YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

SHAWN MAILE

Co-Founder of Trek Tours, a hiking company committed to delivering a first-class outdoor experience for visitors to Antigua. Shawn aims to use his previous experience in banking, tourism, civil service, and small business management to grow his company into a brand name for hiking in Antigua. In addition to running Trek Tours, Shawn works as a juvenile probation officer and is a part-time lecturer at Antigua State College. He has a BSc in Psychology from the University of the Southern Caribbean and a Postgraduate Degree and Certification in Human Resource Management from Humber College.

ARGENTINA

GUIDO BUSCETTI CASTRO

Co-Founder and CEO of Welivery, a Buenos Aires-based urban logistics company that is transforming the way consumers, e-commerce users, and companies access local goods, send packages, and manage daily logistics. Welivery works to ensure that anyone in Argentina can get nearly any product delivered the same day they ordered it. He also co-founded the companies Alldata and CTM and previously worked as a Sales Representative for Oracle and as an Engineer for EDF. He has an Engineering Degree from the University of Buenos Aires and a Master's Degree in System Communication from Telecom Bretagne.

FACUNDO CABRERA

Founder and CEO of BrasUP, a manufacturer of innovative grilling equipment and electric generators. Facundo previously served as an Account Executive at J. Walter Thompson Worldwide and as the Co-Founder and Product Developer at Energía Social Argentina, Argentina's first social enterprise focused on renewable energy. He was also a Board Advisor for Scalabl, a business incubator and accelerator. Facundo has a Certificate in Marketing and Advertising from the Argentina Advertising Association.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

BRUNO CALMELS

Co-Founder and CFO of Macher IT, a company that provides digital marketing to help grow small and medium size companies in the Patagonia region of Argentina. Macher IT offers custom solutions and builds upon state-of-the-art knowledge in the fields of software development, design, and neuromarketing. Bruno previously worked for the digital communications company ClariPhy Argentina S.A. He recently completed a Master's degree in Optical Communications from the Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya and has a Bachelor's degree in Telecommunications Engineering from the Universidad Blas Pascal.

MELISA DÍAZ ACUÑA

Co-Founder of ME Motivador de Experiencias, a consulting company dedicated to workplace happiness. Her company achieves this by hosting workshops and team exercises on values-based management, the science of happiness, and positive psychology. Previously, Melisa worked in Digital Marketing and volunteered for several NGOs. Melisa has a Bachelor's in Business Administration from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba and a specialization in Organizational Happiness from the Universidad Adolfo Ibañez.

LUCIA MONICA DOTTO

Co-Founder of AGC Consultora, a personal and professional development organization that focuses on women's empowerment. Lucila has served as the Director of Admissions and Director of Alumni Relations and Professional Development at UdeSA. She holds an MA in Marketing and Communications from the Universidad de San Andrés and a BA in Psychology from the Universidad Católica Argentina.

GASTÓN EDUARDO FONTAINE

Founder of eaInversores, an online platform based in Córdoba, Argentina that provides low-cost investment education. He previously worked as an Instructor for Programa Primer Paso with the Government of Córdoba, which teaches trades to low-income young adults to help them find employment. He also worked in the Marketing departments of HP, Samsung, and Grupo Bimbo. He has a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the Universidad Empresarial Siglo 21.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

MARCOS HEYD

Founder of La Escombrera, a company that recycles construction waste. La Escombrera aims to reduce the presence of construction debris in Argentina's cities by converting it into concrete, bricks, and other building materials. Marcos is also the Founder of Surcos Argentinos, an organization that creates organic gardens in the city of Córdoba, and is the Co-Founder of Digital Footprint, which promotes digital literacy. Marcos received his Bachelor's degree in Institutional Communication from Blas Pascal University.

AGOSTINA MARTINO

Founder of Iwela design in Córdoba, Argentina. Dedicated to creating sustainable fashion, Iwela creates environmentally-conscious, multi-seasonal footwear. Agostina is also training a new generation of designers and was previously a designer for Guaguas Cloth. Agostina received her Bachelor's degree in Design and Associate's degree in Marketing from the Universidad Empresarial Siglo 21.

DIANA SCHVARZTEIN

Co-Founder and Director of Financial Inclusion Partners (FIP), the first network of professionals dedicated to promoting financial inclusion to alleviate poverty in Argentina. FIP aims to improve the state of financial inclusion in Argentina by undertaking research projects and training programs in the country. Diana is currently a professor in the Financial Inclusion, Microfinance, and Development postgraduate program at the Universidad Católica Argentina. She has a Master's degree in Microfinance from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.

FRANCISCO ULLA

Co-Founder and Creative Director of Aero Studiodesign, a design company focused on generating a positive change in the world of triple impact design (economic, social, and environmental). He is also the Co-Founder of Biográfica, a company aimed at revolutionizing the graphic communication industry by using 100% biodegradable, plant-based signage. Francisco has a Master's degree in Industrial Design from the National University of Córdoba and an MBA in Green Businesses from the International Institute of Environmental Education.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

ARUBA

MARK-BENSON DENZ

Owner of www.24ora.com, a local news website in Aruba. The website receives over a million monthly page views and 70,000 unique viewers every month. His company also operates a local cable news and music channel, iTV Channel 49. Mark has previously worked at the A&K Broadcasting Authority and runs the tour company Experitours. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Commercial Marketing and Communications at Landstede College in Zwolle, Netherlands.

BAHAMAS

PAUL FRAZIER, JR.

Founder and President of Gravitas Bahamas, a company that seeks to keep young talent in the Bahamas through scholarships, networking events, and culture and education programs. He is also the Founder and Managing Director of Frazier & Associates Ltd., a small accounting services and business consultancy firm, and is the Financial Controller for Freeport Ship Services Limited. Paul has a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Acadia University and is a licensed Chartered Accountant in the Bahamas.

REGINA R. SMITH

Founder and Managing Director of Firehouse Spice Company, a Nassau-based business that produces spices, peppers, and marinades. The Firehouse Spice Company was established to encourage, promote, and sustain the growth and development of unique and authentically Bahamian products. Regina worked as a Special Projects and Education Officer at the Bahamas National Trust, and she assisted with The Shark Campaign and the opening of the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve. She received her Bachelor's degree in Tourism Management from the College of the Bahamas.

TRAY WILLIAMS

Founder of Wing Ding Carry Out, a chicken restaurant in Freeport. In addition to providing quality customer service, Wing Ding aims to help its community by having a locally-sourced menu with affordable prices. Tray also works with Do Something, which assists members of her community with small financial needs and sets up programs to help young residents find employment or become entrepreneurs. She is currently studying at the University of the Bahamas.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

BARBADOS

CHRISTINA HUNTE

Founder of Kreativ Edge, an innovative marketing company based in Barbados. Kreativ Edge provides consulting, design, integrated marketing, and market research to help entrepreneurs expand and achieve their business goals. Christina has also worked in the Strategy/Client Services department of G&A Communications, Inc. She has a Bachelor's in Management with Psychology from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

COREY JACKMAN

Co-Founder and Operations Manager of Ecohesion Inc., a Barbados-based company focused on making water safe. As Operations Manager, Corey oversees the operation of 16 wastewater systems, managing system performance and client expectations. He has a Master's degree in Water and Wastewater Engineering from Cranfield University in England and a first class honors undergraduate degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of the West Indies.

PHILLIP KELLMAN

CEO of De island Corn, a mobile popcorn unit in Barbados. De island Corn sells over seven different flavors of popcorn. Phillip is a Facilitator and Mentor at Aganar Barbados and has previously worked as a Graphic Designer for Skyviews, Inc. and G&A Communications. He has a Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design from Barbados Community College.

BELIZE

MERVIN BUDRAM JR.

Founder of TAS Belize Limited, a full-service digital marketing firm. TAS Belize uses graphic art, videos, and social media platforms to connect businesses with current and potential clients. Mervin's prior business ventures include Roots & Honor Records, BC Apartments, Belmopan Maps, and Belize Small Business. Mervin has an Associate's degree in General Studies from St. John's Junior College and has multiple certifications in media and communications courses.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

FATIMA CHI

Founder of L3G's & Associates, an accounting firm in Belize. The mission of L3G's & Associates is to help clients prosper by assisting them with tax procedures, financial management, and tax compliance. The firm prides itself on its professionalism and close relationship with its clients. Fatima has previously worked in the accounting departments of Western Dairies and Alumicentro of Belize. She received her Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Belize.

LORCIA MOORE

Owner and Creator of Naturally Belize Coconut Oil Products, an eco-friendly company that uses the bi-products of coconut to produce hair and skin care products. Naturally Belize's products are made with 100% pure virgin coconut oil, retaining the coconut's nutrients and natural flavor. Prior to her business venture, Lorcia worked as an Educator at Belmopan Comprehensive High School. She has an Associate's Degree in Business Administration from St. John's Junior College.

KYLE ZUNIGA

Developer, Creative Designer, and Marketer at BK Creative, a digital marketing firm in Belize. BK Creative's mission is to provide professional, highly creative, and results-oriented digital solutions through various multimedia services that will help organizations promote their brand and increase sales. Kyle's job at BK Creative is to attract visitors, pitch the company to potential clients, and successfully sign contracts. Previously, Kyle worked as a Web Development Manager for the Ministry of Human Development in Belize. He studies Information Technology at the University of Belize.

BOLIVIA

ROLANDO ALVAREZ

Founder of TUINFO, a company that develops self-sustaining Wi-Fi hotspots in rural parts of Bolivia. TUINFO hopes to close the digital divide for low-income individuals in rural areas. Rolando previously worked as the Manager of Entel S.A., a rural telecommunications development company. He received his Master's degree in Business Administration from the Universidad de Santiago de Chile and his Bachelor's degree from the Escuela Militar de Ingeniería.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

DAVID BARNETT

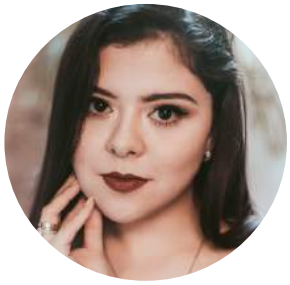
Optometrist for Mundo Óptica, a company that treats patients with refractive vision problems in Bolivia. By conducting professional tests for clients, providing glasses, and promoting vision health awareness, Mundo Óptica hopes to help prevent and ultimately end blindness in the community. David earned his MBA from the Escuela Europea de Negocios and has a Bachelor's degree in Optometry from the Instituto de Salud, Seguridad Ocupacional y Medio Ambiente (ISSEM).

RICARDO CLAVIJO

Vice President of Kumi Solutions, a Bolivian software and website developer. Kumi Solutions aims to provide technology assistance to startup companies in the Americas and Europe and acts as a software development hub for its home city of Cochabamba. Ricardo previously worked at the NGO CIAPROT, where he worked on sustainability projects for the poorest areas in Cochabamba, and he has done research on organic peanut production in rural Toro Toro. He has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Universidad Mayor de San Simón.

NICOLE FLORES

Founder of Ananay, a clothing accessory brand that combines ancestral knowledge with modern design to empower Bolivian artisans. Ananay helps socially-disadvantaged clothing designers reach wider fair-trade markets while allowing them to share their story with consumers. She previously served in a management position for Mosh Arte y Moda and was Assistant Vice President for AIESEC Bolivia. Nicole received her Bachelor's degree from the Universidad Católica Boliviana and a Graduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation from Novus Academy.



FABIOLA LEAÑOS

Co-Founder of Pañales Mamita, a Bolivian producer of environmentally-friendly cloth diapers. Her company's goals are to provide an affordable alternative to disposable diapers that reduces pollution and prevents rashes. She previously worked as an MFS Commercial Analyst at Tigo Money and in the Clerical and Administrative Support Department of Empetrol SRL. Fabiola graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Universidad Autónoma Gabriel René Moreno.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

CESAR LIMA

Co-Founder of Techobol SRL, a roofing material manufacturer in Bolivia. By processing imported roofing material from China, Techobol SRL works to provide quality and affordable roofing to low and middle-income residents in the city of Cochabamba. Cesar has previous experience working in a hardware store. He received his Bachelor's degree in Business from the Universidad Mayor de San Simon.

FERNANDO MARIN

Founder of Andean Culture Distillery, an Andean whiskey distillery in Bolivia. By producing a product tied to Bolivia's history and culture, Andean Culture Distillery aims to showcase Bolivia's unique flavors and cultural richness. Fernando has prior experience as a Master Distiller at Innovación de Bebidas SRL, Bolivia's first vodka distillery, producing their flagship product, 1825 Vodka. He has a Bachelor's degree in Entrepreneurship from the Universidad Católica Boliviana.

MADY MOLLINEDO

Co-Founder of WeMujer, a company that seeks to empower women through training and financial support. One of WeMujer's biggest developments is the free app SOS Mujer, one of the only apps designed to prevent gender violence in Bolivia. This achievement led to WeMujer being pre-selected for the Women in Technology prize from the FRIDA Program (Fondo Regional para la Innovación Digital en América Latina y el Caribe). Mady has also worked for the NGO Pro Mujer, a women's development organization. She has a Bachelor's degree in Psychopedagogy from the Universidad Católica Boliviana San Pablo.

ISABEL SALDAÑA

Co-Founder of ALLOT SRL., a company that supplies hotel and restaurant products in Bolivia. The company's goal is to organize logistics and procure products commonly used in the hospitality industry so that hotels and restaurants can focus on customer satisfaction. She has previously worked in Trade Marketing, Visual Merchandising, and Marketing and Sales at Aidisa Bolivia and Madepa S.A. She has a Master's degree in Neuromarketing from the Universitat Autónoma de Barcelona and a Bachelor's Degree in Commercial Engineering with a minor in International Business from the Universidad Privada Boliviana.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

HERNANN ZABALA NAOUMOV

Co-Founder of EnerGea, a company that aims to reduce pollution and energy consumption in Bolivia through sustainable technology and upcycling projects. EnerGea's projects include developing solar energy and LED products, creating waste-managing fluorescent tubes, and running STEM education programs for young Bolivians. Hernann previously worked as an Educator at the Universidad Tecnológica Boliviana and as a Lawyer for Tax Shelter Consultores. He has a Master's degree in Commerce and International Relations from the Escuela Europea de Negocios and an Associate's degree in Law (Tax and Customs) from the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés.

BRAZIL

RENATA ALBERTIM

Co-Founder of the social impact startup Mete a Colher, a platform that supports women who suffer from abusive relationships in Brazil. Mete a Colher created an app that allows women suffering from domestic abuse to communicate with each other and provide emotional support and legal advice. Renata previously worked in advertising for CASA Comunicação and Sale Marketing. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Consumption and Social Development at the Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco and has a BA in Social Communication with a specialty in Journalism from Faculdades Integradas Barros Melo.

GUSTAVO ALVES

Co-Founder of Nagro, a company that provides credit to small and medium agribusinesses in Brazil. Nagro runs a platform that allows farmers to look for credit sources outside of major banks, where wait times for loans are often too long for a business needing credit immediately. Gustavo previously worked as a Finance Comptroller and Technical Assistant for Pedro Pereira United Farms. He has an MBA in Agribusiness/Management from the Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture at the University of São Paulo.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

ESTER ATHANÁSIO

Founder and Manager of Depropósito Comunicação Integrada, a Brazilian communications firm. Focused on serving organizations that run social impact initiatives. Ester has worked as a Press Officer for Página 1 Comunicação and is currently a professor at the Federal University of Technology-Paraná. She has a Master's degree in Communications and a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the Federal University of Paraná.

BEATRIZ AZEVÊDO DE ARAÚJO

Founder and President of Verdeluz Institute, a Brazilian environmental NGO aimed at reconnecting humans and nature. Verdeluz coordinates projects that raise environmental awareness and engage youth in their community. She received a Postgraduate degree in Environmental and Urban Law from the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais and her Bachelor's degree in Law from the Federal University of Ceará.

GABRIEL BONIFACIO

Founder and Managing Director of Trippple, a digital marketing agency in Curitiba, Brazil. Trippple works closely with small and new businesses, providing them with online marketing, consulting, and web development services. Gabriel has previously worked in banking services for HSBC Global Technology and in technical support for VEGA I.T. and Wtechsys. He has an Associate's Degree in Business Administration from the Universidade Positivo.

DANIEL CABRERA

Co-Founder and President of Vivalá and Instituto Vivalá. Vivalá is a global travel agency that organizes traditional tourism to more than 164 countries as well as volunteer and ecotourism trips in 7 Brazilian states. Instituto Vivalá is an NGO that helps Vivalá in its volunteerism operations, managing free professional training and selecting micro-entrepreneurs for its social investment fund. Daniel has a Master's degree in Innovation and Technology and a Bachelor's degree in Advertising and Marketing.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

LUIZ GILBERTO CAMARGO

Co-Founder and CEO of Donamaid, an on-demand maid service for low to middle-income individuals. The goal of Donamaid is to provide affordable maid services for those who do not have time to clean their home and cannot afford a monthly maid. Luiz was formerly the Vice President of AIESEC, the largest youth organization in the world, where he worked in the areas of Marketing and Public Relations. He is studying Engineering at the Federal University of Pelotas.

JOSÉ CARDOSO

Co-Founder of Zelar Soluções, a Brazilian company that provides cleaning services for homes and businesses. Given that many of its employees have a basic education, Zelar Soluções aims to provide its workforce with training that will both make them more competitive in the job market and ensure that their clients receive quality service. José has a Bachelor's degree in Administration from the University of the State of São Paulo.

FABIO CENDAO

Founder and Partner of Faria, Cendão & Maia Advogados (FCMLAW), an innovative law firm focused on startups. FCMLAW provides legal services through methods, tools, and technology that simplify the understanding of law. Fabio is also founder of YourBase, a legal tech startup incubated in FCMLAW, founder of Legal Hackers Rio's chapter, organizer of Legal Hack 2017, and creator of Legal Canvas for Startups Methodology. He also works on entrepreneurial education initiatives. He has a Bachelor's degree in law (UFRJ), an LLM in Corporate Law (IBMEC), and is a Master's candidate in Intellectual Property and Innovation (INPI).

RUBENILSON CERQUEIRA

Co-Founder of Galt Vestibulares, a non-profit organization with a mission to provide free and high-quality preparatory classes for low-income students wanting to take the university admission test. He is a researcher in education, a social entrepreneur, and a consultant, and was previously the Assistant Manager at the CAPES Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education, a program run by Brazil's Ministry of Education. Rubenilson has a Bachelor's degree in International Relations. He has a Master's in Development, Society, and Public Policy from the University of Brasília, where he is also a PhD candidate in Education.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

KARIN COLANTONIO

Founder of Social English, an organization that provides quality English instruction to young Brazilians who cannot afford traditional courses. As English becomes more important in Brazil's professional world, Social English strives to help disadvantaged youth gain skills that will make them more competitive. Karin has worked for several other companies, including General Motors, BASF, and Lactalis. She has a Master's degree in Marketing and Sales from the Faculdades Metropolitanas Unidas and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Universidade Metodista de São Paulo.

KAIO DE FREITAS VIEIRA

Co-Founder of Moda Limpa, an online and collaborative platform to connect and give visibility to producers, suppliers, service providers and brands with a focus on sustainability and ethics across Brazil. Prior to starting his business, Kaio was the Founder and Community Leader for Rio Sul Valley, a startup ecosystem in Southern Rio de Janeiro, and worked as a consultant helping NGOs, private companies, and government agencies to envision opportunities that transform the world through design and innovation. He received his Bachelor's degree in Communications and Advertising from UniFOA.

PALOMA LECHETA

Co-Founder of PeaceLabs, a Brazilian social enterprise that helps large corporations monitor and invest in social projects. PeaceLabs organizes digital portfolios with data on the impact of NGOs. The portfolios are easily accessible to large corporations that use this data to determine which projects they want to invest in. Paloma has also worked with the organizations OpenBrazil and CodeForCuritiba and is a lead organizer of the Social Entrepreneurship Meetup in her hometown.

MARIANA LEITE

Founder of Tchibum, a volunteer organization focused on increasing social activity for hospitalized children, young people, and the elderly in Manaus. Tchibum has more than one thousand volunteers who conduct hospital and shelter visits. The volunteers also provide free college readiness classes. The program has impacted dozens of elderly people and over 5,000 children. Mariana previously worked in the Industrial Department of Forgas, a petroleum gas distributor. She has a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Instituto Federal do Amazonas.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

ANDRÉ OSNA

Co-Founder of ELEVANTE, a Brazilian innovation company. ELEVANTE works with companies to improve relationships with the public and their own collaborators through value creation, marketing and branding, storytelling, copywriting, and by developing an innovative company culture. André is also the Founder of the startup BandTripper, a platform designed to connect musicians looking to schedule gigs and cultural exchanges. He has also worked as a journalist for the State of Paraná's news agency. He graduated with an Associate's degree in Movie Making from Centro Europeu and has certificates in Advertising and Marketing.

GUSTAVO PUGLIESE

Co-Founder of ACES, a non-profit organization based in Campinas, Brazil. ACES is dedicated to promoting science literacy and social justice by providing STEM education in marginalized schools. Currently, he is pursuing his Ph.D. in Education at the University of Sao Paulo and works at Foreducation Edtech, a Google partner company, as a teacher trainer offering professional development in educational technology for Brazilian instructors. He graduated from the University of Campinas, where he earned two Bachelor's degrees in Biology and Portuguese and a Master's degree in Science Education.

RAFAEL RAONI

Founder and CEO of hazel, a Brazilian startup that provides a cloud-based platform for monitoring industrial equipment. Its goal is to prevent accidents by helping companies better understand equipment data. Rafael has also worked in the Process Engineering department for PROJECTUS, an engineering consulting company, and on active integrity management issues with Bureal Veritas. He has a PhD in Risk Management, a Master's degree in Industry Process Simulation and a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering, all from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

SHIRLEY SCHNEIDER

Co-Founder of Projeito Joule, a Brazilian non-profit organization that seeks to empower the lives of Brazil's youth and poor. Projeito Joule provides free mentoring on career development skills, helping its students become more competitive in the professional world. Shirley previously worked in the Supply Chain and Projects division for Dell Computers and is a recipient of the Best Young Entrepreneur of the Year award from Laureate Universities. She received her Bachelor's degree in Administration and International Business from the Pontifical Catholic University.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

WELLINGTON SANTOS SILVA

Co-Founder of Empreendescola, a social business that provides courses designed to empower teenagers from small and medium cities through access to education, people, and tools. Empreendescola offers courses that cover topics such as higher education, career research, language skills, leadership, and entrepreneurship, among other topics. Since its founding, Empreendescola has trained more than 500 students and reached over 6,000 through public school presentations in 17 cities across Brazil. He has a Bachelor's degree in Business from the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais and completed graduate studies in Human Resources and Social Project Management at the Federal University of Itajubá.

CHILE

JOSÉ TOMÁS ARENAS

Co-Founder and CEO of DART by teledx.org, which aims to prevent blindness and diseases through artificial intelligence. The goal of teledx.org is to research, develop, and deploy machine-learning based solutions as a low-cost diagnosis tool, particularly for developing countries and their health care systems. José Tomás has previously worked in the Electric Loss Control department of Enel Distribución Chile. He has a Professional Engineering Diploma in Electrical Engineering and a Professional Engineering Diploma in Industrial Engineering from the University of Chile.

EDU CASTILLO

Co-Founder of The Monsta Tribe, a children's educational and interactive board game that promotes social harmony in schools by teaching skills like empathy. The goal of the Monsta Tribe is to encourage students in Chile's primary schools to be polite and accepting of each other, reducing social issues such as bullying, discrimination, and competitiveness. He has also worked as a Developer and Programmer for the creative agency A3 Publicidad. He has a Bachelor's degree in Crossmedia Design from the Universidad Gabriela Mistral.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

CRISTIAN ESTRADA

Founder and CEO of Eficagua, a Chilean company that sells environmentally-sustainable agricultural equipment to farmers. The company's main product is Humesuelo, a soil enhancer designed to optimize the use of irrigation water. Cristian is also the Director of the Creative Department of Faltan Manos, a project aimed at efficiently connecting humanitarian aid workers to those in need. He has a Master's degree in Biotechnology from Andrés Bello National University.

CAMILO NARANJO VILLARROEL

Founder of Limpio Total, a Chilean company that provides cleaning services for businesses. Focused on corporate social responsibility, Limpio Total works to improve wages and working hours for workers and uses environmentally-sustainable products and processes. Camilo currently works in Quality Management for Principal Financial Group and was previously an Entrepreneur Trainer for the NGO Acción Emprendedora. He received his Bachelor's degree in Administration and Management Control from the University of Chile.

IGNACIA NUÑEZ

Founder of Minka, a Chilean fashion brand that creates job opportunities for socially-vulnerable women. Minka trains its workers through the "empower by doing" model, training women in eco-design techniques that allow them to be hired into the company as artisans. In its five years of operation, Minka has trained 50 women. She is also the Director of the Social Innovation Center at the Universidad Finis Terrae and the Founder of Mooi Florería, a flower delivery service. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Design from the Universidad Diego Portales.

TRINIDAD SCHLOTTERBECK

Co-Founder of Patagon Infusion, a Chilean fruit beverage company. By producing fresh juices made entirely from ingredients cultivated in the Chilean Patagonia, Patagon Infusion seeks to promote the local economy of southern Chile and improve the lives of farmers in the region. Trinidad previously worked as a Research and Development Director at the Saponin Research Center. She has a Master's degree in Science Engineering from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and a Bachelor's degree in Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

ANDREA ONETTO

Co-Founder and CEO of Neokin Physical Therapy, a Chilean physical therapy treatment center. Neokin aims to provide holistic and affordable care and is currently creating an adapted gym for patients with chronic, non-communicable diseases. Andrea has a Bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy from Universidad Andres Bello and a certificate in Physical Therapy from Theradvance Group.

ELOISA SILVA

Co-Founder of MercadoBirus.com, a Chilean e-commerce platform. MercadoBirus.com aims to connect conscious consumers with companies that want a positive impact. Eloisa previously worked as the Director for Sistema B, an organization that manages communications and partnerships between purpose-driven companies in Latin America, and as a Consultant for the International Festival of Social Innovation. She has a Master's degree in User-Centered Design and Innovation from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.

VALENTINA SUAREZ

Co-Founder of Women in Management, a Chilean organization dedicated to advancing women in corporate leadership. Women in Management provides consulting services, seminars, workshops, and networking events that equip its clients with important skills and knowledge to obtain management positions. Valentina is currently a Project Manager for Pragmaxion Consulting. She received her MBA from the University of Chile and a Graduate degree in Industrial Engineering from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

COLOMBIA

EDUARDO ACOSTA

Founder and CEO of GüashApp, an app where people can request their laundry to be picked up, washed, and dropped off at their location. This company uses clean transportation solutions, biodegradable plastic bags, and the newest technology to serve their clients in Colombia. Eduardo has previously worked as a sales representative at RCN Radio and Marriott Hotels. He has a Master's degree in Languages from the University of Queensland and a Bachelor's degree in International Business from the Universidad San Tomás.

DIANA AYALA GÓMEZ

Founder and CEO of Aygo Organic Natural Colombian S.A.S., an organization that seeks to unite the organic farmers of Colombia. Aygo Organic Natural Colombian encourages coca farmers to transition their crops to products like organic coffee. Diana previously worked as the Director of the Commercial Department at Mercadeo San Diego. She has a Bachelor's degree in Economics and International Business from the Instituto Latinoamericano de Calidad (INLAC).

NATALIA BERTEL

Chief Operating Officer of the Fundación Hilo Sagrado. Natalia's company works with female artisans of La Guajira, Colombia to develop products that reflect their culture, while connecting them with international designers and companies, such as Anthropologie and Minzuu, who help share their cultural heritage and expand their market. Natalia is also the Co-Founder of La Puerta Design, a publishing start-up business that turns clients' ideas into designs and products. She has a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Design from the Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano.

ELIANA CAMARGO

Co-founder of Mas Por TIC a Colombian social enterprise that provides training and guidance to encourage ICT adoption to reduce inequalities. Mas Por TIC connects communities, companies, and people with technology and innovative solutions by hosting workshops, training, and projects that empower them to be more productive and inclusive.

Eliana previously worked at the ICT Ministry and at the Special Administrative Unit of Public Services in Bogota. She has an MPA in Science, Engineering, and Public Policy from the University College London and a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the Universidad Sergio Arboleda.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

CAMILO FLORES BASTIDAS

Co-Founder of Vivo Arquitectura, an organization dedicated to reducing the environmental impact of rapidly growing and developing cities. Vivo Arquitectura offers housing for low income families and uses local and renewable materials such as bamboo to build sturdy infrastructures. This initiative has received awards from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Chinese government, and by Viva Idea. Camilo has a Master's degree in Architecture Design from the University of the Ryukyus in Japan and a Bachelor's degree in Marine Sciences from the Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano.

DANIEL FRAGA

Co-Founder and Manager of Comercializadora Dany y Alejo Ltda. This company's mission is to import innovative raw materials and provide them to artisans in Colombia, who in return produce eco-friendly products at competitively low prices. Daniel was previously a Sales Representative at Vidvie in Guangzhou, China. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and International Affairs from the Universidad Externado de Colombia.

VALENTINA FRANCO

CEO of Koryo, a wellness clinic that focuses on physical and mental health. With a personalized plan from the Koryo team, clients can receive a variety of services including chiropractic care, personal training, and acupuncture. Previously, Valentina was the Manager of Liga Santandereana de Taekwondo. She has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga.

JAVIER GANTIVA

Founder and CEO of Apicola Campo Verde SAS, a Colombian pure honey production and sales company. Dedicated to creating social change, Apicola Campo Verde employs people who have fled violence and assists individuals in starting their own beekeeping initiatives. Javier has a Bachelor's degree in Finance and International Business from the Universidad Sergio Arboleda.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

CAROLINA GONZALES JIMENEZ

Co-Founder and President of Casa Hojaldre in Armenia, Colombia. Dedicated to creating a healthier community, Casa Hojaldre produces and distributes puff pastry pies that are low in fat and sugar. Carolina has previously worked at Colombo Americano. She has a Diploma in Trained Project Management from Politécnico Internacional and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Quindío.

MÓNICA HERNANDEZ

Co-Founder and Creative Director of Buping S.A.S, an interdisciplinary team of strategic designers that provides solutions and support to help businesses jumpstart or grow. Mónica has previously taught at Universidad El Bosque and worked at Socialab and Universidad de La Sabana. She has a Master's degree in Design and Product Development and a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Design from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia.

ABRAHAM HIDALGO-MENDOZA

Co-Founder and CEO of MINGA. MINGA seeks to establish effective waste management and recycling in developing cities. Abraham is currently a Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Specialist for UN Women Colombia. He has a Master's degree in Social Policy and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a Bachelor's Degree in Government and International Relations from the Universidad Externado de Colombia.

CARLOS MARTOS

Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Sun Supply, a company dedicated to reducing individual and organizational carbon footprints by promoting renewable energy. To address Colombia's dependency on hydroelectric power, Sun Supply designs and installs solar energy systems to bring renewable energy solutions to rural areas and modernizing cities. Carlos has a Bachelor's degree in Electronic Engineering from the Javeriana University.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

DAVID MILLÁN

Founder and Manager of Vivir Viajar Amar. By sharing content on the benefits of international experience on his platform, Vivir Viajar Amar seeks to motivate young Colombians to apply for exchanges and other international opportunities. Previously, David worked for Novo Nordisk, the Fábrica de Licores de Antioquia, Philip Morris International, and the Interlatina Colombia Student Exchange. He has a Master's degree in Economics and Business Administration from Roskilde University in Denmark and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana.

SANTIAGO PAEZ GIRALDO

Founder of Casa Santamaría, a former private home in Bogotá, Colombia that has been repurposed as a series of showrooms for emerging brands. Casa Santamaría showcases furniture, fashion, and accessory designers, and includes a specialty coffee shop. Santiago has previously worked as a Consultant and Project Promoter for ANDI, a nonprofit association that works with the public sector on societal development projects. He received his Bachelor's degree in Public Management.

DIEGO ARMANDO QUINTERO VÁSQUEZ

Founder of De La Montaña Espresso Machines. Dedicated to supporting Colombia's economic potential in the international coffee industry, De La Montaña Espresso Machines develops innovative coffee equipment. Diego also founded Elementum Café Especial, a brand of roasted coffee. He has a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the National University of Colombia, where he also founded a chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

NELSON REYES

Founder and CEO of Project Colombia. Dedicated to transferring business knowledge to Colombian business owners, Project Colombia hosts conferences and workshops focused on small business innovation and provides seed funding to support entrepreneurs. Nelson has worked in various social projects in countries such as Thailand, Colombia, and Mexico. He has a Master's degree in International Public Policy from University College London and a Bachelor's degree in International Law and Politics from London Metropolitan University.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

IVÁN DARÍO SALAMANCA DUSSÁN

Co-Founder of Innovación Agroindustrial Sostenible (INTEGRA), a company that provides technological solutions to small and medium livestock farmers of the tropical regions of Colombia. INTEGRA seeks to help farmers adapt to climate change and improve the conditions of their livestock. Iván has a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia and is currently studying Renewable Energy at the Universidad Earth - Renac Institute (Berlin-Deutschland).

SIRIUS TORIJANO

Founder of Narguila, a Colombian management and cultural events company. Focused on helping independent Colombian artists earn a living and showcase their talents, Narguila has promoted more than 800 young artists' careers and hosted more than 500 cultural events. Sirius is also an Adviser to the Cultural Committee of the Fundación Santa Fé de Bogotá. He has a Bachelor´s degree in Music from the National University of Colombia and has received an Honors diploma from the Piura University of Perú.

CATALINA VALENCIA

Co-Founder and General Director of the 24-0 foundation. 24-0 develops projects based in the arts and culture that inspire and empower young Colombians to become advocates of nonviolence in their communities. She previously worked as a Principal Assessor for IDARTES, the platform for cultural activities and planning for the district of Bogotá. Catalina holds a Master's degree in Cultural Management from the Universidad de Buenos Aires- Argentina and a Bachelor's degree in Choreographic Composition from the Universidad Nacional de las Artes in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

DANIELA ZULUAGA

Co-Founder and CEO of Sentido Verde, a company that seeks to spread awareness on environmental problems to discourage unsustainable habits, actions, and behaviors in Colombia. Sentido Verde advises companies and schools by measuring their carbon footprint and energy efficiency, then educating them and providing solutions to implement change. Daniela has previously monitored mine problems for the Colombian government. She has a Master's degree in Organizational Communications from the Universidad Javeriana and a Bachelor's degree in Government and International Relations from the Universidad Externado de Colombia.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

COSTA RICA

LAUREN DIAZ

Founder and CEO of the Nueva Oportunidad Foundation. The Nueva Oportunidad Foundation designs and implements inmate empowerment programs that work to foster career skills and assist with reintegration into society. Previously, Lauren has taught at the National University of Costa Rica. She has a Master's degree in Justice Policy and Sociology of Criminal Law from the Universidad para la Cooperación Internacional and a Bachelor's degree in Law from the Universidad de Costa Rica.

ANA LUCÍA GONZÁALEZ CASTRO

Co-Founder of Prismatic Homes. Prismatic Homes designs personalized houses for families and professionals in Costa Rica regardless of their income. She was previously an Educator in Design and Technology at the Universidad Latinoamericana de Ciencia y Tecnología, and the Design and Construction Manager for the Municipality of Carrillo. She has a Master's Degree in Project Management from the Technological Institute of Costa Rica and a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from the University of Costa Rica.

ANDRÉ INFANTE

Co-Founder and Creative Director of Studio Ático, a Costa Rican digital media studio. Studio Ático creates personalized audiovisuals for its clients to communicate messages clearly and creatively to their target audience. André has previously worked at Marte Studio in animation and has taught at the Universidad Ulacit. He has a Bachelor's degree in Digital Animation from the Universidad Véritas.

RAÚL MARTÍN

Founder and President of Workride, a company that coordinates carpooling. Dedicated to reducing vehicle traffic and greenhouse gas emissions, Workride developed a mobile app that allows users to coordinate carpooling. Raúl also works at Auge, the business incubator associated with the University of Costa Rica, and is part of other initiatives that promote entrepreneurship such as ASECRI and Novatadas. He has a Bachelor's degree in Business from the University of Costa Rica.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

PRISCILLA ORTIZ PORRAS

Founder and CEO of Innova Células Madre, a Costa Rican veterinary health care company that specializes in regenerative medicine. Innova Células Madre provides regenerative cells and biomaterials to pets with degenerative diseases as an alternative to traditional medicine. It plans to open the first veterinary cell bank in Central America in September 2018. Priscilla has a Bachelor's degree in Veterinary Medicine from the Universidad San Francisco de Asis.

ALEX SOLANO

Founder of El Árbol English School, an institution where students of all ages can learn English and develop critical thinking skills. To improve the wellbeing of the people from the community, this school offers full scholarships for up to 30% of its students. Previously, Alex has taught English at several other institutions in Costa Rica. He has a Master's degree in teaching English as a Second Language from Marlboro College in Vermont.

ANIA SUÁREZ

Co-Founder and Creative Director of Semillas Association, an organization dedicated to improving public spaces in Costa Rica that have suffered from poor urban planning. Semillas Association believes that improving these spaces will empower urban communities and allow their residents to have a better quality of life. The Initiative has received awards from competitions funded by the Latin University of Costa Rica. Ania has a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from the University of Costa Rica.

PABLO VALLEJO SOLIS

Co-Founder and CEO of Essential Green, an organization dedicated to reducing deforestation and wood usage by transitioning to sustainable and renewable alternatives. Essential Green converts agricultural waste into fibers that reduce the carbon footprint by 22%, creating products that have a similar quality and appearance to wood. Pablo has a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Münster in Germany.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

JUAN VALVERDE FONSECA

Founder and CEO of ENSO Films, a film production company that creates media content through the scope of art and marketing effectiveness. Always striving to educate, entertain, and innovate, ENSO Films is deeply invested in using cinema as a tool for human connection and progress. Juan has Bachelor's degrees in Film and Communications from the Universidad VERITAS and the Universidad de Costa Rica.

CUBA

OSCAR MATIENZO

Co-Founder and General Manager of Procle, a business dedicated to the wholesale production of textile bags. Procle provides customized screen-printing for its clients. Oscar attended the Higher Institute of Design in Cuba and studied business management and marketing at the Padre Félix Varela Cultural Center in Havana. He also attended the Business Administration Incubating program at Florida International University.

CURAÇAO

ROUSHAIRA ALEXANDER

Founder and Creative Director of Humans of Willemstad (HoW), a media and entertainment agency that creates smart, uplifting, and shareable content to connect with the hearts and minds of the community of Curaçao. Roushaira has worked as a Marketing Manager at a leading funeral home for four years. Roushaira has a master's degree in Civil and Criminal Law from Erasmus University Rotterdam in The Netherlands.

REYEANNE GOILO

Co-Founder and COO of Fortress Interactive NV, a communications and marketing agency that focuses on the tourism industry. Fortress Interactive provides the tourism sector with digital platforms and tools that help the companies more effectively cater to their visitors and improve the overall tourism experience in Curaçao. Reyeanne has a Bachelor's degree in Leisure Management and a Minor in International Aid & Development from Hogeschool Rotterdam.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

DOMINICA

LIEN PHILOGENE-NORVILLE

Vice President of Junior Chamber International Dominica, an organization dedicated to creating opportunities that empower youth to make positive changes in their community. This initiative aims to equip young people with skills that help them excel in their education and future employment. Lien previously worked at the National Bank of Dominica. She has a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of the West Indies.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BETTY ALVAREZ

Co-Founder of C&A Legal Advisors, a company based in the Dominican Republic that provides low-cost, personalized, and high quality legal services to locals, foreigners, and vulnerable populations. Currently, she works as a lawyer at Oficina de Abogados Lic. Tania Colombo and as a consultant for FHI 360. In the past, she worked as a legal adviser for the Centro de Promoción y Solidaridad Humana. She has a Master's degree in Contemporary Civil Law and Civil Procedures from the Universidad Abierta para Adultos.

PORFIRIO BAEZ

Founder of Green Depot, a company based in the Dominican Republic that aims to make the planet more eco-friendly and eco-conscious. Green Depot strives to be a leading manufacturer of biodegradable and disposable dinnerware, while also creating jobs in rural communities. Previously, Porfirio worked as a project analyst for the local city waste management organization.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

LUZ GONZALEZ H.

Founder of Pretty Busy Club, a consultancy for female entrepreneurs in the Dominican Republic. Dedicated to empowering female business owners, Pretty Busy Club provides support and guidance on issues commonly faced by female entrepreneurs. Luz is also the CEO of the companies LuzGonzalezH, Fuse Machines, and CoworkingDo. She has worked as a Manager at Aisle Insight and as an Assistant Director at the Centro de Emprendimiento e Innovación del INTEC. She has a Bachelor's in Industrial Engineering from the Technology Institute of Santo Domingo.

JULIO CÉSAR QUEZADA

Founder of the Fundación La Gente del Macotazo, which promotes education in remote sectors of the Dominican Republic through domestic tourism. The Foundation collects school supplies in large cities, which are taken by a team of teacher volunteers to remote areas. Julio participated in the SMART Project with AIESEC in Brazil. He also works with the National Conflict Resolution System (SINAREC) in the Dominican Republic.

ECUADOR

DAVID CHAVEZ

Co-Founder and Creative Director of Alitas Benditas, a chicken wing restaurant in Quito, Ecuador. Alitas Benditas aims to support the local economy by using products from local businesses and by having flexible hiring standards. The restaurant currently has two franchises. David was previously a restaurant manager in Quito. In addition to running his business, he gives entrepreneurship talks in schools and universities and advises startups.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

MIGUEL ANGEL FALCONI

Founder and CEO of ARCIS, an Ecuadorian company that provides professional development trainings for young executives by integrating the concepts of education, technology, entertainment, role-playing, and inspirational experiences within their training programs and conferences. Miguel has previously taught courses in the Humanities at Balandra Southern Cross High School and in Business at the non-profit organization IDEPRO. He has a Master's degree in Neurolinguistic Programming from the International Society of NLP.

TAMARA ISCH

Co-Founder and COO of ecx-labs, an Ecuadorian innovation lab. ecx-labs is focused on developing deep-tech, low-cost solutions for a variety of products, including sensors, air and water filters, and educational systems. Previously, Tamara worked as a Manager at another technology company, IEED-TAS. She has a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the Escuela Politécnica Nacional.

FRANCISCO MARTINEZ

CEO of Fundación La Iguana, an organization that works on environmental projects in Ecuador's urban areas and undertakes projects designed to reforest cities with native species. Francisco previously worked for the Secretariat for Administration and Finance of the Organization of American States. He has a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the Universidad del Azuay.

PAUL QUIÑONEZ

Co-Founder of Novulis, an Ecuadorian company that provides on-site dental care for the working poor who lack access to quality health care and live in remote areas. Paul started his professional career as a legal advisor for the Superintendency of Banks and then for the Ecuadorian Congress. He has a Bachelor's in Law from the Catholic University of Ecuador and a Master's degree in Business Administration from San Francisco University in Quito.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

PAUL REYES

Founder of Blissec Food Industry Ltd. Co., an Ecuadorian company that values nutrition and health and strives to solve nutritional problems by providing healthy snacks. Additionally, Blissec Food Industry aims to help local producers grow and succeed in a sustainable way. He is also the CEO of Industrias Lovisone. He has a BA in Food Industry from the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana El Zamorano.

JIME ROMERO

Co-Founder of Looop, a clothing company based in Ecuador that strives to be the largest designer and producer of footwear and clothing in Ecuador. She has had previous managerial experience working as an Assistant Director for the Municipality of Quito. She was also a teacher at the Universidad de las Americas and a teaching assistant at Columbia University. She obtained her Bachelor's in Architecture from the Universidad Católica del Ecuador and her Master's in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University.

ANDRES SANCHEZ MORA

Founder and Executive Director of Millennial Ecuador, a business consulting firm for young entrepreneurs. Millennial Ecuador provides seminars, workshops, talks, and consulting services to help entrepreneurs develop a business plan to start their company. Andres also works for Bilbosa, a shrimp exporting company and previously worked in Customer Service at Banco del Pacífico S.A. He received his Master's degree in Finance and Business Economics from the Universidad Católica Santiago de Guayaquil and his Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro de Manabí.

ANA VILLOTA HERDOIZA

Founder of Maria La Panaderia, an artisan bakery in Quito, Ecuador. Focused on improving the average Ecuadorian's diet and combatting gender discrimination in the workplace, Maria La Panaderia provides nutritious, high-quality bread while maintaining a safe, harassment-free work environment for women. Ana has also worked in sales for Chef en Casa by Henry Richardson and as a Manager for the restaurant Lobosapiens. She has a Certificate in Professional Baking and a Diploma in Hospitality Management from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

EL SALVADOR

ALEX AMAYA

Founder and CEO of Successful Decision, a company based in Costa Rica that aims to revolutionize the management of human talent through innovation, leadership, happiness, and accessibility. He has had previous managerial experience working for VXI Global Solution, Grupo Almo, and Teleperformance. He has a Master's in Business Administration from the Instituto Superior de Economía y Administración de Empresas (ISEADE) and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Universidad Centroamericana. He also has a specialization in Human Resources from INCAE Business School.

RAQUEL ARANA

Co-founder and CEO of Raquel Arana: Bags That Tell a Story, a handbag company based in El Salvador. They seek to create unique pieces, handmade by Salvadoran artisans. She previously worked as the Creative Director for the Agencia de Publicidad Funes y Asociados. She has a Bachelor's in Strategic Design and an Associate's Degree in Marketing from the Escuela de Comunicación Mónica Herrera.

STANLEY CABRERA

Founder and CEO of Izote Art, a company based in El Salvador that aims to provide high quality, artisanal products from El Salvador that demonstrate the country's culture. He has previous experience working at Actua Foundation where he taught children how to make artisanal crafts and the importance of handmade art. He obtained his BA in Marketing from the Universidad de Oriente and a teaching degree from the Universidad Nacional de El Salvador.

SOFIA GONZÁLEZ VILLALOBOS

Founder and Managing Director of Nativo Ecolodge, a rustic, ecological resort in El Salvador. The goal of Nativo Ecolodge is to familiarize visitors with nature and teach them how to live in a sustainable way. Sofía has also been the CEO of 1801 and has worked as a Coordinator for the Hotel Sheraton Presidente. She has a Bachelor's degree in Tourism Management from the Jade University of Applied Sciences and a Specialization in Sustainable Tourism from FUNIBER.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

HUGO HERNAN CORTEZ

Founder and CEO of Easy English Center Academy, a company focused on providing affordable English classes to low income individuals in Sonsonate, El Salvador. Given that many jobs in El Salvador require English skills, Easy English Center Academy ultimately hopes its courses will help reduce unemployment and poverty. Hugo previously taught at COSAL Sonsonate and at the Centro Bilingüe San José California. He received training in Tourism at the Universidad Dr. Andrés Bello.

CARLA LEVY

Founder of Puffins, a gift company. Puffins demonstrates the value of artisanal handiwork through their collection of handmade gifts. Puffins works to bring joy to the community, while also stimulating the local economy. She has previously worked as a Creative Director at FatKid Studio. Carla has a Bachelor's in Graphic Design from the Universidad Dr. José Matías Delgado.

CELINA PORTILLO

Founder and Manager of Auténtico, a small food business in El Salvador. Auténtico provides catering services and focuses on locally-sourced produce and meals from scratch. She has previous managerial experience working for the Fundación Salvadoreña para la Salud y el Desarrollo and worked in Guest Services at Myers Park Country Club. She has a Bachelor's degree in Food and Beverage Service Management from Johnson & Wales University in North Carolina.

MARÍA SURIANO

Founder and CEO of Masshii, a Salvadoran fashion designer. Based on a consciousness through fashion model, Masshii provides training and fair employment opportunities for deaf women, whose role in the company is to transform waste products into unique and multicultural woman’s accessories. Before Masshii, María worked as a Junior Accountant for CB Richard Ellis-NE Partners, LP. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Corporate Finance and Accounting from Bentley College and a Certificate in Specialized Chinese: Trade and Business from Beijing Language and Culture University.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

ANA MARITZA UMAÑA

Co-Founder and Project Manager of AM Espacios, an architecture and construction studio of young female professionals based in El Salvador. The studio provides architecture design and consulting, construction planning and development, and interior remodeling, helping small and medium businesses and homeowners create aesthetically-pleasing projects. Ana previously worked as a Senior Architect at Grupo del Faro. She has a degree in Architecture from the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas and a postgraduate degree in Integral Project Management from ISEADE-FEPADE.

GRENADA

MICHAEL THOMAS

Member of the Board of Directors at GrenCHAP, Inc., a non-governmental organization working to promote sexual reproductive health and human rights. GrenCHAP, Inc. actively works to prevent HIV/AIDS through stigma and discrimination training, human rights training, and group outreach. Michael also works in customer service at Clear Harbor Grenada and is an educator for Caribbean HIV/AIDS ALLIANCE. He obtained a Bachelor's in Psychology from St. George's University.

GUATEMALA

ADRIANA AGUILAR

Adriana Aguilar is the Founder of Yuxtem S.A., a software company in Guatemala that develops online payment systems for small businesses. Yuxtem also implements small business education classes for young people. She currently works as a coach for The Inter-American Dialogue. She has experience in management working as a Human Resources Manager at Compañía Agro Tropical and as an Assistant Manager at Unikam-Ghescorp.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

TITI CHAVARRIA

Founder and General Manager of the Guatemalan company Bonding Digital Marketing. Bonding Digital Marketing helps companies grow by creating custom plans, goals, and digital media strategies. She has held managerial positions at Spectrum, the British American Tobacco Central America, and Marcas Mundiales. She has a Bachelor's in Business Administration with a specialty in Marketing from the Universidad Francisco Marroquin.

CINDY DE LEÓN

Co-Founder and Creative Director of the Guatemalan advertising agency El Coctel Creativo. El Coctel Creativo works with small and medium businesses in the food and beverage industry to provide them with cost-effective marketing solutions. Cindy has a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Universidad Galileo and a Bachelor's in Marketing from the Universidad Rafael Landívar.

SOFIA GODOY

Co-Founder of Etnica, a Guatemalan tourist company. Dedicated to supporting the local community, Etnica employs locals in workshops, homestays, and cultural tours that provide them income and grant an authentic experience for tourists. Previously, Sofía worked with the Peak Destination Management Company as a Group Tour Leader. She has a Master's degree in Cultural Tourism from the Universitat de Girona and a Bachelor's degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management from the Universidad Rafael Landívar.

FELIPE HERNANDEZ

Founder of the Guatemalan ice cream company Glacy Cream. Dedicated to stimulating the local economy, Glacy Cream employs low-income young people to make natural and healthy ice cream. He has previous experience as an intern at Les Bas Rupts Hotel and Restaurant in Gerardmer, France. He obtained his Associate's Degree in Gastronomy and Culinary Arts from the Ecole Culinaire Francaise.

ALEJANDRA JEUGMANS

Co-Founder of Grupo TOA, a Guatemala-based company that provides digital tools and digital marketing to help other businesses grow. Grupo TOA specifically provides training that focuses on results and customer service to help businesses expand. She has also worked as an Educator in Entrepreneurship at the Universidad Rafael Landívar and is an active member and certified facilitator of the Startup Weekend community. She has a BA in Marketing from the Universidad Rafael Landívar.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

RENATE KRINGS

Founder of Wanderlust, a company that helps connect local artisans with buyers and economic opportunities. Wanderlust aims to give recognition and respect to artisans and their work so that others may become more aware of the cultural history behind the product. She has experience in craft development, research, and design. She received her Bachelor's degree in Product Design from the Universidad Rafael Landívar.

RODRIGO LOPEZ

Co-Founder of Yumus, a Guatemalan hummus company. Dedicated to making a community impact, Yumus purchases locally-sourced chickpeas and donates a meal every time their product is purchased through the Buy One Help One Program. He previously worked in Marketing for multinational corporations like Huawei, Nestle, and Kimberly-Clark. Rodrigo has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala City.

STEPHANIE MORALES

Co-Founder and COO of Watson Books & Coffee, a Guatemalan bookstore and coffee shop. Dedicated to creating social change, Watson Books & Coffee uses only fair-trade coffee and sells books that bring awareness to social injustices. Stephanie has previous experience as a Productivity Engineer at Colgate Palmolive. She has a Master's Degree in Food Technology and Administration and a Bachelor's in Food Science Engineering from the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.

GUYANA

JAI HIRAI

Co-Founder of the A+ Computer Training Center in Demerara, Guyana. The center provides free and low-cost training courses for young people who cannot afford the fees of traditional IT schools. The Center currently works with the Ministry of Public Telecommunications on a youth-oriented computer literacy program. Jai is also an IT Trainer at the University of Guyana and previously worked in the IT department at the Guyana Sugar Corporation. He is a Certified Network Administrator.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

EVIE KANHAI-GURCHURAN

Co-Founder and CEO of Java Coffee Bar, an artisanal coffee shop in Georgetown, Guyana. Java Coffee Bar reduces unemployment and supports Guyanese farmers by using locally-sourced ingredients and by making almost all of its products from scratch. Evie is also the CEO of EMTEC, a marketing and graphic design firm, and Sites Builders, a product development company. She has an Advanced Diploma in Business Administration from Cambridge University.

NIGEL ANTHONY PETERS

Founder of Arcadia Agri, a cultivator of organic fruits and vegetables in Guyana. By providing locally-grown produce and hiring a young workforce, Arcadia Agri aims to reduce both food imports and youth unemployment in the country. Nigel currently works for the National Public Health Reference Laboratory at the Ministry of Public Health. He has a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business at the University of the West Indies and a Bachelor's degree in Business from the University of Guyana.

HAITI

FRANTZIA AUGUSTIN

Founder and CEO of Fafa Distribution, a fair-trade company that sells artwork made by independent Haitian women artists. The goal of Fafa Distribution is to empower Haiti's female artists by giving them the opportunity to present and sell their products locally and worldwide. Frantzia has also worked in the Credit and Human Resources departments for Scogebank Group, Haiti's first bank. She received her Bachelor's degree in Accounting Sciences from IHECE Business School and has secretarial training from the Business Institute of the West Indies.

JEANIDA AZOR

Co-Founder and President of the Association Femmes d'Impact, an organization that provides social assistance to young mothers in Haiti. Concerned about the inability of young pregnant women to go to school and work in Haiti, her organization provides professional development, entrepreneurship, and leadership training to prepare them for a future career. Jeanida also works in Administrative Support for the Compagnie des Tabacs Comme Ill Faut S.A. and was previously the Secretary of Operations at Valerio Canez, S.A. She has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Quisqueya University.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

SAMUEL BASTIEN

Founder of the Health Education Project (HEP), an NGO that seeks to improve health education and awareness among Haiti's most vulnerable communities. HEP members travel to cities and rural villages throughout the country, giving presentations in schools, churches, marketplaces, and on the streets. Samuel has also worked as a Sales Representative for TRIOMI, a medical technology company, and for Project Medishare, an initiative that empowers Haitians to provide and receive access to quality health care. He is studying Medicine at the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra.

NADIA JEAN CHARLES

Co-Founder and Treasurer of Haiti Femmes & TIC, an association of women employed in the sciences. Haiti Femmes & TIC provides scholarships and hosts workshops, seminars, and competitions for women interested in working in Communications and Information Technology. Nadia also works for Project Medishare for Haiti, an NGO dedicated to providing quality health care to Haitians. She has a Master's degree in Computer Science from the Ecole Supérieure d'Infotronique d'Haïti.

JUPILLE FACILE

Founder and CEO of the Haitian bamboo company Bambou Facile. Bambou Facile uses its bamboo to build earthquake-resistant, affordable houses that avoid the environmental issues related to the use of traditional housing materials, such as concrete. Jupille is also an Assistant Director at Build Health International and was previously an Assistant Manager at Build Change. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Quisqueya University.

VALESCA SAINT CYR

COO of Saint Apollonia Mobile Dental Clinic, a health organization that seeks to address the limited access, quality, and equity of dental care delivery in Haiti. Valesca's organization sends specialists to communities throughout the Haiti, where they set up mobile clinics that treat locals who are unable to afford traditional dental care. She is currently a Dentist at the Foyer Maurice Sixto Medical Center. She received her Diploma in Dental Surgery from the Department of Dentistry at the State University of Haiti.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

EMMANUEL TILIAS

Co-Founder and CEO of the Haitian furniture company CG-Mèb Lakay. The company designs locally-made furniture and prides itself on its efficient process and durable products. Emmanuel teaches Economic Development at the Université Roi Henri Christophe (UEH). He has two Bachelor's degrees, one in Local Governance from the Université Public du Nord au Cap-Haitien and another in Law from the Université d'Etat d'Haiti.

ABNER VOLSAINT

CEO of La Confiserie Soulouquoise, a candy production company focused on creating sweets using organic ingredients, such as cow milk, chocolate, sugar, and cinnamon. One of his company's main products is Dous Makos, a flavored milk paste. In 2014, Abner participated in the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). He received his Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the National Institute of Administration, Management, and International Studies at the State University of Haiti.

SAGINE ZIZI

Founder, CEO, and Designer at Sazi Creations, a Haitian handbag company. Sazi Creations offers high-quality handbags using fabrics and techniques unique to their company. Sagine previously worked as an Administrative Assistant at Digicel Haiti, the country's largest telecommunications operator, and as a Sales Manager at Alo Communication. She has a Bachelor's degree in Diplomacy from the Academie Nationale Diplomatique et Consulaire and a Certificate in Management, Leadership, and Communications from Digicel University.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

HONDURAS

CINTHYA ANDINO

Co-Founder of Beleaf, a sustainable fashion design company based in Honduras. Beleaf aims to create a “second life” for textile waste by recycling it into new clothing. Cinthya also works as a Creative Director for Radio Panamericana, a local radio station, and previously worked in construction for CONCO and Arquitecnic. She has a Master’s degree in Project Management from the Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana (UNITEC) and a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture from the Universidad del Diseño en Honduras (CEDAC).

JOSE GOMEZ

Co-Founder and General Manager of Fanburger, a burger restaurant in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Concerned about the city’s lack of community-friendly spaces, Fanburger provides a comfortable atmosphere where locals can socialize while enjoying quality food. José previously worked as a Community Projects Assistant at the Embassy of Japan in Honduras. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from UNITEC.

RAFA LÓPEZ

Co-Founder and CEO of Malengu Designs, a Honduran fashion brand. Malengu Designs helps Honduran artists showcase their work online by conserving traditional culture while embracing modern methods. He is also the Creative Director of Oneblis, a digital marketing agency. He has a Master’s degree in Motion Graphics from BAU and a Bachelor’s degree in Graphic Design from UNITEC.

PAMELA MATAMOROS

Founder of the Centro Psicopedagógico Eduktiva, a Honduran educational psychology clinic that helps empower children with mental health conditions through education. The center uses psychoeducational assessments, tutoring, and personalized learning plans to help children with special needs progress through public schools. She has a Master’s degree in Learning Disabilities from ISEP, a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from the Universidad Católica de Honduras, and a Certificate in Communication Disorders from the Universidad de Alcalá.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

CARLOS MATS

Co-Founder and Treasurer of Haiti Femmes & TIC, an association of women employed in the sciences. Haiti Femmes & TIC provides scholarships and hosts workshops, seminars, and competitions for women interested in working in Communications and Information Technology. Nadia also works for Project Medishare for Haiti, an NGO dedicated to providing quality health care to Haitians. She has a Master's degree in Computer Science from the Ecole Supérieure d'Infotronique d'Haïti.

ALEJANDRA MONTOYA

Co-Founder of CITECH, a Honduran outsourcing company that employs young adults in a city where employment is scarce. CITECH aims to provide young adults with jobs that allow them to pay for their higher education and earn a university degree. One of the company's current goals is to provide a means for its employees to be certified in the freight industry. Alejandra received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Keiser University.

RAUL MUNGUIA MELGAR

Founder of Sin Rumbo Mountain Getaway, a mountain hotel that provides rural and adventure tourism services in the central region of Honduras. Sin Rumbo Mountain Getaway allows visitors to learn about the rural Honduran economy, offering tours of local coffee farms. He previously worked as a Supervisor for Walmart and as a Lean Manufacturing Engineer for a textile company. He has a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the Universidad Católica de Honduras.

FABRICIO ORTIZ MORALES

Founder and CEO of Ortiz & Morales Ingeniería de Estructuras, a consulting company that designs and assesses structural systems for buildings. His works have included the construction of earthquake-resilient structures and the expansion of the solar power industry in Honduras. Fabricio previously taught at the Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana (UNITEC) and in the Civil Engineering Department at the Federal University of Ouro Preto. He received his Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the Federal University of Ouro Preto and his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Catholic University of Honduras.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

ABRAHAM PACHECO

Founder of The New Black, a Honduran fashion label. Geared towards Honduran youth, The New Black designs high quality, affordable t-shirts with unique designs. Abraham has also worked as a Sales Representative for Convergys and runs his own blog, Under Regular. He recently graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Sales and Merchandising from the Centro Universitario Tecnológico.

JULIO CÉSAR PINEDA

Founder and President of Desde Cero, a project that provides financial education to Hondurans. In addition to giving trainings and conferences on personal finance, Desde Cero offers complimentary financial advising. Julio currently works in the Accounting and Budget department of the Central American Bank of Economic Integration. He has a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana (UNITEC) and a Bachelor's degree in Finance from the same institution.

JAMAICA

SHAWNEIL BAILEY

Founder and Managing Director of Zarabelle Limited, a people management service company based in Jamaica. Using an online database to match individuals with clients, Zarabelle can provide a crew for productions and events or talent for film and print media. With an efficient and professional team, Zarabelle seeks to provide convenience and peace of mind to clients. She was a Logistics and Project Coordinator for the Feeding of the 5000 in 2014 and 2015.

JAMELLIA IMANI BLYTHE

Founder and Managing Director of High Flyer Educational Services, a Jamaican alternative education organization. The organization offers alternative educational solutions to create and maintain a secure and empowering teaching and learning environment for students to reach their highest potential. She has taught Business and English Language at the Charlie Smith High School and serves as a communication instructor at the Heart Trust/NTA. She has a Bachelor's in English from the University of the West Indies and a post graduate diploma in Business Education from Mico University College.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

GAVIN LINDSAY

Co-Founder of the Jamaican tourist company Merit Holdings Ltd. Merit Holdings promotes tourism, employment, and sustainability in Jamaica by curating all-inclusive passes for tourists so they can become socially-immersed in the country through an authentic experience. Gavin worked as the Director and Department Head of Product Development for Island Pass Jamaica. He has a Bachelor's in Economics from the University of the West Indies. He is also certified as a Mutual Funds Licensed Dealer by the Canadian Securities Commission and has a Financial Securities Dealer License from the Jamaica Institute of Management.

KENISHIA MAIS

Founder of ThrivingDollars, a financial education platform that empowers young adults to make smarter decisions and create their ideal financial lives. ThrivingDollars was founded on a simple philosophy: with access to the right education and resources, anyone can dismantle their negative perceptions of money and attain financial freedom. Kenishia has a Bachelor's in Banking and Finance from the University of the West Indies.

ANDRE ROBB

Co-Founder and CEO of Braata Box & Co, which curates items made by local artisans and makers who wish to expand their customer base through e-commerce. He was previously a Department Head at iKon Media. His social entrepreneurship outlook is partly influenced by lessons learned in South Africa as part of a University of Oxford-funded research project. Andre has a background in social intervention, youth development, and social policy, having earned a Bachelor’s degree in Economics at the University of the West Indies, Mona.

KERRI-ANNE C. WALKER

Founder of the Jamaican business and lifestyle coaching company Kei Dubb. Dedicated to the success of independent artists and creators, Kei Dubb provides affordable business consulting to artists who are less comfortable running the business side of their venture. Kerri-Anne has worked as an Assistant for the Jamaica Football Federation, as an arts/culture business coach, and as an Animation Documentation specialist. Kerri-Anne has a Bachelor's in Linguistics from the University of the West Indies, Mona and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Arts and Culture Management from the Rome Business School.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

RORY-CRAIG RICHARD WALKER

Founder and CEO of Jamaican Care Packages. Dedicated to helping Jamaicans stay connected to their culture, Jamaican Care Packages delivers custom gift baskets with local treats to Jamaicans who have left the island. He worked as a Developer and Programmer for Toucan Interactive Jamaica and as a Developer Fellow for Slash Roots/Code for The Caribbean. He obtained his Bachelor's in Computer Science from the University of the West Indies.

NICOLENE WITTER

Co-Founder and Project and Administrative Coordinator of Enablers of Community Advancement Projects and Initiatives (ECAPI), an organization that aims to facilitate community development through sustainable partnerships. She has experience as an Administrative Assistant for ACDI/VOCA, a Scientific Officer for H2O Technical Services Limited, and as an Administrative Assistant for Jamaica Information Services. She has a Bachelor's in General Chemistry and Food Processing from the University of the West Indies, Mona and a postgraduate diploma in General Management from the Management Institute for National Development.

MEXICO

ODILE CORTÉS A.

Co-Founder of IntegraRSE, a Mexican organization that strives to increase the number of companies and individuals who practice corporate social responsibility by generating strategies that have a positive impact and create win-win relationships. She worked as an Educator at Tec de Monterrey. She has a Bachelor's in Political Science and International Affairs from Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas and an MD in Corporate Social Responsibility from the Universidad Anahuac del Norte.

FABIOLA FUIGUEROA-NAVARRO

Founder of Mexican consulting firm Consultoria Endemica SA, which aims to revolutionize the perception of social sustainability. Fabiola's company has an in-depth understanding of the Mexican and Latin American context, which allows them to develop effective monitoring and evaluation methodologies and solutions that lead to a positive impact. She has a Bachelor's in International Relations from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

NETZI GALLARDO

Co-Founder of La Colmena del Abuelo, a Mexico-based company that spreads awareness of the plight of bees and bee protection by promoting 100% pure honey. Netzi's company markets their products throughout the world. In addition to her business venture, Netzi works as a Manager for Diana Vega Alta Joyería, a jewelry company. She has a Bachelor's in Foreign Language Teaching from the Universidad de Colima.

ADRIAN GARCIA CASARRUBIAS

Founder of INFOOD, an organization that empowers small holder farmers from Mexico and Latin America by helping them acquire and adopt new farming methods. This allows them to access high value global markets. He previously worked as a Director for Parque de Innovación Agrobioteg and as an Educator for the Universidad Politécnica de Bicentenario. He received a Bachelor's in Biotechnology from the Autonomous University of Querétaro. He received his Master's, and is currently working on his PhD, in Plant Biotechnology from the Center for Research and Advanced Studies at the National Polytechnic Institute.

DANIEL GARCIA

Founder of ASD Technologies of Mexico, a company dedicated to the development and implementation of sophisticated software solutions for logistics companies. He has previously worked as a Director for TIPSA Mexico, a Supervisor for Panther Systems S.A., and as a Developer/Programmer for Lumina Software. He has a Bachelor's in Electronics and Automation from the Autonomous University of Nuevo León.

ALBERTO ADÁN GOMEZ ALVARADO

Founder of Hackerlopers, a company that allows entrepreneurs and startup companies in Mexico to efficiently create their own apps and software at a low price. He has worked as a Developer/Programmer for Lasec Telecomunicaciones and as a Systems Manager for DSA Manufacturing. He has a Bachelor's in Computer Engineering and a Master's in Applied Technology from the Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

DANIELA HERNÁNDEZ

Founder of Maya Bacab, a company in Mexico that aims to improve human health by promoting honey and hive products that contribute to economic development and sustainability in Mayan communities. She has been a Director at the Centro Europeo para la Competitividad and a Manager at PlayArts magazine and Melipona de Felipe Carrillo Puerto. She has a Bachelor's in International Relations from the University of Guadalajara and a diploma in Social Leadership Development from the Universidad Panamericana.

ANGEL LOPEZ COLIN

Co-Founder of Kimerkia. This Mexican-based company provides technological products and services to companies and individuals. Kimerkia offers low-cost, easy-to-develop software and applications so clients can customize it easily and cost-effectively. He worked as a manager for Robert Bosch North America and as a professional for Robert Bosch China. He obtained his Bachelor's in Industrial Engineering from the Instituto Tecnológico de Toluca.

MARCELO LARA

President and CEO of Pro Indie Music, an online platform that allows independent musicians in Mexico and around the world to promote their work. Pro Indie Music connects musicians with venues and festivals where they can perform and introduces them to managers and bookers who are looking to hire them. Marcelo is currently earning a Bachelor’s degree in Jazz Studies from the Universidad Veracruzana.

PAUL O’HEA FLORES

Co-Founder of the Instituto de Investigación Sobre Democracia y Participación Ciudadana, which contributes to the development of Mexican democracy by incentivizing civil participation in elections and other civic activities. His organization uses web portals that allow citizens to interact with the information and public life. He worked as a Manager for Cinco Panes y Dos Peces. He has a Bachelor's in Social Sciences from Tecnológico de Monterrey.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

ALEJANDRO PINEDA

Co-Founder of 3D SmartLabs, a company that facilitates creative manufacturing processes in product experience development for entrepreneurs. 3D SmartLabs provides customized, open-sourced solutions, using a group of design, engineering, and medical specialists and 3D technology as a design reference. He has an MD in Mechatronics from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM).

SOFÍA PRECIADO VALENZUELA

Co-Founder of Mulata, a company that aims to reduce the prevalence of obesity by producing and distributing healthy and tasty snacks that are readily available to consumers. Sofía worked as a Management Consultant at Falconi and as an Internship Coordinator and Educator at Tecnológico de Monterrey. She has an MD in Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering, both from Tecnológico de Monterrey.

DANIEL SANCHEZ

Co-Founder of SLC Consultoria. This Mexico-based company aims to improve performance in organizations by helping companies implement internal sustainability policies. He has previously worked as a Director for CCA Group and at London Consulting Group. He obtained his Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from Tec de Monterrey and his Master’s in Business Administration from CETYS Universidad.

DANIELA TAPIA DURAN

Co-Founder of EduRobótica Juárez, a non-profit organization which provides weekly robotics workshops to children and youth. She previously worked at Robert Bosch. She has a Bachelor's in Mechatronics Engineering from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education in Mexico and has international experience in operations management and logistics.

RICK VALENCIA

Founder of Addere Creative Consulting, a company that develops solutions for entrepreneurs in marginalized areas of Mexico so that their projects can promote equal opportunity and empowerment. He worked at the Instituto Yucateco de Emprendedores, Reinventa Incubadora de Ideas, and Neos Incubación y Aceleración de la UTM. He has a Bachelor's in Public Relations from the Universidad del Valle de México as well as several digital marketing certifications.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

DANIEL ZERMEÑO

Co-Founder of Jelper Techonologies, a social-tech company that improves the professional and personal lives of people in Mexico. Jelper Technologies works with individuals, particularly women, in the residential cleaning sector, providing them with technological tools and resources that help them develop a more competitive job profile. He previously worked at Master Financial Management. He received a Bachelor's in Financial Management at Tec de Monterrey.

NICARAGUA

EDITH BARREDA

General Manager at enREDada, a social enterprise dedicated to empowering young women in Nicaragua through art and technology. The organization promotes political action to inspire social change. She has also worked as a social advisor for AH2O, a methodological advisor at the Universidad Centroamericana, a socio-economic advisor for the Instituto Nicaragüense de la Vivienda Urbana y Rural, and in resource management at Misión Bosawas. She received her Bachelor's in Macroeconomics and Applied Economics from the Universidad Centroamericana.

LUIS CALDERA

Co-Founder and COO of Moka Creativa. This Nicaragua-based company provides technological solutions to private and public-sector clients to foster social and environmental development. He implements technological and communication solutions for projects that have a positive social impact. Luis has a Bachelor's in International Relations from the Universidad Americana.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

JC CERNA

Founder of Camas Karen S.A., a Nicaraguan mattress company. JC's company aims to sell the highest quality beds and mattresses at the best prices in Central America. He has also worked as the General Manager of Agrojamaica S.A. and was a founding member and ad honorem consultant of the Juan José Castelló Zambrano Foundation. He has a Bachelor's in Agronomy from the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana Zamoran, an MSc in Animal Sciences from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, and a Master's in Business Administration from INCAE.

ANGEL FLORES

Founder of Blue Hope, a Nicaraguan early education center that provides psychological and educational therapies for children on the autism spectrum. Blue Hope strives to give autistic children the tools and resources they need so that they can succeed in Nicaragua's schools and become active citizens despite their disability. Angel received a Bachelor's in Law from MLK-UENIC.

BLANCA GONZALEZ

Founder of Curvas Plus Size Boutique, a clothing store in Nicaragua that adheres to the motto of "beauty has no size". Curvas Plus Size Boutique is for women and men in search of a specialized shopping experience where they can find different alternatives and a variety of clothing options. Blanca has worked as a service manager at Isuzu Nicaragua and as a manager at Walmart Mexico and Central America. She obtained a Bachelor's in Marketing from the Universidad Americana.

SANTIAGO JIMÉNEZ

Founder and General Manager of Nicaholigays, a travel agency that provides information and resources that ensure a safe, welcoming, and unforgettable experience in Nicaragua for LGBTQI+ travelers. Santiago previously worked as a site manager for Global Glimpse. He has a Bachelor's in Tourism and Business Management from the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua and received a diploma in Tourism Management and Tourism Teachers Training from ITH-Klessheim in Salzburg, Austria.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

RICARDO MARTINEZ ARGUELLO

Co-Founder of the Nicaraguan company Ostionalito, which provides ecological tourism at affordable prices and allows tourists to experience the local area while contributing to community development. He worked as a sales representative for AGA Express and as the department head for the Nicaraguan Ministry of Defense. He received his Bachelor's in Law from the Universidad Centroamericana.

KENIA PEÑA

Founder of P&M Imports, a company that distributes high-quality makeup products at low prices to businesses and women in Nicaragua. She has also worked as a coordinator for Guacalito de la Isla and as a trainee for Ingenio Monte Rosa-Grupo Pantaleon. She obtained her Bachelor's in Business Administration and Finance from Ave Maria University-Latin American Campus and a Master's in Labor Law from the Universidad Centroamericana. She is also certified in Social Media Marketing by Udemy.

VLADIMIR VÁSQUEZ

Co-Founder of Terabyte Nicaragua, a start-up that provides courses to Hondurans on technical education, online security, and digital media. Terabyte Nicaragua is focused on improving technology literacy in Nicaragua, especially in rural areas where Internet access and cell service is limited. He has a Journalism degree from the Universidad del Valle.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

PANAMA

LACEY AGREDO

Co-Founder of Wised, a Panamanian company that promotes professional development initiatives and products. Wised aims to help its clients unleash their full potential using technology and trainings. She previously worked as an industrial psychologist in human resources and as a specialist in internal corporate communication, wellness, and culture. She obtained her Bachelor's in Psychology from Latina University and her Master‘s in Industrial Psychology from Santa Mar a la Antique University.

BETZY AROSEMENA

Partner and the Media Manager at Arckalab, a business dedicated to shaping young people into global citizens and community leaders through workshops and seminars. Arckalab focuses on experimental learning and aims to complement the education that children receive in school. She previously worked as a Digital Strategist at Brand Editors and was the Account Manager at Oferta Simple. She completed the Community College Initiative Program and currently volunteers at different organizations in Panama, including Cocydon and the Independent Athletic Club.

ABDIEL CHIU

Founder and CEO of CHT Engineering in Panama, a company that aims to implement the best engineering solutions to improve Panama’s infrastructure and enable it to become more sustainable. Abdiel is also the national point of contact for Panama in the Space Generation Advisory Council. He received his Bachelor's in Civil Engineering and Geomatics Engineering at the Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá and his Master’s in Energy at Engie/GDF Suez.

LILIAN GORRIZ

Founder of My Global Placement, a platform that provides a place for employers, job seekers, and academic institutions to network and share job opportunities. Previously, Lilian held several management positions at large multinational companies in Latin America and the Middle East. She received her MBA from Hult International Business School and a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from the Universidad Católica Santa María La Antigua.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

GARY MARTIN

Co-Founder and CEO of Praxis, a Panamanian-based initiative that fights misinformation and corruption through objective reporting on social media and podcasts. By launching Praxis, Gary has turned his interest in technology and philosophy into social entrepreneurship and hacktivism. He was named one of the Top Four Influencers Under 30 in Panama in 2018 by Editorial La Prensa. Gary has a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from the Universidad Santa María la Antigua.

RAFAEL ZUBIETA

Founder and CEO of IR PTY, a business that creates and promotes traditional Panamanian handicraft products. IR PTY employs local artisans, who design products using traditional techniques. Rafael is also a manager at Globinvest Securities, S.A., a company that offers services to families who are looking to invest in the stock market. He has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Universidad de Panamá.

PARAGUAY

BIBIANA DIPEO

Director of Alimentando Para El Futuro, an NGO that fights malnutrition and poverty by pioneering sustainable women-centered strategies. Bibiana has over 10 years of experience in the financial sector and has worked on projects in Paraguay, Brazil, and Chile. She holds an MBA and a Bachelor's degree in Commercial Engineering from Universidad Americana.

DENISE GENIT

Co-Founder and CEO of Oh! Sí, where she designs and develops a new style of high-end quality garments. After realizing that many other artists struggle to sell their products as well, Oh! Sí became a store of exclusively Paraguayan designs to involve more entrepreneurs and artists. Denise has previously worked in advertising, as a copywriter, and as a freelance writer. She has a Bachelor's degree in Communications with a focus on Advertising from the Universidad Católica Nuestra Señora de la Asunción.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

LUIS LANE

Co-Founder and CEO of the Paraguayan snack brand Fichas de Mandioca. The company focuses on the development and sale of authentic national and cultural flavors. Luis has previously worked in banking and as a Supply Chain Manager for an import and distribution company. Luis is currently working on two new startups, Concretar.com.py and Precious Plastics Paraguay, and he is Director of a Financial Debt Collection company. He has a BA in Economics from the Universidad Católica Nuestra Señora del Paraguay.

TATIANA R. MOREIRA

Founder of the digital dentistry department at Esthetic Center, a clinic in Asunción that aims to improve dental health and expand treatment options using technology in digital dentistry. She has previous experience as the Scientific and Executive Director of Mis Implants Paraguay; Assistant Professor of the Department of Dental Implants at the Universidad Autónoma de Asunción; and lecturer on oral implantology, dental photography, and digital dentistry. Tatiana has a DDS in Implantology from CPO Uninga Bauru and a Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design from the Universidad Americana.

JOSÉ PINO

CEO and Co-Founder of Tavatech SA, a software company that works with other entities to execute solutions through technology and innovation. Prior to Tavatech, José co-founded Atom Lab, a digital marketing company. He was also project leader in the Cluster of Applied Research of the Polytechnic School at the National University of Asunción. He has won competitions and hackathons, including first prize in the first Startup Weekend in Paraguay.

GUSTAVO SOSA

Co-Founder of Yosh, a software company focused on the innovation of technological solutions for companies that generate a social or environmental impact. Yosh creates software for MSMEs to facilitate their access to technology. Gustavo is a member of the Association of Entrepreneurs of Paraguay. Before founding his own company, he carried out consultancy work, leading innovative projects related to technology. He has a Bachelor's degree in Systems Engineering from the National University of Asunción, where he is currently a professor.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

PERU

MATIAS BALLON

Co-Founder and CEO of Proyecto Alto Perú, a non-profit organization that works with children and young people from marginal urban communities to develop healthy bonds and life skills. He has previous experience working in marketing and volunteering at two prisons in Peru. Matias has a postgraduate certificate in Management in Social Innovation from the Amani Institute, a graduate certificate in Development Practices from the University of Queensland, and a Bachelor's degree in Clinical Psychology from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

MALÚ BENAVIDES ROBLES

Co-Founder of InspirArte – Sumaq Tika, a designer brand that works to develop Andean embroidery, empower artisans, and revalue the art of the Maquinaska technique. She also works in corporate affairs at Backus-Sabmiller in Perú, where she leads the company's sustainable development program in Cusco and works on the implementation of social marketing projects. Malú has a Bachelor's degree in Communications from the Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad del Cusco.

MARÍA GRACIA FARFÁN

Founder and Manager of Pequeños Detalles Handmade Peru, a business that empowers artisan moms through job training and employment opportunity by making handmade woven products. Maria Gracia has a specialist certification in social innovation, and has worked with ventures to develop trainings, workshops and volunteer opportunities. She has a Bachelor's degree in Management and Marketing from ESAN University.

VARI GARCIA

Co-Founder and General Manager of Grupo Inkamoda. Inkamoda works in conjunction with local communities, artisans, and weavers to generate better opportunities for sustainable products made from alpaca fiber. Vari is a commercial engineer with a specialty in international business. She completed her research thesis on the use of Peruvian textiles, natural dyes, and ancient Inca techniques in creating innovative products. She has a Bachelor's degree from the Catholic University of Santa Maria.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

MAR LAYSECA

Co-Founder and CEO of MUTUO, a social venture that seeks to improve the standard of living for low-income families who build their own homes. Through architecture competitions, MUTUO encourages professionals to design safer homes for families. She previously worked in the social sector, focusing on Peruvian traditional materials and building techniques in native communities. She has a degree in Architecture from the Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas.

GISELE LEÓN

Senior Project Manager and Vice-President of CAPA Peru, a non-profit organization which implements sustainable projects in the Peruvian Amazon. She is also a Senior Analyst at Videnza Consultores, a consulting firm specialized in designing and evaluating policies. Gisele has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the Universidad del Pacífico (Peru) and a Diploma in Public Administration from the Universidad de Piura.

DARWIN MELLADO

Founder and Director of Manka Restaurant, a food and beverage company that promotes the traditional cuisine, art, and folklore of Cusco. He has previous experience working as an industrial engineer and business analyst. Darwin has a Master's degree in Business Administration and Services Marketing from the Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola and a degree in Industrial Engineering from the Universidad Andina del Cusco.

ANDREA MORALES

CFO and Managing Director of Millma & Qaytu, a platform that connects alpaca farmers with the international market through fair trade. She aims to ensure a sustainable future for the community at every stage of the supply chain. She has previous experience working as a manager at a distributor, as a marketing designer, and as a social media manager. Andrea has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from San Pablo University and a degree in Economic Management from the Social Sciences Academy in Lodz, Poland.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

NIK KEVIN QUITO ESPINOZA

Founder of Cis, a Peruvian organization that promotes business development through workshops on innovation, teamwork, technological development, and project design, with the goal of creating sustainable, high-impact solutions. Cis has developed Anka, a real-time monitoring system for natural disaster victims, which helps expedite the response time of emergency personnel. Nik previously worked as a system analyst at ABB Perú and has a Bachelor's degree in Information Systems from the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos.

ALDO SAAVEDRA ROMERO

Co-Founder of Desert Expeditions, a customer-centered travel company that provides once-in-a-lifetime experiences to tourists in Peru. His company's mission is to draw international attention to Peru's desert regions through tourism. Aldo has worked with a non-profit tourism organization in Lima and works with his company to support social and environmental projects. He has a degree in Tourism Management from Federico Villareal University and earned his snowboard instruction certification from PSIA-AASI in the United States.

SHARON SALAZAR LOZANO

CEO and Founder of Zumo Colaboratorio Cultural, a Peruvian cultural marketing company dedicated to artistic representation, public relations, press campaigns, events production, and socio-cultural development projects. She has experience as a speaker and facilitator on cultural entrepreneurship and is affiliated with the Association of Latin American Managers and the Domino School. Sharon has a Bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences from the Universidad Privada Antenor Orrego.

ROSA SANCHEZ

Co-Founder and President of Hands On Perú, a nonprofit that works to bridge the health gap in Trujillo, Peru through rural medical campaigns. Her organization seeks to increase international recognition and an understanding of Peru's medical system by bringing volunteers to marginalized populations to provide health care. Her previous experience includes working in surgical and psychiatric nursing, as well as planning and executing the project CESAPU, the first public health community center in Peru. She has a Nursing degree from the Universidad Privada Antenor Orrego.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

PEDRO VALERA

CEO and President of Pymetic, a business that offers digital and technical services to leading companies. He also trains low-income entrepreneurs from Lima free of charge. Pedro has an MBA from Centrum Graduate Business School, a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from EADA Business School, and a Bachelor's degree in Telecommunications Engineering from PUCP.

REBECA VEGA

CEO of Wander, a platform that promotes citizen security in cities in developing countries. Wander's software uses data analytics, statistics, and crime maps in real time to prevent and fight crime and increase citizen security. Rebeca has a Diploma in International Business Negotiations from the Ministerio de Comercio Exterior y Turismo and a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from the National University of Piura.

DANA VIDAL

Founder and CEO of Remodela Fashion Lab, which seeks to change the way fashion consumers make decisions about their clothing by offering options for upcycling, repurposing, and buying sustainable and fair-trade clothing. She has previous experience working in engineering and as a tax consultant for a local municipality. She has a diploma in Process Management from the Universidad ESAN and a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the Universidad de Lima.

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

JANEEL R. BOON

CEO of Boons Computer, a company that aims to provide computer services and educate community members about the computer world. Boons Computer has aired programs on the country's only Gospel radio station, which are called IT Talks. Janeel was named one of the "30 under 30" entrepreneurial youths of the Caribbean in 2017 and has a degree in Computer Science/IT from Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

SHANE J. BROWNE

Founder and CEO of the St. Kitts and Nevis retail store SKN Village. Dedicated to satisfying the fashion-forward style of millennials, SKN Village offers trendy gear at affordable prices on an online shopping platform. Shane is a past Rotary Youth Leadership Awardee and a member of a local youth entrepreneurship board. He managed a restaurant for three years before starting his own business.

SAINT LUCIA

NYUS ALFRED

Co-Founder and Managing Director of Sporte Avis, a platform that allows athletes to showcase their talent while simultaneously connecting them with opportunities for educational and professional development. He currently serves as the first Vice President of the Saint Lucia National Youth Council and as the Mentorship Coordinator of the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network Chapter in Saint Lucia. Nyus has an Associate's degree in Economics, Sociology, and Business from Sir Arthur Lewis Community College.

JOHANAN DUJON

Founder and Managing Director of Algas Organics, the Caribbean's first indigenous agriculture biotechnology company. Algas Organics uses Caribbean plants to formulate environmentally-friendly agricultural inputs, which are designed to improve crop resilience and increase yields without harming their users or damaging the environment. He has a degree in Business Studies from Sir Arthur Lewis Community College.

LAURA M. JOHN

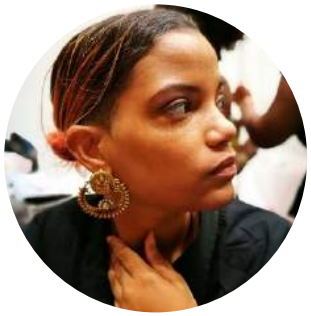
Founder and CEO of Jua Kali Ltd., a social enterprise that seeks to provide innovative and sustainable waste management solutions to small islands through strategic partnerships. Previously, Laurah has worked with the Ministry of Social Transformation, Local Government, and Community Empowerment, the World Bank, and with the Caribbean Local Economic Development Project. She has a Master's degree in Urban Studies from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

CHADIA MATHURIN

CEO and Creative Director of Wakonté, a group of companies dedicated to creating platforms for African and Caribbean entrepreneurs, authors, artists, and creatives to share their stories. Chadia has designed and developed websites for the Government of Saint Lucia and is also responsible for designing the web portals of the companies under her organization. Chadia has a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

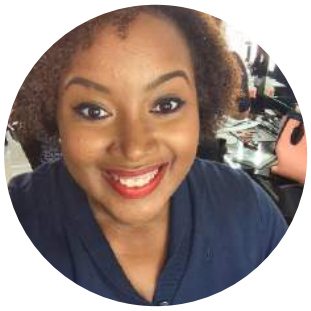
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



KAREN DE FREITAS

Creator and Designer of SoKa, a fashion brand that embraces femininity and local culture. SoKa provides ready-to-wear designs through a West Indian lens and works to redefine beauty standards by empowering women to celebrate their heritage. Karen is a technical clothing and textiles instructor at the Kingstown Technical Institute and uses pop culture, traditional fashion, and her experience to inspire students. She has a Bachelor's degree in Fashion Design from the Parsons School of Design. Karen is also the Founding Director of Project Pink, a Non profit organization raises funds for Cancer Patients in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada.

SINT MAARTEN



CHARITY SAM

Founder and Managing Director of Phenomenal Girls Society, a girls' leadership and empowerment organization. Phenomenal Girls Society provides young girls with mentors that help guide them to achieve personal and professional goals. They also have an annual empowerment summer camp. Charity wrote a manual titled, "Minding Our Business: Domestic Violence in the Workplace" to help employers and human resources departments aid employees who are impacted by domestic violence. Charity has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the UWI Cave Hill Campus and an Associate's degree in Business Management from the University of St. Martin.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

SURINAME

NIRAJ BAJNATH

Founder and CEO of Pharmtech N.V., a Suriname-based distributor of agricultural products. Pharmtech N.V. provides affordably-priced agricultural products throughout the Caribbean, including in small markets where imported foods are scarce. Niraj previously worked at S.A.N International Group of Companies N.V. He has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname.

JOSEPH SIMEON DEONARAINE

Founder and CEO of Your Wealthy Journey, an online business focused on inspiring young people in Suriname to set business goals. Your Wealthy Journey has a free online platform that provides business advice and support to young people looking to start a company. Joseph has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname.

JOEY DRAGMAN

Founder of Joey-D Foods, a food service and training company. Joey-D Foods provides locally-sourced, nutritious foods to their clients and a space for aspiring chefs to learn. He won the National Culinary Competition and joined the National Culinary Team of Suriname in 2016. He previously worked as the head chef at a building materials supply company. He studied at the Suriname Hospitality and Tourism Training Centre.

SAID MUNTSLAG

Founder and Managing Director of the Suriname-based lighting company LEDSUR N.V. Dedicated to helping others reduce their carbon footprint, LEDSUR N.V. provides state-of-the-art LED lighting at no upfront cost. Said has previously served as Charter President of the Rotaract Club of F.R.E.S.H. and as a board member of the Courtyard Children Fund Suriname. Said has a Bachelor's degree in Mineral Resource Management from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

RAZI TAUS

Founder of ShopR.sr, a company that brings quality printing services to rural areas. Her business provides affordable printing services while creating local jobs and a place to connect with the community and promote sustainable ways of living. Razia has previous experience working in the GIS department of the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Services in Suriname. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and has a Bachelor's degree from Anton de Kom Universiteit van Suriname.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

VIJAY DIALSINGH

Founder of Growsmartt, an online forum that provides solutions to agricultural problems. Growsmartt centralizes the knowledge banks of dispersed agricultural stakeholders in one digital space and provides free access. The platform tackles issues such as high food import dependency and food shortages. Vijay works as a farmer and has previous experience in financial investments, sales, and marketing. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Management Studies and Economics from the University of the West Indies.

AFIYA KELENNE DICK

Founder and Director of Operations for Evergreen Ridge Winery, a company that produces wines made from locally-grown tropical fruits in Trinidad and Tobago. Afiya also works for a local energy company as the Coordinator of Environment and Safety. She has a Master's degree in Environment Science and Management from the University of Trinidad and Tobago; a Bachelor's degree in Water Resources Management from the College of Science, Technology, and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago; and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management from the University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

RONDELL HAMILTON

Founder and Managing Director of Rennie's Orphanage and Animal Rescue, an animal rehabilitation center. Dedicated to species conservation, Rennie's Orphanage cares for injured and orphaned wildlife and educates the public about the importance of biodiversity in Trinidad and Tobago. Rondell is a volunteer at the Wildlife Orphanage and Rehabilitation Centre and at Trinibats, a non-profit bat conservation team. He has a Bachelor's degree in Biology with an emphasis in Zoology from Andrews University.

JAYME HOYTE

Co-Founder and Executive Director of SmartTerm Limited, an education management platform that provides efficient communication between schools, families, and the government. Jayme has volunteered with the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development and the Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations (CANTO). She has a Master's degree in Global Studies with a specialization in Economics and Foreign Aid and a Bachelor's degree in Economics and International Relations from the same institution.

SHEM WILLIAMS

Co-Founder and Director of ESPY Technical Services Limited, a company dedicated to ensuring efficient health care service in the Caribbean region by improving the reliability and availability of medical equipment. Shem is a registered electrical engineer and project management professional. He volunteers with the Association of Professional Engineers of Trinidad and Tobago, the Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute, and the Is There Not A Cause (ITNAC) Foundation. He has a Law degree from the University of London.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

URUGUAY

MAXIMILIANO CASAL

Software Engineer at Nowports, a logistics platform that tracks and improves freight management for imports and exports. He is also the Co-Founder of Croway, a company that is creating the first marketplace for rental cars in Latin America, as well as the Co-Founder and CEO of AgroBeep, a start-up that combined Agriculture, IoT, and software to solve harvest loss problems. Maximiliano has a Bachelor's degree in Software Engineering from ORT University and a High Impact Entrepreneurship Certificate from TrepCamp at Stanford University.

MARIANA GOMES DE FREITAS

Co-Founder and Commercial Director of Strawberry, a fashion accessory company. Strawberry seeks to offer women a variety of uniquely designed accessories with affordable prices in shopping centers and online. Mariana previously founded Tu Cupón Book, a company she created as part of her final degree thesis project. She has also participated in Más Emprendedoras, Uruguay's program for female entrepreneurs. Mariana has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a certificate in Management Training Programs for SMEs from the Universidad ORT del Uruguay.

GUSTAVO RODRÍGUEZ

CEO and Founder of OTRA Vintage Style Goods, a company dedicated to the design and manufacture of high-end leather and canvas products for men. He previously worked in international commodity trading as an operations and logistics analyst and as an advisor in International Business for CCI and ANCAP. Gustavo has a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the Universidad de la República.

ALICE OTEGUI

Founder and Director of Calmo, a fashion brand that uses sustainable approaches to produce pieces with natural, biodegradable materials that are handcrafted by local artisans and preserve Uruguay's handmade techniques while incorporating Alice's own innovative design. Alice has previous experience working in the fashion industry as a Designer at Lolita and as the Assistant to the Director of Lanas Trinidad. She has a Bachelor's degree in Fashion Design from the Universidad ORT Uruguay.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

FER TARRECH

Owner and General Manager of Delishop, a business that offers healthy, homemade, frozen food products. Delishop strives to make healthy foods convenient by offering delivery services. She has previous experience organizing a fair of local food and artisan products at the Festival Música de la Tierra and working with educational travel programs at Odile Beer Travel Agency. She has a Master's degree in Marketing and a Bachelor's degree in Tourism Management from the Universidad Católica del Uruguay.

VENEZUELA

CLARA CAVALLARO

Founder and President of the first Scientific Association of Dental Students (SOCIEO) in Venezuela. SOCIEO seeks to include students in high-profile scientific research and establishes national and international alliances that help them grow as professionals and individuals. Clara co-authored an interdisciplinary book entitled Internal Medicine Applied to Dentistry. Clara has a Master's degree in Dentistry from the Central University of Venezuela and a Master's degree in Leadership from the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración.

CARLA MARIANA CHÁVEZ CASTELLANOS

CEO of Yo Mismo Soy, a social business that promotes community self-management in the poorest areas of Caracas to make communities and their inhabitants more productive, lift them out of poverty, and generate development and growth. Carla was on the Board of Directors of the Federation of Students Center at Simon Bolivar University and has volunteered with the Futuro Presente Foundation and Caracas Mi Convive. She is currently the Corporate Coordinator of the digital marketing company Analiticom. She has an MBA from the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración and a Bachelor's degree in Engineering from Simon Bolivar University.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

FRANCISCO HERNÁNDEZ

Co-Founder and CEO of the Bloxie School, a digital platform that offers innovative educational experiences by connecting experts, influencers, and companies with people interested in learning marketing, business, and technology skills. Francisco has previous experience working with SC Johnson as a Marketing Intern. He also co-founded Mundo Ecolecua, an environmental education school, as well as Semillas Populares, an NGO aiming to promote business education programs in several poor areas of Caracas.

ALBERTO KABBABE

Co-Founder and Executive Director of Alimenta la Solidaridad, an organization that develops sustainable solutions that promote access to affordable local food. Alimenta la Solidaridad currently works in 10 communities in Caracas. Alberto is an advocate for the right to food and education and has previous experience as the Co-Founder of Snapshot. He also taught courses in the Food Science Department at the Universidad Metropolitana. He is currently completing a Master's in Public Administration at the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración and has a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the Universidad Metropolitana.

DELIA E. LAREZ

Co-Founder of Besign Colmena de Ideas, a website design company that creates digital solutions for small businesses. Besign Colmena de Ideas develops tailored digital strategies and products to help small and medium businesses grow. Delia has also taught graphic design courses at the Instituto de Diseño de Valencia, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in the subject.

ANDREA MARTINEZ

Co-Founder and Chief Marketing Officer of Zona Rasta Venezuela, a sports movement focused on promoting the practice of non-traditional sports such as surfing and skateboarding. Zona Rasta develops athletes in surfing and skateboarding through trainings, competitions, tours, camps, and exhibitions. Andrea previously worked with Pfizer as a Country Brand Manager. She has a Bachelor's degree in Advertising from the Universidad Alejandro de Humboldt, as well as certificates in Digital Marketing from Smart Beemo and Marketing Management from the Universidad Metropolitana.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

DANNY RUIZ MANRIQUE

Founder and CEO of RM Industriales CA, a company that produces plastic water bottles. RM Industriales CA provides products of exceptional quality with competitive prices to satisfy domestic and export markets. Danny has also written a book entitled Yo Emprendedor. He has an MBA from the Universidad del Zulia and a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the Universidad Rafael Urdaneta.

LINDA ESTRELLA DEL MAR MONTILLA CELIS

Business Development and Sales Manager of AIESEC San Cristóbal, Venezuela's committee covering Táchira State. AIESEC San Cristóbal empowers young people to play an active and positive role in society, offering tools and experiences to train them as leaders. Linda is also a representative in the Foundation of Graduates at the Universidad Nacional Experimental del Táchira (UNET). She has Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Business Management from Caribbean International University and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from UNET.

PAOLA PÉREZ

Founder and CEO of Tapas y Botellas por Vidas, a Non-Profit organization that helps children with cancer through the recycling of plastic lids and bottles. Paola is also the Vice President of the Internet Society Venezuela Chapter and trains LAC Internet stakeholders through the organization's e-learning platform. She is the chair of the LACNIC Public Policy Forum and has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Systems Engineering from the University of the Andes. She is going to start a Master's degree in Cybersecurity.

ARTURO RIERA

Founder of Pasitos Sinfónicos, a music academy that offers new ways to learn music for children and families. Pasitos Sinfónicos offers music stimulation for pregnant mothers and babies as well as music theory and instrument instruction for children. Arturo has played percussion with Lara Symphonic Orchestra and has played as a soloist with Lara Symphonic Orchestra and Coro Symphonic Orchestra. Arturo has a Master's degree in Education from the Universidad Pedagógica Experimental Libertador and is finishing his Master's degree in Percussion at the Universidad Simón Bolívar.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

JOSE M. RIVERO

Founder and CEO of Superwax C.A., a company that commercializes and distributes a wide range of high-quality raw materials to the manufacturing industry. He has previous experience working in the petrochemical industry. Jose has a Management degree from the Advanced Executive Program at the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (IESA) and a Bachelor's degree in Veterinary Studies from the Universidad Central de Venezuela.

IGNACIO RODRIGUEZ

Founder of Epix, an organization that creates empathy through storytelling. Epix combines photography and writing to tell stories. Ignacio has served as a consultant for education and ICT projects around the world, and he is the Co-Founder and Executive Producer of Mingo Studio, which creates an international network of musicians, composers, and engineers. He has a Bachelor's degree in Production Engineering from the Universidad Simón Bolívar.

ANDRÉS SOLÓRZANO

Co-Founder of Leather Heart, a company that recycles textile waste pieces to produce unique and high-quality products at competitive prices. Leather Heart focuses on producing stuffed animals made from 100% textile waste while offering opportunities for unemployed women to re-enter the workforce. Andrés has previous experience working with AcercArte Cultura, an organization that seeks to democratize creativity and innovation. He has an MBA from the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (IESA) and a Bachelor's degree in Foreign Affairs from the Universidad Central de Venezuela.

ORIANA TREJO

Founder and CEO of Viaja y Aprende (VyA), a company that provides study abroad opportunities for low-income Venezuelan students. VyA offers programs to students that are personalized based on their background, needs, preferences, and capabilities. Oriana has previously worked as an English teacher at Colegio Los Campitos. She has a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from Andrés Bello Catholic University.

YLAI FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

EDGAR VELASQUEZ MONTERO

Founder and President of EcoTapüy, a business that builds houses and facilities made of recycled polymers. EcoTapüy addresses obstacles that many families face in securing housing while also combatting environmental issues caused by waste. Edgar has volunteered with the student organization Grupo Escalera to expand higher education opportunities for high school students and has taught undergraduate courses at the Universidad Simón Bolívar and the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello. He has a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Universidad Simón Bolívar and is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Development and Environment.

ANDREINA YUSTI

Founder and CEO of Yusti Manager, a business that offers branding and digital marketing services for entrepreneurs looking to promote their businesses on and offline. She has over five years of experience in digital marketing, working with companies, universities, brands, and entrepreneurs. Andreina is part of the Club de Emprendedores Maracaibo. She has a Bachelor's degree in Advertising and Public Relations from the Universidad del Zulia.