LEADERS OF THE WORLD 2018:
Health, Education, Arts, Research and Technology
HEART

October 17, 18 & 19, 2018
www.montclair.edu/international-engagement
Building on a distinguished history dating back to 1908, Montclair State University is a leading institution of higher education in New Jersey. Designated a Research Doctoral University by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, the University’s 11 colleges and schools serve more than 21,000 undergraduate and graduate students with more than 300 doctoral, master's and baccalaureate programs. Situated on a beautiful, 252-acre suburban campus just 12 miles from New York City, Montclair State delivers the instructional and research resources of a large public university in a supportive, sophisticated and diverse academic environment.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

6:15pm – 6:30pm  Registration

6:30pm – 7:00pm  Welcome Reception with refreshments and hors d’oeuvres
Musical performance by Montclair State Ensemble, Arctic5

7:15pm – 8:15pm  A Tribute to Ambassador Andrew Young
28 International Students from the International University of Grand Bassam in Côte d’Ivoire will present a cultural ensemble to honor the life and achievements of Ambassador Young. The students will perform traditional and contemporary music, songs, and dances with traditional African instruments.

A video crew from Cote d’Ivoire will be documenting the week-long activities of the Ivorian students as they experience American culture, university life, New Jersey, and New York City.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:30am – 9:40am  Welcoming Remarks
Jane Ann Williams, Associate Provost International Engagement
Montclair State University

9:40am – 9:45am  Introduction to Keynote

9:45am – 10:05am  Opening Keynote: A World View: The HEART Nexus
H.E. Ms. Helena del Carmen Yáñez Loza, Ambassador
The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations

10:05am – 10:35am  International Education Congress Moderated Conversation
Opening remarks: Willard Gingerich, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Montclair State University

Diego Perez, Vice Chancellor, International University of Ecuador
Marcelo De Vincenzi, Vice-Rector, Dean of the College of Information Technology
Inter-American Open University, Argentina
Daniel Kramer, Director, Fulbright U.S. Student Program and Whitaker International Program, Institute of International Education
Moderator: Jane Ann Williams, Associate Provost, International Engagement
Montclair State University

10:35am – 10:45am  Question and Answer

10:45am – 11:05am  Break
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<td>11:05am – 11:15am</td>
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| 11:15am – 11:35am | **Keynote: Global Media; Connecting to our Increasingly Digital World**  
Steve Fastook, Senior Vice President of Operations, CNBC, United States |
| 11:35am – 11:45am | Question and Answer                                                   |
| 11:45pm – 1:40pm | Break (Lunch by invitation only)                                      |
| 1:40pm – 2:00pm | **Round Table Discussions**                                          |
| 1:40pm – 2:00pm | Option A: *Music for the Planet*                                      
Dante Santiago Anzolini,  
Music Director, Guayaquil Symphony Orchestra, Ecuador  
Artistic Director, Music for the Planet Festival, Galápagos Islands, Ecuador |
| 1:40pm – 2:00pm | Option B: *Research and Technology for Resilient Societies*          
Lora Billings, Dean, College of Science and Mathematics  
College of Science and Mathematics, Montclair State University |
| 2:00pm – 2:30pm | **Keynote: Galápagos: Communities and the Arts in Fragile Environments**  
Magno Bennett, Regional Director and Board Member  
The Galápagos House of Culture, Ecuador  
Jadira Larrea Saltos, Manager, Galápagos Coffee Cooperative and  
Academic Director for the Galápagos, International University of Ecuador |
| 2:30pm – 2:45pm | Break                                                                |
| 2:45pm – 3:15pm | **Moderated Conversation: Sustaining Peace through Partnerships in Education and Arts**  
Omar Hernández, United Nations Academic Impact  
Dante Santiago Anzolini,  
Music Director of the Guayaquil Symphony Orchestra, Ecuador  
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts, Montclair State University  
Mary Modeen, Associate Dean International, University of Dundee, Scotland |
| 3:15pm – 3:30pm | Question and Answer                                                   |
| 3:30pm – 3:50pm | **Keynote: Technology Mediated Education**                            
Marcelo De Vincenzi, Vice-Rector, Dean of the College of Information Technology  
Inter-American Open University, Argentina |
| 3:50pm – 4:00pm | Question and Answer                                                   |
| 4:00pm – 4:10pm | Closing Remarks                                                       |
9:30am – 9:50am  **Keynote: Entrepreneurship, Technology and Community Development**
Dennis Bone, Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship
Feliciano School of Business, Montclair State University

9:50am – 10:00am  **Question and Answer**

10:15am – 10:45am  **Presentation: A Transformation- Making the Impossible Possible**
Henrik Melius, Director, Spiritus Mundi, Sweden
David Sanders, Professor, School of Communication and Media
Montclair State University
Tom Franklin, Assistant Professor, School of Communication and Media
Montclair State University

10:45am – 10:55am  **Question and Answer**

11:00am – 11:05am  **Introduction to Keynote:**
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts, Montclair State University

11:05am – 11:20am  **Keynote: From the Local to the Global Stage: The Power of Music**
Dante Santiago Anzolini
Music Director, Guayaquil Symphony Orchestra, Ecuador
Artistic Director, Music for the Planet Festival, Galápagos Islands, Ecuador

11:20am – 11:30am  **Question and Answer**

11:30am – 11:50am  **Round Table Discussions**

11:30am – 11:50am  **Option A: Powerful Partnerships: Connecting Continents**
Bridgette Francis, President, Francis Education Counseling Center, The Bahamas
Bill Johnson, Director International Education, Edge Hill University, United Kingdom
Felix Ahoussi, Director of Student Affairs and Enrollment
International University of Grand Bassam, Côte d’Ivoire

11:30am – 11:50am  **Option B: Internationalization: Global Economies and Global Citizens**
Alfredo Toro Carnevali, Visiting Instructor, Political Science and Law
Montclair State University
Diego Pérez, Vice-Rector of Administration and Finance
International University of Ecuador
Valencia Koffi, Assistant to the President and Chief Operating Officer
International University of Grand Bassam, Côte d’Ivoire
Tony Spanakos, Professor and Chair, Political Science and Law
Montclair State University

11:50am – 12:15pm  **Closing Remarks**
H.E. Ambassador Helena Yánez Loza
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations

Ambassador Helena Yánez is a career diplomat from the Ecuadorian Foreign Service. Prior to her designation as Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations, Ambassador Yánez held various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Quito, among others, Undersecretary for SupraRegional International Organizations and Director of the United Nations System Department. She has also represented Ecuador as member of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee of Habitat III. Ambassador Helena Yánez has been previously appointed to perform diplomatic duties at the Embassies of Ecuador accredited in The Netherlands, Colombia, United Kingdom and Israel. Ambassador Yánez has a law degree from the Catholic University of Ecuador; and has postgraduate studies in the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, and in the Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy.

Diego Pérez
Vice Chancellor, Universidad Internacional del Ecuador

Dr. Diego Perez has a Bachelor of Science Industrial Engineering degree from Texas A&M University and an MBA degree from IDE Business School in Ecuador, and a doctorate Education degree with specialization in Higher Education Leadership from the University of Miami. His dissertation work focused on College Students Retention and the influence of pre-college variables on graduation. His professional career is highlighted through long-time experience within the private sector, occupying upper management positions in companies especially within the automotive industry. Dr. Perez served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Quito Chamber of Commerce, of the Ecuadorian Automotive Association, of the Quito Tennis & Golf Club, as well as acting as Vice-President of the Ecuadorian Golf Federation, among others. At Universidad Internacional del EcuadorUIDE he has held positions as Dean of the College of Automotive Engineering, Dean of General Services and now serves as the Administrative and Financial Vice-Rector.

Marcelo De Vincenzi
Vice Rector, Open International University (UAI) Argentina

Dr. Diego Perez has a Bachelor of Science Industrial Engineering degree from Texas A&M University and an MBA degree from IDE Business School in Ecuador, and a doctorate Education degree with specialization in Higher Education Leadership from the University of Miami. His dissertation work focused on College Students Retention and the influence of pre-college variables on graduation. His professional career is highlighted through long-time experience within the private sector, occupying upper management positions in companies especially within the automotive industry. Dr. Perez served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Quito Chamber of Commerce, of the Ecuadorian Automotive Association, of the Quito Tennis & Golf Club, as well as acting as Vice-President of the Ecuadorian Golf Federation, among others. At Universidad Internacional del EcuadorUIDE he has held positions as Dean of the College of Automotive Engineering, Dean of General Services and now serves as the Administrative and Financial Vice-Rector.
Dante Santiago Anzolini
Director of the Guayaquil Symphony Orchestra, Ecuador

Dante Anzolini was born in Berisso, Argentina, of Italian and Chilean parents. He studied piano, composition and conducting in Argentina (with Mariano Drago Sljanec), and later at the Yale University School of Music, USA (with Eleazar de Carvalho). Anzolini is known as a strong advocate of contemporary music and has already conducted several world premieres in the fields of opera and concerts. He wrote several pieces for piano, violin solo, chamber music and orchestra. He earned a Doctorate at Yale University, working on a thesis about the Tonal Harmonic Organisation of Le Sacre du Printemps by Stravinsky. Mr Anzolini has worked extensively with composer Philip Glass on several projects including his operas: The White Raven, Akhnaten, and Satyagraha; his Symphonies No.5 Requiem, Bardo and Nirmanakaya, and No. 8. He has conducted the Youth Orchestra of the Americas in Ecuador, Peru, and Mexico during two consecutive tours in 2010 and 2011. He is the Artistic Director, Music for the Planet Festival, Galápagos Islands. Ecuador.

Magno Bennett
Regional Director of the Galápagos House of Culture

Magno Bennett paints, sculpts and does graphic design work. He’s been an official member of the Board of the Galápagos House of Culture and has been the regional director since 2011. Bennett is actively involved in promoting culture and the arts in Galapagos. He has worked for 20 years with cultural and art projects, focused on promoting the development of the community with emphasis on the promotion of a sustainable, intercultural and inclusive lifestyle. This highlights identity based on diversity, history and the connection of humans with themselves, the community and with the natural environment of the Province of Galapagos.

Omar Hernández
Consultant for United Nations Academic Impact

Omar Hernández works at the United Nations Academic Impact, an initiative of the UN Department of Public Information. He previously worked as Volunteer Management Specialist at the UN Climate Change Secretariat and before that as a Consultant for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Mr. Hernández was a Temporary Correspondent at the UN in Geneva and also worked as International News Analyst for the Venezuelan media. Mr. Hernández was a member of the Academic Council on the UN System and volunteered with the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees and the World Federation of UN Associations. For over a decade he was a commentator on international affairs and taught International Law and International Journalism at the university level in his home country while actively promoting Model UN. Mr. Hernández holds a Master’s degree in Cooperation for Development and a Bachelor’s degree in International Studies.

Mary Modeen
Associate Dean International Course, Director Coordinator of PhD Studies, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design University of Dundee, Dundee, Scotland

Mary Modeen, Chair of Interdisciplinary Art Practices, is Associate Dean, International for Schools of Art and Design and for Humanities at the University of Dundee in Scotland. She also founded and leads the MFA in Art & Humanities, and Coordinates PhD Studies for Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design. As an artist/academic she lectures in fine art and more broadly across the humanities. Her research has several threads: perception as a cognitive and interpretive process, and especially place-based research, which connects many of these concerns with attention to cultural values, history and embodied experience. As such, this research is usually interdisciplinary. Part of this work appears as creative art, and part as writing and presentations. Modeen addresses aspects of seeing that go beyond the visible, questioning what we know as sentient humans, and valuing the cultural and individual differences inherent in these perceptions.
Katherine Llerena  
Project Manager, Art for Conservation, Ecuador

Katherine Llerena has a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting and Auditing from the University Particular Technique of Loja (Ecuador), and she is currently studying online for her Master’s Degree in Territorial Planning and Environmental Management in the University of Barcelona, Spain. She has eight years of experience in strategic management, planning, project management and human resources administration. Katherine Llerena has worked for important institutions in the province of Galápagos, such as the Galápagos National Park, which administers the protected areas of the archipelago. In the Park, she worked as Director of Planning and was Head of Human Talent at Metropolitan Touring and Director of Planning at the Council of the Government of the Galápagos. She has participated in several workshops on regional planning and in the development of land use planning tools such as the Land Use Plan, PA Management and the Territorial Ordinance Plan of the Galápagos. She currently manages the ConservArte Project, whose mission is to link art and environmental conservation, strengthening the institutionality of the House of Culture, Ecuadorian Galápagos Nucleus.

Daniel Kramer  
Director, Fulbright U.S. Student Program and Whitaker International Program, Institute of International Education

Daniel Kramer came to IIE in 2012, after having worked in academia for over a decade as a faculty member in German Studies – teaching, conducting research on German theater, film, and the role of music in language acquisition, directing study abroad programs to Germany and Brussels. He is beneficiary of the Fulbright, DAAD, and other international scholarship programs. Dan comes from a small town (pop. 181) in rural Minnesota and did his undergraduate work at nearby St. John’s University in Minnesota. He earned his MA from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and holds a Ph.D. from Harvard. Currently at IIE, Dan oversees the Fulbright U.S. Student Program as well as other international programs and collaborates with colleagues on the IIE-wide initiative Generation Study Abroad.

Felix Ahoussi  
Director of Student Affairs and Admissions International University of Grand Bassam, Cote d’Ivoire

After receiving a Bachelor degree obtained at the National University of Cote d’Ivoire and a Master degree in Atlanta (GA), Ahoussi worked in the private sector before joining International University of Grand-Bassam (IUGB) in 2007 as an Accounting and Economics instructor. In 2009, under his lead, the IUGB Academic Advising Center was built to help students and their parents understand the American style education. Since 2014, Ahoussi has served as the Director of Student Affairs and Enrollment. Under this capacity, he is in charge of the outreach program, admissions, academic advising, Student Government Association and Career Services. Through these departments, he is closely in touch with students to understand their needs and assist them every step of the way in their academic journey. Aussie strongly believes in African youth; and since I joining IUGB in 2007, strives to help them make better choices for their future.
Michelle Assie  
**International University of Grand Bassam, Côte d’Ivoire**

Dr. Assie earned the Diploma of Medical Doctor with High Honor from the Medical School of the National University of Côte d’Ivoire. She has worked for both public and private hospitals as a general practitioner, and also as Medical Advisor for insurance companies. She joined the International University of Grand-Bassam in 2008 as the Director of the Medical Clinic where she is in charge of Mental and physical health of students and staff, food safety, general environmental hygiene, sensitization program for students on the usage of narcotics and alcohol, STD, etc. She also directs the Cultural Ensemble of International University of Grand-Bassam, including the Tribute to Ambassador Andrew Young performed at Leaders of the World 2018 at Montclair State University in the US.

Valencia Koffi  
**Assistant to the President and Chief Operating Officer International University of Grand Bassam, Côte d’Ivoire**

Valencia Koffi holds a MSc degree in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management from the University of Nottingham-Ningbo, China and a Bachelor of BBA Business Economics from Georgia State University in Atlanta, USA. She also holds a Certificate of Concentration in International Economics from Georgia State University and a Certificate of Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship from the University of Connecticut-Study of the US Institute. After graduating from GSU, Valencia worked with the Atlanta-based IUGB Foundation whose mission is to provide financial and in-kind assistance to students from economically challenged families attend IUGB. As the Program and Research Coordinator, Valencia provided support and assistance in the program research, planning, and implementation duties. She’s currently the Assistant to the Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer.

Saliou Toure  
**President International University of Grand-Bassam Côte d’Ivoire**

Prof. Saliou Touré with a PhD in Mathematics is the President of the International University of Grand-Bassam and member of many Mathematical Societies and the Academy of Sciences, Arts, Africa’s and African Diasporas’ Cultures of Côte d’Ivoire. He completed teaching and research missions in several universities on the world. He has published edited two textbook collections for mathematics teaching in high schools of francophone Africa and Indian Ocean Countries. He was admitted into the prestigious International Academy for Nonlinear Sciences of the Russian Federation in 2008. Prof. Touré was appointed Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in December 1993 then Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Innovation in January 1996. He has received several national and international honorary distinctions.

Montclair State University is most appreciative of President Toure’s ongoing support of internationalization and global scholarship, including his ongoing support of Leaders of the World programming.

Samuel Kofi  
**Vice President and Chief Operation Officer International University of Grand-Bassam Côte d’Ivoire**

Samuel Kofi is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the International University of Grand-Bassam (IUGB). Kofi, a U.S citizen, Ivorian National and graduate of Georgia State University, has been developed partnerships between Côte d’Ivoire US universites. Kofi became passionate about providing quality education to African students i when he worked with Mayor Andrew Young of Atlanta to provide opportunities, access and support to young Africans living in Atlanta. Many students returned to their home countries to help with developing their communities. Mr. Koffi has served as Chairman of the Board of the United Methodist Schools in Côte d’Ivoire, Executive of the Ivorian Fraternity Union of Georgia, and Vice President of the National Students’ Support Council for Africa (NSSCA).
Bridgette Francis
President of the Francis Education Counseling Center

Bridgette Francis serves as the President of the largest independent Scholarship matching and international college planning firm in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas. She is the first Bahamian to be bestowed with American and Canadian International Education Partnerships recognition by several universities/colleges at the same time. Francis graduated from ST. Augustine's High School, Nassau Bahamas, and cum laude in finance and banking from Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach, Florida. Being a person committed to service, Francis was the first International person to receive the Distinguished Palm Beach Atlantic University Alumni Service Award. Bridgette Francis founded the Oscar Francis International Education and Sports Christian Garden, Nassau, Bahamas, in honor of her late father Oscar Francis. Francis enjoys gardening and serving in the field of the internationalization of higher education.

Henrik Melius
Director Intercultural Producer

Henrik Melius has, since 2003, served as founding CEO of the Sweden-based, international, NGO Spiritus Mundi. He is respected for his ability to create, manage and complete challenging intercultural programs. He has served on the executive board of the International Music Council (UNESCO). As Founder of a Sweden based NGO, his successes include programs like “Music on Troubled Grounds” where Palestinian, Scandinavian, Israeli and South African music professionals were educated in groundbreaking methods fostering cultural relations. Melius also served the music industry for many years in Los Angeles, including management and promotion for major record labels. He has years of service managing marketing research projects in Los Angeles, with clients like British Airways and Land Rover cars. He also has worked, created projects, and lived in Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Israel and Palestine, as well as in his native Scandinavia.

Jadira Larrea Saltos

Jadira Larrea Saltos is an engineer in financial management and has a master’s degree in planning and strategic direction. Since 2015, she’s been the Academic Director of the International University of Ecuador, Galapagos extension. Recently, she’s been assigned to manage the Galápagos Coffee Cooperative, Cafetalera. Agricultural production in the islands is difficult and expensive and production depends on weather conditions and demand. However, many products are still produced. She works on this project seeking to bring awareness among consumers and understanding that what they do, goes beyond creating economic and social value.

Bill Johnson
Deputy Director of International Education  Edge Hill University, United Kingdom

Bill is the Deputy Director of the International Office and is the support staff representative on the Board of Governors. He previously worked as a Business Specialist with the Connexions Service for Lancashire, is a qualified Careers Adviser and holds qualifications in Human Resources Management (Training and Development); Auditing and Quality Management. He was re-elected to the board in 2012.
Alfredo Toro Carnevali has been a Visiting Specialist at the Political Science and Law Department since January 2018. He has 10 years of relevant expertise in international relations, diplomacy, and foreign policy. As a Venezuelan diplomat to the United Nations, he had the opportunity to advise three consecutive ambassadors, to negotiate international treaties and resolutions, and to coordinate Venezuela’s participation in the Security Council, among others. He was also elected as Vice-president of the First Committee of the General Assembly (the disarmament and international security committee) and Chair of the Security Council Subcommittee on Non-Proliferation (the 1540 Committee). He has lived in Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Mr. Toro Carnevali is a frequent contributor to Latin American newspapers and has numerous peer-reviewed publications on international security and diplomacy.

Dennis Bone was the president of Verizon New Jersey from 2000 to 2012. During his tenure, he successfully helped transform Verizon New Jersey from a voice-driven telecommunications company into a robust voice, data and video company. Bone, who holds an MBA from Rutgers University and an MS from Johns Hopkins University, is an active volunteer on the Boards of the New Jersey Institute of Technology; the New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning, Bone is the founding chairman of Choose New Jersey and previously chaired the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce. Bone also serves on the Board of Directors of Investors Bancorp, where he chairs the Compensation Committee.

Lora Billings is Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics and Professor of Applied Mathematics in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Her research program focuses on deterministic and stochastic dynamical systems. By studying the models arising in applications from epidemiology, physics, and ecology, she works towards making significant advances in mathematics as well as discoveries for the applications. She incorporates students in her research at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. Billings has over 40 publications, which have appeared in journals such as Physical Review Letters and Journal of Mathematical Biology. Dr. Billings has also served as program director for Applied Mathematics in at the NSF. She is on the advisory board for the journal CHAOS and serves as the Program Director for the SIAM Activity Group on Dynamical Systems. She holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in Applied Mathematics from University of Colorado, Boulder and B.S. in Mathematics from Lafayette College.

Steve Fastook is an award winning Media Production Executive in network entertainment, sports and news. In 1986 he began his professional broadcast career at NBC as a Broadcast Engineer. He participated in NBC Sports coverage of the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea where he was awarded his first Emmy for Graphic Design. Fastook next served as Director of NBC Entertainment’s Brooklyn Studios where he oversaw the long-running daytime soap opera Another World. NBC expanded his role in entertainment when he was promoted to Director and later Vice President of NBC’s Entertainment and News Studios. He was responsible for the production of Saturday Night Live, Late Night with Conan O’Brien, Dateline, NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw and Today. As Senior Vice President of Operations for CNBC, he is responsible for production and operations of the network.
Tom Franklin
Assistant Professor School of Communication and Media Montclair State University

Thomas E. Franklin is an award-winning photographer, multimedia journalist, documentary filmmaker, and educator. He joined Montclair State in 2015 as an Assistant Professor in multi-platform journalism after nearly 30-years in the news business. Tom is a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and is perhaps best known for his iconic flag-raising photograph taken at Ground Zero on 9/11. He has also produced highly-acclaimed multimedia projects on topics such as the recent heroin epidemic in North Jersey, 9/11, the Syrian Refugee Crisis, and toxic dumping by the Ford Motor Company on a Native American community in North Jersey. He is currently working on a series of projects related to immigration in the U.S.

Willard Gingerich
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Academic Affairs Montclair State University

Provost Willard Gingerich serves as the Chief Academic Officer for Montclair State University. Prior to assuming his position at Montclair State, Dr. Gingerich served as Provost, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of English at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Before that, he served first as Dean of the Graduate School and then as Vice Provost for Graduate Programs and Research at St. John’s University.

A former Fulbright Scholar in American Literature, Gingerich received a BA in English from the State University of New York at Buffalo. His graduate studies took him to Mexico where he studied indigenous and colonial literary cultures at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. His doctorate in English was conferred by the University of Connecticut where he was both an NDEA Fellow and an NDFL Fellow.

Daniel Gurskis
Dean College of the Arts, Montclair State University

Dean Gurskis came to Montclair State from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York where he chaired the Department of Film and served as a special assistant to the president Prior to entering higher education, Gurskis was a writer and a producer in film, television, and theater, working for Columbia, Paramount, RKO, HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, and the USA Network, among others. For producing the documentary James Stewart’s Wonderful Life, he was honored with an Emmy Award. He has also been recognized as a Lifetime Member of the Writers’ Guild of America. Recently, The Short Screenplay, the popular screenwriting textbook that he authored, was published in a Chinese language edition.

Keith Johnson
International Admissions and Immigration Counselor Office of International Engagement, Montclair State University

Keith Johnson holds an Associate’s degree of Culinary Arts from Iowa Central Community College and a Bachelor's degree of Health Sciences from the University of Central Arkansas where he played basketball. Johnson previously worked as International Admission Counselor and an Administrative Specialist at University of Central Arkansas, where he also administered Fulbright Scholars programs and grants. Johnson is a Paul Harris Fellow and former President and Founder of the UCA Rotaract Club, was an active volunteer at University of Arkansas Medical Science, and a tutor in the Arkansas Juvenile Court.
Tony Spanokos
Professor and Chair, Political Science and Law Montclair State University

Tony Spanokos is Professor and Chair of Political Science and Law at Montclair State University. He is currently writing a book on domestic political change in Brazil and Venezuela and researching on the changes in global politics resulting from the emergence of countries like China and Brazil. His research has been published in Comparative Political Studies, Latin American Politics and Society, Latin American Perspectives, and East Asian Policy, as well as other academic journals. He is the co-editor of Reforming Brazil (Lexington 2004) and Conceptualising Comparative Politics (Routledge 2015) and a special issue on "the Legacy of Hugo Chavez" of Latin American Perspectives (2017). He is also the co-editor of the Conceptualising ComparativePolitics book series for Routledge. He was a Fulbright Fellow (Brazil 2002, Venezuela 2008) and a Visiting Research Fellow at the East Asian Institute (2009).

David Sanders
Professor School of Communication and Media Montclair State University

After receiving a Bachelor degree obtained at the National University of Cote d'Ivoire and a Master degree in Atlanta (GA), Ahoussi worked in the private sector before joining International University of Grand-Bassam (IUGB) in 2007 as an Accounting and Economics instructor. In 2009, under his lead, the IUGB Academic Advising Center was built to help students and their parents understand the American style education. Since 2014, Ahoussi has served as the Director of Student Affairs and Enrollment. Under this capacity, he is in charge of the outreach program, admissions, academic advising, Student Government Association and Career Services. Through these departments, he is closely in touch with students to understand their needs and assist them every step of the way in their academic journey. Aussie strongly believes in African youth; and since I joining IUGB in 2007, strives to help them make better choices for their future.

Claudia LaRue
International Engagement and Partnerships Specialist Office of International Engagement, Montclair State University

Claudia LaRue is a former diplomat to the United Nations, where she focused on environmental, economic and social issues. She was responsible for negotiating resolutions to improve transparency and accountability in strategic UN partnerships and is a part of the UN Expert Working Group on Partnerships. LaRue has ample experience in corporate sustainability and communications, and her work spans the public, private and non-profit sectors. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration, a Master’s Degree in International Marketing from Strathclyde University and was a recipient of a United Kingdom Chevening Scholarship. LaRue is a Board Member of Granito de Arena, a non-profit organization which promotes transparency and information-sharing in the Dominican Republic.

Jane Ann Williams
Associate Provost of International Engagement Montclair State University

As Associate Provost, Williams is responsible for internationalization at Montclair State University. Prior appointments include: associate vice president and associate provost of international engagement at University of Central Arkansas; dean of academic affairs and professor at Cap Cana Heritage School and Universidad Iberoamericana in the Dominican Republic; director of multicultural education and community engagement at Virginia Tech; and Director of Information Technology and Professor at Mercer University. Williams has directed research, grant, and study abroad programs throughout Europe, Asia, and the Americas. She holds a bachelor’s degree in International Studies from Virginia Tech, a master’s degree in Publication, Design and Writing from the University of Baltimore, and is completing her Ph.D. in Policy, Governance, and Globalization at Virginia Tech. Williams has published over 250 articles in journals and newspapers; produced news for NBC, and won awards for international sustainable development projects.
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Leaders of the World 2019 and World Congress of Education
October 24-26
MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG TO THE LEADERS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE 2018

Dear Participants,

I am sincerely sorry for not being physically present with you. However, I share the vision of this important annual forum that brings together administrators, students, faculty, staff and community leaders. It is important that we continuously contribute to leadership and human capital. I, therefore, strongly encourage each participant to value each session, from which you will surely learn a lot.

To IUGB students specially invited to share their knowledge and talents, I trust you will make a great and positive impact in this conference. From what I recall from my March 2017 visit to IUGB, I am convinced that IUGB is already making a positive difference in society and the world at large. I am confident that this partnership will be mutually beneficial for IUGB and Montclair State University.

I wish you all a successful conference!

Peace and Blessings

Ambassador Andrew J. Young
The Office of International Engagement at

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

in collaboration with the

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF GRAND-BASSAM

invite you to a cultural and musical

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG during the

LEADERS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE 2018

Wednesday, October 17, 2018 | 6:30pm

University Hall Conference Center, 7th Floor

This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

28 International Students from the International University of Grand-Bassam in Côte d'Ivoire will present a cultural ensemble to honor the life and achievements of Ambassador Young. The students will perform traditional and contemporary music, songs, and dances with traditional African instruments.

Contact us at 973-655-6862.