

The Youth News.com team got up close and personal with our new US Consul General: Grace Shelton. Due to the sheer power of her title, we went prepared to be stiff, backs straight and standing to attention. However to our pleasant surprise, we found her extremely easy going and hospitable. It was an honour for us to be in her presence. Youth News has interviewed lots of leaders both national and international. We found US Consul General Shelton to be humble and easy to get along with. Here is what we learned from our interview:

Q. What did you wish to be when you were 15?

Ms. Shelton told us that she had wished to be an international banker. She said that she liked economic issues partnered with international relations.

Q. Can you describe your career path to us from senior school?

Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ms. Shelton was an attorney with Bouhan, Williams & Levy in Savannah, Georgia and a law clerk to the Honourable Duross Fitzpatrick, United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia. She has a JD and a Master in International Affairs from Columbia University and her BA from Bucknell University. Ms. Shelton was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina.

Ms. Shelton's previous overseas assignments include Political-Economic Chief in Ljubljana, Slovenia and Kathmandu, Nepal, General Service Officer in Minsk, Belarus and Political Officer in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She has also served in Washington, DC as Staff Assistant to the Special Advisor for New Independent States, Georgia Desk Officer, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Global Affairs, and Career Development Officer.

Q. What do you do for fun?

Ms. Shelton enjoys SCUBA diving, yoga and pilates. She loves to read science fiction and mysteries. She is currently learning how to play bridge and also likes to listen to music. She is a rock fan. Some of her favourite bands include: U2, Red Hot Chile Peppers and REM.

Q. Was it your decision to come to Bermuda or were you sent here?

It's both. I wanted to come here and I was selected to come here. It is the first time for me coming to Bermuda.

Q. What are you better at doing than most other people?

She said "I'm the best at Boggle!"

Q. How do you spend your Thanksgiving?

She told us that she loves Thanksgiving and spending time with both family and friends. Ms. Shelton kindly shared with our readers one of her favourite recipes: Sweet Potato Casserole.

She also said: "I love Thanksgiving, it is a holiday for everyone. It celebrates the United States.

Q. How do you describe yourself?

Ms. Shelton told us that she thinks she is flexible and has a strong sense of self. She also described herself as loyal, independent and someone who loves to meet new people.

Q. What is your mission whilst you are in Bermuda with us?

"To continue to strengthen US and Bermuda relations."

Q. Please explain the Stop List to us.

"I prefer not to use the term "stop list" because it is a misnomer. Bermudians do not need visas to travel to the U.S. unless they have committed a criminal offense such as drug



US Consul General, Grace Shelton

UpClose & PERSONAL

use, drug trafficking, or other crimes such as theft, robbery, assault, rape, DWI, etc. Committing such an offense results in a lifetime prohibition on travel to the U.S. without first securing a waiver for the ineligibility. Waivers can be applied for at the U.S. Consulate, but the decision on whether to issue them is entirely the decision of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. "

Q. What is your favourite gadget?

"I'm not a gadget girl. I'm not good with gadgets. Though, I do have a blackberry."

Q. What tips do you wish to share with the youth of Bermuda?

"Find something you love. If

you love something you are going to excel at it."

Q. If you could do it all again, would you, or would you do anything different?"

Contentment with your past Happiness with the present And hope for the future

"I'm content!"

GRACE SHELTON'S SWEET POTATO RECIPE

3 cups mashed Sweet potatoes if using fresh, bake then mash

**1 c. sugar
1/2 c. milk
1/3 c. butter
2 eggs beaten
1 tsp. vanilla**

Mix all together & then put in baking dish

Topping:

**1 c. brown sugar
1 cup chopped pecans
1/3 c. flour
1/3 c. melted butter
Mix together & sprinkle on top of mashed potatoes
bake at 375 for 30 minutes**