

## Patrick Abal

**Patrick Abal** is originally from Northern Uganda, where he has worked extensively for over 15 years in the fields of humanitarian assistance, peace building, and education. From 1991 to 2004, Mr. Abal served in a wide range of management, training, and advocacy functions as an Administrative Officer in the Uganda Government Public Service. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Abal successfully managed a government program to demobilize and resettle 32,000 soldiers in the Kitgum, Apac and Lira Districts of Northern Uganda; pioneered the initiation of a successful multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS program in the Lira District; and coordinated a highly effective advocacy campaign that resulted in the increased political participation and representation of women and other vulnerable groups in Uganda's Parliament and Local Councils. From 1987 to 1991, Mr. Abal taught history and political science to high school students at Gombe and Namugongo secondary schools.

Mr. Abal is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Public Administration at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University. He previously studied at Makerere University in Kampala, where he earned post-graduate diplomas in Public Administration and Education and a B.A. (Honors) in Political, Sociology & History.

## Neil Boothby, Ph.D.

**Neil Boothby, Ph.D.** is ending his second year as Director of the Program on Forced Migration and Health at the Mailman School of Public Health. He most recently taught policy studies at Princeton University. He has more than twenty years experience working with United Nations agencies and NGOs in Africa, Asia, South America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Author of books and articles on the psychosocial effects of war on children, he has also received awards for his field work, including the Red Cross's International Humanitarian of the Year Award for his work with child soldiers, the Mickey Leland Award for his work with uprooted people, and the United Nations' Golden Achievement Award for excellence in the social sectors.

Dr. Boothby received his Ph.D. in child development from Harvard University, where he studied and taught with Dr. Robert Coles, professor of psychiatry and medical humanities.

## Frank Cohn

**Frank Cohn** is a first year M.S.W. candidate in the School of Social Work, specializing in Administration of Social Organizations and International Social Welfare. He has worked extensively in the field with at-risk youth, in both developed and developing countries. Most recently he served as the Field Program Director with an NGO in Central America, doing grassroots community and youth development work in rural areas. While there, he developed and implemented numerous community conferences for youth, women, and indigenous groups.

Originally from Canada, Mr. Cohn earned his B.A. in Literature and Philosophy from the University of British Columbia. He has also studied at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, and completed language training in both Costa Rica and Taiwan.

## **Cheryl Franks, Ph.D.**

**Cheryl Franks, Ph.D.** is an Associate Director of the Field Education Department at Columbia University School of Social Work and has recently been appointed as the School's Executive Director of Diversity, Human Rights and Social Justice. Dr. Frank co-chairs the World of Work Advisory Board and the International Social Welfare Advisory Board. Prior to coming to Columbia, Dr. Franks was part of a management team at DC 37, Personal Services Unit, one of the oldest and largest Members Assistance Programs in the country. She focused on disability management and care giving services and developed volunteer opportunities for retirees.

Dr. Franks received her B.S. from Ohio State University and her M.S.W. and Ph.D. from Columbia University School of Social Work.

## **Jonathan Gant**

**Jonathan Gant** is a J.D. candidate at Columbia Law School. While at Columbia he has created the school's first student-run asylum program and has recently accepted the directorship of the Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

Mr. Gant received his B.A. from UCLA in 2003 and taken coursework through Eötvös Loránd University, Central European University and the European Commission's Odysseus Programme.

## **Eyyub Hajiyev**

**Eyyub Hajiyev** is an M.S.W. candidate at Columbia University School of Social Work specializing in Social Administration and International Social Welfare. Upon completion of his degree, he plans to work towards the promotion of sustainable and effective development with poor and marginalized communities. His first step will be the establishment of a research center specializing in social policies and problems in Azerbaijan.

Before coming to Columbia, Mr. Hajiyev worked in several NGOs in Azerbaijan dealing with problems of different disadvantaged and marginalized groups. As an advocacy and lobbying officer with Aran/Oxfam-GB, he worked on grassroots and national policy initiatives for refugees and IDPs.

Mr. Hajiyev received his M.B.A. degree from the Azerbaijan State Oil Academy. He is currently a recipient of the Open Society Institute Social Work fellowship and is originally from Azerbaijan.

### **Alex Irwin**

**Alex Irwin** is Deputy Director of the Network Scholarship Programs at the Open Society Institute in New York. In addition to departmental oversight, Mr. Irwin manages the Social Work Fellowship Program, which supports 16 students a year from Central Asia and the Caucasus to complete a Masters in Social Work in the U.S. He has worked extensively with non-profits and social service organizations, including the Council on International Education Exchange and the City of Toronto Department of Social Services, as well as in policy and programming around HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Irwin received his M.S.W. from Columbia University School of Social Work, an M.A. in English Literature from the University of Toronto, and a B.A. in English Literature from McGill University.

### **Sara Kahn**

**Sara Kahn** is the Director of the Cross-Cultural Counseling Center of the International Institute of New Jersey, where she started mental health programs for survivors of war trauma, torture, and human trafficking. She is also currently an Adjunct Professor at Hunter University School of Social Work. She has worked extensively with displaced persons both overseas and within the United States. During the war in Bosnia, she helped develop a local organization serving the needs of internally displaced children. In Bosnia, Kosovo, Cyprus, and Greece, Ms. Kahn has consulted for Physicians for Human Rights, developing community-based interventions for families during exhumations of mass graves. She has presented trainings on refugee mental health around the country in academic and institutional settings. Prior to her social work career, Ms. Kahn worked as an actress/singer. She has written and is performing a one-woman show, entitled HAVEN: A New Play with Music about Refugees and America.

Ms. Kahn earned both her M.S.W. and M.P.H. from Columbia University.

### **Marina Kaneti**

**Marina Kaneti** is a first year student at the Columbia University School of Social Work, specializing in Social Administration and International Social Welfare. Upon completion of her degree, she hopes to join the ranks of budding social entrepreneurs whose ventures have sustainable social and economic impact in countries where government grants and funding are non-existent. Her first attempt at that will be in establishing a center for senior services in Bulgaria this summer.

Ms. Kaneti worked as an equity trader on Wall Street and actively promoted cooperation between businesses and non-profit organizations. Her passion for music and the arts has prompted her to seek venues for artists from Eastern Europe to exhibit their talents and skills in the United States. Ms. Kaneti, originally from Bulgaria, earned her B.A. in East Asian studies from Columbia University.

### **Dirk Salomons, Ph.D.**

**Dirk Salomons, Ph.D.** is the Director of the Program for Humanitarian Affairs at the School of International Public Affairs, Columbia University. Dr. Salomons focuses on the interaction between policy and management in humanitarian operations, and has a particular interest in the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants after armed conflict. Prior to joining the SIPA faculty in 2002, Dr. Salomons served since 1997 as Managing Partner of the Praxis Group, Ltd., an international management consulting firm based in the USA and Switzerland. Praxis works mainly with public service entities, applying its expertise in humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping, and post-conflict recovery as well as in human resources management.

From 1970 until 1997, Dr. Salomons served in a wide range of management, peace-building and policy advisory functions in several organizations of the United Nations system, including FAO, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNOPS and the UN Secretariat. His most cherished assignment was that of Executive Director for the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Mozambique, 1992-1993. Dr. Salomons received his *Kandidaats* and *Doctoraal* degrees from the University of Amsterdam.

### **Jeannette Takamura, Ph.D.**

**Jeannette Takamura, Ph.D.** is the Dean of Columbia University School of Social Work, the first female Dean of the School in its 108-year history. She most recently served as the Assistant Secretary for Aging, Department of Health and Human Services from 1997 until June 2001, when she was appointed to the Edward R. Roybal Endowed Chair in Applied Gerontology and Public Service at California State University at Los Angeles. Dean Takamura received the Humanitarian Award at the 2002 International Conference on Immunology and Aging. She is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance, a principal of the Council for Excellence in Government, vice president of the Older Women's League, and chair-elect of the American Society on Aging.

Dr. Takamura received her B.S. and M.S.W. from the University of Hawaii and her Ph.D. in social policy from Brandeis University.

### **Kao Kalia Yang**

A Columbia University Dean's Fellow, **Kao Kalia Yang** is a freelance reader in New York City. She is also currently working on a memoir about her Hmong family's thirty-year journey from the hills of Laos to the refugee camps of Thailand to the cities of America. Ms. Yang is also this year's Paul and Daisy Soros Fellow for New Americans. She has received several awards and scholarships, including Class of 1996 Achievement in Diversity Award from Carleton College and a four-year Page Scholarship from the Alan Page Foundation in Minnesota. Yang's works have been published in Paj Ntaub Voice, a journal giving voice for expression among Hmongs, as well as several college publications.

Ms. Yang is an M.F.A. candidate at Columbia University. She previously earned her B.A. in American Studies, Cross-cultural Studies, and Gender Studies from Carleton College. She also completed the 2001 International Study Abroad program in Khon Kaen, Thailand.