

LADDER TO THE MOON NETWORK

presents

2019 Global Awareness & Responsibility Conference

The Relationship Between Journalism and a Free Society



Keynote Speaker

Kassim Kayira

Journalistic Challenges in Africa

Kathleen Shannon Nichols

The U.S. Press:

Today's Journalism and a Free Society

Luc Samuel K. K. Matumona

Immigrants and Asylum Seekers as Consumers of News:

The Need for Information

Georges Budagu Makoko

Amjambo Africa: A Community Newspaper

October 26, 2019

1:00 - 5:00 pm

Luther Bonney Hall

Talbot Auditorium, USM

96 Falmouth St., Portland, ME

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UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE



Kassim Kayira

Kassim Kayira has practiced journalism for more than twenty years, with the BBC, Rwanda's national broadcast network ORINFOR (now RBA), and most recently Azam TV, where he served as bureau chief for the Great Lakes region of Africa. He has covered some of the world's major conflicts, such as those in the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Somalia, and the Middle East. He has interviewed government leaders and policy makers, as well as artists and other cultural figures. Born in Uganda, he speaks twelve languages, including English, Arabic, and Swahili, and has a working knowledge of French. Currently he is based in Uganda and the UK. Mr. Kayira is married and has six children.



Kathleen Shannon Nichols

Kathleen Shannon Nichols is an award-winning storyteller with extensive experience as a broadcast journalist and corporate communicator. She has twice been honored with the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award for Outstanding Reporting. She is the Director of Communications & Engagement for the Maine Development Foundation, a non-partisan public-private organization that works to drive sustainable economic growth in Maine. Prior to joining MDF, she led internal and external communications, media relations, and social media outreach for the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement, a national member organization, and Martin's Point Healthcare. Ms. Nichols is also an investigative reporter who has worked in several markets across the country, most recently hosting and delivering stories for the Maine evening magazine program 207.



Luc Samuel K. K. Matumona

Luc Samuel K.K. Matumona is the lead social navigator of the Congolese Community Association of Maine, where he spearheads the social integration of asylum seekers in the greater Portland area. He has worked for WEX as a customer service representative. While living in the Democratic Republic of Congo, he worked for TelCo as stakeholder relations and reputation manager for Vodacom Congo, and as senior interpreter in the office of the ambassador of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation. A highlight for Mr. Matumona of his career in Africa was his position in proximity to senior government officials (including heads of state, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Ambassadors, cross-level diplomats, and captains of industries) as they negotiated landmark regional projects. Mr. Matumona is a husband and father.



Georges Budagu Makoko

Georges Budagu Makoko is the founder of Ladder to the Moon Network and the co-founder of Amjambo Africa. He was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo and moved to Rwanda in 1994 due to political unrest in his country. He graduated from the National University of Rwanda in Business Administration and in 2002 moved to the United States, where he sought and received asylum. His memoir, Ladder to the Moon: Journey from the Congo to America, was published in 2013. Currently serving as a motivational speaker and professional interpreter, he speaks more than six languages, including English, French, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Lingala and Kinyamulenge. Mr. Makoko strongly believes in advocating for peace, reconciliation, and justice for all.



Kathreen (Kit) Harrison

Kathreen (Kit) Harrison is co-founder and Managing Editor of Amjambo Africa. She is a writer based in Camden. She has been a newspaper columnist, educator, and activist for many years, including volunteer work with Amnesty International. She has visited schools in Morocco on a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship and has served as a World Language Teacher Leader with Maine's Department of Education. She co-founded and co-administers Acadia Center for English Immersion, an English language immersion school in Camden for adult professionals from around the world. Ms. Harrison is a graduate of Harvard College and the Bank Street College of Education and is certified as a school administrator. Originally from Washington, DC, she spent much of her childhood in Asia.

