

CHRISTOPHER D.N. FINARET

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SUMMARY

- Development economist: professor at Allegheny College; seven years of experience working as a US diplomat at overseas embassies on a wide range of development objectives including health, education, economic growth, democracy and governance, transitioning out of conflict, energy, vulnerable populations, and the environment.
 - Specialized in the monitoring and evaluation of the development programming. This ranges from creating the tools to evaluate the objectives for mission-wide, multi-year country strategies to specific projects.
 - Retired Foreign Service Officer, with experience in South America and Central; working proficiency in three languages (English, Spanish, and French).
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EXPERIENCE

Professor in Business and Economics, 2017 - Present

Allegheny College

- Taught courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and development.
- Curriculum approaches including lecture, 'flipped classroom', independent study, dialogic learning, case-based learning, and student-led.

Development Programming Advisor, 2015 - 2017

United States Institute of Peace

- Evaluating USIP's Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crimes project in DR Congo.
- Developed the assessment framework to determine whether the project activities are achieving their objectives: mapping ongoing prosecutions, prioritizing active prosecutions, implementing legal frameworks, and train prosecutors.
- Will use a range of evaluation techniques including Rapid Assessment Process, Role Mapping, and the Delphi Process, SWOT and Gap analysis.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), 2009-2015

US Embassy / Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mission Economist, 2013-2015

- Led the design of the high-level evaluations responsible for assessing the effectiveness of USAID/DRC's central goals of its five-year strategy (valued at ~\$1 billion). This included the creation of a new tool to instructively assess capacity building efforts, which is currently being adopted by other USAID missions.
- Produced an extreme poverty profile of DRC, including projections on future levels, an analysis of the multidimensional aspects of poverty, and recommendations programming.
- Wrote multi-million dollar requests for proposals - including the scopes of work - detailing how to improve (1) the minerals trade and (2) the energy sector in DRC.
- Developed the sustainability strategy for the USAID/DRC's five-year strategy, focusing on constraints to its achievement and guidelines for programming.

US Embassy / Colombia, Mission Economist, 2010-2012

- Constructed a rigorous impact evaluation methodology for the Mission's overarching strategy (a \$237 million portfolio over 5 years) for ending conflict and supporting state consolidation, supported by an academic team.
- Designed a \$27 million agricultural intervention focusing on replacement livelihoods for rural Colombians exiting the production of coca (a base component of cocaine).
- Programmed funds to support counter-insurgency while serving the U.S. Military Group.

Gateway Partners, Summer 2005

Research Analyst

- Performed industry research for this mid-size mergers and acquisitions firm, including profiling companies for acquisition and providing recommendations to clients regarding potential acquisition opportunities.

Amigos de las Americas, 2002 and 2004

Supervisor: Summer 2004

- Mexico: Supervised nine volunteers in rural Guanajuato, and provided technical support to community efforts to raise monies for community infrastructure improvements, including equipment for local playgrounds.

Volunteer: Summer 2002

- Bolivia: Participated in cross-cultural exchange and community-based initiative projects while living in a rural village.

EDUCATION

London School of Economics 2007 - 2008

Master of Science in Economics with Merit (Honors) / Phi Beta Kappa

- Selected coursework included: Econometrics - statistically-driven empirical methods of investigation; Microeconomics - theories on producer and consumer behavior; Macroeconomics - economic growth and business cycle; and International Trade - fundamentals of trade and policy application
- Master's Thesis: "Economic Determinants of Foreign Aid." My paper presented a statistical analysis of whether official development assistant (ODA) was given to countries most 'in-need'. I found that a correlation exists, but it is weak - there are many other factors determining where ODA is given.

University of California, San Diego 2002 - 2006

B.A. in Economics with Highest Distinction

- Selected coursework included: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics, Game Theory, International Monetary Relations, International Trade, Financial Investments, Environmental Economics, Development Economics, Labor Economics, Welfare Economics, Calculus, Applied Linear Algebra.
- Senior essay: "Trade Liberalization in Bolivia."

Duke University 2011

Certificate in Applied Cost Benefit Analysis and Cost Effectiveness Analysis

- Four-week intensive course covering a wide range of approaches for evaluating development interventions.

LANGUAGES

- **English**- Native
- **French** - Professional Working Proficiency. Lived and worked in Democratic Republic of Congo for 2.5 years. Spent 7 months learning French at the US State Department's Foreign Language Institute.
- **Spanish** - Professional Working Proficiency. Lived and worked in Colombia for 2 years. Worked in Mexico for 10 weeks. Volunteered in Bolivia for 8 weeks. Spent high school, college, and summer programs learning the language. Spent time at the Foreign Language Institute.

OTHER EXPERIENCE, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & AWARDS

United States Foreign Service Recognitions: 2009 - 2015

- I received three awards during my tenure in the foreign service: two "Meritorious Honor" awards and one "Distinguished Public Servant" Award. USAID/Colombia gave me my first Meritorious Honor award for the work I did in preparing a peace and consolidation workshop. My second Meritorious Honor award came for my involvement in preparing a trip from the USAID administrator. His trip touched upon work I was involved in, particularly efforts to support the expansion of the Inga Dam. I received my Distinguished Public Servant award for the work I did in developing USAID's country strategy.

UC San Diego, Phi Beta Kappa Thurgood Marshall "Scholar and Citizen" award: 2002 - 2006

- Awarded to students recognized for their engagement with the broader college community, partially on account of) my involvement with club sports and the UCSD Food Cooperative.

University of California Student Food Cooperative: October 2003 - June 2006

- The UCSD Food Cooperative is a student-run, student-owned business. Thus, it offered rare opportunities to develop one's skills in business. I served as the accountant for the cooperative, led consensus-based meetings, and helped expand operations by opening a second campus store.

Athlete and Coach: childhood - present

- I have always enjoyed sports, particularly team ones. My own forays into competitive sports reached its peak in 2006 when I was selected as an All-American ultimate player. I not only played, though - I was the head coach for four soccer teams during high school, my most rewarding extra-curricular activity. I found it the perfect means to express my competitive and nurturing tendencies.