EMPOWERING EDUCATORS:  
Taking Action Locally and Globally

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018  
8 A.M. - 5 P.M.  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA, DAHLONEGA, 82 COLLEGE CIRCLE

Educators will receive one professional unit (PLU or CEU) for attending.  

Conference fee: $35 or $20 for students  
Includes continental breakfast and lunch

For more information contact:  
James Badger | James.Badger@ung.edu  
Adam Jordan | Adam.Jordan@ung.edu  
April Nelms | April.Nelms@ung.edu  
Linda Reece | Linda.Reece@ung.edu

Visit the conference website:  
https://ung.edu/college-of-education/ctaun.php

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
Maher Nasser, United Nations’ Director of the Outreach Division in the Department of Public Information. Mr. Maher Nasser has over 30 years of work experience in the United Nations System during which he has worked in various capacities in Gaza, Jerusalem, Amman, Cairo, Vienna, and New York.

ABOUT CTAUN  
The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) focuses on today’s most important assignment - teaching our children about a world made increasingly interdependent by globalization.

CTAUN exists to provide opportunities for educators to learn, understand and appreciate the work of the U.N., and to incorporate global awareness into curricula and school activities at all levels. This year’s conference focuses on the role and impact of classroom teachers on students in the local and global community.
Dear Attendees,

Welcome to the 2018 CTAUN Conference at UNG!

We’re so glad you’re here with us in Dahlonega for what promises to be an impactful day of learning. We are pleased to present a program packed with thought-provoking presentations and opportunities to meet people from all over the world who are fighting to make a difference in our schools and communities – and to take action in their context.

The 2018 CTAUN Conference theme is Empowering Educators: Taking Action Locally and Globally. In partnership with Georgia State University’s College of Education and Human Development and the Committee for Teaching About the United Nations, this conference is an opportunity for teachers and others interested in education to engage with questions of access, equity, and quality education; share innovative classroom practices; and inform school improvement plans.

The CTAUN conference brings together social justice educators, public servants, NGOs, and health workers to explore the role and impact of teachers on students and in the global community and to speak to the critical issues we face – as a nation and as a member of the global community – with regard to educating our children to be civic minded, compassionate leaders (https://ung.edu/college-of-education/ctaun). One of our goals in preparing future educators is to instill an understanding of and desire to enrich the lives of all students. As our public schools become more diverse, it is ever more essential for our future teachers to seek ways to reach every child.

The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) focuses on today’s most important assignment – teaching our children about a world made increasingly interdependent by globalization. CTAUN exists to provide opportunities for educators to learn, understand and appreciate the work of the U.N., and to incorporate global awareness into curricula and school activities at all levels (http://www.ctaun.org/).

Get ready to inspire and be inspired!

Sincerely yours,

The UNG’s CTAUN Conference Committee:
Dr. James Badger, james.badger@ung.edu
Dr. Laura Bradshaw, Lauren.Bradshaw@ung.edu
Dr. Adam Jordan, Adam.Jordan@ung.edu
Dr. April Nelms, April.Nelms@ung.edu
Dr. Linda Reece, Linda.Reece@ung.edu
Welcome to our beautiful campus! The map below indicates the buildings we will use for portions of the conference.

- Hoag Student Center (third floor – Great Room and Auditorium)
- Young Hall (second floor – 202, 203, 214, and 216)
- Dining Hall (second floor – Dining Hall Banquet Room)
- Free Parking (Church Street Parking Deck, located beside the Recreation Center)

- Guest WiFi Access:
  Username: ctaun
  Password: Education18!

- Tweet about the conference using the hashtag #CTAUN2018

- UNG Public Safety contact information: (706) 864-1500 or publicsafety@ung.edu

- Register to receive one Professional Learning Unit (PLU): http://bit.ly/2sFGCju

- Post-conference survey: http://bit.ly/2sALh6a
## Agenda

### Registration and Preconference Meetings, 8:00am to 8:55 am

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<td>Registration and Breakfast</td>
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<td>Presider Meeting</td>
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### Plenary Session, 9:00am to 10:00 am

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<tr>
<td>Welcome and Opening Remarks</td>
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<td>Dr. Tom Ormond, UNG Provost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opening Plenary Session</td>
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<td>Introduction by Anne-Marie Carlson, CTAUN Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maher Nasser, United Nations’ Director of the Outreach Division in the Department of Public Information.</td>
<td>Hoag Auditorium</td>
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Please make your way to Young Hall for the concurrent sessions starting at 10:10 am
Concurrent Session A, 10:10 am to 10:40 am

**Tyler Crafton Karnes**  
Presider: Linda Reece; Rachel Richardson  
Young Hall 214

*Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

In this session, educators will explore and analyze Eleanor Roosevelt and her involvement in the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Utilizing resources from the Museum of History and Holocaust Education (MHHE), educators will discuss the UDHR and its history, discover methods they can use to teach this important document and its relevance today, and walk away with methods and activities to ensure this declaration is passed on, taught, and protected for generations to come in a student's local community. Teachers will also receive information about the MHHE's free resources.

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**Daneilia Dwyer and Ruhi Rahman**  
Presider: James Badger  
Young Hall 216

*The CARE Package: Then and Now*

With dozens of emergencies happening today, what kind of CARE package would you send to the world? In 1946 CARE started sending the original care package to post-war Europe as a humanitarian response to World War II. In the years since, CARE has transformed global development and now works in 94 countries. In this interactive session, participants will explore how CARE is responding to global crisis today, both locally and globally. Join us and help answer the question...what would a CARE package for the world look like today?
Thais Council and Brilliant Nyambi
Presider: Adam Jordan
Young Hall 202

*Bridging Knowledge Gaps: A Transatlantic Book Club*
*between Black Africans and African-Americans*

Black South Africans were under the thumb of apartheid for more than 40 years. As a result, their heritage, school curriculum and knowledge of other African nations has waned. Likewise, African-Americans were stolen and uprooted from their native lands and, for more than 400 years, were made to conform to their oppressors’ way of being. As a result, many have limited knowledge of the continent of Africa and simultaneously struggle with their cultural identity. Teachers and school leaders are not exempt from this absence and often lack the global awareness required to challenge threats to human rights. This presentation will discuss the efforts of Africa Unite and African-American teacher educators to bridge knowledge gaps through a proposed transatlantic book club. The purpose of the proposed book club is to build social cohesion amongst Black Africans and African-American while sharing opportunities for social, political, cultural and economic global awareness. Knowledge of self and cultural history is a human right and through this proposed book club, continental Black Africans and African-Americans can began the path of discovery and reconciliation with the hopes of increasing our ability to see how our actions and inactions have global implications.

Jasmine Mathis and Erica Bass-Flimmons
Presider: April Nelms
Young Hall 203

*Globa(lives): Partnerships with a Global Impact*

Professional Development Schools exist to create meaningful partnerships between universities, K-12 schools, and the community. This presentation will include the reflections concerning a global partnership between Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA), The University of Johannesburg (Johannesburg, South Africa), and George Khosa Secondary School (Soweto, South Africa). We will detail our current and future initiatives and the impact that it has caused. Forming partnerships that cross cultural, geographical, and political boundaries can prove to be beneficial to all parties involved.
Roger Hill and Abigail Christmas-Hill
Presider: Adam Jordan
Young Hall 214

Trafficcking and Out of Danger

This presentation is geared to inform and educate individuals on how to identify the signs of trafficking victims and how to respond if a victim is identified. We will also discuss topics like, what exactly is trafficking? What does it look like in Atlanta and the US? How do we abolish this heinous crime? How to protect our kids and more. For individuals who would like to join the fight here in Atlanta we do a short overview of Out of Darkness and how to get involved. We will also have time for Q&A.

LaDarrien Gillette
Presider: Linda Reece; Lynna Derda
Young Hall 216

UNICEF and Global Citizenship

This presentation will serve as UNICEF 101, focusing on the seven main priorities the organization. This includes topics such as, health, HIV/AIDS, education, and child protection. Following the general introduction of the organization's mission, I will be presenting several options that individuals are able to pursue in order to be better global citizens.

Meet and Greet Lunch 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Dining Hall Banquet Room

Entertainment provided by Pick and Bow, with Dr. Esther Morgan-Ellis from UNG

http://www.georgiapickandbow.org/
**Carrie McGarity Woodcock**

*Changing a Community Through Language and Culture*

Presenter will share how the Hall County School District has changed a community by using a strengths-based model to create a series of language and cultural experiences that promote the development of internationally-minded students and families. The goal of this presentation is to inspire others to find the strengths in their communities that will help prepare students to adapt to and navigate the ever-changing world.

**Elena Hernandez-Vo**

*Empowering Educators to support SLIFE*

SLIFE refers to a subset of the English language learner population who have limited or interrupted formal education. These students not only face linguistic and cultural challenges, but also are below grade level in most academic areas in their first language. Educators have a significant role in helping to bridge the cultural dissonance faced by many of these students. Learn more about this population and the power educators have to make a difference.

**Stacy Brown, Nicole Olauson, & Htwe Htwe**

*How the International Community School empowers the learning and lives of all students through teaching, community, and leadership*

As we know, you cannot expect a child to learn to read and write when they are hungry, or expect them to pass a test when they feel unsafe in their home, or to walk in a straight line in the hallway if they are dealing with the after effects of trauma from being a displaced person. At our school, we look for opportunities to impact the lives of our students and families in a holistic way, and for the students to learn through example. A few ways in which the school does that through teaching, community and leadership are: inquiry-based learning and one-on-one tutoring; a monthly food coop to support our families with most need, home visits to connect with our parents, running and soccer programs after school and during the weekends, and art and self-esteem clubs; encouraging students to give back to the community (unexpected tragedies and natural disasters). Students have a voice. They are encouraged to be global citizens. They practice tolerance, being caring and open minded every day.
**How Dual Language Immersion transforms K-12 Education in Georgia**

Dual Language Immersion is an educational model where students from diverse language backgrounds are taught academic content in two languages. The benefits of DLI are many: higher proficiency levels in at least two languages, enhanced cognitive functioning, higher standardized test scores and increased intercultural competence. This interactive session will explore why DLI is becoming popular in Georgia and the nation and what some of its challenges are.

**Seven Strategies to Support Student Retention**

This presentation describes strategies used at Spelman College to support student retention. These strategies include, but are not limited to, innovative instruction, effective advisement, efficient use of data, appropriate academic coaching, early notification, institutional programming and outstanding academic support. The presenter will describe how the strategies have been used at Spelman and provide opportunities for attendees to consider use of these strategies at their institutions.

**The (De)construction of Public Schools / Reconfiguring Public Education**

Teaching to the test as we race to the top of the international achievement charts is moving the focus away from giving the appropriate tools and experiences needed to create global citizens. Those who contribute to the global community cannot reach that level if we do not put students on the right trajectory from day one. Independence, reading and literacy, integrity, collaboration, cooperation, and social justice are the building blocks to global citizenship for which we should strive for. This panel will discuss solution ideas that strive to reconfigure how we approach education in the United States.
Concurrent Session E, 2:40 pm – 3:10 pm

**Sally N. Levine**
Presider: Adam Jordan
Young Hall 214

*Teaching About the Holocaust: Building Statewide Communities of Practice*

The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust is a secular, non-partisan state-agency administratively attached to the Secretary of State. The Commission was established by Executive Order by Joe Frank Harris in 1986. Governor Zell Miller re-established the Commission upon taking office and charged it with creating education programs for the citizens. Then in 1998 by act of the Georgia General Assembly the Commission became a permanent State Agency (HB 1664). The Holocaust happened because individuals, organizations and governments made choices that not only legalized discrimination but also allowed prejudice, hatred and ultimately mass murder to occur. Preserving the memory of the Holocaust is not enough – Holocaust education leads to informed decision making and appropriate action to recognize and confront threats to human rights including intolerance, antisemitism, racism and ignorance.

**Thomas Smith**
Presider: Linda Reece; Lindsay Cantley
Young Hall 216

*Educational Reform and International Educational Partnerships and Opportunities in Tanzania, East Africa*

This workshop presents the development of new international educational developments in Tanzania, East Africa. It will explain how educational partnerships between Georgia and Tanzania institutions are pioneering new educational advancements in reading, writing and technical educational. Videos and handouts will be shared on how these relationships are leading the advancement of educational reform in Tanzania.

Break, 3:10 pm to 3:20 pm
Kevin Glass
Presider: James Badger
Young Hall 216

Learning for Action and Impact

On March 14, 2017 children from around the world took part in a global day of action to help end modern-day slavery. The results were astounding! Students from more than 100 countries participated, reaching more than 160 million Facebook timelines. In addition, there were more than 33,000 tweets and 400,000 Snapchat stories. The theme was trending on Twitter in several countries. But what was most impressive was the energy and optimism that went into these student-led events. This was a concrete and real-life reflection of Learning for Action and Impact. Young people in schools around the world demonstrated that they really do make a difference in people’s lives and in human society.

Here is a snapshot of #myfreedomday, courtesy of CNN:


This day of action will be repeated on March 14, 2018, when there will be another chance for international schools and international organizations to live missions, visions, core values, strategic plans which hold certain fundamental human rights such as freedom paramount. Kevin Glass, in his presentation, will explore ways of bringing local and global challenges into the classroom and using these as segue ways to empower students as they seek ways in which to positively grapple with and ultimately change the world they will inherit.
We would like to thank the following individuals for their support of the 2018 CTAUN Conference at UNG:

**Dr. Susan Ayres**, Dean, College of Education, University of North Georgia ([https://ung.edu/college-of-education/index.php](https://ung.edu/college-of-education/index.php))

**Dr. Tom Ormond**, Provost, University of North Georgia ([https://ung.edu/](https://ung.edu/))

**Dr. Gwendolyn Benson**, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Partnerships, College of Education and Human Development, Georgia State University ([http://education.gsu.edu/](http://education.gsu.edu/))

**Dr. Susan Ogletree**, Center for Evaluation and Research Services, College of Education and Human Development, Georgia State University ([http://education.gsu.edu/](http://education.gsu.edu/))

**Anne-Marie Carlson**, Chair, Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) ([http://www.ctaun.org/](http://www.ctaun.org/))

**Emilie Stris**, Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) ([http://www.ctaun.org/](http://www.ctaun.org/))

**Eileen Venezia**, Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) ([http://www.ctaun.org/](http://www.ctaun.org/))
Erica Bass-Flimmons

Erica Bass-Flimmons received her PhD in Instructional Design and Technology with Master Level certificates in Public Health and International Education in May 2017. For the past four years, Erica has had the opportunity to conduct research in Africa as it relates to mobile health for maternal health education for adults in rural settings as well as education for STEM learners in low-resource settings. While receiving her Master’s degree, Erica studied at the Durban University of Technology located in South Africa. During the first year of her doctoral studies, Erica visited Ghana while researching the Mobile Maternal Health Project with a local non-profit (2014) and has remained focused on mobile learning in low income countries as her research topic.

Gwendolyn Benson

Dr. Gwen Benson serves as the Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Partnerships in the College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) at Georgia State University. She previously served as coordinator of the Low Incidence Disabilities Unit of the Division for Exceptional Students in the Georgia Department of Education; director of educator preparation for the Georgia Professional Standards Commission; and director of the Program for Exceptional Children with the Atlanta Public Schools. She was an associate professor at Southern University at Baton Rouge, La., assistant professor at Louisiana State University and has taught graduate courses at Clark-Atlanta University as an adjunct professor. Dr. Benson earned her bachelor’s degree at Alabama State University, her M.Ed. at Auburn University and her Ph.D. at the University of Kansas. She currently serves as the principal investigator for the Collaboration and Resources for Encouraging and Supporting Transformations in Education (CREST-Ed) and funded by a $7.6 million Teacher Quality Partnership grant and the Network for Enhancing Teacher Quality (NET-Q), a collection of projects funded by a $13.5 million Teacher Quality Partnership grant from the U.S. Department of Education both designed to prepare teachers for the demands of teaching high-need subjects in high-need schools. She also works to sustain the COEHD’s professional development school network, facilitates international outreach and partnerships and works closely with the Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence.

Stacy Brown

Stacy Brown started at the International Community School in July 2017 as an Assistant Principal. He has more than 20 years of experience in education, as a K-12 teacher, trainer and administrator. Most of his experience has been in his native Georgia, and a few years in Abu Dhabi.
Abigail Christmas-Hill
Abigail joined the fight against trafficking 10 years ago. She started by raising awareness for organizations such as A21 Campaign. For the past 4 years her focus has been working with Out of Darkness as a 24/7 hotline responder, rescue team member, Princess Night leader and Ambassador and Medical team member training others on how to identify the signs of trafficking and how to get involved in this fight. Abigail also served as the Volunteer Coordinator for Atlanta Dream Center/Out of Darkness for over a year. In 2016, Abigail was the script and on-set consultant for the feature film "Priceless" (www.pricelessmovie.com).

Michaela Claus-Nix
Mrs. Michaela Claus-Nix studied German and English at the Technische Universität in Berlin, Germany, and emigrated to the United States in 1997. She taught all levels of German (including AP and IB) mainly at the high school level in Georgia and South Carolina for 19 years. From 2014 to 2016, she served at the Georgia Department of Education as Program Specialist for World Languages and Workforce Initiatives where she developed Georgia’s International Skills Diploma Seal and the implementation criteria for Georgia’s Seal of Biliteracy. Mrs. Claus-Nix served in various roles on the AATG-GA’s Executive Council from 2003-2014, including president from 2010 to 2012. She was a member of College Board’s AP German Language and Culture Development Committee from 2012 to 2014. She currently serves as the World Language Content Specialist in Forsyth County Schools, GA where she is promoting the opening of Dual Language Immersion programs, developing World Language curriculum for career academies and guiding World Language teachers to proficiency-based instruction.

Thais Council
Thais Council is a Social Foundations doctoral candidate in the Educational Policy Studies Department at Georgia State University. Thais’ research interests are how critical literacy, urban education, culturally relevant pedagogy, digital literacy, family literacy, education policy, and participatory action research connect to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline.

Tyler Crafton-Karnes
As a Museum Educator at the Museum of History and Holocaust Education at Kennesaw State University, I teach K-12 students about the importance of World War II and the Holocaust through a variety of free programming, including in-school programs, field trips, and traveling trunks. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree from Kennesaw State University where I studied History and Art History and a Master of Arts degree in Art History and Museum Curating from the University of Sussex in Southern England. My professional goal is to educate the public on a wide array of historical and art historical topics in fun and interesting ways.
Daneilia Dwyer

Daneilia Dwyer, Development Coordinator, represents the global humanitarian organization, CARE. CARE is a global leader within a worldwide movement dedicated to ending poverty known everywhere for an unshakeable commitment to the dignity of people. CARE puts women and girls in the center because poverty cannot be overcome until all people have equal rights and opportunities. Find out more at care.org.

LaDarrien Gillette

LaDarrien Gillette currently serves as the Atlanta Community Engagement Fellow for UNICEF USA. Originally from Indiana, LaDarrien moved to Atlanta in 2012 to pursue a Bachelor's in International Studies from Spelman College. Following her graduation at Spelman LaDarrien pursued a Master's degree in International Law from Emory Law School. As the Community Engagement Fellow for UNICEF USA LaDarrien is tasked with creating a movement for children's rights in the Atlanta area and educating the community on how they can help children thrive on a global scale.

Kevin Glass

Kevin Glass currently serves as the Headmaster of the Atlanta International School. Committed to creating globally-minded students poised to shape the 21st century, Kevin’s vocation and calling is international education. His career in education includes leadership and teaching positions in South and West Africa, Central and North America, and Central Asia. Prior to joining Atlanta International School, Kevin served as Director of Tashkent International School in Uzbekistan for five years. Kevin serves on various local, national and international Boards, including the Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE), the Academy for International School Heads (AISH), the Center for the Advancement and Study of International Education (CASIE), Horizons Atlanta, the Atlanta Area Association in Independent Schools (AAAIS) and the Buckhead Coalition. Kevin has a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Framingham State College (USA), a Post Graduate Certificate of Education in Biology and Chemistry from Cambridge University (UK), and a Bachelor of Science (Hons.) Degree in Bacteriology and Virology from Manchester University (UK). Kevin is married to Stefani, a career diplomat currently on family leave from the German Foreign Service. They have three children (Liam, Lilly and Leanne) all of whom attend AIS in the German track.
**Elena Hernandez-Vo**
Elena Hernandez-Vo is a twenty-eight year education veteran who has served in both New York and Georgia Public Schools. She has taught special education, bilingual special education, and ESOL at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Currently she serves as the Assistant Principal for the International Transition Center that serves many SLIFE. Ms. Vo has led a wide range of professional development workshops on the instruction of ELs for Gwinnett County Public School Teachers, Piedmont College (Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation), and Kennesaw State TESOL conference presenter. In addition, she has also contributed as an educational book reviewer for Corwin Press (Teaching: 101 Classroom Strategies for the Beginning Teacher & Inclusion Strategies That Work for Adolescent Learners). Ms. Vo has also served the community through various endeavors including United Way Campaign Manager, International Night Coordinator, Parent University Workshops (English & Spanish), Parent Outreach, Saturday School Program, and other community outreach.

**Roger Hill**
Roger is a graduate of West Point and went on to serve as an Army Ranger for 10 years. His last assignment was Captain of the 101st Airborne in Wardak, Afghanistan. He is the co-author of best-selling book, "Dog Company: A True Story of American Soldiers Abandoned by Their High Command". After his career in the military, Roger joined Out of Darkness and the fight against trafficking as Rescue Team member, Princess Night leader and Ambassador. Roger and Abigail met on January 13th, as co-leads for Princess Night and were married in April.

**Htwe Htwe**
A native of Burma, she came to USA in 2003. She has been working at ICS as a teacher assistant for almost 14 years, where she has also been a valuable advocate and interpreter for Burmese families at our school.

**Francesina R. Jackson**
Dr. Francesina Jackson currently serves as the director of Spelman’s Student Success Program where she is also the principal investigator for the College’s First in the World Grant. Her research focuses on study strategy effectiveness, metacognition, accreditation of teacher education programs and diversity in teacher education. Among some of the journals which Dr. Jackson has published are: Planning for Higher Education, Multicultural Perspectives, The High School Journal, Learning, Adolescent & Adult Literacy, Reading Research and Instruction and the Journal of Reading. She also served as the associate editor for textbooks in Multicultural Perspectives where she published over 15 book reviews. In addition, she published book chapters in several teacher education texts.
Eliseo Jimenez

Eliseo Jimenez is an assistant professor in intellectual disabilities in the Department of Educational Psychology, Special Education, and Communication Disorders. He earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Western Michigan University in 2004, a master’s degree in special education with a specialization in autism and developmental disabilities from the University of Texas in Austin in 2006 and a doctoral degree in special education from The Ohio State University in 2014. He is also a Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctoral (BCBA-D). His research interests include teaching daily living and vocational skills to students with intellectual disabilities, transition, video prompting, and technology.

Sally N. Levine

Sally N. Levine currently serves as the Executive Director of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust. She also currently serves as a Regional Educator for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. In these roles, she has conducted workshops for educators locally and throughout the country, focusing on Holocaust history and pedagogy. International and national guidelines as well as Georgia Performance Standards inform her approach to teaching this challenging topic. Prior to her engagement with the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, she served as the Specialist for Teacher and Curriculum Development at the Breman Museum in Atlanta. Before becoming a museum educator, Sally Levine was a classroom teacher and social studies department coordinator for over twenty years. She has taught both social studies and language arts. Ms. Levine holds a B.A. in English from Queens College of the City University of New York, and a M.S. in Education from Russell Sage College. She completed her Museum Teacher Fellowship from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2003. Educational travel has included a study trip to Poland with Holocaust educators sponsored by the First Secretary of the Polish Embassy in Washington, DC, a trip to London to attend the libel trial of Dr. Deborah Lipstadt of Emory University, a visit to Ukraine organized by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and a weeklong seminar at the new Museum of the History of the Polish Jews, in Warsaw, Poland.

Cassie Leymarie

Cassie Leymarie is the Curriculum & Assessment Coordinator at the Global Village Project, a specialized middle school for refugee girls in Decatur, Georgia. She has worked in the refugee serving community for several years and her research focuses on better understanding the funds of knowledge that refugees bring with them to their resettlement communities, and how to help educators and policy-makers better serve their diverse strengths and needs. Dr. Leymarie received her Ph.D. from the Department of Applied Linguistics and ESL at Georgia State University.
Jasmine Mathis

Jasmine Mathis is a third year Doctoral Student in Teaching and Learning with a concentration in Mathematics Education at Georgia State University. She earned her Bachelor’s (‘10) and Master’s degree (‘11) from The University of Georgia. She is a Graduate Research Assistant for the CREST-Ed program at Georgia State University and an Adjunct Professor of Mathematics at Georgia Military College.

Maher Nasser

Mr. Maher Nasser has over 30 years of work experience in the United Nations System during which he has worked in various capacities in Gaza, Jerusalem, Amman, Cairo, Vienna and New York. Mr. Nasser became Director of DPI’s Outreach Division in February 2011. From April to mid-August 2012 and from August 2014 to February 2015, Mr. Nasser was Acting Head of the United Nations Department of Public Information. From 1 April until 31 August 2017, Mr. Nasser was Acting Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications. Mr. Nasser first joined DPI in January 2006 as Director of the UN Information Centre in Cairo. Before joining DPI, Mr. Nasser worked in various positions with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Gaza, Jerusalem, Vienna, Amman and New York and with the UNODC in Vienna. After graduating as a civil engineer from Bir Zeit University near Ramallah in 1986, Mr. Nasser worked with two Jerusalem-based NGOs focusing on development and human rights. Mr. Nasser also attended the Middle East Peace Conference in Madrid in October 1991 and the subsequent bilateral negotiations in Washington DC as the personal assistant to Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, the Head of the Palestinian Negotiating Team. Mr. Nasser also studied at the University of Warwick, UK and obtained a Post-Graduate Diploma in Business Administration in 2004. Mr. Nasser is married and has three children.

Brilliant Nyambi

Brilliant Nyambi serves as the Human Rights Facilitator and Youth Coordinator for Africa Unite. His vision is to make Africa a better place to live, by interrogating the developmental concerns of the communities and continent at large. He received a Bachelor’s degree in Social Anthropology from Great Zimbabwe University.

Nicole Olauson

Nicole Olauson is in her first year as a teacher at the International Community School. She got to know the school by being a substitute last school year. She has experience as elementary school teacher and as a middle school science teacher. She built her teaching philosophy under the Reggio Emilia School.
Ruhi Rahman
Ruhi Rahman, Manager of Community Partnerships, represents the global humanitarian organization, CARE. CARE is a global leader within a worldwide movement dedicated to ending poverty known everywhere for an unshakeable commitment to the dignity of people. CARE puts women and girls in the center because poverty cannot be overcome until all people have equal rights and opportunities. Find out more at care.org.

Thomas Smith
Dr. Thomas Smith is former high school principal, and adjunct professor at UNG, Georgia Perimeter College and Westwood College. He has extensive international teaching and diplomatic experience having serviced for eight years as the honorary Counsel General for Peru in Atlanta. Dr. Smith served for 5 years as the Senior Director of Instruction for the U. S. Army/UNG Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program in Tanzania, East Africa. Presently, Dr Smith teaches AP Geography and Government at Martin Luther King Jr. High School in DeKalb County. His summer time is spent conducting teacher training and international educational exchange programs between Georgia and Tanzania.

Gladys Yarbrough
Gladys Yarbrough is the Collaboration and Resources for Encouraging and Supporting Transformations in Education (CREST-Ed) Project Director at Georgia State University. CREST-Ed’s focus is to meet the challenges of preparing and retaining teachers for specific demands of teaching critical subjects in high needs schools in urban and rural localities. Her research interest includes literacy, online teaching, and developing effective community partnerships. Dr. Yarbrough teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in literacy, specifically, critical reading skills and children’s literature.
Carrie McGarity Woodcock

Carrie Woodcock has a master’s degree in teaching additional languages from the University of Georgia and an advanced degree in leadership from the University of North Georgia. She has worked with the Hall County School System for 14 years and was on the team that had the honor of dreaming the World Language Academy, Georgia’s premier dual-immersion school. She worked as an administrator in the school since the early design stages in 2007 and now serves the school system as Head of World Languages and Global Initiatives where she has been charged with making Hall County known for innovation in language instruction. She is responsible for bringing a bilingual seal to the Hall County School System, and she works to support the implementation of language programming and new dual immersion programs throughout the county. Ms. Woodcock has served to make change across the state in terms of teacher recruitment and teacher certification for dual immersion schools. She has experience as a consultant on language acquisition, dual immersion, global mindedness, best practices for English learners, and cultural sensitivity. She created the World Language Academy’s Dual Language Conference where professionals from around the state collaborate to improve practices in dual immersion schools. She worked to guide leaders across our state to create the Georgia Coalition for English learners and works as a community leader by serving on multiple non-profit boards and committees across the state.