



**INTERNATIONAL**  
ACAC

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING

Scholar  
Program



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING

Dear Colleague,

Since 2014, the International ACAC Scholar Program has supported 40 scholars from 32 different countries working with several thousand students.

We believe deeply in the impact of the International ACAC Scholar Program, as it has opened higher education doors for high-achieving, under-resourced students around the globe. It is inspiring when you hear what Scholar Program alumni are doing in their schools and communities, and in this document, we proudly share with you their recent accomplishments.

It does take a village to ensure the International ACAC Scholar Program runs successfully every year. Our sincere thanks to individuals, institutions, and organizations that have generously supported the program over the years. You can find our donor list on page 7.

This year, International ACAC will launch the Global Fund, of which the Scholar Program will be the cornerstone initiative. By supporting the Global Fund, you can help us bring 12 new scholars to the 2018 International ACAC conference in New Orleans.

With my sincere thanks,

Joe Tavares  
Vice President,  
Inclusion, Access, and Success  
International ACAC

## INTERNATIONAL ACAC SCHOLARS RECEIVE:

- ▶ Attendance to annual International ACAC conference.
- ▶ A multi-day bus tour following the conference, allowing scholars to visit multiple college campuses.
- ▶ Transportation, housing and meals.
- ▶ An experienced mentor who will help the scholar maximize this fantastic professional development opportunity.
- ▶ Three years of membership to International ACAC.



*For information on how you can contribute to the International ACAC Scholar Program Fund, please contact: [scholarprogram@internationalacac.org](mailto:scholarprogram@internationalacac.org)*



# ROSTER OF SCHOLAR PROGRAM ALUMNI (2014-2017)

Since 2014, the International ACAC Scholar Program has supported 40 scholars from 32 different countries who have the capacity to reach over 30,000 students.

## Americas

- Arturo Omar Ochoa - Instituto La Salle de Chihuahua - Mexico (2017)
- Francine Mohammed - St. Joseph's Convent, Port of Spain - Trinidad (2017)
- Karla Sagastume - Macris School - Honduras (2014)
- Katie Neal - Colegio Bennett - Colombia (2014)
- Manuel Ogalde - Instituto Nacional - Chile (2017)
- Maria Luna - Colegio La Floresta - El Salvador (2016)
- Omowunmi Ehikametalor - Immaculate Conception High School - Jamaica (2015)
- Sally Sanchez Jimenez - Liceo de Purisca - Costa Rica (2017)

## East Asia & Pacific

- Hetty Hamonangan - Jubilee School - Indonesia (2015)
- Kubi Witten-Hannah - Mount Albert Grammar School - New Zealand (2016)
- Robyn Combes - SPH Schools - Indonesia (2014)
- Ummi Kalsum Binti Haji Omar - Sekolah Menengah Sayyidina Ali - Brunei (2016)

## Europe

- Bela Gligorova - Nova International Schools - Macedonia (2016)
- Ed Tourle - Pestalozzi International Village Trust - England (2015)
- Rolands Bleks - Riga State Gymnasium No. 2 - Latvia (2016)

## Middle East / North Africa

- Fernando Revelo La Rotta - Egypt (2017)
- Saima Ben Brahim - Ibn Khaldoun Middle School - Tunisia (2015)

## Sub Saharan Africa

- Agnes Wizi - Klesia Educational Initiative - Malawi (2016)
- Angela Agbasi - Loyola Jesuit - Nigeria (2014)
- Columba Thadey - Loyola High School - Tanzania (2014)

## Sub Saharan Africa (cont'd)

- Eva Ntalami - The Zawadi Africa Educational Fund Kenya (2017)
- Flavia Murengezi - Greenhills School - Rwanda (2014)
- John Mwaura - Starehe Girls Center School - Kenya (2015)
- Kenneth Adu Awuku - Livingstone Kolobeng College - Botswana (2015)
- Leonard Brito - Nyanga High School, Marist Brothers - Zimbabwe (2016)
- Mabadjam Katawa- Lycee Scientifique de Kara - Togo (2017)
- Mercy Nwogbo - Federal Government Academy in Abuja-Nigeria (2014)
- Michaelina Quaye - Presbyterian Boys' Secondary School - Ghana (2016)
- Moses Illunga - Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village - Rwanda (2014)
- Sam Birondwa - Cornerstone Leadership Academy Rwanda (2015)
- Solomon Kayiwa - Educate! NGO - Uganda (2014)
- Stephanie Kane - Senegalese-American Bilingual School - Senegal (2015)
- Tsehaye Yohannes - St. Joseph HS - Ethiopia (2015)
- Vatosoa Raharinosa Solofo - Lycee Andohalo - Madagascar (2017)
- William Ssetuba - Mengo Senior School - Uganda (2017)

## South & Central Asia

- Aziz Royesh - Marefat School - Afghanistan (2017)
- Nileema Khan - DPS STS School Dhaka - Bangladesh (2017)
- Saingerel Indree - New Era International Laboratory School - Mongolia (2015)
- Samantha Moktan Lama - GEMS Institute of Higher Education Nepal (2016)
- Shabana Basij-Rasikh - School of Leadership - Afghanistan (2017)
- Vijay Tandukar - Trinity International College - Nepal (2014)

# INTERNATIONAL ACAC SCHOLAR PROGRAM ALUMNI UPDATES



## FERNANDO DE LA ROTTA ('17) - EGYPT

Fernando launched a very successful GoFundMe campaign that raised \$7,000 so his students in Egypt could sit for the SAT/ACT/TOEFL and travel to test sites. Fernando's school in Egypt had never had a student go to college in the US. However, because of Fernando's efforts and advocacy, one of his students, a Somalian refugee, will attend the University of Rochester next year on a full-ride scholarship. This is extraordinary, as the UNCHR reports only 1% of refugees make it into higher education.



## ARSENE MABADJAM KATAWA ('17) - TOGO

Despite his remote location eight hours outside of the capital of Togo, Arsene has recently facilitated webinars from universities in Abu Dhabi, India, and the US for his students. For the first time in his school's history, students are applying to these countries. Arsene has also successfully helped students apply to Yale Young Global Scholars Program, as well as African Leadership Academy, both of which are also a first for students in his community. In recognition of Arsene's leadership and work in the area of international education, EducationUSA held a celebration of International Education Week at Arsene's school.



## SAMANTHA MOKTAN LAMA ('16) - NEPAL

Samantha, a counselor at the GEMS Institute of Higher Education, is committed to bringing resources and professional development to her community and city. Since the 2016 International ACAC conference, Samantha has organized many successful college fairs on her school's campus. In February 2018, Samantha will host an IC3 Regional Conference in Kathmandu. Over 100 Nepali educators will be in attendance.



## UMMI KALSUM HAJI OMAR ('16) - BRUNEI

Ummi, who is Head of Pre-University Careers and Higher Learning Department at Sekolah Menengah Sayyidina Ali (SMSA), organized a US-style admissions workshop for 50+ educators to share what she learned at the 2015 International ACAC conference. Ummi's selfless efforts to share knowledge and resources with under-resourced educators in her home country have been written about in the *Brunei Times* newspaper.

# INTERNATIONAL ACAC SCHOLAR PROGRAM ALUMNI UPDATES



AZIZ ROYESH ('17) - AFGHANISTAN

"Thanks to International ACAC, I have made so many friends and colleagues around the world who have expertise in the field of quality education. At the conference, I learned about opportunities for my students in Afghanistan to make their way to universities and schools all over the world. I learned how to put students in touch with colleges and universities, and I learned how to use students' SAT and TOEFL scores to seek appropriate destinations for educational prospects. My participation at the International ACAC conference helped me realize I needed to make fundamental changes in the structure and activities of my school. We have invited hundreds of alumni to a shared platform which enables them and current students to have better information about scholarships. This database includes the complete records of our students' applications for scholarships. So far, 56 students have registered for scholarship counseling in the office, 32 applicants have completed the application process, 35 recommendations have been written, 35 applicants have attended essay writing workshops, and 20 applicants have taken SAT and TOEFL tests. A debate club is now established at the school where 43 students take active part and they are instructed to deliver speeches, conduct debates, and make mock interviews. Every week, a preparation SAT and TOEFL test is held at the school, and the students are helped with the required steps. The overall excitement among the students and the counseling provided for them is a great success thanks to our connection with International ACAC."



EVA NTALAMI ('17) - KENYA

"The conference inspired me to review my professional past, imagine and plan for a stimulating and engaged future. I heard and learned from different people about various topics in college counseling, and as a result, I refreshed and fine-tuned my theories and line of work. For instance, I encouraged a good number of my students to apply Early Decision, something I did not do in the past. Besides the learning benefits, perhaps the greatest joy of this experience was getting to meet and share ideas with like-minded colleagues. My scholar cohort is one that I will always treasure and value. We have made life-long friendships."



BELA GLIGOROVA ('16) - MACEDONIA

"Being invited to join a truly international family of educators saved me. At the time, I had been teaching and advising for the better half of a decade, and was considering another professional pathway. This opportunity from International ACAC gave me the necessary push to help build a regional network for the former Yugoslav republics and the Western Balkans. I am inspired to be a resource for other counselors working with high-achieving kids of limited financial means."

*Bela proudly serves on International ACAC's Inclusion, Access, and Success committee.*

# INTERNATIONAL ACAC SCHOLAR PROGRAM ALUMNI UPDATES

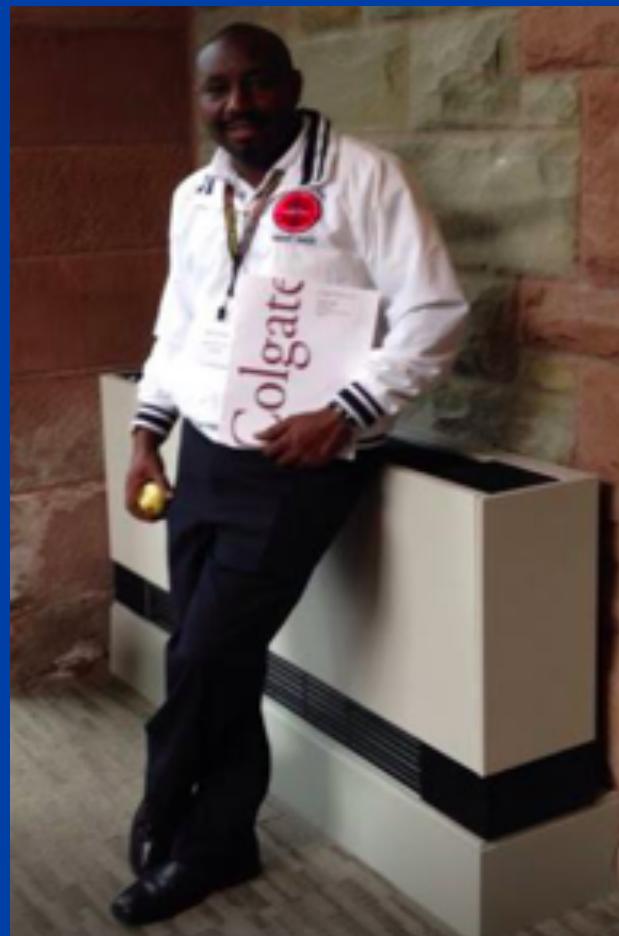


ED TOURLE ('15) - ENGLAND

"The International ACAC Scholar Program has been a career launchpad for me. Through networking opportunities at the conference, I was encouraged to join HALI Access Network and International ACAC's Admissions Practice Committees. My committee memberships have led to further presentations and networking, CIS Edinburgh last December being the most recent. These opportunities have given me a platform not only to advocate for Pestalozzi International Village Trust but for other, similar organisations as well. Through the efforts of colleagues at HALI Access Network, we have secured \$25,000 in fee waivers from College Board, which is a ground-breaking, history-making achievement for the students we serve. I have also been invited on two counsellor fly-ins, NYU Abu Dhabi last December and an upcoming visit to Grinnell in April. Finally, of the 12 universities to visit us this year, five were new to us and five have offered full scholarships to our students (so far!). I am proud of my students first of all, but ultimately none of this would have been possible without the International ACAC Scholarship I was awarded two years ago. My sincerest thanks on behalf of all of us at Pestalozzi for the far-reaching professional development, on point advice and deep kinship you have granted me. I am forever in your debt."

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*At the 2016 International ACAC Conference, Ed was recognized with the association's Rising Star Award, which recognizes a new member who is striving to make a difference within the International ACAC community.*



JOHN MWAURA ('15) - KENYA

"I am so grateful to International ACAC for sponsoring me to attend the 2015 conference. It was a true eye-opener for me to see all the international opportunities that exist for under-served girls from my remote area of Africa. At International ACAC, I learnt how to engage students via one-on-one counseling, putting into consideration their needs and job market situations. I also learnt how to fill out the Common Application, write good recommendation letters, and advise students on general requirements to join international universities. Before, I was so green that I didn't want to talk about careers with my student. But now I fear nothing! I continue to enjoy the huge network I created at the conferences plus the benefit of the International ACAC Facebook page. We exchange ideas and it feels so nice. Long live International ACAC, and God bless all the stakeholders and the donors! I wish more and more people can be sponsored and benefit like me. I have a dream that one day I will have finances to donate to International ACAC! I have a dream!"

# INTERNATIONAL ACAC SCHOLAR PROGRAM ALUMNI UPDATES



NILEEM KHAN ('17) - BANGLADESH

"International ACAC completely changed my views on college admissions counselling. Coming from Bangladesh, college counselling is rarely heard of. There are a handful of agents who have been working on behalf of universities, and a lot of them exploit students. Setting my place as a counselor in my school has been difficult, given the challenges of being in a professional environment of agents, who have been working for 20+ years. International ACAC helped me connect to counsellors in South Asia who face similar struggles, and learn how to advocate for the well-being of students. Moreover, International ACAC validated the work I do in my school and the community beyond. For instance, more students started reaching out to me, inquiring about the college visits I had gone on during the Upstate New York Bus Tour. Many of my students ended up applying to at least one of the colleges I visited during the bus tour. In addition, students from other schools have also reached out to me and I have been sharing resources. Moreover, I have been able to nominate a local counselor for the International ACAC scholarship, and although he did not get the funding, he received the funding to become a member, which has been really helpful for his students. I am always encouraging other school counsellors to look into the International ACAC website and to convince their schools, if possible, to fund their membership."

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*At the 2017 IC3 Conference (pictured above), Nileeema was recognized with the Emerging Counselor Award, which recognizes a new counselor who is striving to make a difference within the college counseling community.*



VATOSOA RAHARINOSY ('17) - MADAGASCAR

"I am an English teacher, but I also serve as a volunteer school counselor. As a 2017 scholar of International ACAC, I attended the conference in Cleveland, USA. It was followed by a bus tour allowing me to visit 18 universities around Pennsylvania and Ohio. My country is an island so I had very limited knowledge of the U.S. admissions process, and the International ACAC scholarship was a tremendous support to broaden my horizons. It allows me to learn more about the Common Application, the U.S. admission process, how school counselors professionally work and write persuasive recommendation letters. The huge support from my mentor and inspiring International ACAC members pushed me to work harder for my students. Networking with passionate and experienced people has empowered me to go further in this career even if our school has not officially set up an office for school counseling. When I came back from the International ACAC Conference, I became more daring and felt I could deliver college counseling with confidence to students, teachers, and parents. I am eternally grateful to International ACAC and to all the donors who have created this opportunity for me and other counselors working with low-income high-achieving students all over the world. This is the most wonderful and caring organization I have ever seen!"

# INTERNATIONAL ACAC SCHOLAR PROGRAM DONORS (2014-2017)

## \$10,000+

Marist College  
University of British Columbia  
Wren and Fida

## \$1,000-\$2,499

California Lutheran University  
CIS Asia Committee  
Creighton University  
Dartmouth College  
Fairfield University  
Fordham University  
John Carroll University  
Loyola Marymount University  
Loyola University Chicago  
Marquette University  
MIT  
Princeton University  
Saigon South International School  
Saint Louis University  
St. Peter's University  
Study New York  
Top Scholars  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of San Francisco  
Webster University  
Xavier University  
Yale University

## \$500-\$999

Brown University  
Columbia University  
Gonzaga University  
Stanford University

## \$100+

Meghan McHale Dangremond  
(Member)  
Robyn Combes (Member)  
Roohi Iqbal (Member)

## \$5,000-\$9,999

Elite Scholars of China (ESC)

## \$2,500-\$4,999

AirConcepts USA  
Edvice Limited  
InitialView  
Quinnipiac University  
Whitworth University  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

## WHY OUR DONORS GIVE



**FORDHAM UNIVERSITY**  
THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**Monica Esser, Director of International Enrollment Initiatives:** "Fordham University contributes to the International ACAC Scholar Fund in conjunction with other U.S. Jesuit universities because we want to support a program and participating individuals who have incredible impact and also because we see our support for this program tied to the mission of our institutions. We initially banded together to support the International ACAC conference attendance of a guidance counselor from Loyola Jesuit College in Nigeria. We were all able to hear directly from Angela how attending the conference and gaining support for her work from colleagues impacted her knowledge, contacts and ultimately her counseling work with many great students. I have consistently met inspiring and extremely dedicated counselors in this program who help change their students' lives."



**Penn**

**Elisabeth O'Connell, Senior Associate Dean of Undergraduate Admissions:** "The University of Pennsylvania has been donating to the International ACAC Scholar Program for several years. We feel it is a very worthwhile investment in international counselor training and networking, as recipients tend to come from national schools or countries we typically don't always reach. Having a catalyst in an under-resourced community who is able to share knowledge about opportunities for higher education in the US and how to demystify what is often seen as a very complex admissions process benefits us all in the long run. One person we nominated was Bela Gligorova from Macedonia. Not only did Bela bring the knowledge back to her school and to Macedonia but she also very quickly gave back to International ACAC beyond the conference by being active on the Facebook page and being involved in the organization which has benefited all of us."



# INTERNATIONAL ACAC SCHOLAR FUND GIVING LEVELS



**\$4,000**

- ▶ Large-sized institutional logo on website
- ▶ Large logo in conference program
- ▶ Recognition during Opening Session
- ▶ Invitation to Scholar Donor Luncheon during the annual conference

**\$2,000**

- ▶ Medium-sized institutional logo on website
- ▶ Medium logo in conference program
- ▶ Recognition during General Member Meeting
- ▶ Invitation to Scholar Donor Luncheon during the annual conference

**\$1,000**

- ▶ Small-sized institutional logo on website
- ▶ Small logo in conference program
- ▶ Invitation to Scholar Donor Luncheon during the annual conference



*For information on how you can contribute to the International ACAC Scholar Program Fund, please contact:  
[scholarprogram@internationalacac.org](mailto:scholarprogram@internationalacac.org)*