Hope Tumukunde - NYU Wagner 2008 Convocation Speaker - (MPA, 2008, International Policy and Management)
Home Country: Rwanda
Read more about her comments and role in this UN General Assembly release
Immediately upon graduating from NYU Wagner in May 2008, Hope Tumukunde returned to Rwanda and is now Commissioner at the Rwanda National Human Rights Commission. Prior to attending NYU Wagner, she was the governor of Butare province in southern Rwanda. She also served as the governor of the Kigali Ngali province and was an employee of the government of Rwanda for six years. She held various government posts, primarily in the local government administration sector. Hope has been instrumental in local government reform processes and in women’s organizations and human rights associations in Rwanda. Hope graduated from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and geography.

Anneth Meena - 2005 Hammad International Prize Winner - (MS, 2005, International Management)
Home Country: Tanzania
Website for the school she created in Tanzania: http://www.raidahighschool.sc.tz/index.html
After graduating from NYU Wagner with her Oprah Scholarship in hand and a graduation award, Anneth returned to Tanzania and established a high school called RAIDA High School. RAIDA High School will be one of the few schools to provide both a traditional curriculum and empower students with the opportunity to hone their social skills. The idea of this high school was inspired by a desire to support young people in Tanzania and allow them to discover their learning potential in order to reach the highest level of their learning capacity. Anneth hopes to establish a scholarship fund for underprivileged students. Prior to attending NYU Wagner, Anneth graduated with a BS in Environmental and Geographical Sciences from the University of Cape Town in 1996. She also studied at the University of Dar es Salaam, where she received a Master of Arts in Demography in 2000. For over a decade, Anneth worked to improve the environment, healthcare, and the lives of children in southern Africa through positions held with the Forum for African Women Educationalists, UNICEF, the Economic and Social Research Foundation, and Envirocare. She has also published numerous articles on youth, sexuality, and reproductive health. Anneth was awarded NYU Wagner’s Hammad Prize for her paper entitled, “HIV and AIDS Intervention in Africa: The Ideal Model for Africa - A Comparative Study of Uganda, Botswana and South Africa” which compares the development of interventions to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in Uganda, Botswana and South Africa and the factors that contribute to successful national policy and program implementation.

Kerileng Thela (Executive MPA, 2010)
Home Country: Botswana
Born in Francistown, Botswana, Kerileng’s childhood experiences in rural primary and secondary schools led her to pursue her career in public service. After participating in Botswana’s National Service Program as a mathematics and science teacher, Kerileng earned her BA degree from the University of the West of England, (Bristol U.K.) and a post-graduate diploma in town planning.

Kerileng currently resides in Gaborone, Botswana, and is employed as Principal Policy Analyst by the government of Botswana in the Department of Local Government Development Planning under the Ministry of Local Government.
She is responsible for the provision of leadership for policy research and analysis and advises policy makers on the practical implementation of macroeconomic policies, formulation of sustainable budgets, and development strategies. Her goal is to ensure the development and implementation of a coherent social development policy as a vehicle to curb Botswana’s (and the region’s) social ills through integration and harmonization of policies.

Prior to attending NYU Wagner, Kerileng spent several years at the Department of Town and Regional Planning (DTRP) in Botswana as an assistant regional planner, working to prepare district and regional plans aimed at facilitating equitable distribution of resources to minimize rural to urban migration. In 2007, she joined the Botswana Department of Primary Health Care (PHCS) as a policy advisor in district planning. While at PHCS she collaborated with local authorities to manage and coordinate primary health infrastructure projects to provide access to quality primary healthcare. The results of this work effectively reduced the distance traveled by patients in need of healthcare, a challenge in rural Botswana.

Stella Chidinma Iwuagwu (MS, 2004, International Management)
Home Country: Nigeria; Countries of Residence: US and Nigeria
Since graduating from NYU Wagner, Stella continues to be an accomplished human rights advocate and serves as the Executive Director of Nigeria’s Center for the Right to Health (CRH) www.crhonline.org, an organization that advocates for expanded access to health care and the fair treatment of all individuals. CRH particularly advocates for those living in some of her homeland’s more rural and under-served areas and provides care and support to people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. Two years ago Stella created the internationally recognized Nigerian Nursing Excellence Award. Meanwhile, she earned her PhD and is now an Assistant Professor at Cleveland State University in the health sciences department. For her accomplishments as a nurse/midwife, public health educator, and tireless social justice champion, Stella was recognized as a Social Entrepreneur by Ashoka for Public Innovators (http://www.ashoka.org/node/2374). Stella received her Bachelor of Nursing in 1992 from Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria and her Masters in Public Health from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Home Country: Ethiopia
After graduating from NYU Wagner, Eyerusalem returned to Ethiopia to work for the World Bank as a Research Analyst. Eyerusalem has worked on and contributed to several important studies at the World Bank, including Public Expenditure Reviews focused on the fiscal sustainability of sector development programs, capacity building in public finance management, and tracking expenditures for poverty reduction. She also worked on the Regionalization and Woreda Studies, the first explicit efforts to analyze the implications of radical decentralization as mandated by Ethiopia's Constitution of 1993. Beyond the World Bank, Eyerusalem assisted in the costing of Ethiopia's US $85 million Food Security Project. She has in the past also played a role as team leader for the Global Distance Learning Project.