

**ALLIANCE OF
YOUTH
MOVEMENTS** / **09**
Summit

Attendee Biographies

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48 Hour Hunger Strike in Saudi Arabia: Solidarity with Detainees in KSA

Because 11 human rights activists were arrested with no official indictments, and incarcerated indefinitely in solitary confinement with no right for an attorney or access to habeas corpus, the defense teams used online tools to amplify their call for the trial or immediate release. They also organized a 48-hour hunger strike in protest against flagrant human-right violations for all detainees in Saudi prisons.

Waleed Abu Alkeer

Waleed acts as the General Supervisor of Human Rights Watch in Saudi Arabia and has created a sizeable Facebook group showing support for detainees. He was the Supervisor of the strike for Palmatkulaiin reformers of prisoners of conscience which was held in 2008 for 48 hours and was covered by hundreds of media. He has published more than 300 articles in Saudi newspapers, and wrote a weekly newspaper in Saudi Arabia, but stopped from writing since the escalation of his human rights activities. Instead, he uses Twitter to expose a large number of harassment issues in Saudi Arabia. As a result of his activism, he was investigated several times by authorities.

A Better LA

A Better LA, founded by USC football head coach Pete Carroll, is a 501(c)(3) comprised of local leaders from the private, non-profit, social service, faith-based, education and law enforcement sectors. It is committed to supporting Los Angeles communities in their goal to reduce violence by empowering change. This organization works with former gang members to provide alternative visions and pathways to at risk youth in California. A Better LA mobilizes the knowledge and skills of the community to inspire each person to dream, work, and play without fear.

Brian Center

Brian Center is Executive Director of A Better LA, a non-profit dedicated to breaking the cycle of violence and hopelessness in our inner-cities. A Better LA's unique approach includes engaging, empowering and training community leaders, including former gang-members, to rebuild their neighborhoods from within, and using research based practice to guide strategic planning.

Mr. Center obtained his Juris Doctor from U.C.L.A in 1993 and practiced law for over 8 years. He represented a wide variety of businesses in high stakes and multi-million dollar litigation.

In 2001, Mr. Center left the world of litigation and assumed the role of Justice Deputy for County Supervisor Gloria Molina. Having taken on one of the most unique jobs in government, he helped manage the County's \$16 billion budget and 90,000 employees. He participated in gang task forces with law enforcement and helped manage police oversight efforts. He also led efforts to reform the juvenile justice and children services systems. Through these experiences, Mr. Center has become an expert in the areas of violence prevention and evidence-based practice.

In 2005, Mr. Center moved to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and became the point person on issues pertaining to homelessness and ex-offenders re-entering society from jail and prison. He also served as the Chair of the Los Angeles County Re-entry Advisory Board.

Jaime Carroll

Jaime Carroll is the Communication Director for A Better LA and is a graduate of the University of Southern California with a degree in Communication and Cinema. She is the daughter of USC head football coach Pete Carroll and grew up all around the country moving with her father's job from Minnesota to New York to San Francisco to Boston. Because of her close bond with her father as well as a love of her adopted hometown of Los Angeles, Jaime began volunteering with his non-profit and was up for anything. With all the attention surrounding Coach Carroll's appearance on 60 Minutes, a national news program in the U.S. that highlighted his work in the inner city - A Better LA was inundated with requests to help. Since then, A Better LA, has been able to support outreach workers who suppress violence in LA's most troubled neighborhoods as well as help transform these same communities with resources, peaceful events, food and clothing distribution and most importantly facilitation of positive relationships with law enforcement and government. Jaime runs the website, social media efforts, and manages the planning of fundraising and community outreach events.

Burma Global Action Network

Burma Global Action Network (BGAN) emerged out of the famous "Support The Monks' Protest In Burma" Facebook group, launched by students Alex Bookbinder, Imran Jamal, Sophie Lwin, and others in September 2007. At its peak, the group had 450,000 members, all of whom worked together to organize demonstrations around the world. Operating in conjunction with other nonprofit organizations, BGAN is dedicated to promoting the struggle for justice and democracy in Burma. The organization has developed into a worldwide network of young human-rights activists speaking out against the atrocities and brutal rule of the country's junta.

Sophie Lwin

Sophie Lwin was born in Rangoon, Burma. At the age of 9 she was sent to the United States, while some of her family was forced to stay in Burma and fell victim to the Military Regime. She has been a strong advocate for Burma and has dedicated her life to the cause in hopes of being able to return to her homeland one day and helping her people. Sophie is the co-founder of 'BGAN'. She has effectively used social media for global advocacy outreach to raise awareness about the horrendous situation in Burma. She has lived in the United States since 1990 and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the United States Campaign for Burma.

Conflict Mediation

Conflict Mediation Services of Downsvie (CMS-D) is a not-for-profit charitable organization that helps people in families, workplaces, schools and neighborhoods understand and resolve conflict. CMS-D is committed to restorative justice and the peaceful resolution of conflict in order to reduce violence and crime, and build healthy and safe communities. They encourage valuing differences of peace, leadership, diversity, community, empowerment and accountability with the belief that people have the ability to solve their own conflicts and can fostering safe & healthy communities.

Michele Suavé

Michele Suavé has been involved in the criminal justice field for twenty two years. Her experience working with incarcerated men and their families has brought her to a philosophy of Restorative Justice. Currently, Michele is the Director of the Restorative Justice Programme at Conflict Mediation Services of Downsvie where she oversees a number of Victim Offender Dialogue programs. Her work at CMS-D enables her to provide much needed support to victims and offenders as they journey through the healing process. Michele is committed to educating the public and criminal justice professionals about the needs of victims and offenders with the hope that our responses to harmful behavior encourage accountability, restoration

and integration. In 2001, Michele's work in Restorative Justice was recognized by her colleagues as she was nominated for the Ron Wiebe Restorative Justice Award.

Corporación Foro de la Juventud Guayaquil

Corporación Foro de la Juventud Guayaquil promotes leadership, participation, and youth social responsibility to achieve the construction of a national, democratic, architecture of a new Ecuador. They focus on human rights, community action, civic participation, discussion/informal education, rights of minorities, ethnic/religious/cultural issues, and organize youth job training.

Mayra Cedeño Proaño

Mayra Cedeño Proaño is a program and project administrator at educational and nonprofit organizations including Corporación Foro de la Juventud Guayaquil. She serves in executive management including human resources, budget management and strategic planning. Mayra especially excels in organizing social events.

Cuba Development Initiative

The Cuba Development Initiative (CDI) brings together hemispheric leaders to implement strategies in collaboration with the Cuban people to advance their democratic, economic, and social development by joining international financial resources with Cuba's human resources. CDI works with vast networks of individuals and organizations throughout the island and has built strong relationships based on mutual respect over the last decade. Program areas include strengthening independent civil society; promoting entrepreneurship and civic activism; fostering popular education in democratic values; and leveraging technology to increase access to information.

Marc Wachtenheim

Mr. Wachtenheim is the founder and director of the Cuba Development Initiative (CDI) of the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), in Washington, DC. CDI brings together hemispheric leaders to implement strategies in collaboration with the Cuban people to advance their democratic, economic, and social development by joining international financial resources with Cuba's human resources. CDI works with vast networks of individuals and organizations throughout Cuba and has built strong relationships based on mutual respect over the last decade. Program areas include: (i) strengthening independent civil society; (ii) promoting entrepreneurship and civic activism; and (iii) fostering popular education in democratic values; (iv) leveraging technology to increase access to information. Mr. Wachtenheim's studies in political theory and his first-hand experience living in seven developing countries in Latin America and Africa, convinced him, at an early age, that what was needed to address the world's most pressing development challenges was for the world's political leaders and populations to embrace the principles of individual liberty, democracy and respect for human rights. In that respect, his efforts over the last decade have centered on helping the Cuban people bring about a peaceful democratic transition in their country as a means to escape their country's profound social, economic and political crisis. PADF is a leading hemispheric development organization working throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to promote economic, social and democratic development, especially among the most vulnerable populations, and does so by forming alliances with the private sector and local communities and governments. Prior to his work at PADF, Mr. Wachtenheim worked at the World Bank on projects in Africa and Latin America.

Developing Minds

Developing Minds Foundation is a non-profit organization that builds schools and supports education programs in areas affected by violence and poverty such as urban slums, favelas and regions of

armed conflict. Their initiatives range from computer and technology training in Rio de Janeiro's City of God favela to literacy projects in the Colombian mountain village of San Jose de la Montaña which has been severely affected by Colombia's civil conflict as well as the reeducation of former child soldiers in that country. By creating safe and dynamic learning environments, Developing Minds aspires to create a pivotal experience for our students to learn and grow as they try to make their way into society. In these impoverished and deeply troubled communities, they combine elements of a traditional education and vocational skills along with psychological and social rehabilitation to address core emotional issues that may affect our students. By doing so, they seek to help them be more receptive to education and capable of evolving into successful, healthy members of society.

Philippe Houdard

Philippe Houdard is the Founder and President of the Developing Minds Foundation, a non-for-profit organization that builds schools and sponsors education programs in regions affected by armed conflict such as the favelas of Rio de Janeiro and rural zones of Colombia.

He started his career on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. as a Legislative Aide to United States Representative Joseph P. Kennedy II, and he later served on campaign staff for United States Senator Edward "Ted" Kennedy.

Mr. Houdard has held various executive positions at leading companies including Lucent Technologies where he served as Global Marketing Manager, Concerto Software (now Aspect Software) functioning as Director of Corporate Strategy, and Cell-IT Technologies where he was Vice President of Marketing. Subsequently, he was Executive Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Doctor Diabetic Supply, Inc. He currently is a Principal at The Astor Group, an investment bank with offices in New York and Miami.

Mr. Houdard is a Visiting Scholar at University of Miami. He has a B.S. in business administration from the University of Florida and a master's degree from Harvard University at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Etemad Melli

Etemad Melli is a newspaper that publishes articles in line with the rights of Iranian citizens, the covenant with the Imam, the press law and directed policies.

Masih Alinejad

Masih Alinejad is a renowned Iranian journalist and writer that are well known for her courageous criticism of Iranian authorities. She was arrested as an activist for producing leaflets critical of the Government in 1994. Later, Masih served as a parliamentary reporter for ILNA and a journalist at Hambastegi Daily and Etemad Melli Daily. Several of her articles were followed by harsh criticism from conservative parties in Iran. In 2008, a former Iranian head of parliament apologized after an article by Masih was published in Etemad Melli Daily on economic problems in Iran. She was a Parliamentary correspondent for 'Hambastegi' Daily and 'Iranian Labour News Agency' (ILNA) for four years prior to her expulsion from Parliament in 2005. After her expulsion from parliament caused worldwide media attention because she had exposed that a significant increase in deputies' salaries had not been made public. The Nobel Prize winning lawyer, Shirin Ebadi, offered to defend her in court action.

Masih has published three books including: *Tahasson*, which describes the political turmoil/challenges created when the 'Sixth Iranian Parliament' went on strike; *Taje-e-Khar*, (The crown of thorns) a Novel and that is now being translated into English; and, *I am Free*, which deals with women's issues in Iran published in Germany because of the ban by the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry in Iran.

Masih is the winner of the first annual 'Omid Journalism Award' from the Mehdi Semsar Foundation. (Iranian - French Organization).

Full Court Peace

Full Court Peace uses team basketball to cultivate and inspire enduring friendships between teenagers from rivaling communities in war-torn regions of the world. Full Court Peace launched with coaching basketball both during and after school in Protestant and Catholic high schools located geographically close to one another, but separated by the city's dividing walls and invisible turf lines. Once the coaches gained a following of teenage boys in each school, they formed Integrated Travel Basketball Teams composed of these select members. These teams play full, nine-month long basketball seasons together, practicing at each school once per week, and playing games against other high school teams in Belfast. It's during this time that FCP coaches encourage dialogue and inspire friendship and camaraderie through healthy competition and through the power of team membership. The teams' seasons culminate with trips to the United States where they play against American high school teams and participate in various cultural activities, furthering their bonding experience. FCP is expanding internationally.

Michael Evans

Michael Evans, a native of Weston, Connecticut, first started his work using basketball as a social tool when he united a group of rivaling Catholic and Protestant teenagers in Belfast, Northern Ireland by putting them on a team together. Since then, Michael has overseen the creation of 6 Full Court Peace integrated boys' teams in Belfast, as well as the organizations first girls' team. Michael is now expanding Full Court Peace's programs into Cuba and is in discussions with nonprofit leaders in the Middle East about initiating work there.

Genç Siviller

Genç Siviller (Young Civilians) was founded in Turkey in 2006 and boasts more than 2 million members on Facebook, which supports an active, proud, and thriving online youth culture. While the group began online in 2006, it quickly grew into multiple offline causes supporting democracy in Turkey. Most recently, they were part of the successful campaign that asked Turkish President Abdullah Gul to accept Armenian President Serj Sarkisyan invitation to attend the World Cup preliminaries in Yerevan, Armenia. The Young Civilians is a diverse group, both secular and religious with a variety of political affiliations (such as liberals, leftists, feminists, environmentalists, democrats), coming from different ethnic and religious backgrounds (Turks, Kurds, Muslims, seculars, Jews, Armenians, Allewites) who are drawn together by their passionate belief in democracy.

Opposing the military intervention in Turkish politics, the 'Young Civilians aim to establish a liberal democracy in Turkey which is based on rights and liberties, rule of law, tolerance and justice. They are against any kind of discrimination, violence, and fighting against any kind of tendency that can result in discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, race, gender, and sexual orientation. The political stance of the Young Civilians cannot be categorized with a single ideology or a single identity politics. The Young Civilians declare that its position can be summarized as following its conscience which makes it sensitive to any kind of injustice treatments. The most important "weapon" of the Young Civilians is humor and popular culture which is why they are one of the most popular and prominent youth groups in Turkey. It is their distinct language and style that sets them apart from all existing and previously established groups.

Fatih Demerci

A Graduate of Sabanci University Industrial Engineering Program in Turkey in 2007, Turkey and Graduate of the University of Warwick in the UK in Business Management Program in 2008, Fatih Demerci has been dedicated to youth and student issues for several years. Fatih

has been a board member of Young Civilians since 2004, board member of the Sabanci University Students Union since 2006, is the President of ISOB (Istanbul Students Union) which represents more than 300,000 students. He is also a Founding member of ISGID (Istanbul Young Entrepreneurs Club) which is a business organization with a network covering more than 50 billion dollars and 300,000 employees. In his occupation, Fatih has been the General Coordinator at Saygi Hospital since 2008.

Ceren Kenar

Ceren Kenar was born in Ankara, the capital city of Turkey, in 1984. Ceren started to involve in politics and extra curriculum activities when she was a high school student and has been member and founder of various NGO's that support democratization in Turkey. In 2002, she worked as a part time consultant for the World Bank and conducted a comprehensive qualitative study on Turkish youth. Ceren also took part in many academic projects, on different topics such as migration, secularism and nationalism and submitted articles to different academic conferences on these issues. After graduating from the political science and public administration department of Middle East Technical University, Ceren has continued her studies of sociology at Bogazici University. Ceren Kenar has been an activist of the Young Civilians since its creation and has published many articles in national newspapers and periodicals.

Genocide Intervention Network

Founded in October of 2004, the Genocide Intervention Network, or GI-Net, was born of the efforts of two students at Swarthmore College, Mark Hanis and Andrew Sneiderman, along with Rwandan Stephanie Nyombayire. The group was incorporated in 2005 and has grown remarkably in a few short years, with representatives across the country. In April 2005, they held the "100 Days of Action Campaign," to commemorate the 100-day genocide in Rwanda in 2004. Genocide Intervention Network's mission and programs are grounded in a deep commitment to the communities of those who face or are at risk of genocide. Its members educate their communities and advocate for action from their elected officials while focusing on civilian protection and human security. The group's student arm, STAND (Students Anti-Genocide Coalition), has 1,000 chapters at high schools, colleges, and universities across the U.S., with chapters in 25 other countries.

Janessa Goldbeck

Janessa Goldbeck is the Director of Membership at the Genocide Intervention Network, a nonprofit organization that works to stop and prevent genocide. As Director of Membership, Janessa directs GI-NET's student-led division, STAND, an international clearinghouse for student anti-genocide activism, and the Carl Wilkens Fellowship, a program designed to build leadership within the anti-genocide movement. With fellows in 15 states and more than 1,000 active STAND chapters around the world, GI-NET's membership activities have been recognized by such notables as Pulitzer Prize-winning author Samantha Power, UN Lt. General Romeo Dallaire, and President Barack Obama.

Janessa's work today focuses on building adult leadership within the anti-genocide community and has served a pivotal role in GI-NET's success in expanding its membership base, totaling over 40,000. She has led training seminars for numerous organizations across the country on movement-building and leveraging technology to achieve social change -- including the Echoing Green Foundation, New Organizing Institute, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and National Student Partnerships.

A graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Janessa holds a BS in Journalism and African Studies. While in college, Janessa helped to build GI-NET's student-led division, STAND, into an international clearinghouse for student anti-genocide activism. She has produced several short films about the student anti-genocide movement and serves as an e-organizing consultant for numerous organizations, including AmeriCorps and National Student

Partnerships. In 2009, Janessa became a Fellow at the New Leaders Council, which recognizes emerging political entrepreneurs, a Truman National Security Project Partner, and is also a contributing blogger for Change.org.

Grupo Cultural Bagunço

Grupo Cultural Bagunço is an organization that incorporates music and other forms of artistic expression of children in marginal areas. Their strategy is to organize children in steel bands to participate, learn & develop self-esteem. They also have a volunteer program to provide technical assistance and mentoring to the participants.

Elvis Dos Santos

Elvis dos Santos, 18, was born in the community of wetlands in Salvador, Brazil, entered the Grupo Cultural Bagunço at 8 years of age and participated in various cultural exchanges with the group in Sweden, Denmark, Spain, Switzerland, and France. Elvis also participated in courses that include PSD (Personal Social Development), Theater, Computing, Literature, Employability and Technology. Elvis is currently responsible for training at www.tvlata.org which is experimental television offering young Bagunço ability to invent their own channel of communication with common technology platforms and maximum freedom in content creation.

Iluminemos Mexico

Iluminemos Mexico was a march against violence held in 88 cities in Mexico and 6 other countries. An estimated 2 million people marched on August 30th, 2008. Founded by American Aleman online, and businessman Elias Kuri offline, the two joined forces to establish a date for a march. Many Mexicans were horrified by the death of 14 year old Fernando Marti who was kidnapped and brutally murdered in June of 2008, and this event spurred many to say enough "Ya basta"—enough crime, kidnapping, murder, fear, and insecurity. The march was also named "*marcha contra la inseguridad*."

Elias Kuri

Elias Kuri is a businessman and one of the founders of Iluminemos Mexico. Elias is passionate about supporting his fellow countryman in their efforts against crime and violence. Elias incorporated Iluminemos Mexico in 2008 and is based in Mexico City.

In memory of all those who died in the 26th-27th November MUMBAI massacre

Launched and managed by a 14 year old, the Facebook group serves as the most significant group related to the November attacks: advertising blood drives for the victims, providing discussion and opinion forums, announcing commemorations and vigils, and even showcasing an Israeli condolence book for the terror victims that has several thousand signatures. 15,000 people joined the Facebook group in the first day. Soon, the amplitude of the movement group grew, and as it spread, so did its popularity.

Shubham Kanodia

Shubham is a 10th grade, 14 year old student in Mumbai, India who launched the Facebook group, "In memory of all those who died in the 26th-27th November MUMBAI Massacre" as a response to the terrorist attacks in his home town. Upon logging onto Facebook, he saw that a good majority of his friends were safe but openly condemned the act or expressed their condolences. Immediately thinking that he should publicized their opinion, and show it to everyone that we shall always be united irrespective of the stressful times, he created the group on Facebook as way to help the victims. Shubham's efforts have been

reported on in India and in the U.S. on The Huffington Post as journalists have been particularly enthralled by his young age. Shubham idolizes tennis champion Roger Federer, as he likes the way he keeps his cool in times of anxiety and stress. He speaks English and Hindi, plays lawn tennis, is a spelling bee champion, and an award winning artist. Shubham excels in the area of science and hopes to become an aeronautical engineer.

Invisible Children

In 2003, three young men from California traveled to northern Uganda to cover the crisis in Darfur. Plans changed when they discovered a humanitarian crisis involving the children of northern Uganda, who walked every day for miles to escape being kidnapped and forced into combat by the Lord's Resistance Army. Armed with a video camera, they recorded the atrocities and released *Invisible Children: The Rough Cut* in 2004, first showing it to friends and family; then to hundreds of thousands of students at colleges and universities across the country. They used existing student organizations and online social networking to organize two nationwide sleep-ins that mobilized more than 150,000 young people. Focused on the well being of children in the region, the now well-established NGO has many programs, including the Bracelet Campaign, the Schools for Schools Program, and the Visible Child Scholarship Program.

Chris Sarette

Chris began volunteering with Invisible Children during his last semester of a dual degree (BA/MA) program at the University of Southern California (USC). He now serves as Vice President of Business Operations at Invisible Children, meaning he's responsible for the inner workings of an organization with a global reach. For three years, Chris has been actively involved in the programs and advocacy efforts of Invisible Children which aim to create lasting peace in northern Uganda, home to Africa's longest-running war.

JuventudDes

JuventudDes is a Peruvian association of young leaders that seeks to promote integration of youth leadership in the public realm.

Carlos Almeida

Carlos Almeida holds a Bachelor's degree in communication from the University of Lima where he graduated in the top third of his class. He specialized in publicity, marketing, and communication for development. Carlos received a scholarship from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to participate in the Inter-American Institute for Social and Economic Development (INDES) program on Youth Leadership, Democracy, and Social Development. He was also part the project team for Paradero 45, a televised program with young people developed in conjunction with UNICEF. Carlos was one of the founding members of the Communication for Development Circle (ReCrea) at the University of Lima, where he served as the general coordinator. He has also been part of several youth and social groups, such as TuYo Ciudadano, which was supported by the Calandria Social Communicators Association.

Carlos has also worked in the areas of social marketing, citizenship, and sexual and reproductive health for young people in private sector NGOs and in the Peruvian Ministry of Health to develop a course on communication strategies in the health field. He was a co-researcher for the Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences (FLASCO) in the research project entitled "*No sé si puedes*" *Percepciones sobre la formación de políticas de juventud en el Perú* ["I don't know if you can." Perceptions on the formulation of youth policies in Peru]. Carlos currently works as an external analyst at Arellano Marketing Research, drafting reports and making presentations for various consultancies. He is also the executive director for the civil association JuventudDes where he develops and coordinates communication projects and strategies with youth organization and with young people in general.

LoonLounge

LoonLounge is an online community based around immigration to Canada. Its membership is made up of current Canadian residents, soon-to-be Canadian immigrants, and others who are considering immigration to Canada in the future. The purpose is to help them interact and connect with people who can support one another as they go through the immigration process, as they establish themselves in Canada, and as they build a better life in Canada.

Jon Gasco

Jon Gasco is the Communications Director of LoonLounge.com. Jon started in the graphics world and was introduced to LoonLounge when he was asked by immigration attorney, David Cohen, to assist with the innovative project. David's idea was to create a social networking site to assist immigrants and potential immigrants in their journey to Canada. Inspired by the concept, Jon became a paralegal in David Cohen's law offices to learn more about the immigration intricacies. Since then, he has come to understand the frustrations involved in the immigration process which has given him the advantage to better develop LoonLounge as a tool to facilitate the transition.

Latytud Project

The Latytud Project is a new social movement concerned with promoting activism in Venezuela. The primary focus is creating global networks for young leaders to connect in order to promote Democracy and Human Rights. So far, they have established alliances in Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Cuba, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia, and Bolivia.

Geraldine Alvarez

Geraldine Alvarez is a member of the Fundación Futuro Presente as the Director of the Latytud Project. She once served as Secretary General of the Student's National Parliament, elected by representatives of 165 Venezuelan Universities. Thanks to the Venezuelan Student Movement she learned about courage, responsibility and commitment and was invited as a speaker to the Universidad de Panamá, The Venezuelan Caucus at Harvard University and the European Parliament.

México SOS (Sistema de Observación para la Seguridad y la Justicia)

México SOS is a collaborative effort of thousands of Mexicans uniting to create a single voice: the voice of Mexico that rejects violence, corruption, dishonesty and impunity. México SOS envisions a country to live in that is safe, free of corruption, and where citizens can rely on the authorities to ensure their safety, their family, and their heritage.

Mayra Contreras

Mayra Contreras holds an undergraduate degree in computer science and degree in marketing techniques. After working for five years at Microsoft Mexico, she co-founded and serves as the Director of Citizen participation at Mexico SOS.

México Unido contra la Delincuencia A.C.

México Unido contra la Delincuencia guides those affected by crime and works with the authorities on crime prevention while promoting public safety, legality, and justice. Mexico United Against Crime was born on 11 November 1997 as a result of the call by Mrs. Josephine Ricaño to a group of Mexican citizens, following the abduction and murder of her son Raul. The purpose of the meeting was finding ways

to organize efforts to do something and not remain passive in the face of growing insecurity in the country. They have managed to find an echo in society, bringing together victims and persons who, while still having suffered the ravages of crime.

Ana Franco Wattnem

Ana Franco Wattnem has her Bachelor degree in Business Administration from Mexico's Autonomous Metropolitan University and holds an MA in Psychology and Rational Emotive Therapist Cognitive Behavioral Techniques. The phenomenon of public insecurity that prevails in her country of Mexico and the dire consequences for victims, stimulated the decision to not remain mere spectator so she uses his professional experience as a therapist to actively participate and create a more secure country. Since 2004, Ana has participated as a volunteer in Mexico United Against Crime, especially focusing her efforts on care and counseling to victims. During her administration, she has personally reached and advised more than 2,500 victims directly by telephone and over 7,000 victims through the Internet. Ana gives countless lectures at various forums and proudly articulates this civic organization of more than 800,000 thousand members, with strong actions and projects to work for security, justice and legality and to demand joining efforts with government institutions.

Movimiento Joven de Venezuela

A product of Movimiento Joven de Venezuela, "NO to the REFERENDUM" was the one and only university student led movement that knocked down the referendum put forth by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in 2007 to change the constitution and appoint himself as president for life.

Yon Goicoechea

Venezuelan attorney and activist, Yon Goicoechea is the President of the Caracas Youth, Member of the National Board of Directors of the First Justice Party and Representative of the Movimiento Joven de Venezuela, an NGO dedicated to training and organizing young democratic leaders.

Yon served as Secretary General of the Venezuelan Student Parliament and leader of a student movement in 1997, which protested government violations of freedom of expression and opposed the constitutional reform proposed by Hugo Chávez.

Pro-Líderes

Pro-Líderes is a civil association formed by Guatemalan leaders, who seek to improve the welfare of the country through youth training.

Juanita Victoria Barrera

Juana Victoria Barrera is a student of legal and social sciences and coordinator of Pro-Lideres in the municipality of El Progreso. She serves as a board member of Pro-Lideres and is the President of the Municipal Board for the Protection of Children and Youth in the department of Jutiapa. Juana is a tireless promoter of youth policies, with projects designed to strengthen leadership and promote a culture of peace for Guatemalan youths.

Projeto Axé

Projeto Axé is an organization founded in Salvador, Bahia (Brazil) that aims to positively impact the lives of at-risk youth, particularly street children reintegrating these youths back into society by restoring their sense of citizenship, providing them with decent living conditions, and ultimately reuniting them with their families. They go into the streets to provide educational services directly to their target audience.

Marcos Cândido

Marcos Cândido co-founded Projeto Axé - Center for the Defense and Protection of Children and Adolescents in Salvador, Brazil in 1991. Prior to that, he was an Instructor at the Organização de Auxílio Fraternal, a charitable organization, in Salvador, Brazil. Marcos earned a degree in liberal arts, specializing in French from the Universidade Católica de Salvador, a Master's Degree in psychology from New York University, and a Doctorate in psychology from New York University with training in psychoanalysis. Currently, he is the education coordinator for Projeto Axé Project and advisor on the coordination of art education. Additionally, Marcos is a psychoanalyst at Confraria dos Saberes in Salvador, Brazil and is the coordinator of the Computer Education Project in for the New York City public school system.

Beyond these commitments, Marcos consults for UNICEF, UNESCO, Avina Foundation, and for the Alta Mane Foundation in countries in Latin America, Africa, and Europe. While Portuguese is his native language, he speaks English, French, Spanish and is fluent in Italian.

Quilliam Foundation

Quilliam is the world's first counter-extremism think tank. Located in London, the founders are former leading ideologues of UK-based extremist Islamist organizations – organizations that are still active today. Operating under the philosophy that Muslims alone cannot contain extremism, a prelude to terrorism, Quilliam was formed. Not just because religious rigidity and extremism are products of the failures of wider society to foster a shared sense of belonging and to advance liberal democratic values among all sections of society. That said, they believe a more self-critical approach must be adopted by Muslim leaders to free communities from “West phobic” ideological influences, escape social insularity, and facilitate the organic growth of Western Islam.

Quilliam seeks to challenge what people think, and the way people think. It aims to generate creative thought paradigms through informed and inclusive discussion to counter the Islamist ideology behind terrorism, while simultaneously providing evidence-based recommendations to governments for related policy measures.

Maajid Nawaz

Maajid Nawaz, Director and co-founder of Quilliam and formerly on the UK national leadership for the global Islamist party Hizb ut-Tahrir (HT), was involved in HT for almost 14 years. He was a founding member of HT in Denmark and Pakistan and eventually served four years in an Egyptian prison as an Amnesty International ‘prisoner of conscience’. In prison, Maajid gradually began changing his views until finally renouncing the Islamist Ideology for traditional Islam and inclusive politics. He now engages in counter-Islamist thought-generating, writing, debating and media appearances. He has spoken at various events internationally ranging from the grassroots at City Circle London, to addressing the US Senate in Washington DC, and regularly comments on national and international news and newspapers. Maajid holds a BA (Hons) from SOAS in Arabic and Law and an MSc in Political Theory from the London School of Economics (LSE), with modules in ‘Religion and Politics’ and ‘Conflict, Violence and Terrorism’.

Raíces de Esperanza

Raíces de Esperanza, Inc., is a non-profit, non-partisan group sponsoring academic and cultural initiatives focused on youth empowerment. It is a national and international network of young people who care deeply about Cuba. They seek to educate themselves and others on the Cuban reality, raise awareness in their communities of this reality, and establish supportive links with young people on the island. Raíces de Esperanza hopes to empower youth to become authors of their own future and make a positive impact on Cuba - an issue often tangled with pain, separation, fear, emotion, misunderstanding, and politics - through academic and cultural initiatives guided by three basic principles: *love, friendship and hope*.

Raíces' vision for tomorrow is a day when Cuban youth are empowered with the necessary skills and opportunities to make a successful future for themselves and their families in Cuba. A day when youth on the island can freely participate in open exchanges about their ideas, hopes, dreams, and realities. When Cuban youth don't throw themselves into the seas as a last resort to the lack of opportunities and despair on the island. A day when Cuban youth can freely say, think, feel, or do what they want and not what they're told. When Cuban youth in and outside of the island can be reunited.

Felice Gorordo

Felice Gorordo is co-founder and chairman of Raíces de Esperanza (Roots of Hope), a national non-profit focused on youth empowerment in Cuba. Felice founded Raíces de Esperanza while in college and leads a network of more than 2,800 students and young professionals across the U.S. He has spoken throughout Europe and Latin America on human rights and on the role of youth as change agents in Cuba. Currently, he heads government sales for Liberty Power Corporation, an independent energy supplier and the fastest-growing Hispanic-owned business in the U.S. Previously, Mr. Gorordo served in various positions at the U.S. Departments of Commerce, State, and Homeland Security, including as the Special Assistant to the Director of U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service and as an aide to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. He also staffed a presidential commission on Cuba. Mr. Gorordo is a graduate of Georgetown University and a member of the University of Miami's Center for Hemispheric Policy Energy Task Force. He was recently featured on CNN's “Young People Who Rock” segment and has been featured in a plethora of press. Mr. Gorordo currently resides in Miami, Florida.

Verónica Nur Valdéz

Verónica Nur Valdéz is a trustee at Raíces de Esperanza (Roots of Hope), a national non-profit focused on youth empowerment in Cuba. Veronica joined Raíces de Esperanza in 2004 and now leads the multi-platform communications efforts for a network of more than 2,800 students and young professional across the nation. She has developed the messaging, marketing and branding for Raíces while serving as spokesperson for the organization in the U.S. and abroad. She currently resides in Miami, Florida where she works as a communications and strategic planning consultant. She has created and implemented rollout plans for various clients, including the Inter American Investment Corporation, a member of the Inter American Development Bank Group. Previously, Veronica served in various positions at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including spokesperson and Associate Director of Strategic Communications. She also worked in the international relations office of the non-profit organization, the Cuban Democratic Directorate. Veronica is a graduate of Florida International University and a member of the Cuba Study Group. She recently completed a fellowship with the Spanish think tank Fundación para el Análisis y los Estudios Sociales. As a Latin American Program Fellow, Veronica delivered remarks in Europe raising awareness about human rights and highlighting the role of younger generations as agents of change in Cuba.

S.E.T. (Students Expressing Truth) Foundation / Inmate Diaries

S.E.T. (Students Expressing Truth) Foundation is a non-governmental organization that developed with a focus on social transformation within the Jamaican correctional facilities. Founded in June 1999, S.E.T is the brainchild of former inmates Richard “Muslim” Buckner, and Robert “Chemist” James. Their main objective was to improve educational opportunities within the prison system. S.E.T has since evolved into a powerful community based phenomenon, unlocking and uplifting the minds of those incarcerated.

A project of Students Expressing Truth, Inmate Diaries is an inmate-driven prison rehabilitation program that focuses on the successful reintegration of prisoners into Jamaican society upon release. Inmate

Diaries trains select prisoners how to blog and podcast about their daily realities within the Jamaican prison system to paint a realistic picture of life behind bars and the consequences of crime with the hope that this will counteract the false ideas implanted by the media and celebrities that have been incarcerated.

Kevin Wallen

Kevin Wallen, one of Jamaica's premier motivational speakers, has shown a lifelong commitment to youth and community development. Kevin does extensive work within the harsh penal institutions of Jamaica with the aim of achieving rehabilitation and restorative justice. His commitment to developing leadership skills has made him a highly sought after consultant on restorative justice and a leader and pioneer in the areas of personal and professional development.

As Founder of KW International, Kevin speaks to groups around the world telling stories of the uncanny adventures he had as a "street boy" in Kingston, Jamaica and of his experiences transitioning to a new life in Canada as well as the lessons learnt through his interactions with inmates in the prisons of Jamaica.

Within his witty and heart warming stories, he delivers a message that relates to us all. It is a message of hope, dedication and the will to never let anything stand in the way of our dreams. His audiences completely enjoy his entertaining, inspirational and motivational speeches which leave them feeling great about themselves and confident for the future. Kevin has worked with over 150 schools in Canada, several companies, high schools, colleges and universities in Jamaica and would love the opportunity to work with your organization. Kevin serves as a consultant to the Dept. of Correctional Services, USAID, and is a Harvard Fellow. He is also Director of S.E.T (Students Expressing Truth), a nonprofit organization which serves as a model of rehabilitation and restorative justice within the penal institutions.

Sri Lanka Unites

Sri Lanka Unites creatively uses media, sports, the arts in school tours, and reconciliation rallies to raise the awareness of the meaning, benefits and goals of reconciliation in an effort to draw people to the annual reconciliation camps. Their primary focus is to run excellent annual gatherings/camps that bring together youth of every background from across the nation in a safe environment for the purpose of breaking down negative stereotypes, increasing mutual understanding of different cultural and religious backgrounds, instilling hope and inspiration in young people, and identifying potential leaders. These camps include various sporting pursuits and cultural activities such as drama, music, debating and dance. They also include speeches from and interaction with well-known local and international role models, as well as in-depth discussion and interactive learning.

A long term goal is to establish reconciliation centers in every district which will provide a safe space for youth of every religion, ethnicity, class and cast to use the various resources and opportunities provided for education, vocational and leadership training, sports and recreation. These centers will also create an environment where youth leadership is developed, experiences and stories are shared, negative stereotypes and prejudices are broken down, and where young people will work together on various projects for the benefit of all Sri Lankan youth.

Overall, the impact of these camps influence local and national leaders on matters relating to respect and appreciation of diversity, the correction of injustices and the promotion of sustainable development and peace in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka Unites is a symbol for and an example of the powerful potential of united Sri Lankans to work towards sustainable development, peace and prosperity.

Prashan De Visser

Committed to reconciliation and youth empowerment in Sri Lanka, Prashan De Visser, 24, is the President and Founder of Sri Lanka Unites and son of Rev. Adrian and Ophelia De Visser. Prashan was

home in Sri Lanka for Christmas break when the tsunami struck. The experience gave Prashan the passion to establish a student ministry on campus to respond to global suffering in love, compassion, and long-term commitment, especially in times of war, persecution and natural disaster. This was just the beginning of Prashan trying to make a difference in his country and was the trigger behind the launch of Sri Lanka Unites. Prashan holds a Bachelors in Liberal Arts with a major in International Affairs from Gordon College and was the President of the Student Association in 2008.

STAND

STAND, the student-led division of the Genocide Intervention Network, envisions a world in which the international community protects civilians from genocidal violence. At its core, their mission is to empower individuals and communities with the tools to prevent and stop genocide. To do so, STAND's Leadership Team recruits, trains, organizes and mobilizes students around the world by providing materials, educational information, online resources, policy expertise, and a network of concerned and active peers.

Every day, STAND chapters are started by students at schools around the world. As the key actors in the fight to build political will for ending genocide, students in STAND chapters organize and educate their peers and communities, advocate to their elected officials for substantial legislative action, divest their schools, cities, and states, and fundraise for civilian protection. Born out of the fight to stop the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, STAND is devoted to creating a sustainable student network that actively fights genocide wherever it may occur. They seek to unite students around the world in a permanent anti-genocide constituency.

Daniel Teweles

Daniel Teweles is the National Student Coordinator for STAND at the Genocide Intervention Network, a non-profit organization based in Washington, DC, that works to prevent and stop genocide. In this capacity, Daniel is responsible for mentoring STAND's student leadership team, directing STAND's strategic vision, and managing partner relationships. Previously, Daniel worked as a project coordinator in Kenya for an NGO developing public infrastructure, and as the Officer of Public and Academic Affairs at the Embassy of Israel in Washington, DC, where he was responsible for helping to manage Israel's relationship with the American public. Originally from Michigan, Daniel graduated with dual degrees in Political Science and Philosophy and Religion from James Madison University. Among other honors, he has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Merit for service to his community.

Tehran Bureau

Tehran Bureau is a "virtual" bureau connecting journalists, Iran experts, and readers all over the world. While serious independent journalism remains nearly impossible in Iran -- and no Western news organization has operated a bureau there in more than a generation -- Tehran Bureau is committed to adding original reporting, comment, and essay on one of the most important stories in the world.

Tehran Bureau is an independent news organization. It is not affiliated with or funded by any government, religious organization, political party, lobby or interest group. In September, 2009, the site entered into an editorial partnership with FRONTLINE, the PBS public affairs series. You can read more about life on "The Virtual Iran Beat" in Harvard's Nieman Reports, and on the web site of the Columbia Journalism School.

Kelly Golnouch Niknejad

Kelly Golnouch Niknejad, the editor-in-chief, founded Tehran Bureau in November, 2008. Kelly was born in Iran and moved to the United States shortly after she turned 17. She studied political science and writing in college, and emphasized international law in her coursework

in law school, including two summers of residential studies in European law in Paris, France. She was admitted to practice law in California and before the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

Kelly started her news career on the staff of a news agency in Southern California, where she covered legal affairs for two years, and at a small newspaper in Massachusetts, where she was a general assignment reporter. She then moved to New York City and earned two masters degrees in journalism from Columbia University, the first with an emphasis in print, and the second specializing in politics and government.

Kelly is on the board of the Arab and Middle Eastern Journalists Association. She has reported for the Los Angeles Times, the San Diego Union-Tribune, TIME Magazine, California Lawyer and PBS/Frontline, among others. Before starting Tehran Bureau, she was a staff reporter at The National newspaper in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. In addition to her duties at Tehran Bureau, she is working a documentary about Iran for PBS/Frontline World.

The Nut Graph

The Nut Graph, a news and analysis website, plays a critical role in Malaysia's ongoing democratization with a bold, but fair, online opinion pieces that trigger much public debate. On this unique platform, Malaysians can speak to each other through the site confident in the knowledge that they will get the honest coverage lacking in most Malaysian media, which is under direct or indirect government influence.

Deborah Loh

A journalist almost 12 years, Deborah Loh began in television news as an assistant producer before moving on to print journalism. She primarily reported on environmental issues, public policy and government for an English daily, The New Straits Times. In September, 2008, Deborah joined The Nut Graph and writes predominately on politics and multiculturalism

The People's March

The People's March Against Knife Crime, among other anti-crime groups was formed in July of 2008 to push back against violent crime and pay tribute to all the victims who have lost their lives to the increasing violence in the UK streets. So far this year, there have been 21 teenagers murdered in London alone, and both multiple vigils for the victims and protests have been organized online. Gemma Always and Sharon Singh decided that something had to be done, and they called The People's March on September 20, 2008. The march gained the attention of the Prime Minister, other politicians, and the media.

Gemma Always

A mother of two young children and co-originator of The People's March, Gemma says, "The murder of Ben Kinsella really brought it home to me that something had to be done finally. Rather than sit around waiting until it was one of my kids in the morgue I wanted to reach out to other people that were feeling the same way that [her partner] Sharon and I were and see if we could make a stand against the violence. On the 20th September 2008, that is exactly what we will now be doing." Since leaving high school, Gemma Always began full time employment in the private sector for four years before taking a career break to bring her up her two young children. She has since returned to work in the field of Telephone Conferencing and planning on getting married soon.

ThinkMoldova

ThinkMoldova is a platform dedicated to young people. It is the place where young people directly participate in proposing new ideas and take part in the decisions important for their own future and their

country. ThinkMoldova is about giving initiative to young people and fights to offer them the possibility to affirm themselves outside of the conventional, hierarchical and parochial institutions prevalent in Moldova's society and political system. ThinkMoldova is an independent platform without any political affiliations, where young people are encouraged to express their views freely and all democratic and tolerant perspectives are taken into consideration and encouraged.

They are a self-financed organization which is open to contributions by individuals, organizations or companies with a mission to contribute to the development of an active generation and to the general development of Moldova and its citizens while creating an active and productive dialogue between decision makers, experts and young people.

Natalia Morari

In December, 2007, while working as a journalist, Natalia Morari was deported from Russia. She had published a series of articles on corruption and money-laundering operations conducted by high-profile Russian officials, including couple of top people in the FSB; the successor to the KGB. Later, after publishing her investigation on corruption within the December, 2007, Russian parliamentary elections, headlined, *The Black Kremlin's Money Box*, she was stopped at the border of the airport, while returning from assignment to Israel. At this time, Natalia was officially called out as a threat of national security, defense capacity, and public order of Russia.

After returning in her home origin country Moldova she founded, ThinkMoldova and in April, 2009, Natalia Morari became one of the leaders of so-called "Twitter" revolution. As a result of youth protests mobilized through social networks, Moldova had repeated parliamentary elections where the ruling communist party had lost its 8-year monopoly and opposition came to power.

To Write Love on Her Arms

To Write Love on Her Arms began in Orlando, Florida, in February 2006 as a story on MySpace--the true story of a young woman who was denied entry into a drug-treatment center and spent five days with a group of friends who cared for her. The story, written by Jamie Tworkowski, was a look into those five difficult days. Shortly thereafter, TWLOHA T-shirts were printed, distributed to bands, and initially sold as a way to pay for the friend's treatment. Today, To Write Love on Her Arms is a nonprofit movement dedicated to giving hope and finding help for people struggling with depression, addiction, self-injury and suicide. TWLOHA exists to encourage, inform, and inspire--and also to invest directly into treatment and recovery. Since 2006, the group has responded to over 100,000 messages from people all over the world. TWLOHA has the largest online audience of any nonprofit on both MySpace and Facebook, and was recently featured within several forms of press including NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams and CNN's Young People Who Rock.

Jamie Tworkowski

Jamie Tworkowski is the founder of To Write Love on Her Arms, a nonprofit movement dedicated to presenting hope and finding help for people struggling with addiction, depression, self-injury and suicide. TWLOHA began in 2006 as Jamie's attempt to help one friend. Since then, the TWLOHA team has responded to more than 100,000 messages from young people all over the world. TWLOHA has also given more than \$600,000 directly to treatment and recovery.

Jamie speaks frequently, bringing a message of hope and honesty and community to universities and conferences throughout the USA and as far away as Australia and the United Kingdom. He is 29 years old, lives in Satellite Beach, Florida, and loves music and surfing. Jamie was also recently nominated for an MTV Good Woodie award.

Chris Youngblood

Serving as Tow Write Love on Her Arm's first official intern in October, 2007, Chris Youngblood had moved to Florida after never leaving my home state for 21 years. Since then, Chris has been on two national tours and traveled the country "down under" spreading TWLOHA's message of hope and help. After two years with TWLOHA and heading up all New Media projects, Chris now takes the message they have generated and disseminates it through the ever-growing international online community.

Un Millón de Voces Contra ETA

Primarily on Facebook and modeled after Un Millón de Voces Contra FARC, this group was developed to push against the terrorist group ETA which has killed almost a thousand people and wounded many more. After four unsuccessful negotiation attempts, it has been proven that the only way to end the violence once and for all is by mobilizing to influence public opinion.

Rafael Delgado

Born in 1982, in the Spanish city of Malaga, Rafael studied Law and Journalism at the Universidad CEU San Pablo de Madrid, where he has continued doing research for the Department of Financial Markets Law. After working as a journalist specializing in judicial matters, he is now head of the training department at a legal corporate consulting firm.

From a very young age Rafael has been interested in the problem of terrorism. Because of this, he has participated in several seminars about terrorism and, in 2006, attended the Third International Congress for Victims of Terrorism, held at the Universidad CEU Herrera Oria de Valencia. He has also collaborated in preparing events that will honor the victims of terrorism.

In February 2008, he decided to adapt the successful formula from "Un Millón de Voces Contra las FARC" and created "Un Millón de Voces Contra ETA" (One Million Voices Against ETA), a group that has a membership of about 100,000 just a year and a half after inception. During this time, from within this group, various programs have been launched so that anonymous citizens could use new technology to demonstrate their opposition to terrorism and their solidarity with the victims, especially after a terrorist act resulting in death.

Un Millón de Voces Contra Las FARC

Un Millón De Voces Contra Las FARC is the Facebook group that made news around the world. Oscar Morales created the group on January 4, 2008, and called for a massive march one month later on February 4. In that short period of time, the group gained almost half a million members online, and 12 million people--primarily organized through social networking--hit the streets to protest the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). The No Más FARC rallies are considered to be one of the largest and most remarkable demonstrations ever organized, both in the history of Colombia and worldwide, mobilizing people in nearly 200 cities in over 40 different countries. The rallies are also considered the largest protest ever against a terrorist organization. Efforts continue today within Un Millón Voces Fundación.

Oscar A. Morales Guevara

Oscar was the creator of the Facebook group "One Million voices against the FARC", the same group that organized the worldwide march against the FARC in February 2008. This was considered the largest and most remarkable rally ever organized in the history of Colombia and perhaps the world. The group mobilized more than 12 million people in over 200 cities across the world, with presence in over 40 different countries.

After the events of February 4th, Oscar has remained involved in several activities that aim to keep alive the social strength gained by his group, to demand that the FARC free the more than 700 people that still remain kidnapped and to demand an end to the terrorist actions perpetrated by this illegally armed group. Along with his Facebook partners, Oscar gave life to the "One Million Voices" Foundation, which will work in the same goals in which the "No more FARC" movement is sustained. Oscar has spoken all over the world including the Facebook headquarters in Palo Alto, California, and at Advertising Week VIII in New York, where Facebook was co-organizer, in order to show the social networking phenomena, and the real impact that social networking has had in society.

Un Mundo Sin Mordaza

Venezuelan Government is closing numerous radio and TV stations, and has established a new communications law that intends to establish censorship against the press. A worldwide protest on June 25th, 2009, was organized with presence in many cities and countries around the world that had a strong impact on international media.

Rodrigo Diamante

An economist at the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, Rodrigo Diamante holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Founder of the Venezuelan Student Movement and other youth groups, Rodrigo is also a UCAB student representative. Currently, Rodrigo is an advisor to the NGO Liderazgo y Visión and is a founder of Un Mundo Sin Mordaza. He was part of the delegation of Venezuelan youth that spoke at the European Parliament in Europe about the violation of fundamental rights in Venezuela. Rodrigo was a conference speaker at the 2008 International Forum for Peace and Democracy and the 2007 Atreju Forum in Rome.

Viva Favela

Viva Favela was created by representatives of diverse sectors of the civil society as a direct reply to the increasing violence in Rio de Janeiro. Viva Rio, a division of Via Favela, works for social integration and its main objective is to surpass the violence and the social exclusion in the State of Rio de Janeiro. They help expose the human, historical, cultural, economic, and social dimensions of these areas by producing journalistic coverage different from the conventional media -- which tends to cover themes connected to violence. Viva Favela was launched in 2001 and won several national and international awards for covering stories that feature human, historical, cultural, economics, and social dimensions of those areas, with a different perspective of the mainstream media. In 2009, Viva Favela was recognized as a Free Media Point by the Brazilian Ministry of Culture.

Rodrigo Nogueira

Rodrigo Nogueira is a journalist specializing in social and digital inclusion through collaborative media. After graduating in Digital Marketing Strategic Management in 2007, he has been the editor of Viva Favela, the first internet portal in Brazil designed to meet the needs and interests of low income communities with a team of "community correspondents" -- favela residents qualified to act as multimedia reporters.

Voces Bolivianas

Operating under the believe that improved communication can lead to greater understanding, the pilot program of Voces Bolivianas launched at a cyber-cafe in the city of El Alto in September 2007 and continues today with citizen media workshops to teach people how to blog.

Eduardo Ávila

Eduardo Ávila is a Bolivian-American living in Cochabamba, Bolivia. He is the Founder and Director of Voces Bolivianas, which teaches the use of citizen media to underrepresented groups throughout Bolivia, with the help of a network of national bloggers. He is also the co-founder of the Emerging Leaders Program, which is a leadership development program for Latino and immigrant youth in Northern Virginia and Washington, DC. Eduardo is also the Regional Editor for Latin America, Spanish Language editor for Global Voices and maintains the blog, Barrio Flores. Eduard holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration.

Youth for Tolerance

Based in Lebanon, Youth for Tolerance promotes a culture of tolerance that results in respect, acceptance and appreciation of religious and political diversity in Lebanon. Its presence on Facebook is small and vibrant, it has managed to function and be effective in an environment conducive to sectarian and political tensions. Using Facebook as an organizing platform, Youth for Tolerance has also created many games, distributed booklets to students on polarized campuses, and launched an ad campaign airing on local TV stations to raise awareness against violence and blind allegiance.

Elie Awad

Elie Awad comes to the world of NGO's and activism after starting his career in the private sector. He grew up in Lebanon during the civil war and started his journey in activism early on while he was a student at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in the mid 90's. He was awarded the "Penrose Award" from AUB for his "leadership, character and contribution to the university life". Elie later left Lebanon to pursue a Masters Degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, worked with IBM in the USA from 2000 to 2006 and earned an MBA at the University of Vermont.

As things started to change in Lebanon, it felt like a new phase had started so Elie decided to return in 2006 to do what he felt was his "share of responsibility towards the homeland". Soon after his arrival to Lebanon, rounds of violence broke out between Israel and Hezbollah, between the Lebanese Army and terrorist groups, and then between Lebanese factions. These events increased the divide and polarization within the Lebanese society and the need for action could not have been greater. In response, Elie helped launch "Youth for Tolerance". From its inception, the organization focused on training youth on conflict resolution skills and running awareness campaigns against violence and blind allegiance. Elie's primary role was in designing and implementing creative projects within the organization that have included creating projects within citizen reporting, creating a reality TV mini-show that highlights biased beliefs, generating new Facebook applications, producing novel ads that air on local stations, and writing unorthodox booklets about conflict resolution and war prevention. Elie's travels have taken him to 17 countries and he's fluent in English, French and Arabic.

Moderators, Speakers, and Panelists

Ari Wallach, Chief Creative Officer, studioBenZion

Ari Wallach is the chief creative officer at the strategy and communications firm studioBenZion. He is the co-founder of 2008's The Great Schlep and has been working at the intersection of ideas, public affairs and communications for over 12 years.

Ari is also the founder of INFORUM -- one of the nation's largest non-partisan public affairs forums for young people. He has worked with the Democratic National Committee, the US Institute of Peace and on sustainability related projects for the State of Israel. He serves on the board of the American Jewish Committee's ACCESS program and COEJL (the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life). He is an adviser to Jumpstart, WellGood llc and multiple social venture projects. He is a past participant of the Spitzer Forum, Reboot, the Aspen Institute's Socrates program and The Jewish Week's "The Conversation." He was born in Guadalajara, Mexico, raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and holds a BA in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University Of California, Berkeley. In his spare time, Ari designs and builds Buckminster Fuller inspired furniture in his Upper West Side backyard while his 8 month old twin daughters make faces at him.

Chris Csikszentmihályi, MIT Media Lab

Chris Csikszentmihályi directs the Media Lab's Computing Culture group, which works to create unique media technologies for cultural applications. He also directs the MIT Center for Future Civic Media, which develops new technologies and techniques to strengthen geographic communities. He has worked in the intersection of new technologies, media, and the arts for 13 years, lecturing, showing new media work, and presenting installations in both Europe and North America. He is a 2005 Rockefeller New Media Fellow, and recently finished a solo exhibition at the Location One Gallery in New York's Soho. Csikszentmihályi has taught at the University of California at San Diego, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and at Turku University. He toured museums and nightclubs with his mechanical hip hop device, DJ I, Robot, which was nominated for the Best Artistic Software award at Berlin's Transmediale, while a previous piece, Natural Language Processor, was commissioned by the KIASMA Museum in Helsinki, Finland. The catalog for his installations *Skin and Control* is published by Charta and distributed by DAP, and he served on the National Academy of Science's IT and Creativity panel. Csikszentmihályi received an MFA from the University of California at San Diego, and a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Csikszentmihályi is currently David and Roberta Loge Fellow at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

David Nassar, Blue State Digital

David Nassar has more than 15 years experience in campaign management, political communication, civic organizing and community empowerment. Just before his work with BSD, David served as executive director of Wal-Mart Watch, a campaign that has been called the most successful corporate campaign in recent history. That campaign utilized David's previous experience mobilizing people to participate in a bottom - up driven process designed to create change. Prior to Wal-Mart Watch, David organized people on a variety of campaigns around both issues and candidates. He is a member of the National Journal's 50 Political Insiders and is polled weekly on his views on politics. In addition to his domestic experience, David ran programs in the Middle East strengthening political parties and civic organizations for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. He holds an MA from George Washington University and a BA from Villanova University

Fernando Francisco Gómez-Mont Urueta, Mexican Secretary of Government

Secretary Fernando Francisco Gómez-Mont Urueta has a degree in law from the *Escuela Libre de Derecho* [Mexico]. He has been a member of the National Executive Committee, the National Council, and the Policy Commission of the National Action Party. As a federal legislator in 1991, he chaired the Chamber of Deputies Justice Commission during the 55th Legislature. He was a member of the Federal Election Commission and for many years represented the National Action Party at the Federal Election Institute. Mr. Gómez-Mont was a key player in Mexico's peaceful transition to democracy following the 1988 election. He played an active role in subsequent election reform efforts to make the Mexican institutional system more credible, including the establishment of photographic voter identification and a new election roll and the creation of the Federal Election Institute and the Electoral Tribunal within the federal judicial branch. He served as a legislator and close advisor in all aspects of election reform between 1988 and 1996. He also promoted constitutional reform in the areas of justice, public safety, and human rights. He has co-authored amendments to criminal, public safety, and public servant accountability legislation. He also participated in drafting laws on foreign investment, industrial property, economic competition, mines, fishery, and forestry. In the private sector, he has worked in recent years at the office of Zinser Esponda and Gómez Mont. He was appointed Secretary of the Interior on November 10, 2008, by President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa.

Jack Dorsey, Chairman, Twitter

Jack Dorsey is the creator, co-founder, and Chairman of Twitter, Inc. Originally from St. Louis, Jack's early fascination for mass-transit and how cities function led him to Manhattan and programming real-time messaging systems for couriers, taxis, and emergency vehicles. Throughout this work Jack witnessed thousands of workers in the field constantly updating where they were and what they were doing; Twitter is a constrained simplification designed for general usage and extended by the millions of people who make it their own every day. Jack is dedicated to creating public goods which foster approachability, immediacy, and transparency, and is starting a second company focused on bringing these concepts to commerce.

James Eberhard, Mobile Accord

James is one of the original pioneers of the mobile content and services industry. Having worked on five different continents developing and deploying mobile platforms and strategies, James is regarded as an expert in global wireless markets for content and services. With extensive experience leading start-up technical companies, his recent companies include Mobile Accord, Inc., Kick Start Mobile, Inc., HouseFront.com LLC, ReLogic, Inc., and most recently, Motellus, Inc., James has established himself as an accomplished entrepreneur and industry leader within the global wireless and internet communities. Prior to founding his current series of companies, James founded 9 Squared, Inc., a mobile content and services company. 9 Squared launched the first multi-platform mobile content delivery systems in the United States. James served as one of innovators of the mobile content industry and built 9 Squared into one of the top mobile phone content companies in North and South America. In three years and with less than \$50,000 in investment capital, he grew 9 Squared into a multi-million dollar company with annual sales over \$30 million. In 2004, James sold 9 Squared to UK based Monsternob Group plc for \$40 million. James currently resides in Denver, CO.

Kristen Morrissey, Principle New Business Development, Google

Kristen Morrissey Thiede - Since joining Google Kristen has been a leader on many early stage efforts. She launched the AdSense for Content business in the US and globally. Taking global strategy a step further Kristen launched our dedicated distribution efforts in emerging markets specifically Brazil and India. As a member of the New Business Development Team Kristen has worked on many early stage projects including Google Finance, new ad formats, GFA, AdSense for Print, Images. Kristen launched the New Business Development team in EMEA. BA from the University of the South

Mario González, CNN Español

Mario González is host of CNN in Spanish. Mexico leads the CNN news-Outlook, and is based in Mexico City.

Before joining CNN en Español, González served for four years as owner and chief conductor of the morning news information Eleven of Mexico Canal. Gonzalez was also chief conductor of the information and news for Mexico Spanish group Prisa, in partnership with Televisa Radio, and has participated as a driver holding the news today, and as a reporter for special themes for the Mexican broadcaster Televisa.

Among his interviewees are: Felipe Calderón, current president of Mexico, Vicente Fox, former president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, former presidential candidates; Abdalá Bucaram and Jamil Mahuad, former presidents of Ecuador, Alberto Fujimori, former president Peru; Patricio Aylwin, former president of Chile, among others.

Gonzalez is also an important journalistic experience outside of Mexico. He worked for six years as chief correspondent for Inter Press Service (IPS) in Ecuador, where he also served as a founding producer of a documentary program for Teleamazonas and made coverage in Colombia, Venezuela, Chile, Peru and Bolivia. He was a founding producer of the program "Day to Day" of Teleamazonas, who has been awarded major national and international awards such as The King of Spain Award. In the United States, he has done outstanding coverage of recent elections and the Middle East, directed documentaries on Migration in Lebanon and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mexico City native, Mario has a degree in Communication Sciences from the Autonomous Metropolitan University in Mexico City and a master of investigative journalism at the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar in Ecuador. Additionally, Gonzalez studied playwriting, stage management and contemporary theater. Gonzalez speaks English and Spanish.

Matthew Brady, Program Director, Freedom House

A former Fulbright Scholar to Russia, Mr. Brady has focused on citizen activism and human rights for more than a dozen years. Mr. Brady graduated magna cum laude in International Enterprise from the University of Pittsburgh, summa cum laude with an M.A. in Philosophy & Social Policy from The American University, and with honors from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He is currently a Program Director at Freedom House focusing on human rights analysis, advocacy and training initiatives.

Mehdi Yahyanejad, Balatarin.com

Mehdi Yahyanejad is currently the director of Balatarin.com. He developed and launched Balatarin in 2004 which is now recognized as the most popular web 2.0 website in Persian. With more than 30 million page views a month, it is the main destination for news on Iran. Mehdi Yahyanejad received his PhD in Physics from MIT and was a post-doctoral researcher in the field of bioinformatics at Stanford. He has worked on social media and web 2.0 development for the past three years.

Nicole Lapin, CNN

Often described as the Doogie Howser of news, Nicole became the youngest anchor on CNN at 22. She started as one of the first anchors to launch CNN Pipeline, now CNN.com LIVE. Reporting on the forefront of the digital revolution, Nicole contributes to various divisions of the network, like CNN Headline News, CNN U.S. and CNN Student News, with what's hot online. She also produces and stars in a podcast about new gadgets and tech gizmos. With the idea that there are other young people like herself making a difference, Nicole launched a series Young People Who Rock. Each week, she profiles a different person under 30, from community leaders to politicians to entrepreneurs, doing amazing things. Her columns appear on CNN.com on her own blog every week with broadcast interviews to follow. She incorporates nominations through the network's user-generated content initiative I-Report so that unknown young people have a chance to tell the world what they are doing.

Expanding her reach as a positive young figure, Nicole created a campaign called Being Smart is Cool. Every week she holds a chat about current events with children from the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation. She was appointed ambassador for the charity and travels on their behalf to inspire youth across the globe to care about issues in the news.

Utilizing her unique and conversational communication style, Nicole has made a name for herself anchoring major events like the Israel-Hezbollah War, Gerald Ford's death and the Virginia Tech massacre. Prior to CNN, Nicole worked as a business and technology reporter on the floor of major stock exchanges. She also paid her dues as an investigative reporter and local news anchor at several news markets across the country. On the way, she picked up accolades from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Association of Women Journalists and Society of Professional Journalists, among others. Nicole graduated as valedictorian with honors in political science from the prestigious Medill School Journalism at Northwestern University.

Rodrigo Flores, News General Manager, UOL

Rodrigo Flores graduated from the University of Sao Paulo with an MBA in Business management from Getulio Vargas Foundation. Rodrigo has worked as UOL for the past ten years, during which time he has served in various journalistic roles, including sports, economics and news reporter and homepage editor. Currently, Rodrigo is the coverage of the political, economic, and international news of the portal. UOL is Brazil's largest news website, averaging 15.2 million unique visitors per month. UOL had a monthly average of 1.7 billion page views in Brazilian home in 2008.

Sameer Padania, WITNESS.org

Sameer Padania works at the human rights organization, WITNESS, where he manages the HUB, the first website dedicated to human rights video and action. Before joining WITNESS in New York, Sameer was the lead author on Reflecting the Real World 2, a report documenting the impact of new media on British public television's global coverage, and he also wrote and edited WITNESS' award-winning human rights blog at Global Voices Online. Sameer worked for six years at the media development organization Panos London, designing and managing initiatives to support and strengthen local radio and online journalism worldwide. He has worked in film distribution and production and as a film journalist and TV documentary researcher, and is a graduate of Oxford University. Sameer speaks English, French, German, Gujarati, and Spanish.

Simon Rosenberg, President and Founder, NDN

Simon Rosenberg is President and founder of NDN, a leading, center-left think tank in Washington, DC. Rosenberg, a veteran of two presidential campaigns, including the 1992 Clinton War Room, got his start as a writer and producer in network television. He is a leading political thinker and commentator with a unique ability to identify

important trends and decipher changes transforming American politics well before others.

Rosenberg designed new programs for Democrats to communicate effectively in the digital age and was one of the first major political operatives to understand and embrace new technologies and media. He devised strategies to make Democrats more competitive in states with rapidly growing Hispanic populations and has helped map a smart path forward on immigration reform. He saw how the strident ideological politics of the Baby Boomers are yielding to a Millennial Generation – the largest and most progressive U.S. generation ever. He understood that together, these changes are creating a new electoral map that has given forward-thinking Democrats a chance at historic political realignment.

Rosenberg has built NDN into one of Washington's most forward-thinking policy shops. Together with Dr. Rob Shapiro, President Clinton's Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs and Chair of NDN's Globalization Initiative, he has fashioned a unique set of messages and policies around focusing on the economic well-being of everyday people based on Shapiro's early analysis that even as GDP and productivity rose during the Bush years, wages stagnated and incomes declined.

Rosenberg is a member of the Aspen Institute's 2001 Class of Henry Crown Fellows and served on the 2004 Democratic National Convention Platform Committee. He sits on the boards of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, the publication Democracy: A Journal of Ideas and the Roosevelt Institution. In 2007, Rosenberg was named one of the 50 most powerful people in DC by GQ Magazine. He lives with his family in Washington, DC.

Steve Grove, Head of News and Politics, YouTube

Steve Grove is the Head of News and Politics at YouTube, where he directs the news and political strategy and programming for the company. Through content partnerships with media, political, and governmental organizations, Steve's team develops platforms and programming to increase citizen engagement in politics, government, and news reporting. Steve also drives YouTube's partnerships with the U.S. Government, aimed at increasing government accessibility and transparency, and he developed YouTube's nonprofit program, which connects nonprofit organizations with volunteers on YouTube who want to make a difference. Originally from Northfield, Minnesota, Steve worked at the Boston Globe and ABC News prior to joining the YouTube. He received a Master's in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Govt. at Harvard in 2006. He blogs regularly at www.citizenube.com.

Guests, Hosts, Sponsors

Howcast

Jason Liebman, Co-founder and CEO, Howcast

In 2007, Jason Liebman co-founded Howcast with the goal of creating the largest – and highest-quality – library of how-to videos on the web, thereby providing users with the answer to almost any question, from How to Tie a Bow Tie to How to Jump-Start a Car. Howcast.com has become a prominent platform to watch and share free, useful how-to videos and text guides produced in-house at Howcast Studios as well as by innovative media partners, trusted brands and individual contributors. This content is distributed across a growing network of web, mobile and cable partners which include such notable destinations as YouTube, MySpace, Hulu, AOL, Yahoo!, Comcast, Apple, TiVo and Verizon. Howcast was named a top web site of 2008 by both TIME and PC Magazine, nominated for two Webby Awards and even had its iPhone app featured in an Apple iPhone commercial. Prior to Howcast, Jason worked for four years at Google, where he played an integral role in growing strategic content licensing and monetization relationships for the YouTube, Google Video and AdSense teams. While at Google, Jason was responsible for forging key relationships with a wide range of Google's largest media partners, including Time Warner, News Corp, Viacom, Warner Music, Sony Pictures, Reuters, The New York Times, and the Washington Post Company.

Before Google, Jason was at Applied Semantics, where he held several positions, including Executive Vice President of Sales and Business Development. In this role, he was responsible for overseeing and introducing new monetization products, including AdSense, to web publishers. Google acquired Applied Semantics in 2003 – one of Google's largest acquisitions in its history.

Jason is also a co-founder of the Alliance of Youth Movements (AYM) (youthmovements.howcast.com), a non-profit organization that helps young people to effect nonviolent change around the world – safeguarding human rights, promoting good governance and fostering unprecedented civic empowerment – using 21st-century tools.

Jason began his career at Credit Suisse First Boston as an investment banker in its leverage finance group. A New York City native, Jason graduated from Duke University and is an avid traveler.

Darlene Liebman, Co-Founder & Vice President of Production

Darlene has been involved in film production in New York City for the past 10 years. She began her career in feature films and has since focused on television and web-based production. In her most recent role at Nickelodeon, Darlene produced videos for SpongeBob Square Pants and The Fairly Odd Parents while working in the on-air promotions department. At Howcast, Darlene is responsible for running Howcast's studios and building a community for emerging directors. Darlene graduated from Lehigh University.

Rachel Silver, Executive Assistant

Prior to joining Howcast, Rachel received her Master's of International Affairs, Conflict Resolution, and Civil Society Development from the American University of Paris. Rachel's studies were focused on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and Corporate Social Responsibility. Including the OneVoice Movement, Rachel has worked with nonprofit organizations focused on international and religious conflict. Rachel graduated from Michigan State University with a B.A. in International Affairs and a minor in Jewish Studies.

Roman Tsunder, CEO, Access 360 Media, Inc.

Roman Tsunder is the President and Founder of Access 360 Media, Inc, a leading media network that connects to over 173MM young adult (P12-34) consumers each month in the places and through the communication platforms that matter most to them—In-store, Online and Mobile. He oversees product innovation, business development and overall corporate strategy.

Access 360 Media is among the first integrated media networks to extend the consumer retail experience into an online and mobile platform. Tsunder wanted to deliver a 360 degree offering that wrapped the consumer's in-store shopping, online and mobile activity into a single connected experience.

Tsunder's extensive operating, private equity and banking experience started with the investment banking firm Credit Suisse First Boston. After working several years on the east coast, Tsunder moved back to California where he joined the venture capital firm Digital Coast Partners and specialized in interactive media content and technology.

Tsunder is a frequent speaker at leading marketing and media conferences on the subject of reaching today's youth. He is also a supporter of "at-risk" young adults and is actively involved in numerous leading youth non-profit organizations. Tsunder has been recognized as a "Rising Star: 40 under 40" by Chain Store Age and is also a founding board member of Gen Next, a non-profit organization focused on "affecting change for the next generation."

Tsunder is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, where he received a B.A. in International Economics with Distinctive Honors, and holds a certificate in Language and Business Management from Moscow State University. Tsunder is a co-founder of Alliance of Youth Movements.

Stephanie Rudat, Social Entrepreneur

Stephanie Rudat is a principle-centered businesswoman who advises on various types of investments for her broad clientele and steers nonprofits toward an effective and impactful existence. Her ability to recognize opportunity, build successful business strategies and lead organizations has been demonstrated in multiple ventures. Her diverse experience extends to real estate sales, intricate involvement in growing a variety of nonprofit organizations, past experience in the film industry and as a purveyor of fine art.

Following a childhood dream, Stephanie ensued a career in the film industry while earning her degree from the Cecil B. DeMille School of Film and Television at Chapman University. She spent several years working on acclaimed projects produced by Playtone Pictures for Academy & Emmy Award winners, Tom Hanks & Gary Goetzman. Later, she participated in the development of Garth Brooks' production company, Red Strokes Entertainment.

The eldest of three children, Stephanie was raised by parents who have lead their family by example by encouraging selfless involvement in the community. She is a member of Gen Next - a collection of likeminded, forward thinking leaders working toward long term solutions for generational issues including economic growth, education and international security. Stephanie volunteers at any opportunity a serves as a board member for a several of non-governmental organizations some of which include Nourish America, Link, Young Executives of America and Rescue Humanity. Stephanie speaks around the world with leaders of NGOs and grassroots movements to help empower them with tools of new media to advance their cause and has created a small business geared to individually assist NGOs in these crucial efforts. Stephanie is a co-founder of Alliance of Youth Movements.

Addison O'Dea, National Geographic/Glimpse

Addison O'Dea is a brand and media strategist representing Glimpse as a special advisor. He is the Director of Branded Content and contributing editor for National Geographic Traveler, which works closely with Glimpse. Addison also works with several divisions at the National Geographic Society on a project-by-project basis developing content across the media spectrum relating to travel, culture, and current events.

Allison Mooney, Vice President, Director of Trends & Insights, MobileBehavior

Allison Mooney has been working in media and marketing for seven years and was part of the launch team for MobileBehavior. As Vice President, Director of Trends & Insights, Allison tracks global developments in technology, culture and media, with a focus on how people adapt and use mobile devices. She runs the group's blog, Next Great Thing, which is read in over 400 cities around the world, and provides top-level insights, trend reports and marketing strategy to MobileBehavior's global roster of clients.

Allison sits on the YPulse Advisory Board, serves as a Contributing Editor with PSFK, a popular blog on trends and innovations, and writes for other industry publications including Advertising Age's Digital Next, Interbrand's BrandChannel.com, and the Newspaper Association of America. She is also a founding member of SoundCtrl, an industry group focused on the convergence of music and digital media, and host of The Interwebs, a web video show about web trends and the business of technology.

Allison has had the privilege to speak around the world at events given by Advertising Age, YPulse, PSFK, the Luxury Marketing Council, Stern Business School at NYU, NY:MIEG, and Pacific Conferences in Asia.

Prior to launching MobileBehavior, Allison was the Director of Trends & Research with Fleishman-Hillard's Youth and Mobile Marketing group where she helped launch Next Great Thing. Allison was previously the Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief for Details, a national men's magazine, where she also served as the books editor and staff writer. Her first job was as Marketing Assistant at Doubleday/Broadway Books, a division of Random House. She has also been a research assistant for award-winning professors in Psychology and Sociology at Georgetown and Hofstra Universities.

Allison was a John Carroll Scholar at Georgetown University, where she majored in English Literature and Psychology. She also earned a French minor and spent a year studying at the Université de Paris. After graduating, she earned a Certificate in Publishing from the Journalism School at Columbia University.

Juan M. Henao, International Republican Institute

Juan M. Henao is the Resident Country Director (RCD) overseeing political party, civic education and governance programming in Mexico. Previously, Juan was Program Officer managing the Institute's Guatemala, Venezuela and Regional portfolios. He joined IRI in February of 2006 after a brief stint within the Corporate Law Division of a NYC law firm and after serving as Director of Government Relations for NTI, a small, private firm specializing in translation services for the federal government. Juan also served as a political appointee from 2001-2004 at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Born in Colombia, Juan arrived in the U.S. at the age of eight and was raised in Long Island, NY. He enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating high school and served as an Artillery Sergeant in Alexander Hamilton's First Battalion, Fifth Field Artillery of Ft. Riley, KS. The Battery traces its lineage to Alexander Hamilton who formed the unit during the

Revolutionary War of 1776!

Juan received his B.S. in International Affairs, Political Science and International Politics from The George Washington University and Juris Doctor from American University Washington College of Law, both located in Washington, DC.

Levi Felix, Vice President, Causecast.org

Levi Felix oversees digital strategy, media production, and creative campaign development at Causecast.org. After graduating from the University of California Santa Barbara with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Ethnomusicology, Levi worked as both creative director and international grants manager for The Forest Foundation, and organized a cross country environmental educational tour known as the Moishe Mobile. Following his passion for sustainability and music, Levi developed environmental strategy for the Bonnaroo Music Festival '07 and partnered with Live Nation to lead the diversion of over 60% of the waste from Rock The Bells San Francisco. After producing several short online videos, writing for Green Living Online, and consulting for companies like Reel Green Media, Levi joined Causecast. In the past year Levi and the Causecast team have organized such events and campaigns as the SXSW Mustache March, State Your Change, and The Voluntour while developing partnerships with some incredible organizations including Current TV, IFC.com, Virgin Unite, Focus Features, and Obey Giant. Levi believes deeply in the power of story telling, sushi, grassroots movements, constructive rebelliousness, and steady whistle blowing.

Megan Smith, Vice President New Business Development, Google

Megan Smith oversees teams that manage early-stage partnerships, explorations and technology licensing. She joined Google in 2003 and has led several of the company's acquisitions, including Keyhole (Google Earth), Where2Tech (Google Maps), and Picasa. She also co-lead the company's early work with publishers for Google Book Search. Previously, Megan was the CEO and, earlier, COO of PlanetOut, the leading gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender online community. Under her leadership, PlanetOut grew tenfold in reach and revenue. Prior to that, Megan was at General Magic for six years working on handheld communications products and partnerships. She also worked in multimedia at Apple Japan in Tokyo.

Over the years, Megan has contributed to a wide range of engineering projects, such as designing an award-winning bicycle lock; working on a space station construction research project that eventually flew on the U.S. space shuttle; and running a field-research study on solar cook stoves in South America. She was also a member of the MIT-Solectria student team that designed, built, and raced a solar car in the first cross-continental solar car race, covering 2000 miles of the Australian outback. She was selected as one of the 100 World Economic Forum technology pioneers for 2001 and 2002.

Megan holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in mechanical engineering from MIT, where she now serves on the board. She completed her master's thesis work at the MIT Media Lab.

Michael Matthews, Director of Strategy and Integration, MobileBehavior

Michael Matthews is currently Director of Strategy and Integration for MobileBehavior. He is charged with integrating mobile solutions with the vast Omnicom group network, which includes global advertising, CRM, public relations and media buying agencies. His focus is helping clients take the lead in real-time engagement and define the future of mobility. Prior to MobileBehavior, Michael was the Director Partnerships for Omnicom Group corporate where he led programs to both build collaborative marketing campaigns for Fortune 100 companies. Clients include Pepsi, New York Yankees, HP, McDonalds, AT&T Wireless, Pfizer and Mars. Michael is currently obtaining his Master's in communications from Columbia University.

He also is preparing for his fourth year as a Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade clown. Text "MIKE" to 83733 to receive his contact information.

Mick Duffy, PepsiCo International

Mick is responsible for the strategic direction, creative and campaign development behind brand Pepsi globally. In addition, Mick is specifically in charge of Platform development for activation across PI markets supporting brand Pepsi. Before that, he was the Global Marketing Director for Hydration, responsible for NCB TM's of Gatorade, Aquafina, Sobe and in developing new Hydration based platforms for PepsiCo internationally.

Mick joined PepsiCo in February 1994. Since that time, he has excelled in assignments leading beverage marketing in Australia, South East Asia as well as Asian NPD processes that led to the rapid escalation of our Asia NCB footprint. His most recent role was as NCB Director for Asia Pac where he was at the leading edge of our NCB portfolio thinking - driving 20% growth in organic non-carb portfolios in the past year. His NPD and system understanding helped drive established brands - such as Gatorade and Tropicana as well as led to the development of new platforms such as Tropicana Twister and Juice with Pulp Sacs.

Muhummad "Shams" Kazi, Director of Business Development, Causecast.org

Shams' passion and experience lie at the intersection of international development, new media, and business strategy. After graduating from Brown University with a B.A. in Computer Science and Economics, he covered trade & climate change negotiations for India's leading environment magazine, Down to Earth. Shams served as Head of Interactive of the Centre for Science and Environment, and influential environment advocacy organization. He worked on campaigns that lead to measurable impact such as the launch of India's federal tiger conservation policy. He also created and lead several new media advocacy seminars that gave local nonprofits essential skills to be more effective in their new media advocacy efforts. Shams moved back to the United States, and earned an MBA from USC Marshall School of Business with a focus on media & entertainment. He has worked as a strategy consultant for the creative services firm, The Groop, and has recently joined CauseCast's business development team.

Nancy Scola, Associate Editor, TechPresident.com

Nancy Scola is a former staffer for the House Committee on Government Reform where she covered both online communications and technology policy. Before that, Nancy developed research techniques in the non-profit sector for an organization focused on the development of urban neighborhoods. And before that, she was a grad student in anthropology. She is now an aspiring writer focusing on culture, politics, technology, and more. She blogs at nancyscola.com and lives in Brooklyn.

Richard Lee, PepsiCo International

Richard is responsible for the portfolio of sparkling beverages at PepsiCo International that include iconic trademarks such as Pepsi, Mountain Dew, 7Up and Mirinda. Before that, he was the Vice President of Non Carbonated Beverages in charge of marketing for Tropicana, Gatorade and Starbucks ready-to-drink coffees.

Richard joined PepsiCo in 1997 as China Beverages Business Unit's Marketing Director (Colas) and went on to become its Chief Marketing Officer in 2001.

During his tenure in China, Richard orchestrated some of the most innovative marketing campaigns to 'quantum-leap' Pepsi's brand equity - making it one of the most admired brands among youth and the No.1 cola brand in China. As a result of this effort, Richard was honored by Ad Age as one of its Top 10 Global Players in 2005.

For Richard, being a chief marketer means not only plotting a strategic vision for the company, but also cultivating a culture that encourages open communication, and most importantly, inspiring and motivating people to excel. He believes that best results come from an enthusiasm shared by everyone; with the motto "Together Everyone Achieves More" (TEAM).

Richard is an aspiring film maker and sees many parallels between marketing and the "reel" world, especially his belief that brands must inspire and seduce rather than instruct. He made a trilogy of three short films during his early school years. Today, he toys with the idea of one day going back to film school to realize his childhood dreams. Meanwhile, he applies many filmmaking philosophies to his marketing work, including the importance of telling engaging stories and being buzz worthy.

Before joining PepsiCo, Richard was with Colgate Palmolive. Richard obtained his MBA from Harvard Business School and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Robin Reyes, Gen Next

Robin E. Reyes heads up a consulting firm based in the United States and a Real Estate Development Firm based in Mexico. He has consulted groups like GE Capital, Silvergate Bank, Grupo DINE (KUO SA de CV) and a number of private investors seeking to expand into Mexico's asset backed mortgage and real estate markets. He has also consulted the Alabama International Trade Center in finding new markets for Alabama made products. As a pioneer and expert in Cross-Border Financing, Robin managed the Mexican operations for Silvergate Bank and New South Federal Savings Bank. Mr. Reyes was also active in the Foundation for Human Sustainable Development, started by Mexico's Pres. Felipe Calderón, where he sought to gain international exposure for the organization's mission. President Calderón has commended Reyes' success in attracting over US\$60,000,000 in direct foreign investment to Mexico, which accounts for some 300 jobs created during the past five years.

An active member of Gen Next, Robin has written regarding Mexican Policy for the organization. Reyes has been published in the San Diego Tribune, as well as the San Diego Business Journal. Mr. Reyes spends his time between Alabama and Punta Mita, Mexico.

Russell Dubner, President, Edelman NY

Russell Dubner has 16 years of experience in corporate communications, positioning and issues management for U.S. and international companies.

He joined the New York office as an account executive in 1992 and today is president of that same office, which is home to more than 450 experts in consumer marketing, health communications, corporate and public affairs, financial relations, creative services, digital and research.

Russell is actively involved in work for a number of client companies, including Dannon, Masdar, Motorola and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Specifically, he is helping Dannon transition from simply a yogurt company into a leader in high-health foods; Motorola turn its acquisition of Symbol into a market-leading position in the emerging enterprise mobility space; and Abu Dhabi-based Masdar become the world's leading alternative energy enterprise.

Russell has worked with large multinational firms such as Avaya, Boston Consulting Group, Canon, Bombardier, Bunge, GE, Heinz, L'Oreal, MetLife, Samsung, Siemens and UPS, as well as a number of fast-growth, mid-sized technology firms.

He also co-authored Edelman's program planning process, as well as its master narrative approach, which draws on the classic elements of storytelling to build consistency and continuity in how a company talks about itself.

Earlier in his career, Russell spent several years in Edelman's London office working for a combination of corporate, technology and public

affairs clients. He also helped found and sat on the board of RipDigital, a digital music service that converts music CDs into music files, until the company was sold.

Russell holds an MBA from Columbia Business School's Executive Program, is a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College and currently sits on the board of City Futures, Inc.

Sarah Cliffe, The World Bank

Sarah Cliffe has worked for the last twenty years in countries emerging from conflict and political transition, covering Afghanistan, Burundi, CAR, DRC, Guinea Bissau, Ethiopia, Haiti, Indonesia, Liberia, Rwanda, Sudan, South Africa, and Timor Leste.

Prior to joining the Bank, she worked for the United Nations Development Program in Rwanda, the Government of South Africa, and the Congress of South African Trade Unions, as well as for a major management consultancy company in the United Kingdom on public sector reform issues. She holds degrees in History and Economic Development from Cambridge and Columbia Universities.

Since joining the Bank, her work has covered post-conflict reconstruction, community driven development and civil service reform. She was chief of mission for the Bank's programme in Timor-Leste from 1999 to 2002; led the Bank's Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries Group from 2002-2007 and was Director of Operations for East Asia and the Pacific from 2007 – 2009. She is now Special Representative and Director for the World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development.

Scott Heiferman, CEO, Meetup

Scott Heiferman is Co-founder and CEO of Meetup, an organization dedicated to 21st century local community organizing. Millions of people, in over 100 countries, now use Meetup.com to self-organize local community groups of all kinds, with thousands of Meetups happening daily. Meetup is now self-sustaining, growing fast, and pursuing a long-range goal of a "Meetup Everywhere about Most Everything" which would lead to everyone having access to a local community group when needed. Meetup is primarily a technology operation, with a team of 60 based in NYC. Investors include eBay, Allen & Company, Omidyar Network, DFJ, Union Square Ventures, Esther Dyson, and others. Previously, Heiferman co-founded Fotolog, currently a top social network in South America, and i-traffic, a top online ad agency in the 90s. He graduated from The University of Iowa, then work at Sony as their "Interactive Marketing Frontiersman". Scott is an angel investor and advisor to startups including Betaworks, which is an investor in Twitter. Scott received the Jane Addams Award from the National Conference on Citizenship and was named the MIT Technology Review 2004 "Innovator of the Year". His notes are online at <http://scott.heiferman.com>.

Tara Lemmey, Founder and CEO, LENS

Leading member of the Markle Taskforce on National Security in the Information Age Advisor to Dr Andrew Weil's Program for Integrative Medicine at the University of Arizona Member, Department of Homeland Security's Privacy Advisory Committee.

Tara Lemmey is founder and CEO of LENS, a network of leading thinkers focused on strategic innovation; currently, she works with Fortune 2,000 companies on innovation and next-generation strategies. She is a leading member of the Markle Taskforce on National Security in the Information Age, where she has chaired the technology group for the last 3 years. Her works have been published in Wired, Business 2.0 and the Harvard Business Review. She is a Technation World Class Challenge Leader and commentator on public radio.

Tara is also an advisor to Dr Andrew Weil's Program for Integrative Medicine at the University of Arizona, and is on the board of the AIGA

Center for Brand Experience - a leading design and brand organization worldwide; and, she serves on the Department of Homeland Security's Privacy Advisory Committee, which is tasked with providing insights on how to best preserve privacy and civil liberties while enabling better national security.

U.S. Department of State

Maria Otero, Under Secretary of State, Democracy and Global Affairs

Maria Otero was sworn in as Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs on August 10, 2009. She oversees and coordinates U.S. foreign relations on a variety of global issues, including democracy, human rights, and labor; environment, oceans, health and science; population, refugees, and migration; trafficking in persons and avian and pandemic influenza.

Ms. Otero was formerly the president and CEO of ACCION International, a pioneer and leader in microfinance working in 25 countries in around the globe. Under Ms. Otero's tenure as CEO, ACCION's network of microfinance institutions expanded its reach from serving 460,000 people to over 3.7 million, through a combined portfolio that grew from \$274 million to nearly \$3.6 billion. She is a leading voice on sustainable microfinance, publishing extensively on the subject Ms. Otero's awards and recognition include selection by *Newsweek* in October 2005 as one of the United States' 20 most influential women; *Hispanic Business Magazine's* 'Elite Women of 2007'; Notre Dame University's Distinguished Service in Latin America Award; and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Prior to ACCION, Ms. Otero was the Economist for Latin America for the Women in Development office of USAID. She also served for five years at the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA).

In June 2006, Ms. Otero was appointed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to the UN Advisors Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors. She sits on the board of the U.S. Institute of Peace, a position to which she was originally appointed by President Clinton and now holds as the State Department representative. Ms. Otero has chaired the board of Bread for the World, and also served on the boards of the Calvert Foundation, Public Welfare Foundation, the Inter-American Foundation and BRAC Holding of Bangladesh. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Born in La Paz, Bolivia, Ms. Otero is currently the highest ranking Hispanic official at the State Department, and the first Latina Under Secretary in its history.

Ms. Otero holds an M.A. in literature from the University of Maryland, an M.A. in international relations from Johns Hopkins' Nitze School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS), in Washington, D.C., and an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Dartmouth College. Since 1997, she has also served as an adjunct professor at SAIS.

Roberta Jacobson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs

Roberta S. Jacobson became Deputy Assistant Secretary for Canada, Mexico and NAFTA issues in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the Department of State on June 4, 2007. She served as Director of the Office of Mexican Affairs from December 2002. From 2000-02, she was Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru; and between 1996 and 2000, Ms. Jacobson was director of the Office of Policy Planning and Coordination in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, covering issues such as civil-military relations, human rights, foreign assistance, Presidential travel and counternarcotics throughout the hemisphere. Ms. Jacobson has also served as Coordinator for Cuban Affairs within the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, executive assistant to the Assistant Secretary (1993-94), special assistant to the Assistant Secretary (1989-92), and at the National Security Council (1988).

Ms. Jacobson holds a M.A. in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (1986), concentrating in U.S.-Latin American relations and political development. Her undergraduate degree is from Brown University. She also worked for the United

Nations from 1982-1984 in the Center for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. She is the author of articles on "The Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women" in *The United Nations and Human Rights* (Oxford University Press; 1990) and "Liberation Theology as a Revolutionary Ideology."

Ambassador Carlos Pascual, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico

President Obama nominated Carlos Pascual as the next United States Ambassador to Mexico in June 2009. The United States Senate confirmed the nomination on August 7 and Ambassador Pascual presented his credentials to the Mexican government on August 9, 2009.

Ambassador Pascual has had a 23 year career in the United States Department of State, National Security Council (NSC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). He served as coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization at the U.S. Department of State, where he led and organized U.S. government planning to help stabilize and reconstruct societies in transition from conflict or civil strife.

Ambassador Pascual was Coordinator for U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (2003), where he oversaw regional and country assistance strategies to promote market-oriented and democratic states. From October 2000 until August 2003, Ambassador Pascual served as U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine. From July 1998 to January 2000, Ambassador Pascual served as Special Assistant to the President and NSC Senior Director for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia, and from 1995 to 1998 as Director for the same region. From 1983 to 1995, Ambassador Pascual worked for USAID in Sudan, South Africa and Mozambique, and as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia.

Most recently, Ambassador Pascual was Vice President and Director of the Foreign Policy Studies Program at the Brookings Institution. Ambassador Pascual received his M.P.P. from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1982 and his B.A. from Stanford University in 1980. He has served on the board of directors for the National Endowment for Democracy, Freedom House, and the Internews Network. He has also served on the Advisory Group for the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

John Feeley, US Department of State

John Feeley is a State Department Senior Foreign Service officer who has focused much of his diplomatic career working on Western Hemisphere issues both in Washington and in the region. He assumed his current position as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico in July 2009. Previously he served as the Department's Director for Central American Affairs. Prior to that assignment, he was a Deputy Executive Secretary in the Office of the Secretary of State, where he was responsible for managing information flow to Secretaries Powell and Rice, as well as coordinating their overseas travel.

A 2004 Distinguished Graduate of the National War College, Mr. Feeley's overseas assignments include Mexico City, Santo Domingo, and Bogota. He previously held assignments within the Department's Western Hemisphere Bureau, including Executive Assistant to the Assistant Secretary, Deputy Director for Caribbean Affairs and desk officer for El Salvador. Mr. Feeley also worked in the State Department's 24-hour Operations Center.

Prior to joining the State Department in 1990, Mr. Feeley served on active military duty as a helicopter pilot in the United States Marine Corps. He is a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and is married to a fellow career diplomat, Cherie Feeley. The couple has two sons.

"Iran's Young Opposition" (SAIS Review, 2006), and a forthcoming article on the "War of Ideas" to be published in Policy Review.

Alec Ross, Senior Advisor for Innovation

Alec Ross serves as Senior Advisor for Innovation in the Office of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. In this role, Alec is tasked with maximizing the potential of technology in service of America's diplomatic and development goals.

In his first months at the State Department, Alec has driven an agenda of "21st century statecraft" which could be most succinctly described as the application of cutting edge tools—in particular information communications technology—to expand the practice of statecraft beyond government to government to citizen-centered engagement including government to people, people to people, and people to government. These effects of this revised approach to international diplomacy have been written up in Politico, US News, the Washington Post and elsewhere.

Prior to his service at the State Department, Alec worked on the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team's Technology, Innovation & Government Reform working group. During the 2008 presidential campaign, he guided Obama for America's 500+ member Technology, Media & Telecommunications Policy Committee under the leadership of committee chairman Julius Genachowski.

In 2000, Alec Ross and three colleagues co-founded One Economy, a global nonprofit that uses innovative approaches to deliver the power of technology and information about education, jobs, health care and other vital issues to low-income people. During his time at One Economy, it grew from a team of four people in a basement, to the world's largest digital divide organization with programs on four continents.

Alec started his career as a sixth grade teacher in inner-city Baltimore through Teach for America and is a frequent essayist and public speaker. Alec and his wife Felicity are the parents of three young children.

Jared Cohen, Policy Planning Staff, Office of the Secretary of State

Jared Cohen is an author and policymaker. In September 2006, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice brought Jared on board as a member of her Policy Planning Staff. In this role, he advises on counter-terrorism, the "War of Ideas", youth and education, public diplomacy, Muslim world outreach, and some Middle East/North Africa regional issues. Prior to joining the Policy Planning Staff, Jared received his B.A. from Stanford University and his M.Phil in International Relations from Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar. While at Oxford, he spent substantial amounts of time in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Palestinian refugee camps where he looked at youth in the Islamic world and how they view themselves and their changing role in the world after 9/11. In these travels, Cohen has interviewed members of Hezbollah, Fatah, Asbat al-Ansar, and a variety of other militant groups. He has also traveled extensively throughout 24 countries in Africa looking at issues related to conflict resolution, genocide, and democracy.

Jared is author of several books. His first, *One Hundred Days of Silence: American and the Rwanda Genocide*, was published in 2006 by Rowman & Littlefield and chronicles U.S. policy toward Rwanda during the 1994 Genocide. His second book, *Children of Jihad: A Young American's Travels Among the Youth of the Middle East*, was published by Penguin Books (Gotham) in October 2007 and has also been published as an audio book and translated into Dutch. Cohen's work on *Children of Jihad* has received the endorsements of names like Tom Brokaw, Frank Carlucci, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Brent Scowcroft, Richard Lugar, and Chris Matthews. *Children of Jihad* was starred by Kirkus Review and selected as one of the "Best Books of 2007." Additional publications include "The Passive Revolution: Is Political Resistance Dead or Alive in Iran" (Hoover Digest, 2005),

Jared frequently appears in the media: he has been featured in The New Yorker and appeared on The Colbert Report, CNN, ABC, Headline News, Current TV, NPR, Fox News, MSNBC, BBC, Comedy Central, Discovery Channel, and a variety of other TV and radio programs both domestic and international. He is frequently asked to speak at domestic and international conferences hosted by think tanks, the public sector, the military, the private sector, and foundations.

Cohen is fluent in Swahili and has studied Arabic, Farsi, Spanish, Maa, Kilarusa, and Korean. In his spare time, Cohen paints, draws and sculpts. Over the years, he has sold his work in galleries and to private buyers.

Katie Dowd, New Media Director

Katie Dowd is the New Media Director at the U.S. Department of State. She currently works in the Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. Prior to joining the State Department, Katie served as New Media Director for Secretary Hillary Clinton overseeing the new media operations for her presidential primary campaign. Katie also oversaw the online communications and fundraising strategy for Secretary Clinton's political action committee, HillPAC, where she focused on raising money and increasing volunteer participation for President Barack Obama and other Democrats up and down the ticket in 2008. Before her work on behalf of Secretary Clinton, Katie oversaw the direct marketing program for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee from 2004 to 2007 and was a senior member of the direct marketing team at the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee from 2003 to 2004. In her career, she has worked for a number of Democratic candidates throughout the years to help promote their marketing and grassroots fundraising efforts. Katie is from Chicago, Illinois but has now resided in Washington, DC for almost 8 years.

Suzanne Hall, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs

Suzanne Hall is a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State. She currently works as a Public Diplomacy Advisor in the Western Hemisphere Affairs Bureau and is based in Washington, D.C. Her previous assignments include press and consular assignments at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Colombia and the U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels, Belgium. Suzanne previously worked as a Country Manager for Central & Eastern Europe at the U.S. Trade & Development Agency.

Suzanne received her B.A. from SUNY Binghamton in 1999. She received her M.A. from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 2001. Suzanne also studied at Sciences Po in Paris and the University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

Suzanne is from New Hampshire. She is married and has a 2 year old son.