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Speaker Bios

KEYNOTE



Ethan Rosenzweig

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Academic Programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Ethan joins ECA from Atlanta, GA, where he worked at Emory University's School of Law as Associate Dean overseeing enrollment management and student services including international recruiting and engagement activities. A graduate of Emory Law, Ethan clerked for the Honorable G. Ernest Tidwell of the U.S. District Court of Northern Georgia and then practiced law in Charleston, South Carolina. Before Emory, he completed a Presidential Management Fellowship at the U.S. Department of Education and received his undergraduate and master's degrees in public policy from American University. Originally from Louisiana where his family still resides, he says he doesn't return often enough and misses the crawfish and jambalaya.



Brian Gibel

Director, Office of Public Diplomacy, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Brian Gibel is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with over 20 years of experience at the Department of State. He assumed his current position in June 2021. His overseas diplomatic assignments include service at embassies and consulates in Islamabad, Shenyang, and multiple tours in Shanghai (two) and Seoul (three). In Washington, D.C., Brian also served as Deputy Director in the South and Central Asian Affairs Bureau's Office of Press and Public Diplomacy and as a Pearson Fellow on the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. Brian graduated from Harvard University, was an NCAA Division I wrestler and has master's degrees from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy and the University of Sydney in Australia. A native New Yorker, he and his wife Hyun Hee Kim have a teenage daughter.

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SESSION 1 - U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN THAILAND



Lydia Barraza

Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Bangkok

Lydia Barraza is the Cultural Affairs Officer at U.S. Embassy Bangkok. Her last tour was as the State Department's Spanish-language Spokesperson and Director of the Miami Media Hub. Lydia previously served as Deputy Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Havana, Cuba, during the re-establishment of diplomatic relations. Prior to Cuba, she served as the Spokesperson and then Public Affairs Officer in Lahore, Pakistan, and as Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer managing programs across North India in New Delhi. She began her career in Lagos, Nigeria, where she worked in the consular and political sections. Before joining the Department of State, Lydia was a fellow for the American India Foundation in India, where she worked on HIV/AIDS education. Lydia is from Texas and holds a degree in Political Science and International Studies from Southern Methodist University. She speaks Spanish, Hindi, Urdu, and Thai. Lydia's husband Cesar also works at the Embassy, and they have two active little boys, Isaac and Caleb.



Christine Getzler Vaughan

Deputy Regional Refugee Coordinator for East Asia, U.S. Embassy Bangkok

Christine Getzler Vaughan has served as the Deputy Regional Refugee Coordinator for East Asia since August 2019, coordinating and implementing the U.S. Department of State's diplomatic and humanitarian assistance programs for refugees and asylum seekers in the region. Christine joined the Department of State in 2007 and has previously served as the Public Affairs Officer in Surabaya, Indonesia where she implemented press and cultural outreach across 13 of Indonesia's provinces. Christine has also served in Washington, D.C., in the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, as well as on detail as the Public Affairs Advisor for the Undersecretary of Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights. Additionally, she has served tours in Sydney, Australia, and Tel Aviv, Israel. Christine holds a master's degree in Political Science from Arizona State University, where she completed post-graduate work in public administration, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. Prior to joining the State Department, Christine was a rowing coach, overseeing programs for 150 athletes. Christine is married with two daughters and enjoys cooking, hiking, cycling, and travel.

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Evan Fox

Economic Officer, U.S. Embassy Bangkok

Evan Fox covers energy, the environment, science, technology, and health for Embassy Bangkok's economic section. He is an economic-coned officer with prior assignments in Dhaka, Bangladesh, as human rights officer and Manila, Philippines, as a consular officer and front office staff aide. Evan also worked in the U.S. Embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe, covering environmental issues and at the U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Prior to joining the State Department, Evan worked as an environmental policy consultant in California, as well as overseas in Vietnam and Indonesia. Evan holds master's and undergraduate degrees in environmental policy from Stanford University and was born and raised in San Diego, California.



Della Hareland

Cultural Coordinator, Office of Public Diplomacy, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Della Hareland is a Foreign Service Officer currently serving as the Cultural Coordinator in the Office of Public Diplomacy in the Department of State's East Asian and Pacific Affairs Bureau. Prior to this assignment, Della was in a long-term training assignment at the National Intelligence University. Prior to that she served in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as a Program Officer in the Professional Fellows Division, was posted to Beijing, China, as an Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer, was the Public Diplomacy Officer at the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs, served as an Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer in Lima, Peru, and was a Consular Officer in the Dominican Republic. Prior to joining the State Department, Della worked in information technology at Intel Corporation. Della holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Puget Sound and a Masters of Science in Strategic Intelligence from the National Intelligence University. Della is married to a Foreign Service Officer and they have two children.

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SESSION 2 - U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Jenny Malheiro

Asia Director, Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations

Jenny Malheiro joined the Foreign Service in 2000 and currently serves as the Asia Director for the State Department's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO). In this role, she leads U.S. interagency contingency planning and response for civilian conflicts in Asia. Jenny previously served as the Director for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) at Embassy Bangkok, where she coordinated diplomatic engagement for 12 federal law enforcement agencies throughout Southeast Asia. She oversaw a U.S.-led international police academy and separately managed a \$10 million portfolio of specialized police and legal training programs. Prior to that, she led a 700-person team in Afghanistan to deliver a complex \$250 million foreign assistance program to address criminal justice reform, legal education, and gender-based violence in Afghanistan. Other overseas diplomatic assignments have included Cambodia, China, Portugal, Brazil, and Trinidad & Tobago. Domestically, she has served in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA). Originally from New Orleans, she holds a J.D. from Emory University and a B.S. in International Politics from Georgetown University. She is married with three children.



Kate Macken

*Environment, Science, Technology, and Health Officer,
Office of Economic Policy, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific
Affairs*

Kate Macken is the Environment, Science, Technology, and Health (ESTH) Officer in the Office of Economic Policy in the State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Her portfolio includes issues such as climate change, wildlife trafficking, and ocean sustainability. She also covers ESTH issues in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum. Prior to being posted in Washington D.C., Kate served as an Economic and Consular Officer in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Caracas, Venezuela. Kate has a master's degree in International Environmental Policy from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, CA. She is originally from western Nebraska.

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SESSION 2 - U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Della Hareland

Cultural Coordinator, Office of Public Diplomacy, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

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Jamie Dragon

Country Affairs Officer, Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Jamie Dragon is the PD Desk Officer for China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mongolia. Jamie is coming out of Taipei, where he was a Public Affairs Officer in the Public Diplomacy Section of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT). He has been with the Department of State for more than 16 years with additional tours in Kathmandu, Nepal; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Lahore, Pakistan; Wuhan, China; and most recently in Kolkata, India. Prior to joining the State Department, Jamie worked for the high school exchange program, AFS Intercultural Programs, as well as NAFSA: The Association of International Educators. He also taught English in Japan and at a rural school in India. Jamie holds a B.A. in Political Science from North Carolina State University. When not at work Jamie can be found playing men's league ice hockey, fiddling with his aquarium, and mostly spending quality time with his wife and son.

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SESSION 3 - FROM STUDY ABROAD TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT



Aaron Huang

Vice Consul, U.S. Consulate Ho Chi Minh City

Aaron is a political-track U.S. Foreign Service Officer specializing in Chinese foreign policy and cross-Strait relations. He is currently a vice consul at the U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Before that, he was the American Institute in Taiwan's acting spokesperson, implementing a strategic communications campaign to counter Chinese propaganda in Taiwan. He was also a fellow at the State Department's intelligence bureau, where he assessed China's relations with Japan, Russia, and North Korea. With the Gilman Scholarship, he worked at the U.K. Parliament's Women and Equalities Committee to examine the British government's performance on equality issues, such as its treatment of asylum seekers and LGBTQ+ persons. He holds an MPP from Harvard Kennedy School and a B.A. in economics, Asian studies, and policy studies from Rice University (summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa). He is fluent in Mandarin and has limited proficiency in Vietnamese.



Lydia Barraza

Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Bangkok

Lydia Barraza is the Cultural Affairs Officer at U.S. Embassy Bangkok. Her last tour was as the State Department's Spanish-language Spokesperson and Director of the Miami Media Hub. Lydia previously served as Deputy Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Havana, Cuba, during the re-establishment of diplomatic relations. Prior to Cuba, she served as the Spokesperson and then Public Affairs Officer in Lahore, Pakistan, and as Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer managing programs across North India in New Delhi. She began her career in Lagos, Nigeria, where she worked in the consular and political sections. Before joining the Department of State, Lydia was a fellow for the American India Foundation in India, where she worked on HIV/AIDS education. Lydia is from Texas and holds a degree in Political Science and International Studies from Southern Methodist University. She speaks Spanish, Hindi, Urdu, and Thai. Lydia's husband Cesar also works at the Embassy, and they have two active little boys, Isaac and Caleb.

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Rebecca Gailey

Program Officer, USA Study Abroad, Office of Global Educational Programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Rebecca Gailey is a Program Officer for USA Study Abroad within the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), where she oversees a portfolio of capacity building and professional development initiatives. She manages the IDEAS Program (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students), which provides grants and resources to help U.S. colleges and universities expand their study abroad programming. She also oversees professional development workshops for study abroad advisors and alumni of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program and Critical Language Scholarship Program. Rebecca previously worked as the Special Assistant for ECA's Office of Global Educational Programs and in program development at American Councils for International Education. She was a Boren Scholar to Tanzania and later returned to her host community to partner with local teachers to create an education nonprofit that trains high school and college students to run arts-and-science-based school break programs for elementary school students. Rebecca holds degrees in international relations and journalism from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Master of Public Administration degree with a focus on education policy from the George Washington University.

SESSION 4 - NETWORKING

[Click here](#) to see Networking Session Participants.

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SESSION 5 - CAREERS AT STATE



Yolonda Kerney

Diplomat in Residence for the DC Metro Region

Dr. Yolonda Kerney joined the United States diplomatic corps as a Foreign Service Officer in 2004. She served as Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Mission to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean, and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States; Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Jamaica; Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in the Republic of Cameroon; and Economic Officer and Chief Consul at the U.S. Embassy in the Republic of Guinea. She is the recipient of several Department of State Meritorious Honor and Superior Honor awards, and the Lois Roth Award for Excellence in Cultural Diplomacy. Dr. Kerney is a proud alumna of Howard University from which she earned undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees in music history and literature, and religious studies. Before joining the Foreign Service she served as a music historian at the United States Library of Congress.



Abigail Barnes

Recruiter, Consular Fellows Program

Abigail Barnes is the Consular Fellows Program (CFP) recruiter. She is a Virginia native and studied International Relations and French at the College of William & Mary. Her first experience with the Department of State was interning for the Bureau of International Organization Affairs, where she analyzed human resources management policy reform to provide policy recommendations. She developed an interest in learning about languages and people from completing a five-year Spanish immersion program and a visit to Russia. She enjoys trying new things, and speaks intermediate French and elementary Russian and Spanish.