Annual Report of Events
“BPIA Chats” Report
Association of Black Professionals
In International Affairs
(BPIA)

November 6, 2020
Washington, DC
Series Event: BPIAChats: Instagram Live Career Interview Series

Dates: April 13, 2020 – May 7, 2020

Venue: (Virtual) BPIA Instagram Live

Speakers: Names, Titles, Organization of each speaker found on each flyer below.

All Recordings Found here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEo-rhynh6ayut7doCInWw/videos

Overview Description

In March 2020, the world experienced an unprecedented shutdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. BPIA responded to this by piloting a series of virtual programming that increased and engaged the BPIA membership and community at large. The first of this virtual series led by BPIA board member Alexandria Maloney was “BPIAChats” an Instagram live interview series that brought professionals from all industries of international affairs to share experience and insights to student and young professional audiences. Represented organizations included U.S. State Department, USAID, Peace Corps, OECD, U.S. Armed Forces, US House Committee on Foreign Relations, Congressional Black Caucus, USDA, Lockheed Martin, White House Initiative for HBCUs, Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs, International Investment Firms, CyberSecurity/STEM, Non-profits, Essence, and more.

Spotlight BPIAChats Below:

“Why Diversity Matters in International Development” Jazmain D. Ohanyere, FSO w/ USAID Recording here

“Addressing Barriers to Diversity in Foreign Service Organizations” Erin Brown President, Blacks in Government US Agency for International Development (USAID) Chapter Recording here

“Resilience as a Young Graduate & Consulting” Mohamed Abdelrhman, Chaucer Consulting, UK Delegate to G7 Youth Summit Recording Here

“An International Career on Capitol Hill” Taylor Redick, Program Analyst @ US Committee on Foreign Affairs Recording here

“How to Find Your Niche as a POC in International Affairs” Byron L. Williams, Diversity Recruiter, Peace Corps Recording Here

“Black Diaspora in US-Africa/ Caribbean Foreign Policy” Toyin Awesu-Uhuegbu, Director of Communications, Congressional Black Caucus Recording Here


“Applying to Graduate School (in International Affairs)” Briana Suarez, APSIA Recording Here
#BPIACHATS

"Instagram (IG) Live" Career Interview Series

**MON. APRIL 13 - 2:00PM ET**
Why Diversity Matters in International Development
JAZMIA D. OHANYERE
Foreign Service Officer
USAID

**TUES. APRIL 14 - 11:00AM ET**
Managing Your Emotions and Positivity
CORDELIA GAFFAR
Emotions Opener
@cordeliagaaffar

**WED. APRIL 15 - 12:00PM ET**
An International Career on Capitol Hill
TAYLOR REDICK
Program Analyst @ US Committee on Foreign Affairs

**THURS. APRIL 16 - 12:00PM ET**
The Importance of International Experiences for HBCU Students
CHINEDU NWOKESOR
2019 Forbes Under 30 Scholar: Morgan State University

**THURS. APRIL 16 - 2:00PM ET**
Black Diaspora in US-Africa/Caribbean Foreign Policy
TOYIN AESU-UNUEGBU
Director of Communications Congressional Black Caucus

**THURS. APRIL 16 - 6:00PM ET**
Using your Voice for Positive Change
VANNARY KONG
MA Candidate, Harvard University, US Youth Delegate. 2019 G20 Summit

**THURS. APRIL 16 - 11:00AM ET**
How to Find Your Niche as a POC in International Affairs
BYRON L. WILLIAMS
USDA & Peace Corps

**MON. APRIL 20 - 5:00PM ET**
Resilience as a Young Graduate
MOHAMED ABDELRHMAN
Chaser Consulting
UK Delegate to G7 Youth Summit

**MON. APRIL 20 - 3:00PM ET**
The Global Marketing Industry and Branding
NAYA CHEATUM
Senior Program Specialist
Marriott International

**THURS. APRIL 23 - 2:00PM ET**
Non-Linear International Career Paths
LYDIA NYLANDER
Senior Risk Advisor
US Agency for International Development

**MON. APRIL 20 - 5:00PM ET**
Using your Voice for Positive Change
VANNARY KONG
MA Candidate, Harvard University, US Delegate, 2019 G20 Youth Summit

**TUES. APRIL 21 - 11:00AM ET**
Breaking Barriers: Careers in the State Department
ISABEL ROMERO
Desk Officer, Bureau of Diplomatic Security
US Department of State

**FRI. APRIL 24 - 12:00PM ET**
Understanding Extremism at Home and Abroad
OTIS HOLLOWAY
State Department Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations
## Military & Defense Spotlights

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<th>Topic</th>
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<td>Mon. May 4</td>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>The Art of Storytelling &amp; Nonlinear Career Paths</td>
<td>Ashley J. Hobbs</td>
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<td>Essence Communications, Inc.</td>
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<td>Wed. May 6</td>
<td>12:00PM</td>
<td>International Perspectives in the Fashion Industry</td>
<td>Jamila Jones</td>
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<td>Macy's Inc., Jamila Mariama</td>
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<td>Tues. May 5</td>
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<td>Strategies on Meaningful Community-Building</td>
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<td>Tues. May 5</td>
<td>7:00PM</td>
<td>Making the Cut: International Finance and Careers on Wall Street</td>
<td>Jamal Williams</td>
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<td>Wed. May 6</td>
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<td>Applying to Graduate School in International Affairs</td>
<td>Briana Suarez</td>
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<td>Association of Professional Schools at International Affairs (APSA)</td>
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<td>Thurs. May 7</td>
<td>12:15PM</td>
<td>Impact Investing and Private Sector Engagement</td>
<td>Gabrielle Guaye</td>
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MEDIA & PRIVATE SECTOR SPOTLIGHTS

Mon. May 4 - 9:00AM (ET)
The Art of Storytelling & Nonlinear Career Paths
ASHLEY J. HOBBS
Essence Communications, Inc.

Tues. May 5 - 12:00PM (ET)
Strategies on Meaningful Community-Building
JAMES DA COSTA
Future Leaders Network UK
Forbes 30 Under 30

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JAMILA JONES
Macy’s INC, Jamila Mariama

Wed. May 6 - 1:00PM (ET)
Applying to Graduate School (in International Affairs)
BRIANA SUAREZ
Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA)

Thurs. May 7 - 12:15PM (ET)
Impact Investing and Private Sector Engagement
GABRIELLE GUEYE
Catholic Relief Services
Peace Corps Living a Life of Service
Recording Found Here

The Intersection between Academia and Foreign Policy
Recording Here

"Why Diversity Matters: BPIA Career Talk"
with CFR’s Hassanatu Savage, Haydn Welch, David Gevarter
Recording Found Here
BPIA and guest speakers from the Council on Foreign Relations (@cfr_org) discussed career paths and opportunities in think tanks. Hassanatu Savage is a program assistant for the Meetings program at the Council on Foreign Relations. In this role, she researches and develops the substance of CFR programming by identifying appropriate topics, speakers, and framing the intellectual structure of events on U.S. foreign policy. Haydn Welch is a research associate with the Women and Foreign Policy program at the Council on Foreign Relations. David Gevarter is a research associate for U.S. foreign policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. In this role, he provides research support for the Latin America and Europe programs at CFR, on topics such as hemispheric and transatlantic security, migration, and nationalism.
Overview Description
Col. Sara V. Simmons (ret.) served 28 years of honorable military service in the United States Army. As a senior advisor, she traveled to engagements with US Army partner nations in Africa, Iraq, and Kurdistan to address sensitivities and complexities associated with integrating women into their defense forces. LT Rachel Thomas is an active duty Foreign Area Officer in the U.S. Navy, detailed to State as the Senior Military Advisor on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). She works to enhance Department of Defense (DoD) and State cooperation and collaboration on policies focused on the advancement of WPS, and further civilian-military partnerships within bilateral and multilateral spheres. Dr. Arthur P. McMahan is the current Senior Associate Director for the White House Initiative for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He most recently served as Director of VA Anti-Harassment Program, Deputy Dean of Veterans Affairs Learning University at Department of Veterans Affairs and as Director Educational Services and Strategic Planning at the U.S. Army Management Staff College (AMSC), Fort Belvoir, Virginia.


“Choosing Public Service: Why Diverse Voices in International Affairs Matter” featuring Arthur P. McMahan, Senior Associate Director, White House Initiative for HBCUs. Recording here

“Integrating Women into Botswana's Defense Force” Col. Sara V. Simmons, Retired U.S. Army Recording Here
Event: India & China as Emerging Global Powers in a Post COVID-19 World?

Dates: May 14, 2020

Venue: (Virtual) Zoom

Speakers: Jonathon Cummings, Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South South Cooperation; John Dickson, Global Young Leaders Academy, World Trade Organization; Arpit Chaturvedi, CEO, Global Policy Insights; Vannary Kong, US Sherpa, Youth G7 Summit Global Connectivity and Trade

Recording Found Here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8ij23C3sqM

Overview Description

Since 1997, John has devoted much of his energy to the work of the World Trade Centers Association. He is actively working to establish World Trade Centers in Kurdistan, Iraq; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Tulsa, Oklahoma (for Native American Indians); and in Shenyang, China where he is working with investors to develop a $500 million World Trade Center complex. John currently serves as the Chairman of the World Trade Centers Association’s Committee on Peace and Stability Through Trade. Vannary Kong currently serves as a United Nations Youth Ambassador with Manta Sailing Center advocating for indigenous southeast Asian groups and as the 2019 US Sherpa at the US G20 Summit in Youth Engagement Group. Jonathon Cummings has had significant professional experience working on political campaigns, International NGOs, and operating within the United Nations space. Currently, Jonathon serves as a Member of the Steering for the Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation (ANCSSC). Arpit Chaturvedi is the CEO of Global Policy Insights.
BPIAChats Spotlight Series: on Opportunities at Council on Foreign Relations

“Careers in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Sector” w/ Jooeun Kim Ph.D. Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow, Council on Foreign Relation Recording [Found Here](#)

Dr. Kim specializes in alliance politics, nuclear non-proliferation, and East Asian security issues. At CFR, she focuses her research on the relations between alliance credibility and an ally’s decision to develop nuclear weapons based on survey experiment conducted in South Korea and archival research.