Maxwell Welcomes 10th Cohort of Humphrey Fellows

The Maxwell School welcomed 13 Humphrey Fellows from a dozen emerging democracies and developing countries for the 2018-2019 year. They are spending the year at the Maxwell School as part of a larger Fellowship cohort of 150 scholars from 97 countries. Syracuse University is one of 13 campuses across the country to serve as hosts.

This year’s fellows hail from Brazil, Central African Republic, China, India, Mozambique, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Suriname, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

“During this 40th anniversary of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship, it’s notable that the same ideals President Jimmy Carter envisioned when the Fellowship was established in 1978 to honor Hubert Humphrey are still resonant today. This commitment to public service, citizenship, and international cooperation dovetails perfectly with Maxwell’s dedication to the Athenian Oath,” stated Margaret Lane, director of the Humphrey Fellowship Program and assistant director of Executive Education.

The fellows’ diverse professional experience and academic interests include NGO management, post-conflict reconstruction, public administration, journalism, urban and rural development, IT policy and management, cybersecurity, public affairs, public-private partnerships, and policy implementation among other areas.

While at Syracuse University, Fellows engage with students, faculty, civic organizations, and their professional counterparts in diverse learning and exchange opportunities. This collaboration can take any number of forms, including resources for faculty, classes, clubs, and organizations.

Approximately 115 fellows from 70 different countries have called the Maxwell School and Syracuse University home during their fellowship year since 2009.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship program is sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by the Institute of International Education.
Reflecting on 40 years of Humphrey

As Syracuse welcomed its 10th cohort of Humphrey Fellows to the Maxwell School, the Humphrey Fellowship program writ large continued its commemoration of 40 years of the program. It was initiated by President Jimmy Carter in 1978 to honor the late Senator and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey for his life-long commitment to public service and international cooperation. The statistics since its inception are impressive with 5,800+ alumni, 162 countries and 47 host campuses. This year’s cohort includes 150 fellows from 97 countries at 13 host campuses.

As part of the 40th anniversary commemoration, the Humphrey Fellowship hosted a conference in Johannesburg, “African Humphrey Voices: Building a Better Future for Our Continent.” It was an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the Fellowship program and among the participants were seven Syracuse Humphrey alumni. Syracuse Humphrey Director Margaret Lane also attended, along with several other host campus directors, representatives from U.S. Department of State and the Institute of International Education.

“This conference served as a magnificent reminder of the impact that not only the Humphrey Fellowship Program has made on participants, but more importantly, the stellar accomplishments of these alumni have made in their countries,” Syracuse Humphrey Director Margaret Lane stated, “it serves as inspiration for all of us to continue to strive to make the world a better place.”

Syracuse Humphrey alumni in attendance included Dee Moskoff (South Africa, 2013-2014); Temitope Aladesanmi (Nigeria, 2015-2016); Kokou Amouzou (Togo, 2015-2016); Umar Kiyimba (Uganda, 2016-2017); Akuete Giana Mathey-Apossan (Togo, 2016-2017); Fatoumata Binta Balde (Guinea, 2017-2018) and Mireille Laurentine Tchakounte Tchatat (Cameroon, 2017-2018).

Syracuse alums were well-represented in the sessions during the 3-day conference. Temitope moderated a discussion on Technology, Connectivity, and Security which included Giana and Kokou as discussants. Dee participated in a Lightning Round moderated by Margaret showcasing the breadth of experience of alumni; and Binta and Mireille were discussants on a Good Governance panel. It was an opportunity for Syracuse Humphrey alums to meet each other and reminisce about shared experiences at Syracuse University.

In October, while on a trip to Mexico City in conjunction with Executive Education’s partnership with Universidad Panamericana, Margaret attended a 40th anniversary reception for Humphrey alumni. The event was arranged by the Mexico-United States Commission for Educational Exchange and Culture (COMEXUS), and U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and included Syracuse alum Gina Chacon (Mexico, 2012-2013).

Among the topics the alumni discussed over dinner included ways to remain connected and how to be mentors to Fellows during various transition points of their Humphrey experience. “The alumni were so appreciative of COMEXUS and the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City in convening this event as it sets the stage for continued conversation and engagement among Humphrey alumni,” Margaret remarked, “I look forward to seeing the positive impact mentors can have on Fellows as they join the Humphrey family.”
August Orientation Features Traditions Old and New

Orientation is a time for incoming Fellows to get to know the Humphrey program, the Syracuse campus, the region, and perhaps most importantly, each other! These first few weeks provided an opportunity for all this and more. In addition to new events such as the Syracuse University Challenge Course (which lived up to its name), it included activities previous cohorts will recognize such as volunteering at the Samaritan Center, a walking tour of downtown Syracuse and a boat tour on Skaneateles Lake. And of course no August welcome would be complete without a picnic with our fantastic Humphrey Family & Friends.
The Global Leadership Forum provided many opportunities for Syracuse Fellows to network, including a few events outside of the GLF program. This year’s campus presentation topic was based on the GLF theme, “Humphrey Voices: Creating a Shared Future.” The Syracuse cohort’s presentation, “Refugees and Emerging Policy Challenges” also included a short video with refugees who have resettled in Syracuse. The cohort all contributed with Mavrick Boejoekoe (Suriname), Isaura Mauelele (Mozambique), and Lala Zinkevych (Ukraine) presenting on behalf of the group.

The reception at the U.S. Department of State was another highlight of the GLF, where some fellows met their ambassador or other embassy staff, in addition to members of Hubert H. Humphrey’s family, and U.S. Department of State representatives including Marie Royce, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Also during the week, the Fellows travelled to the World Bank to learn about its history and areas of focus. A group of Maxwell alumni currently working at the Bank met the fellows to discuss their work, offering tips on cover letters and effective ways to connect. Many of the suggestions are useful beyond the Bank, as fellows place more focus on procuring professional affiliations. A Maxwell alumni event in Washington, D.C., featured Dean David Van Slyke, in addition to a couple Humphrey alumni, Khaled Al Ajmi (Saudi Arabia, 2010-2011) and Baloko Makala (Rwanda, 2010-2011) who are both currently working in Washington. Both maintain ties with Syracuse faculty and staff.

Fellows also had the opportunity to exchange best practices during a site visit to the Partnership for Public Service. They learned how this nonpartisan and nonprofit organization works to make government work better. The organization sought input from Fellows to learn what is working in their respective countries in order to make government more effective, efficient and responsive to citizens.
Networking and Linkages Provide Basis for Humphrey Fellow

Lala Zinkevych, Ukraine

It happened that I had lived through the Humphrey year two years before I actually got into the program. It might sound incredible but the answer is simple: my twin sister was one of the 2016-2017 Humphrey fellows at Arizona State University, and from my perspective it looked like the most groundbreaking experiment that could happen to a mid-career professional thriving for a critical leap in the professional development. At that point, my choice was unequivocal: I had to go through that myself.

Now reflecting on what I have heard from the Humphrey alumni earlier and what I have learned being in middle of the Humphrey year, I crystalized two major principles that keep leading me forward:

The first principle is to build networking “bridges.” Eventually, these networking connections are the most valuable asset that should be giving us the ground for growth for many years ahead. During the Global Leadership Forum, it was unbelievable how powerful a linkage between different people from absolutely various countries and backgrounds can be, and I am glad that I used this priceless opportunity to generate many great ideas with Humphrey fellows from other campuses. Apart from that, I am very excited to contribute to building a “bridge” between Ukraine and the US, serving as a Vice-President of the SU Ukrainian Club and developing a collaboration of the Ukrainian Embassy to the U.S. and the Syracuse University. I am also happy to contribute to the research done by the Newhouse group of students studying veterans’ affairs in Ukraine and assisting them in developing their ideas during their visit to Kyiv. The last but not the least is the powerful “bridge” with my host family Michael and Grace Flusche who are constantly supporting me in the exploration of the American life, social norms and history.

The second critical principle that I follow is to seize the moment. For better or worse, we will never have a chance to come back to this year again and that is why I strive to enjoy all aspects of what makes this year so special: take advantage of the Managerial Leadership Course with clearly hands-on concepts and getting access to the literature we might never be likely to find before the Humphrey Program; visit places of close proximity like NYC, Boston, Philadelphia and DC with lots of professional and cultural events; participate in the community life in the Jamesville DeWitt School District and contributing to the work of the Samaritan Center; feeling the university life spirit on the Syracuse basketball and the Syracuse Crunch hockey games.

I should admit that this half of the year was very eventful, sometimes challenging, but still rich on big ideas, outstanding people as well as new impressions, and I am very enthusiastic about starting the second part of the Humphrey year to increase the value of all the available opportunities.

“It has been a big change professionally, but I believe, my time at Maxwell made it easier for me to take this leap.”
My Incredible Experience at Syracuse University during the Humphrey Program

Isaura Mauelele, Mozambique

My experiences at Syracuse University Maxwell School as a Humphrey Fellow from Mozambique and working in the fields of Land, Agriculture and Gender is something immensurable. Participating in the Humphrey Program, gives me the opportunity to experience the American academic environment, which I have access to a very engaged class environment, with professors who are experts in their fields, giving me the opportunity to have a better understanding about the American economy and policies. The two classes that I was involved in the first semester, Principals of Economics and Fundamentals of Policy Analysis, were a remarkable experience to my career in terms of knowledge and new information. Because information is power and knowledge is very important, the Leadership Seminar was an opportunity to assess different tools, theories and concepts of leadership that I will take with me and implement in my country. Professional experiences like site visits to U.S. institutions and international organizations are also part of my positive experiences in Syracuse University during the Humphrey Program. I have the opportunity to make presentations sharing Mozambican culture to American people and have positive contacts with institutions such as SUNY Oswego, Rotary International Dewitt-New York, and to meet students, faculty staff and U.S. professionals.

The contact with a new environment, new cultures, and having the opportunity to see how the culture of 12 countries look like, such as Mozambique, Pakistan, Central African Republic, India, South Sudan, Suriname, Ukraine, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, China, Brazil, and Panama has been amazing to see how the world’s diversity is beautiful. Interacting with my colleagues gives me the chance to have a more in-depth view of other countries’ culture and practices.

Finally, I have the opportunity to meet American families and have contact with American culture that is more than what I have seen in movies and music; I could see that it is also about discipline, responsibility and diversity.

These are only part of the best experiences that I have had during the Humphrey Program in Syracuse University (Maxwell School), and I believe that more than all, the friendships, relations with other Humphreys (my colleagues) and contacts that I have made with host families, U.S. professionals and institutions, and the kindness from the coordinators and professors are things that I cannot measure with few words.

“INTERACTING WITH MY COLLEAGUES, GIVES ME THE CHANCE TO HAVE A MORE IN-DEPTH VIEW OF OTHER COUNTRIES’ CULTURE AND PRACTICES”
A Day on the Farm and in the Country

Syracuse Fellows and Humphrey Family & Friends experienced an afternoon of rural Central New York at Barry and Kathy Kogut’s home in Fabius. Fellows visited a farm that is preserved farmland—learning about the importance of protecting farmland from development—while admiring the view that stretched for more than 50 miles. They also hiked to (and behind) Tinker’s Falls, which in September is a trickle of its spring flow. Fellows took advantage of the sunshine to continue hiking on trails above the falls and the chat with fellow hikers along the way.

They also toured Barbland Dairy Farm to learn about the #1 agricultural product in NYS, where they met cows up close and personal. A few took the opportunity to ride along in the giant harvester in a field of corn that will be used as feed for the dairy herd. They capped off the afternoon with a pasta dinner made from Barry and Kathy’s garden tomatoes and basil. Humphrey Family & Friends joined throughout the afternoon.

The Fellows toured Barry and Kathy Kogut’s home garden during a beautiful fall day. Farmer and co-owner of Barbland Dairy Brett Bossard provided a tour of his dairy farm explaining policy, process and production of NYS’s top agricultural product. A few lucky fellows joined Brett’s business partner in the harvester to get a first-hand (albeit brief) experience farming.
Exploring the Adirondacks with Cornell Fellows

In what’s now tradition, the Syracuse and Cornell cohorts met in Lake Placid for an October cross campus collaboration weekend. It was peak leaf peeping despite the cloudy and rainy weather.

After an icebreaker, the cohorts discussed ways to collaborate during the year. Keith McKeever from the Adirondack Park Agency provided background on land use of the Adirondacks and how policy seeks to balance environmental and economic interests. He also led the group on a walk about Mirror Lake. The group then took a gondola up Whiteface Mountain, which on that particular day provided an excellent view of being the in middle of a cloud.

After bidding farewell to the Cornell fellows, the Syracuse fellows continued their exploration of the park at Blue Mountain Lake, on the water and on the trail. The fellows also brainstormed ideas for future activities and enjoyed the peaceful locale.

(left to right by row) Some of the many activities during the long weekend included: a short stroll to Buttermilk Falls; both campuses pausing for a photo in the clouds while on Whiteface Mountain; marveling at the view despite the weather; admiring the fall colors by the AuSable River with some Cornell friends; hiking to Castle Rock; kayaking Blue Mountain Lake; and spending time at Minnowbrook Conference Center before the return to Syracuse.
Fellows Meet Ambassador and Award Recipient

Syracuse Fellows met with IIE trustee and Ambassador Harriet Elam-Thomas during her visit to Syracuse University. She visited the campus at the invitation of the Public Diplomacy Program, a joint degree with the Newhouse School of Public Communications and the Maxwell School. Margaret Lane, Director of the Humphrey Program, had previously met the Ambassador at the Humphrey Fellowship 40th Anniversary Alumni Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. Ambassador Elam-Thomas reflected on her 42 years of experience as a diplomat, including Ambassador to Senegal (1999-2002) and discussed pillars of public diplomacy such as building rapport with key stakeholders. She also reflected upon her admiration of the Humphrey Fellowship program.

Ismayil Abdullayev, a member of this year’s Distinguished Humphrey Leadership Program (DHLP), visited Syracuse University as part of his job-shadowing component of the two-week program. He is a regional coordinator at the Crisis Management Initiative in Azerbaijan and met with the Syracuse Fellows to talk about his experiences in working on local efforts to resolve the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict. This dovetailed in particular with some fellows who are engaged in various conflict resolution processes in their own countries.

Fellows Focus on Impacted Communities

Two Humphrey Fellows were among the presenters at this fall’s Peer to Peer speaker series. Both had a focus on local communities in the midst of changes in their countries.

**Anton Shevchenko** (Ukraine) spoke about “Ukraine: Fostering Dialogue in the Conflict Recovery Process.” He discussed how dialogue is being used in communities most impacted by the recent conflict in the country.

**Isaura Mauelele** (Mozambique) offered a talk on “Improving Large Scale Investments on Land to Benefit Local Communities in Mozambique” on how best to have a win-win scenario for both communities and companies investing in land and its natural resources. This was based in part on a report she published prior to her Fellowship.
Partnering with SUNY Oswego Expands Engagement

The Syracuse Humphrey Fellowship program continued its associate campus partnership with SUNY Oswego with an initial introduction to the campus 40 miles north of Syracuse. Before the main event of speed meetings, Institute for Global Engagement Director Ulises Mejias provided an overview of the State University of New York system, including the Oswego campus. The highlight of the afternoon was then a series of speed meetings where fellows sat at tables and students conducted a series of brief meetings with them, rotating to another “meeting” after 7-8 minutes. The partnership also includes the opportunity for Fellows to serve as resources for students in an international business course and invitations to speak in classes.

In addition, the fellows celebrated International Education Week with Humphrey Family & Friends and SUNY Oswego Syracuse campus students during an evening of cultural presentations. That event was spearheaded by Kim Armani, who in addition to being a Humphrey host family with her husband Mike, is also director of Oswego’s Syracuse campus.
Fellows Connect with CMC Workshops

Humphrey Fellows participated in a Conflict Styles and Reflective Listening workshop hosted by the Conflict Management Center, part of the Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration at Syracuse University. Humphrey Seminar faculty lead Catherine Gerard led the session, which also included a Train the Trainer component to enable facilitators to work with groups of students in First Year Forums.

Meeting County Government Officials to Gain Understanding

Syracuse Fellows participated in two site visits in the fall that captured elements of county government. Onondaga County Chief Fiscal Officer Steven Morgan provided context about how the County delivers and funds services to the community. The Fellows also toured the Onondaga County Board of Elections office in advance of the mid-term elections. Commissioner Dustin Czarny offered details on how New York State conducts elections, the safeguards in place, and the process of holding 5-7 elections annually. Some Fellows followed up by stopping by a polling place on Election Day to witness the voting process in action.

Onondaga County CFO Steven Morgan offered details about the County’s mandate to the community.

Elections Commissioner Dustin Czarny discussed the many procedures in place in New York State to ensure free and fair elections.
Fellows Offer Presentations in the Community and on Campus

One of the many goals of the Humphrey Fellowship program is that Fellows engage with groups across the community and on campus. This fall it took the form of a civic organization, a high school, charter school and in one of Maxwell’s institutes, in addition to other opportunities outlined elsewhere in this newsletter.

Lala Zinkevych (Ukraine) will be speaking in early January to the Syracuse University alumni chapter of Central New York, an event postponed from November.

Isaura Mauelele (Mozambique) spoke at DeWitt Rotary’s weekly meeting about Mozambican culture and tourism.

Rakesh Arya (India) and Huong Ha (Vietnam) spoke to about 100 high school students about the role of women in their societies including sexual harassment and assault.

Magda Monteza (Panama) joined Humphrey Director Margaret Lane at the Syracuse Academy of Science charter school to share experiences of Panama and her Humphrey Fellowship year with the students.

Gabriel Guimarães (Brazil) moderated the roundtable “The 2018 Elections in Brazil: The Future of Democracy after Bolsonaro” which also featured Maxwell faculty and Ph.D. candidates.
One of my thoughts on the 40th anniversary of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program was to reminisce what I was doing before and after my Humphrey year. Before coming to the United States, I did not know much about the program and had few expectations about the non-degree program. Honestly speaking, the word, “Fellowship,” is still new for the one from a developing country. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1997, I have been assigned to and studied in Asia, a region with diverse beauty and vast potentials, yet the one-year to the U.S. unfolded a much broader pictures in front of my eyes, which has been and will be, beyond, any doubt, an unmeasured fortune enriching my diplomatic career and rest of my life.

The most fascinating and fortunate part of my Humphrey year was to participate in the Advanced Course in Conflict Resolution. In the course, Professors from the Maxwell School, highly experienced and well versed in conflict resolution, indeed supported my aspiration to be a catalyst in peace, reconciliation and conflict management. In short, the program taught me how to make a country strong with human rights values, tolerance and openness. Upon my return, I was assigned to focus on humanitarian issues and coordinated with the UN Agencies and INGOs to improve the livelihood of internally displaced persons (IDPs). I visited IDP camps in Rakhine State, Myanmar and was lucky enough to facilitate to meet with the needs of them. Working for IDPs and their social development, I reflect on my days in Maxwell and recall my memory of lectures with Professor Tosca Bruno-van Vijfeijken and Professor Catherine Gerard. Without such professors and the instructors who enlightened my knowledge in the U.S., I would not be able to manage the humanitarian work coordinated with different organizations. In addition, the academic study and professional development in the Humphrey program, I am more capable of handling important responsibilities. Thus, I have been posted to Lao PDR as a Deputy Chief of Mission.

From my very first day in Vientiane, my professional and personal life has been easier and better because of many friends including two Laos Humphrey Fellows who are in the development sector. Thus, I could make closer ties with the host government institutions, civil society organizations and diplomatic corps in Vientiane, Lao PDR. As the fruitful outcomes of discussion with Laos Border Authorities, the international border checkpoint between Myanmar and Laos has agreed to open very soon. Without the study and professional development in the U.S., I might not have had the confidence to take this important duty as the critical second in command. The Hubert H. Humphrey Program has not only improved my professional capacity but also touched me in a personal way.

For me, the most valuable thing gained during my unforgettable year in the U.S. is the friendship formed with fellow participants from all over the world. For this I would like to express my gratitude to the State Department and congratulate the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program on this 40th anniversary.

Once again, I thank you for helping us all to understand that it mattered less where we came from and meant everything that we were there. For the past 40 years, and for all the years yet to come, may this program strive always to bring people together as a family and to build bridges for all to cross.
One of my best memories of my Humphrey Fellowship year was the sense that the world was my oyster. This inexplicable yet very clearly defined feeling that some of the key things I had always wanted to do, I could try my hand at them now. I had one year. One year in which to just do it, for I was at one of the best school for International Relations and the top school for Public Administration in the United States. What excuse could one possibly gin up for not going for gold?

As simple as it sounds, it is not always easy to just throw caution to the wind and do something one has always wanted to do. Why? Because the fear of failure or the fear of being found wanting is as powerful as the desire to achieve and the motivation to excel. And so, it can be often easier to simply avoid failure or criticism by simply not engaging in the first place – engaging in a new relationship, deciding to change one’s job, starting a new hobby, tackling an addiction or facing old fears. The list is quite clearly very infinite.

My secret pleasure was writing. I have always yearned and ached to be a writer. This has been a lifelong desire for as long as I have known myself. My Humphrey year was the year it happened. For that, I am eternally grateful. I submitted a piece to the Maxwell Newsletter, I authored two blog submissions for the Brookings Institution website, which were accepted and published.

The embarrassment of riches continued upon my return home to Trinidad and Tobago. Since returning home in July 2017, apart from resuming duties in the higher post of Director, Policy and Planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I was invited to author two chapters in two books, one published in London and the other a Caribbean publication. The first is entitled “Between Family and Foreign Policy: A Gendered Approach to Understanding the Impact of Foreign Policy Failure on Human Security in the SIDS of the Caribbean” and it is a direct result of the work undertaken while at the Maxwell School during my Humphrey year. It will be featured in a beautifully edited book entitled “Family Systems and Global Humanitarian Mental Health: Approaches in the Field”. The value of this experience was the seamless way ostensibly disparate worlds such as Mental Health and Foreign Policy happily collided in a perfect mind and policy meld. It was an exercise in the power of globalization writ large as one of the editors is an American classmate from graduate studies at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, who has since become a dear friend who likes nothing better than enjoying delicious Trini food, while the other is a Sri Lankan family therapist. In sum, the textbook definition of a global village!

The second is a chapter that entitled “Expanding the Tent: An International and Intersectional Approach to Caribbean Human Security Studies” and will be published in a book on Caribbean Criminology. What an absolute privilege it has been to learn from and share these experiences with my Humphrey colleagues but also the Faculty at Maxwell whose open-minded approach provided the perfect nourishment for one’s Humphrey year. In a very real way, my Humphrey year has been the gift that keeps on giving.

Next on my agenda? Well a book of course! After all, there is nothing a Fulbright Humphrey Fellow cannot do!
Alumni Updates

2009-2010 alums **Ronnie Amorado** (Philippines) and **Dong Seok Lee** (South Korea) met up in November during Ronnie’s trip to Seoul to speak at a conference. Dong Seok provided wonderful hospitality while they reminisced about their time at Maxwell. Ronnie spoke at the QS University Ranking Conference about how to internationalize professors from the Philippines through academic fellowships, using Fulbright and Humphrey as examples.

**Baloko Makala** (Rwanda, 2010-2011) co-authored a publication on the legal aspects of blockchain technology for United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). She and a colleague authored a chapter on blockchain technology and land administration. She currently works for the World Bank Technology and Innovation Lab, coordinating the legal and policy aspects of disruptive technologies. Syracuse Fellows who attended the Maxwell alumni night in Washington had the opportunity to meet Baloko. She stopped by the American University Fellows earlier in the year and hopes to visit Syracuse in the spring semester.

2011-2012 Syracuse Humphrey alum **Sulaiman Al-Shandoudi** (Oman) stopped by the Maxwell School to visit Humphrey Director Margaret Lane and previous Assistant Coordinator Tammy Salisbury. He’s currently studying at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST). He’s researching propaganda and radicalization in the online environment and travelled to the U.S. to conduct research and connect with faculty from various universities. He also had the opportunity to catch up with his Humphrey host family, Mike and Kim Armani.

**Gang Sheng** (China, 2011-2012, pictured left) recently re-connected with Maxwell School of Syracuse University Dean David Van Slyke and Executive Education China Program Manager Xueyi Chen during their visit to Chengdu, Sichuan Province. Sheng is Chief, Network Coordination Division, Information Office, Chengdu Municipal People’s Government. Dean Van Slyke was attending the 2018 International Conference on Public Administration as well as building partnerships with universities in Sichuan. They are joined in the photo with Professor Xu Chen from Sichuan Administrative Institute, who attended a Maxwell training program in 2016.
Sanaullah Abro (Pakistan, 2013-2014) sent this update:
“Last year I was posted as Additional Collector of Customs at Karachi Airport which is the largest international airport Karachi. We initiated many development and reform plans there. And our efforts brought target achievements.
1. For the first time in Pakistan, a project for modernization of system of passenger profiling and screening at the airport has been established in collaboration between Pakistan Customs and the World Customs Organization (WCO) and US Customs and Border Protection for making an Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) system at Pakistan Customs. It will increase security of borders and protection of society.
2. There was good seizure of cocaine smuggling in Pakistan and I started investigation against drug smugglers’ networks.
3. After a series of stages and tests, the WCO selected me as an accredited expert on Rules of Origin, a field related to Free Trade Agreements. The knowledge I gained at Maxwell helped to achieve this career development milestone. Thanks to Prof. Mary Lovely and Prof. Stuart Brown with whom I studied economics and international trade. And I am still in touch with them.
4. The head of Customs in Pakistan has put me on a team that is now working for two major projects for Pakistan. One is the National Single Window for greater trade facilitation and the other is transforming the existing customs clearance system to a global customs clearance system. We hope we will achieve the target for greater public good in Pakistan, which will affect the lives of millions in the country.
5. I visited Indonesia in December 2018 as a trainer with the WCO team for a training workshop in Bandung. While there, I shared my experiences with Indonesian Customs and was interviewed at the Indonesian Customs Radio station. We talked about the benefit of trade for economic IC development.”

San Thida (Myanmar, 2014-2015) was promoted to Director of the Budget Department in the Ministry of Planning and Finance in August. She provided this update:
“I am still involved in my country’s Public Finance Management (PFM) Reform from 2015 when I came back from the US, with accountability and responsibility for training, research and the ICT division of the budget department. I am also playing the role of collaborating and coordinating in the PFM reform and leading for implementing of the division’s works.
I am really enthusiastic about participating in PFM reform and my division’s works by achieving and working on the following: development of new financial management regulation, public department management law, public finance management act (drafted), procurement law (drafted), large taxpayer office and medium tax payer offices, a self-assessment system from office assessment system, tax administration law (drafted), integrated tax administrative system (under implementation), fiscal transparency, medium term fiscal framework, electronic budget submission template, public investment management and project appraisal and monitoring guidelines (drafted), core banking system (under implementation), timeliness of accounting reporting and auditing, and capacity building for both technical and basic training.
I have communication with the U.S. Embassy, US OTA (Office of Technical Assistance), World Bank, IMF, Asian Development Bank, and other institutions focused on development in different countries.
Having the confidence to participate in my country’s reform and assignments given to me is due to my time as a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow at the Maxwell School.”
It’s always wonderful when Syracuse Humphreys of different cohort years can connect: **Lara Saade** (2014-2015, Lebanon) and **Pierre El Haddad** (2016-2017, Lebanon) met during the summer during an event concerning issue of decentralization.

**Claude Fanohiza** (Madagascar, 2015-2016) is Executive Director of Tany Meva Foundation and recently presented during the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) in Katowice, Poland. He shared experiences of the last 20 years of a renewable energy process in which the Government of Madagascar, with support from all stakeholders and other technical and financial partners, implemented a community-based approach to improve access to electricity. The Minister of Environment, Ecology and Forest also was in attendance.

Claude’s talk included best practices, challenges and lessons learned about clean energy throughout a hydropower plan in rural and remote areas in Madagascar, a country with a lot of potential from green energy but where national access to electricity stands at 15% (6% in rural areas).

He states that because of his experience in the Humphrey program, he is comfortable with public speaking, especially in English, during a high level conference on climate change such as COP24.

**André Ndjallè** (Cameroon, 2015-2016) sent photos taken during his attendance at the Congress of the African Organisation of Public Account Committees in Uganda.

Besides meeting at the Johannesburg conference, 2016-2017 Syracuse cohort alums **Umar Kiyimba** (Uganda) and **Giana Mathey-Apossan** (Togo) connected in Nairobi as they both discovered they were in the city for their work. Umar had been participating in a month-long leadership course sponsored by USAID and Giana was awaiting his team’s arrival to visit Kenyan Revenue Authority along with counterparts from Uganda and Rwanda. This was as part of his work as ICT Specialist, Support to Public Financial Management, Human Development and Inclusive Growth Unit, UNDP in South Sudan.

This project also enabled Giana to meet **Gideon Bingo Obore** (South Sudan, 2018-2019) in advance of his departure for Syracuse University during the summer.
Pierre El Haddad (Lebanon, 2016-2017) recently concluded four more events focused on a variety of initiatives and endeavors:

He connected with 2016-2017 Penn State University Humphrey alumna Victoria Borkovskaya (Russia), who invited him and Georgetown University Professor Richard Roe to be keynote speakers at the Integration, Partnership and Innovation in Construction Science and Education (IPICSE) conference organized by Moscow State University for Civil Engineering.

He spoke at a conference on decentralization organized by Democracy Reporting International where he stressed the importance of decentralization, the multiplication of decentralized jurisdictions, and increasing citizen participation, their democratic skills are increased.

The NGO Pierre founded, SEPT implement a MEPI-funded project called GREAT, Greening the Ancient Terraces of Lebanon. It incorporated a participatory approach to plant trees in collaboration with three municipalities and their local communities.

Pierre invited representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut to the Faculty of Business and Management of Saint Joseph University in Beirut to talk about the Role of Democracy in Improving Business Prospects.

He also organized a conference at Saint Joseph University in collaboration with ISEOR research Center, Jean Moulin University Lyon III. The theme of the conference as the socio-economic approach to management and socially responsible capitalism. The event was transmitted on national television in Arabic here: https://www.facebook.com/TL.ahlasabah/videos/355659468341914/

Upon return to her country, Nazla Mariza (Indonesia, 2017-2018) was named Executive Director of her organization, Center for Public Policy Transformation. She provided this recent update:

“In October, as the Executive Director of my organization, I represented my organization to sign an MOU with Government Training Centers under the Ministry of Manpower to provide soft skill training for poor and vulnerable youth including people with disabilities in Central Java, Indonesia. The MOU was signed by me, head of two training centers in 2 districts in Central Java and witnessed by the Governor of Central Java Province and the Director of Training Ministry of Manpower. The Governor also gave speech during the event. This MOU is to support our inclusive workforce development project in 4 districts in Central Java funded by USAID. The project aims to open access of these marginalized groups to decent jobs, while the ultimate goal is to reduce poverty and unemployment, as well as to increase economic growth.”

Nazla states that Central Java Province is densely populated with one of the highest unemployment and poverty rate in Indonesia.

She provided an update which was a result of her professional affiliation at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), where she was part of the research team for CSIS’ “World of Work” series. Two case studies and two reports were published in October and can be accessed at the links below.

https://www.csis.org/analysis/volume-1-national-security-priority-united-states
https://www.csis.org/analysis/volume-2-developing-country-trends-and-insights-four-country-case-studies
https://www.csis.org/analysis/world-work-kazakhstan-case-study
https://www.csis.org/analysis/world-work-nigeria-case-study

Prior to her return, Nazla wrote an article, “The Indonesian National Health Insurance Policy: An Attempt to Ensure Equitable Access to Healthcare,” which was posted on Maxwell’s Public Administration and International Affairs blog. She wrote it based on a Communication with Data short course she took during her Humphrey year.
Panoreja Buklevska (Macedonia, 2017-2018) conducted her professional affiliation with Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes (CSPO), at the School for the Future of Innovation in Society at the Arizona State University in Washington, DC. She contributed a blog post entitled, “Competing Visions of Privacy on the Internet” for the Consortium.