

## Helen Bannigan



Helen Bannigan, Chief Operations Officer of BondPR International, has close to two decades of experience both in the telecommunications market and in the realm of international public relations.

At the Commercial Services section of the American Embassy in Portugal, Helen assisted American firms to break into the European marketplace advising them of the subtleties of European business protocol.

Helen then co-founded a telecommunications company, GeoLink SA, which became one of the first approved long distance service providers in Portugal.

Helen then moved to Spain and joined éclat marketing, a British PR firm specializing exclusively in telecoms and technology. As European Project Manager for éclat's major multinational accounts, Helen then went on to coordinate pan-European PR campaigns spanning a dozen European countries. Around this time she arranged and managed worldwide pro-bono PR representation for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to raise awareness of world hunger.

Since 1995, Helen has served on the boards of the Royal British Club, the International Women of Portugal, and the American Clubs of Lisbon and Rome, has been consistently active in Democrats Abroad, and is a founding member of the Association of American Clubs Overseas. She was one of the founding members in 1999 of GRACE, a non-profit association dedicated to heightening awareness of Corporate Philanthropy in Europe. She has developed a specialty in cross-cultural effectiveness, helping companies to work efficiently across cultural borders. Helen was recently nominated to participate in a project (<http://www.americans-beyond-borders.com>) to recognize women abroad who have inspired others on the positive side of the American spirit and culture.

In addition to her native English tongue, Helen speaks Italian, French and Portuguese, is proficient in Spanish, and is currently learning German. She enjoys yoga, vipassana meditation, gospel music, and spending time in the Italian countryside with the love of her life and their two children.

Helen obtained her BA in Political Science from the Catholic University of America and went on to obtain graduate degrees in Paris from l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques (International Relations), l'Institut des Hautes Etudes Internationales (International Diplomacy) and la Sorbonne (Foreign Policy Studies).