



SPEAKERS, COACHES AND PANELISTS

Zero Hunger Zero Waste

Buddies Without Borders Online Forums

November/December 2022



From USA / Liberia

Hon. Teta V. Banks, Ed.D.



President
International Forum, Inc.

Guest Speaker
Panelist

The Honorable Dr. Teta V. Banks is a diplomat, educator and human rights advocate. Her parents were civil rights colleagues of Dr. King and Mrs. Rosa Parks. Dr. Banks is the first woman of African descent to be elected as Chair of the United Nations Association- USA and also to the Executive Committee of the World Federation of United Nations Associations. The International Forum, established in 1988, is a leading educational and corporate consulting organization that provides training, analysis, research, speakers' series, curriculum development, and educational international experiences throughout the world. It has collaborated with corporations, government agencies, and NGOs to advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.



From Canada

Zack H. Abdi












Managing Director

Provectus Middle East
/Provectus Enterprising Inc.

Guest Speaker
Panelist

Mr. Abdi advocates for the green and circular economy to promote sustainability. He believes in the necessity of human capital development for sustainable human resources. He directs Provectus' efforts in developing renewable energy storage systems to alternative energy, including biodiesel, aerosol cans recycling solution, and organic food waste recycling, as well as Corporate Sustainability Responsibility (CSR) training to tools designed to monitor, measure, mitigate carbon and water footprint.

	<p>From France</p> <p>Andrew Hand</p>	<p>With tertiary qualifications in English Literature and Language, Sociology and Education, Andrew is a broadly experienced secondary educator serving 37 years as a teacher, administrator and educational leader in state and international schools in Australia, Malaysia, Switzerland, the United States and Germany, including the International School of Geneva and the United Nations International School, New York. He has led international education committees within the Educational Collaborative for International Schools and the Association of Australian IB Schools. Andrew currently serves on the Forward College Advisory Board and the Advisory Board of Pioneering Schools.</p>
	<p>Admissions and International Schools Outreach Officer and Advisory Board Member Forward College, EU</p> <p>Advisory Board Member Pioneering Schools, EU</p>	
<p>Panelist & Board Member</p>		
	<p>From Nicaragua and Germany</p> <p>Sofana Marisse Rojas Vargas</p>	<p>Ms. Sofana Rojas has been working as a recruitment and admission counselor for over 5 years. She was originally from the beautiful land of lakes and volcanoes, Nicaragua, in Central America. Before working at Jacobs University, she was living in Taiwan, where she received a Master's degree in International Human Resources with a specialization in training and recruiting. As a person who has lived in many different countries, Sofana is passionate about cultural exchange, diversity and education. She truly believes in empowering and motivating the younger generations to explore, travel, and become citizens of the world.</p>
	<p>Recruitment Counselor and Admission Officer / Undergraduate Students</p> <p>Jacobs University, Germany</p>	
<p>Speaker & Panelist</p>		
	<p>From UAE & Tanzania</p> <p>Angolwisye (Ango) Paul Mwakisu</p>	<p>Ango Mwakisu has been serving as a recruitment and admissions officer for more than 10 years. Originally from the beautiful land of Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar, Tanzania, Ango is an alumnus of Jacobs University where he received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Communications, Systems and Electronics. He is an active member of the International Advisory Committee of the College Board and the Governance and Nominating Committee of the International Association for College Admission Counseling. Mwakisu recently joined NYU in Abu Dhabi to continue his work in international recruitment counseling.</p>
	<p>Senior Assistant Director of International Admissions</p> <p>NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE</p>	
<p>Panelist</p>		

	<p>From Spain</p> <p>Elisa Melendez Martin</p>	<p>With a professional experience focused, at its first stage, on Marketing, Communications and PR within the Telecommunications industry, Elisa experienced a career change by getting involved in the Education sector, firstly, in the Corporate Diversity area. Since 2016, she is the Head of Global Markets for Undergraduate programs at IE University managing a team of more than 30 international professionals based both in Madrid and at our international offices around the world. Elisa holds a Master in Marketing Management and a PS in Lobby & Advocacy from IE University, a Master in Prevention of risk at Work, Specialization in Security from the Centro Tecnológico Castilla y León and a BA in Translation & Interpreting from the Universidad de Valladolid.</p>
	<p>Global Markets Director</p> <p>IE University, Spain</p>	
<p>Panelist</p>		
	<p>From the USA</p> <p>Marshall Bailly</p>	<p>For more than 15 years, Leadership Initiatives has partnered with outstanding high school students to gain real-world experience, explore future careers, develop leadership skills and experience college life. By working to help break the cycles of poverty and dissatisfaction that plague so many communities worldwide, Leadership Initiatives connects small businesses with grassroots development in underserved communities in Africa. In total, Leadership Initiatives has created over 54 businesses, expanded 27 businesses and supported over 10,000 US student internships in the process.</p>
	<p>Executive Director</p> <p>Leadership Initiatives, US</p>	
<p>Award Sponsor</p>		
	<p>From Tanzania and USA</p> <p>Lauren Schmidt, MSW</p>	<p>Lauren helps build the next generation of teen social entrepreneurs. She is a graduate of Columbia University, a member of the Association of International Educators and a learning partner with the Association of International Schools in Africa. She has over a decade of experience working with international students and has lived in Tanzania for 10 years as a Dean of Students on international development projects funded by Oxfam and HIVOS. Lauren currently helps students share their unique impact in essays as an App Mentor at Crimson Education, resulting in acceptance at Harvard, Yale, MIT, Columbia, Stanford, Duke, Brown, Georgetown, John Hopkins and many more schools.</p>
	<p>Entrepreneur & Founder</p> <p>A Tree That Grows</p>	
<p>Workshop Presenter & Panelist</p>		



From Ireland

Shane Hanna



International Student and
IB Diploma Programme
Coordinator

[Villiers School](#), Ireland

Shane Hanna has been a teacher for over 15 years. Shane has been teaching English as an Additional Language and English B alongside his role as International Student Coordinator. He is a Steering Committee member of Philosophy Ireland, and a practitioner of P4C (Philosophy for Children) and CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning). He has been a guest speaker at the University of Limerick, Maynooth University and Trinity College Dublin. Shane holds a Master's Degree in Education from Trinity College Dublin and is currently working towards PhD in University of Limerick.

IB Skills Guide
Presenter



From the USA

Nicole Bohannon



Graduate Student, MSc in
Public Policy & Management

King's College London,
Business School, UK

Nicole Bohannon has done Model UN since she was 15 years old, including organizing conferences and serving as a delegate. She ran the global education program at the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area for the last few years. Nicole is now in London studying for her master's degree at King's College London. Prior to working at the UN Association, she worked in political fundraising, nonprofits, and consulting firms in Washington, DC. She graduated from George Washington University with a BA in International Relations and Affairs with concentrations in Latin America and Europe & Eurasia.

Negotiation Skills
Guide Presenter



From Vietnam

Nhu Anh Nguyen



English Literature and
Language Teacher

Hanoi Academy, Vietnam

Nhu Anh has taught English at Vinschool and Hanoi Academy in Vietnam. Her approach to teaching is to place students at the center of all lessons and to design all class activities and assessments to meet individual needs. Nhu Anh believes that each student is unique and she is energized by creating new ways to best support them. Reflecting on her own journey of education in Vietnam, and seeing the challenges still faced by Vietnamese students today as they enter the global education system, Nhu Anh has decided to pursue her MA in Education at Colorado State University in the USA in the near future, while continuing teaching English through her own creative language program.

ELL Skills Guide
Presenter



From Poland

Kasia Buszka

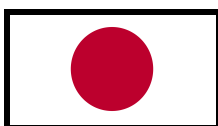


Economics and Politics
Business and Leadership

Forward College, Portugal

Scorer

Kasia is studying double bachelor's at an international university. Since she remembers she has been involved in solving problems within her communities and making a positive social impact. Her professional life is based on three pillars: charity and social impact projects, business/ startups, and policy making. With experiences in organizations such as European Youth Parliament, EYP or Erasmus+ but also creating projects and startups of her own she is aiming to share and gain more and more knowledge. She is constantly evolving in all three fields as she believes that continuous development is what makes her happy and fulfilled.



From Japan

Miyu Sakurai



Applied Psychology

New York University, USA

Team Coach

Miyu is a student at New York University studying Applied Psychology. In high school, she participated in Model United Nations conferences in New York, Berlin, and Boston. She has also participated in World Scholar's Cup tournaments in Hanoi and at Yale University. Currently, she is passionate about mental health in children and adolescents and spends her time teaching young children English and Japanese. Miyu has served as a Team Coach for several Buddies Without Borders Online Forums.



From Canada

Gabriella Ruggero



Math
Economics

University of Ottawa

Team Coach

Gabriella Ruggero participated in the Doing Well by Doing Good Forum in February 2021. She has worked for Global Education Destinations for about a year and has had different roles but now she is a team coach. She is 18 years old and graduated from the International Baccalaureate program back in 2021. She is attending the University of Ottawa to study math and economics. Gaby is also the Director of Marketing for the Ontario Ethics Bowl Committee where she runs several social media pages. She is excited to see what young minds can bring to the table and is ready to help guide their thoughts into actions.



From USA

Calla O'Neil



Freshman

International Relations
Georgetown University

Team Coach

Calla O'Neil is an incoming freshman at Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service. She is passionate about finding ways to bring people together to tackle the world's greatest challenges. Calla serves as a founder and co-chair of the National Youth Board at Graybridge, a non-profit working to fight racial injustice through building racial unity in schools and businesses. In addition, in 2020 she began working with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society where she lead a group of twenty-one high school girls to become the 2021 National Capital Students of the Year and now serves on the LLS Junior Leadership Team. Calla first became involved with Global Education Destinations in the summer of 2019 when she participated in the first Buddies Without Borders forum. She is thrilled to join the team of coaches and hopes to help other students leave the forum just as influenced and inspired as she did when she was a part of it.



From Canada

Keeret Grewal



Business Administration and
Financial Mathematics

[Wilfrid Laurier University,](#)
Canada

Team Coach

Keeret was the Student Council for the Access to Justice: World Peace Starts with Local Harmony Forum concluded in April 2021 while she was in high school. Throughout secondary school, Keeret had a lot of experience in professional conferences, such as Model UN, Model G7, Mock Trial, and multiple business case studies. Now in university, Keeret is aspired to help other competitors like herself. She is now studying Business Administration and Financial Mathematics at Wilfrid Laurier and hopes to become a corporate lawyer in the future. Regardless, Keeret is eager to meet new people from all over the world, and help guide Buddies Without Borders participants in the right direction.