Wake Forest Global Deacs
Virtual Career Panel: Building the Global Deacs Network Across Africa

Moderator

Stephanie Bandyk (‘14, Major: Politics & International Affairs, Minor: Sociology)

Current Position: Strategic Partnerships Manager, BURN Manufacturing


Stephanie is the Strategic Partnerships Manager at BURN Manufacturing, Sub-Saharan Africa’s top clean cookstove manufacturing company based in Kenya. In this role, she works with a range of microfinance institutions, international donors, corporate partners, and distributors to increase accessibility to clean, energy efficient stoves. Prior to working at BURN, she worked in the Global Department at the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE). A core institute of the National Endowment for Democracy and affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Stephanie coordinated a cross-regional thematically diverse portfolio including anti-corruption compliance in supply chains, women and youth entrepreneurship, technology for democracy, and various regulatory reforms in emerging markets including Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and South and Southeast Asia. Stephanie also chaired the Washington DC volunteer chapter supporting Acumen Fund for two years and is currently a Bankers Without Borders volunteer for Grameen Foundation, where she consults for a Kenyan cancer foundation for women. While at Wake Forest, Stephanie interned at Peace Corps Headquarters, the United States Senate, and British Parliament.

Panelists

Carey Carpenter (‘11, Majors: Political Science, Spanish; Minor: Latin American Studies)


WFU Facts: Chi Omega President, CHARGE Emerging Leaders Co-Lead, Wake Washington Program, Summer Management Program

Carey is a Partnerships Manager on the Living Goods Community Health Strengthening Team. In her role, she supports NGOs and government partners to deliver community-embedded primary healthcare services through community health workers. Based in Zambia, Carey is currently supporting partners at CARE International and a multinational pharmaceutical company to launch a health-focused start-up called Live Well that focuses on improving access to medicines in underserved areas. Carey also supports Living Goods’ advocacy and partnership efforts in new countries including Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, and Tanzania. Prior to joining Living Goods, Carey worked for Deloitte's Federal Consulting Emerging Markets Practice, supporting clients such as the World Bank and the USAID Mission in Mozambique. While at Wake Forest, Carey completed internships with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the United States Senate.
Mark Titus Hoover (‘10, Majors: Political Science and French Studies)

Current Position: Africa Watcher, U.S. Embassy to the Holy See (Presidential Management Fellow)

WFU Facts: Resident Adviser, tutor, Intramural sports, Wesley Foundation, Studied Abroad in France, and summer exchange at the Ndé reservation in Arizona

Hoover works for the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO). Named a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) in November 2016, he worked for 18 months on U.S. interagency efforts to counter Boko Haram/Islamic State in West Africa, including as a civilian-military liaison at the U.S. Embassy in Chad. Hoover also served during this time as a U.S. negotiator for Nigeria security-sector assistance. In June 2017, he joined the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See to advance U.S.-Vatican engagement on sub-Saharan Africa. In 2018, Hoover will move to support elections in West Africa. Prior to working at the State Department, Hoover worked as admissions counselor for WFU, taught English and played soccer in Andorra. He holds a Master’s degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and is a former Fulbright Fellow, Robertson Fellow, and Rosenthal Fellow. Hoover speaks French at an advanced level and has varying levels of Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese, Italian as well as elementary Arabic and Kiswahili. As an American born and raised in Central and East Africa, he is ever an optimist and looks forward to learning from other Deacons.

Sam Imende (‘04, Major: Economics)

Current Position: Business Development Manager for Java House

Sam Imende is the Business Development Manager for Java House, leading the current expansion of the brand in the region. Imende is also a founding partner of ENZI Footwear, a casual footwear firm and VituMob a pioneer eCommerce platform, both based in East Africa. Prior to Java House, Imende worked in junior roles at Dahlberg, B-lab and ECDC Enterprise Development Group, a U.S. Small Business Administration lending intermediary. Imende studied economics at Wake Forest University and received his MBA from the University of North Carolina.

Sonia Kuguru (‘15, Majors: Politics & International Affairs & Religion)

Current Position: Lean Data Analyst for East and West Africa, Acumen East Africa

WFU Facts: Student Trustee, President’s Aide, Executive Member at Arch Society, Chaplain and Member of Minor Variation a capella, Resident Advisor, Member of Tri Delta, AFRICASA, President’s LGBTQ Commission, Co-founding Director of BRANCHES

Sonia is a Lean Data Analyst for East and West Africa at Acumen in Nairobi. Acumen is a impact investment firm which supports social enterprises providing critical goods and services to those at the bottom of the pyramid. Sonia holds a dual degree in Politics, International Affairs, and Religion from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where she also served on the Board of Trustees. She then served the President of the University as a Presidential Fellow, designing a community engagement strategy with county schools. A native
of Nairobi, Kenya, Sonia migrated home to conduct research for the Africa Centre for Open Governance on anti-corruption in the judiciary and in public procurement, contributing to three published reports and drafting a national policy on reparations for victims of the 2007/08 post-election violence.