently finished an internship at NATO's Supreme Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk, VA.

Spain

Ruben-Erik Diaz Plaja

Democratic Governance Officer, Officer for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

As of June 2012, Ruben will be working as an officer in the Political Affairs and Security Policy Division at NATO HQ in Brussels, dealing among other issues with NATO's partnership policies. Currently he is working with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)'s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw, Poland. He focuses on strengthening democratic institutions in member states. Ruben has worked on governance and democratization issues on both sides of the Atlantic for various think tanks and multilateral and European institutions. He is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh and Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

Switzerland

Andrea Baumann

Visiting Research Associate, Center for Transatlantic Relations, SAIS (Johns Hopkins University)

Andrea Baumann is currently a Visiting Research Associate at the Center for Transatlantic Relations, SAIS (Johns Hopkins University) as part of her Transatlantic Postdoctoral Fellowship in International Relations & Security (TAPIR). She previously worked with the Swiss Foreign Ministry, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Oxford Program on the Changing Character of War. She completed her PhD on British and American models for the coordination of defense, diplomacy, and development in stability operations at Oxford University in 2011.

Turkey

Gonca Noyan

Co-Founder, Soft Power TR

Gonca Noyan is the co-founder of Soft Power TR, an ad-hoc group of academics and communication consultants providing strategic insights and policy recommendations on public diplomacy, soft power, and international security issues. Previously, she has worked as a policy analyst at the Turkish Ministry of Defense. She has interned for the Pacific Council of International Policy (PCIP) on transatlantic relations and has worked as a communications volunteer at the Refugee Children and Vulnerable Citizens (RCVC) in Tajikistan. She holds an MA degree in public diplomacy from University of Southern California (USC) and received her BA degree in political science and international relations from Marmara University. She was also a Fulbright Scholar in 2006 to 2008. Currently, she is a PhD candidate in communication at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She works extensively on public diplomacy, soft power, nation branding, NATO, ESDP and multiculturalism in post-conflict societies.

Merve Seren

Advisor for a Member of Parliament, The Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Merve is an Advisor to Gönül Bekin Şahkulubey who is a MP from the AK Party, representing Mardin. MP Sahkulubey is the first woman elected to parliament from Mardin, a region in the southeast of Turkey near the Syrian border. Merve has worked advising members of parliament since 2005. She holds a BA in Political Science and Public Administration from Bilkent University and a Masters in European and International Relations Studies from Başkent University and Rheinische-Freidrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn (Erasmus program). She is also a PhD candidate in the Department of International Security and Terrorism. (2008-2010 Turkish Military Academy & 2010-continue, Turkish Police Academy). Her PhD Thesis Subject is “Strategic Intelligence and Its Role and Significance in Combating Terrorism”.

Cenk Sidar

Founder & Managing Director, Sidar Global Advisors (SGA)

Cenk Sidar is the founder and managing director of Sidar Global Advisors (SGA), a Washington, DC-based global macro research and strategic advisory firm that has been assisting top financial institutions and multinational corporations investing in emerging markets since 2009. Prior to starting SGA, he served as the director of the American-Turkish Council for four years and oversaw the defense and energy programs of the council. He worked as a liaison for various companies and the US and Turkish governments. Sidar holds an MA degree in international economics and international relations from Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), a postgraduate degree from SAIS’s Bologna Center, and a BA in business administration and international relations from Istanbul Bilgi University.

United Kingdom**Muddassar Ahmed**

Chief Executive, Unitas Communications Ltd.

Muddassar is founder and the Chief Executive of Unitas Communications Ltd, where he has led on projects with the United Nations, US State Department, the Arab League, Barclays Wealth, HRH The Prince of Wales ‘Mosaic initiative’, the UK National Health Service (NHS) and the British Council. He also founder and Chairman of The Concordia Forum, The John Adams Society, The Hikmah Club and the media wing of CEDAR. Muddassar chairs the steering committee of the Europe-Islamic World Forum, a joint project of UK Foreign office executive agency, Wilton Park, and Unitas Communications Ltd. He is also Trustee/Director of The European network of American Alumni associations, The British Pakistan Foundation, the Adab Trust, Utopia 33 Films, and The Newham Public Affairs Committee.

Timothy Stafford

Research Assistant to Sir Malcolm Rifkind MP, UK House of Parliament

Timothy Stafford is the research assistant to Sir Malcolm Rifkind, a former Defense and Foreign Minister in the British Government. He completed an undergraduate degree in History and Politics at the University of Oxford, and has previously undertaken work for a number of think tanks, including the American Enterprise Institute and the Henry Jackson Society. Timothy Stafford founded a college debating club in 2002 and led Oxford Union Society debate propositions on the 2005 UK General Election; the Iraq War; the US-UK 'Special Relationship'; US policy in the Middle East; America's 400th anniversary; renewal of the UK's Trident nuclear weapons system, and the 2008 US Presidential election.

United States**Jordan Becker**

Major, Special Forces, United States Army

Jordan Becker is an instructor of International Relations and Comparative Politics at the United States Military Academy, West Point, and a Foreign Area Officer in the United States Army. He is a graduate of Georgetown University, Sciences Po Paris, and Columbia University. The views expressed in this forum are his alone, and do not reflect the positions of the United States Military Academy, the United States Army, or the Department of Defense.

Seth Berliner

Assistant to the Deputy Mayor, City of Chicago

Seth Berliner serves as assistant to the Deputy Mayor of the City of Chicago, where he focuses on economic development and business growth. Before working in City Hall, Seth was a Field Organizer on Mayor Emanuel's 2011 campaign. He previously lived in New York City, where he worked as a Legislative Aide to New York State Senator Tom Duane, and in Albuquerque, where he coached soccer. Seth is a native Chicagoan with a B.A. in urban studies from Columbia University.

Carl Bindenagel

Independent Researcher

Carl Bindenagel is a published author on international foreign aid and economic development policy. He has performed extensive policy research in both international and local concentrations. He worked as Project Director at the International Human Rights Law Institute at DePaul University, managing legal education reform and human rights grant-projects being carried out in Iraq. He worked as a local government monitor for the Civic Federation of Chicago, tracking and reporting on policy at the County and City governments in Cook County and Chicago. Prior to working in Chicago, Bindenagel worked on research projects and advocacy at several policy institutes in Washington, DC, including the German Marshall Fund, Friedrich

Ebert Foundation, and Konrad Adenauer Foundation. While working as Research Associate to the Director at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, Bindenagel designed, researched, and completed a chapter on the impact of foreign aid and international development policy on conflict zones as part of a book on strategic peace-building. He has a Master's Degree in Public Policy in economics and international relations from Pepperdine University and a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame.

Brett Dobbs

Attorney, Dobbs Law

Brett Dobbs is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School where he worked as a student attorney with the Wisconsin Innocence Project. Prior to law school, Brett worked for Charlie Rose on PBS and later BigThink.com, where he produced and conducted interviews with global leaders in foreign policy, business, and academia. Brett has also worked as an international consultant in the areas of telecom and media, and he lived in Kisumu, Kenya, as a fellow with Kiva.org, a micro-finance organization. Brett received his B.A. in international relations from Vassar College and his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School, and he studied at the American University in Cairo.

Duaa Eldeib

Journalist, Chicago Tribune

Duaa Eldeib is a reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*, where she writes both investigative stories and those that give a voice to the disadvantaged. She has won multiple awards for her reporting, and her work spurred lawmakers to abolish a regional office of education after uncovering a pattern of corruption. She graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia, the world's first journalism school, earning degrees in journalism and psychology.

Nathan Dorn

Farmer, Pioneer/Dupont

Nathan Dorn grew up on a family farm in southeast Nebraska. Nathan is a fourth-generation farmer whose family raises corn and soybeans and has a cattle feeding operation. Nathan also has a cow/calf operation with his cousins. In 2002, Nathan participated in the New Century Farmer program sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred. Since returning to the farm, he has focused on the use of technology to improve efficiency and increase sustainability. Nathan was selected with his wife Stacy to be the 2012 DuPont Young Leader representing the Nebraska Soybean Association. He is a member of the Holland Reformed Church and a frequent volunteer at Freeman Public Schools. Nathan graduated from Doane College with a degree in social science education.

Kevin Duffy

Lieutenant Commander, United States Coast Guard

Kevin Duffy is a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Coast Guard where he is presently second-in-command of US Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team Boston. Previously he served as the Executive Officer of the Maritime Security Detachment, Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He has been deployed and conducted trainings in nine Middle Eastern countries, including Iraq, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. While there he managed all Coast Guard Forces involved in counter-piracy operations which resulted in over forty pirate apprehensions. A graduate of the US Coast Guard Academy, he holds an MA in diplomacy from Norwich University and an MA in national security and strategic studies from the US Naval War College.

Iris Ferguson

Special Assistant, Office of the Undersecretary, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce

Iris Ferguson currently works for the International Trade Administration within the Department of Commerce. She received her MA in international economics and relations from Johns Hopkins, SAIS and her BA from the University of Arkansas. Previously she worked as a White House advance associate and as a legislative research assistant on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. She originally hails from Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Julie Félix

Communications Consultant

Julie Félix has more than six-plus years of experience working with global non-profit organizations in the areas of micro finance, education, and food banking. At these organizations, she has worked in the areas of program assessment and monitoring; project management; grant disbursement, monitoring, and reporting; strategic planning and organizational development; internal communications; and fundraising. She has worked and traveled to more than 20 countries. Julie speaks Spanish fluently and is proficient in French and Portuguese. She has a B.A. in English from Saint Louis University and a Master's of Science in international public service management from DePaul University.

Elizabeth Ferruelo

Senior Program Manager, The Executives' Club of Chicago

Elizabeth Ferruelo is a senior program manager at The Executives' Club of Chicago—a 100-year old business forum—where she develops, markets, and manages thought leadership programs. For nearly five years she was with the World Affairs Council of Houston, where she worked on global issues education, including a business series on energy, a nine-month initiative on Africa, and emerging leaders events. She has led study tours to the Middle East and Asia; lived in Europe for five years; and speaks fluent French, Spanish, and some German. She earned a

master's degree in international relations and geopolitics from the Institute of Political Studies in Toulouse, France and a B.A. in international relations from Boston University.

Joshua Foust

Fellow, American Security Project; Correspondent, The Atlantic; National Security Columnist, PBS Need to Know

Joshua Foust is a Fellow at the American Security Project and the author of *Afghanistan Journal: Selections from Registan.net*. Joshua is currently researching the role of market-oriented development strategies in post-conflict environments, on the development of metrics in understanding national security policy, and on non-military implementations of foreign policy doctrine. Previous to joining ASP, Joshua worked in the U.S. intelligence community. He is a correspondent for *The Atlantic Monthly*, a columnist for *PBS*, and edits the Central Asia blog *Registan.net*.

Cassandra Gaddo

Managing Editor/Electronic Media Editor, Today's Chicago Woman

Cassandra Gaddo is a managing editor and electronic media editor of *Today's Chicago Woman* magazine (www.TCWmag.com). She is active in various local and national women's groups, including Step Up Women's Network, Rape Victim Advocates, and the Today's Chicago Woman Foundation. Cassandra has served on the CARE Chicago Media Initiative and the Chicago Foundation for Women's Young Women's Council, and she is a member of The Chicago Council on Global Affairs' Young Professionals Initiative. In 2010, she co-founded a networking group for young women in journalism, Girls Gone Wired. She writes and speaks about local, national, and international women's issues, including in her blog, "Twice As Well" (at www.TCWmag.com), and as a regular guest on Vocolo Radio's (89.50) Feminist Wednesdays. She studied journalism, English, political science, and women's studies at Loyola University Chicago.

Kerry Granfield

Program Manager, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

Kerry Granfield is a program manager at the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, where she manages a training and certification program in seven states in the Midwest to help commercial building operators better manage energy usage in their facilities. Prior to joining MEEA, Kerry worked at AMIDEAST in Abu Dhabi, UAE, for over three years, organizing professional development programs for UAE businesses and organizations. She also worked on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Washington, DC for five years. She is a member of The Chicago Council on Global Affairs and volunteers for Heartland International and the Institute of International Education. Kerry holds a B.A. in environmental and evolutionary biology from Dartmouth College.

Naomi Hattori

Communications and International Program Manager, Chicago Sister Cities International

Naomi Hattori is a communications and international program manager at Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI). With the most active Sister Cities program in the United States, Naomi focuses on East Asia by overseeing the China (Shanghai and Shenyang); Osaka, Japan; and Busan, Korea Committees. Naomi is a native Chicagoan who previously worked in Shanghai, China as a market researcher where she helped U.S. and Japanese multinational companies enter the Chinese consumer goods market. Naomi received her B.A. in psychology from Carleton College.

Adam Hitchcock

Managing Director, Guggenheim Partners

Adam Hitchcock is a managing director at Guggenheim Partners in Chicago. Before joining Guggenheim, he was the Chief of Staff of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. In this role, he managed the staff of the Council and was the principal adviser to the Council's chairman, Austan Goolsbee, on policy, communications, and management issues. Prior to that, Mr. Hitchcock served as a Special Assistant in the White House Office of the Chief of Staff, where he provided counsel and support to President Obama's Senior Advisors. Before joining the Obama administration, Adam worked for Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley.

Jon Horek

Senior Engineer, Sargent & Lundy, LLC

Jon Horek is a licensed Professional Engineer, active in power and water project development, design, procurement, and construction. A longtime student of politics and policy, he believes that engineering leaders can bring a creative, problem-solving perspective to national and international discourse. As an alumnus of the Washington Internships for Students of Engineering (WISE) program, Jon currently serves on the national WISE intern selection committee. He earned his B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Northwestern University, where he attended on a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. A native Chicagoan (and Cubs fan), Jon is proud to welcome the Young Atlanticist delegates to his hometown.

Seth Johnston

Captain, United States Army

Seth Johnston is a doctoral candidate in international relations at Oxford University and a Captain in the United States Army. He earned his M.Phil. in Politics from Oxford (2005), his BS in political science, European studies, and nuclear engineering from the United States Military Academy (2003), and has been stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan and Heidelberg, Germany as an intelligence officer.

Shayne Kavanagh

Senior Manager, Research, Government Finance Officers Association

Shayne Kavanagh is the senior manager of research for Government Finance Officers Association. He is the author of a number of publications on financial planning and budgeting, including the leading book about long-term financial planning in local government, *Financing the Future: Long-Term Financial Planning for Local Governments*, and the award-winning *Technologies for Government Transformation*. He has written on topics such as long-term financial planning, financial policies, budget reform, using technology to improve efficiency, and other related topics for magazines including *Government Finance Review*, *Public Management*, *School Business Affairs*, and *Public CIO*. Shayne also consults and gives presentations on these topics for organizations across the United States and Canada.

Janet Liao

Program Officer, Journalism Staff, McCormick Foundation

Janet Liao is a program officer in the journalism program of the McCormick Foundation, which she joined in 2009. She assists grantees with project implementation and monitoring and solicits and evaluates new journalism grant proposals. Janet guides grantmaking in news literacy, digital journalism, and journalism training. Prior to joining the Foundation, Janet worked at Imagination Publishing as editor and project manager of customized media projects, including magazines, advertorials, webcasts, and online videos for Fortune 500 companies and associations. Janet serves on the board on the Chicago Women in Philanthropy and is pursuing a credential in project management. She received her B.A. in English from Cornell University and holds an M.S. in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism.

Eva Penar

Director of Marketing and Communications, Chicago Community Trust

Eva Penar is the director of marketing and communications at The Chicago Community Trust, where she is involved in day-to-day practices that support the vision for all Trust marketing and communications activities. She previously served as manager of public relations, increasing the Trust's visibility and elevating the work of grant recipients and donors. Prior to joining the Trust, Penar was part of the launch team behind *Time Out Chicago*. As marketing manager/events, promotions and publicity, she developed partnerships that made the introduction to the Chicago market so successful. Penar also worked at the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum for five years. During her tenure there, she worked on the "Gelman Collection: Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera and 20th Century Mexican Art" exhibition and supported an expansion that tripled the museum's size. Her hard work was recognized at the Chicago Emmy ceremony in 2004, where a public-service announcement that she coordinated with Univision Channel 66 won an award. She has also worked as a communications associate for the Chicago Millennium Celebration, Department of Cultural Affairs for the City of Chicago. In 2009, *Time Out Chicago* recognized Penar as a "Super Connector" in its feature about Chicagoans who go above and beyond in networking. Penar is fluent in Polish and Spanish.

John Robinson

Principal Consultant, Cornerstone International

John Robinson, a Chicago native, oversees a water/wastewater strategy consulting firm called Cornerstone International, which is mostly focused on advising international water equipment/technology clients on their China strategy. Additionally, he is a co-founder of the Blue Tech Alliance, which is a non-profit association of members interested in pursuing business and investment opportunities in the water sector. In addition to his leadership role in the water industry, John speaks fluent Mandarin Chinese and is Chair of the China Committee at the Chicago and Illinois Chambers of Commerce. He is writing a book about China's water crisis. John received his undergraduate degree from Denison University, and his graduate studies at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University included a heavy China focus.

Adam Schupack

Associate, Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Adam Schupack is a corporate restructuring Associate in the Chicago office of the law firm Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Prior to attending law school, he was a Robert Bosch Fellow in Berlin, Germany, where he worked for the German Federal Interior Ministry and in the parliamentary office of MdB Eckart von Klaeden. He is a former Associate Director of the Chicago office and Assistant Director of the Connecticut office of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a civil and human rights organization. During his tenure at ADL, Adam was invited by the French Foreign Ministry to study immigration and integration in France, and by the Israeli Foreign Ministry to study Israeli politics and foreign policy. He holds a J.D. and LL.M. in international and comparative law from the Duke University School of Law—where he was Senior Notes Editor of the Duke Law Journal—and a B.A. in history from Brown University.

Jon Schweitzer

Assistant Director, Communications & International Relations, American Jewish Committee

Jon Schweitzer is assistant director for communications and international relations at the Chicago office of the American Jewish Committee, where he manages AJC's international, government, and media relations. Prior to his tenure at AJC, Jon worked as deputy press secretary for U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and communications coordinator for the Southern Governors' Association. In 2011, Jon traveled to Ghana and Liberia to participate in a U.S. State Department democracy-building program. A native of Whitefish Bay, WI, Jon graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 2007 with a B.A. in public relations & advertising and political science.

Marc Sorel

Associate Consultant, McKinsey & Co.

Marc A. Sorel is an Associate Management Consultant, based in Chicago. Prior to his work in consulting, Marc served as a Teaching Assistant to former US Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright. While at Georgetown, Marc wrote his Master's thesis on US Weapons of Mass Destruction diplomacy as a Junior Fellow with Georgetown's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy. He has also clerked for law firms in Washington, DC and Brussels, Belgium, focusing on litigation and cross-border transactions. Marc has also worked at the United Nations and the Departments of State, Defense, and Homeland Security, on issues including nuclear non-proliferation, development, hemispheric defense cooperation, and intelligence sharing. His writings on US national security and foreign policy have been published in the *Baltimore Sun*, *Yale Journal of International Affairs*, and *Yale Daily News*. Marc holds a JD-MSFS from Georgetown, with distinction in his comprehensive oral exams at the School of Foreign Service, and a B.A. in History, with distinction, from Yale University.

Jordan Stark

Vice President, Resolute Consulting

Jordan Stark is a vice president at Resolute Consulting, a Chicago-based public affairs and strategic communications firm. He previously served as press secretary and then communications director for U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel. Prior to his time on Capitol Hill, Jordan worked on number of state legislature, gubernatorial, and U.S. congressional races throughout the country. He earned a B.A. in political science and history from the University of Iowa, and he studied foreign affairs at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic.

Samantha Stevens

Second Vice President, Northern Trust Company

Samantha Stevens is an assistant relationship manager at The Northern Trust Company, where she is responsible for the administration of complex trust and investment relationships for high net worth clients with sophisticated asset portfolios. She received her B.S. in journalism from Ohio University and her J.D. from Tulane Law School. She also studied international and comparative law at the Universiteit van Amsterdam.

Bart Szewczyk

*Senior Associate, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP;
Professorial Lecturer in Law, George Washington University Law School*

Dr. Bart M.J. Szewczyk is a senior associate at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP in Washington, DC and an adjunct professor of international law at The George Washington University Law School. He is a member of the Executive Council at the American Society of International Law, term member at the Council on Foreign Relations, fellow at the Truman

National Security Project, member of the European Society of International Law, and international editor of the Polish Yearbook of International Law.

Victoria Taylor

International Affairs Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations

Victoria Taylor is an international affairs fellow in residence at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in Washington, DC. She is a career Foreign Service officer at the US Department of State. Ms. Taylor joins CFR from the Department of State's Office of Southern European Affairs where she served as the Turkey Desk and southern European economic affairs officer. Since joining the State Department she has served in the Office of Iranian Affairs, the US Embassy in Tunis, Tunisia, the US Consulate in Lahore, Pakistan, and the US Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. Ms. Taylor holds a BA in International Relations and Diplomatic History from the University of Pennsylvania and an MSc from the London School of Economics and Political Science in development studies.

David Vaccaro

Director of International Programs, Futron Corporation

Mr. David Vaccaro is Director of International Initiatives at Futron Corporation, an international space and telecommunications consulting firm. He has more than ten years of experience in research and analysis involving national security space issues and international space programs. He also has onsite work experience in emerging Asian markets, leading an internet design team at an advertising firm in Nanjing, China as well as managing public relations for a Chinese e-commerce portal. manages several large teams on individual projects ranging from comprehensive economic valuations of the satellite industry to quantitative analysis on behalf of multiple-year, multimillion-dollar US government contracts. He has been a major contributor to reports on topics ranging from global space competitiveness to the national security implications of international space policy. Vaccaro concentrated in science, technology, and international affairs at Georgetown University, where his studies focused on telecommunications as an avenue for economic development.
