



Refugee Resettlement Forum

Wednesday, October 30 from 6:00 pm- 7:30 pm
 Gordy Room- William C. Wardlaw Building Georgia Tech
 (177 North Avenue N.W., Atlanta, GA 30332)

- Objective:**
- Raise awareness about refugee resettlement in the U.S.A. and Metropolitan Atlanta, with a focus on the anticipated increase in the French-speaking refugee population
 - Promote the work of the agencies
 - Highlight volunteer opportunities, with a focus on what the French-speaking community can do

Program

6:00-6:05	Word of welcome (Heather Kircher Clavé) What is France-Atlanta, Thank Sponsors
6:05-6:10	Introduction of speakers by Ozlem Ergun
6:10-6:20	Overview of refugee resettlement in Metro Atlanta <i>By J.D. McCrary, Paedia Mixon, Emily Pelton</i> - background/history - current presence of French-speaking refugee population - current world affairs that will cause a spike in the French-speaking population - major needs of the refugee population as a whole
6:20-6:30	Presentation of International Rescue Committee <i>J.D. McCrary, Executive Director</i> - mission, services provided
6:30-6:40	Presentation of RRISA <i>Paedia Mixon, Executive Director</i> - mission, services provided
6:40-6:50	Presentation of Refugee Family Services <i>Emily Pelton, Executive Director</i> - mission, services provided
6:50-7:05	Presentation of the volunteer opportunities available by the three organizations - emphasis on how a French-speaking volunteer would be useful - training, etc?
7:05-7:20	Q& A
7:20- 7:45	Reception

About the Moderator:

Dr. Özlem Ergun is an associate professor in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering. She received a B.S. in Operations Research and Industrial Engineering from Cornell University in 1996 and a Ph.D. in Operations Research from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2001. Professor Ergun's research focuses on the design and management of large-scale networks. Specifically, she studies logistics and communications networks that are dynamic, partially decentralized, and are used and operated by coordinating but selfish entities. Her main research contributions are the development of a set of new algorithmic and analytical tools and their applications (together with well known concepts from optimization and game theory) to important real world problems. She is also a co-founder and co-director of the The Center for Health and Humanitarian Logistics at the Supply Chain and Logistics Institute. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in optimization and logistics. Dr. Ergun was awarded the NSF Career Award in 2003.

About the Speakers:

Executive Director J.D. McCrary was formerly the Director of Resettlement Services at Lutheran Service of Georgia (LSG). J.D. began his work with refugee services as their Associate Director in 2008. Prior to joining LSG, J.D. was Global Field Program Manager for Jumpstart International, overseeing a global non-profit program that provides employment and reconstruction services to war-torn Iraq and Palestine. J.D.'s overseas experience includes two years in the US Peace Corps in Morocco. He has over 12 years of management experience spanning both the corporate and the non-profit sectors, all with an international focus. J.D. holds a Masters in International Development from Tulane University, with a focus on human rights, public policy and emphasis on Africa and the Middle East. He also has a Certificate in Non-Profit Management from Georgia State University and is a certified teacher with a B.A. in Education from Georgia Southern University.

Paedia Mixon, RRISA's Executive Director, is a recognized leader in the refugee community. Under her leadership, RRISA's resettlement program has been recognized nationally as one of the most successful in the country, placing 80% of refugees in jobs within their first six months of resettling in the U.S. Ms. Mixon has served as the Executive Director of RRISA for four years, rising from a program-management role to lead RRISA successfully through a financial and program restructure that has seen the organization expand beyond resettlement services alone. Prior to RRISA, Ms. Mixon served in fundraising and program roles at Junior Achievement Worldwide, the Carter Center, and Catholic Social Services. Ms. Mixon has a Master's degree in International Affairs and Development from Clark University, and a BA in International Relations from Georgia State University.

Emily Pelton is the Executive Director of the Refugee Family Services, an organization that helps refugee women, children, and families to regain self sufficiency and thrive as new Americans in metro Atlanta. Ms. Pelton joined the organization in August 2010. She is a seasoned non-profit professional with extensive public policy, advocacy, strategy, and fundraising expertise who has made her home in Atlanta for 13 years. Ms. Pelton served in several executive and management positions, including Vice President for Development and Strategic Integration at Hands On Network, where she oversaw the fundraising team and ensured effective strategy development across departments. She also worked for the humanitarian organization CARE for six years, where, as Director of Foundation Relations, she helped the CEO to build a strong relationship with the Gates Foundation and other major funders. Ms. Pelton received her joint B.A. degree in Physics and in Soviet Studies from Cornell University and her M.P.A degree, with an international affairs concentration, from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.