Maxwell Welcomes Newest Cohort of Humphrey Fellows

Maxwell's 11th cohort of Humphrey Fellows is about halfway through their program year. The 11 fellows from 10 emerging democracies and developing countries are among the year's 149 fellows from 95 countries. Syracuse University is one of 13 U.S. campuses to host fellows. This year's cohort hails from Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, India, Latvia, Panama, Pakistan, Russia, South Korea, and Tunisia.

Their diverse professional and cultural experiences as Humphrey Fellows fit well with Maxwell's collaborative, interdisciplinary ethos and emphasis on public service. Fellows commit to taking best practices and new perspectives they learn at Maxwell and returning to their native countries as leaders in improving the NGOs, government ministries, and private businesses where they work.

The fellows also come to Maxwell with ambitious learning goals that reflect diverse interests and skills. Professional skills they hope to build include technology literacy, technology management, infrastructure development, public sector leadership, and human resources management.

Approximately 126 fellows from 70 different countries have called the Maxwell School and Syracuse University home during their fellowship year since 2009.
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Onondaga County Site Visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Peer to Peer Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>End of Year Celebration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Day in the Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Collaboration with Cornell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>International Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Maragret in Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>August Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>Fellows Engage on and off Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-18</td>
<td>Fellow Reflections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-28</td>
<td>Alumni Reflections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-34</td>
<td>Alumni Updates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fellows Meet Onondaga County Executive during Site Visit

Syracuse fellows had the opportunity to meet with Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon during their trip to County offices in November. The County Executive outlined his main focus areas of poverty, infrastructure and economic development and commissioners provided context as to how the County fulfills its mission to the citizens of the county. Among officials participating in the discussion were the chief fiscal officer, deputy county executive, county attorney and an assistant commissioner of personnel. It was a wide-ranging discussion that touched on many elements of service funding and delivery at the county level.
Humphrey Fellows Bolster Executive Education Speaker Series

Humphrey fellows can often be found as speakers for Peer to Peer. It’s an opportunity for the Maxwell community to discover fellows’ perspectives on a wide range of issues around the world. Below are fellows from the two most recent cohorts who presented this past spring and fall.


Huong Ha’s talk was entitled “Truth Under Censorship: Investigative Journalism in Vietnam” and highlighted how journalists can fulfill their mission in a country lacking freedom of the press and freedom of speech.

Lala Zinkevych discussed “When Resilience is Not an Option: Experience of Ukraine in Strengthening Civil Society and Institutions” in advance of her country’s elections.

Mavrick Boejoekoe, in talking about “Challenges for the Communities in the District of Sipaliwini, Suriname,” provided an overview of river-based villages populated by indigenous people and Maroons.
Rakesh Arya discussed “Gender-based Violence in Haryana, India: A Review of Patterns and Responses and the Way Forward,” looking at issues surrounding gender disparity in this northwest province of India.

Francis Wau spoke about “Developing Infrastructure to Support ICT Endeavors in Rural Papua New Guinea” and the distinct challenges in creating basic infrastructure and policies for ICT in rural areas.

Magda Monteza’s talk, “Vision and Measuring of Democratic Governability in Panama” explored the concept of democratic governability and its importance for sustainable development within the contact of Panama’s Vision 2025.

Barbara Barrios Dumanoir provided deep historical context of her country in “Panama: between Two Worlds” demonstrating how its strategic geography enabled connectivity and a beneficial logistics route, transforming global maritime trade.

Rodolphe Peguewinde Bance spoke about “Burkina Faso Popular Uprisings: a Call for Change” and how leaders in his country have come to power and how more recent uprisings have played a role.

Marco Konopacki’s talk, “Computational Power: Automated Use of WhatsApp in Brazilian Elections” kicked off the fall semester. He outlined a study where he investigated primary factors that demonstrated the degree of coordination among WhatsApp groups and identified patterns of behavior of its users.
Humphrey Fellows, families and friends gathered in late April to celebrate the conclusion of the 2018-2019 on-campus portion of fellowship and to wish the fellows farewell as they embarked on the final component of their Humphrey year, their professional affiliations.

Magda Monteza was selected by her colleagues to offer reflections on behalf of the cohort. She invoked the wisdom of Hubert H. Humphrey and the collaborative nature of success, which is tantamount to the Humphrey program at Syracuse. She also paused to consider the gifts she received from each of her colleagues: “Anton, passion for culture and discovery; Bingo, wisdom connected with the basis and essentials; Francis, frankness from simplicity and clarity; Gabriel, sensitivity with class; Huong, commitment with focus; Isaura, firmness with intelligence and purpose; Islam, magic of the power of recognition; Lala, passion to communicate clearly; Mavrick, integrity with sensitivity; Rakesh, the subtlety of observation; Serge, passion to change the world; and Su, calmness of a great observer.”

Fellows received certificates from the U.S. Department of State, signed by President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo; and Syracuse University.
Day in the Country Celebrates Rural Life

Mid-September includes the tradition of visiting host family Barry and Kathy Kogut’s rural home to experience a day in the country. This year included an extra waterfall, Delphi Falls, whose magnificence didn’t disappoint. Along the way, Fellows, their families and Humphrey Family & Friends walked behind Tinker’s Falls, visited Barbland dairy farm, picked produce from the Kogut’s garden and enjoyed Kathy’s famous pasta dinner, complete with sauces made from their garden. After a busy month settling in and adjusting to the fellowship, it was a relaxing way to spend an early fall day.
Collaboration with Cornell Continues

Syracuse and Cornell fellows gathered for a cross campus collaboration in the Adirondack Mountains of New York State in what’s become an annual tradition. One of the highlights was driving up the Whiteface Mountain Highway to experience the summit of one of NYS’s High Peaks.

Syracuse fellows also then connected as a cohort at Minnowbrook Conference Center in Blue Mountain Lake for cohort building, hiking, and for an intrepid few, paddle boats on a chilly Blue Mountain Lake. It was a long weekend filled with cultural exchange, networking, rest and relaxation as the semester hit its mid-point.
Fellows Observe International Education Week

Humphrey Fellows gathered with Humphrey Family & Friends and international business students from our associate campus, SUNY Oswego, to celebrate International Education Week in November. Fellows gave presentations about their country or culture that also included questions from those gathered. Amy Nemith, our IIE liaison, was visiting the Syracuse campus and was also able to attend.

Syracuse Director Debuts Toolkit in Mexico City for IIE

Syracuse Humphrey Director Margaret Lane travelled to Mexico City this fall where she met with Humphrey alums from Syracuse, MIT, Cornell, UC Davis, Penn State and UNC Chapel Hill in addition to Comexus staff to discuss ways to engage Humphrey alums. A large part of this engagement included the rollout of a toolkit on public participation to help engage the public on critical issues and challenges facing the regions where Humphrey alums are working and living. Based on the research and in collaboration with Maxwell professor Tina Nabatchi, this toolkit is one way for alums to leverage, engage and extend their Humphrey year with this resource to encourage grassroots initiatives. Margaret also had the opportunity to catch up with Syracuse Humphrey alum Gina Chacon (2012-2013, Mexico).
Orientation Provides Introduction to Fellowship

August orientation provides a chance for incoming fellows to get settled in their new home. While some activities are perennial, each year offers something a little different. This year highlights included a visit to a Native American history and cultural center, volunteering at Samaritan Center soup kitchen, meeting host families & friends, learning from Humphrey alums... and each other!
Fellows Engage On- and Off-Campus

Fellows were busy this fall getting involved in talks, facilitations, simulations, conferences and more. It enables them to pursue some individual goals of their fellowship.

Four Syracuse Humphrey fellows joined an International Strategic Crisis Negotiation Exercise presented by Maxwell and the U.S. Army War College. The crisis was about a fictional conflict in the Jammu-Kashmir region along the India-Pakistan border. Ieva Krekovska (Latvia), Sreeparvathy S.L. (India), Hanna Yahorava (Belarus) and Nader Zayer (Tunisia) were among 30 participants in this 2-day simulation.

Barbara Barrios Dumanoir (Panama) participated in a community mediation training sponsored by New Justice Conflict Resolution Services. This 2-day training is the first step in a process to become a volunteer mediator for the Syracuse-area nonprofit. Participants included community members as well as Syracuse University volunteers, many of whom are affiliated with the Conflict Management Center, part of the Program for the Advancement of Conflict and Collaboration at the Maxwell School.
Maxim Glagolev (Russia) participated in the Techstars Startup Weekend organized by Blackstone LaunchPad at Syracuse University. He worked with his team to develop a new company including the creation of an idea and concept; analysis of the market, competitors and customers; and development of the business model. The event concluded with a pitch session where the team presented their findings.

Syracuse Humphrey Fellowship program has continued its connection with a local high school, Cicero-North Syracuse, with fellows speaking to a group of seniors involved in an after-school current events club. Hanna Yahorava (Belarus) spoke at Cicero-North Syracuse high school about her country and the challenges and opportunities of women in political leadership- around the world, in the region and in her country. Ieva Krekovska (Latvia) spoke to the seniors about Latvia’s defense priorities and security policies. Her talk coincided with two holidays in her country, Bearslayer’s Day and Independence Day.

Barbara Barrios Dumanoir (Panama), Rodolphe Peguewinde Bance (Burkina Faso), Sreeparvathy S.L. (India) and Hanna Yahorava (Belarus, not pictured) volunteered at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry to help them observe International Education Week by serving as “books” in a human library.
Marco Konopacki (Brazil) presented at the Harvard workshop, Comparative Approaches to Disinformation, for scholars focusing on disinformation and misinformation studies. His lecture, Hablatam: Digital Literacy and Disinformation in Youth Contexts, highlighted preliminary results of research about how youth are developing digital skills to deal with misinformation and disinformation in Brazil.

He also travelled to Syracuse’s associate campus, SUNY Oswego, to speak in Professor Ulises Meijas’ graduate social networks class. His talk was based on research he and a colleague conducted in regards to the use and influence of services such as WhatsApp in the most recent Brazilian election. Marco presented a deeper look into this research during a poster session held at the U.S. Department of State as part of the Humphrey Fellowship Program’s Global Leadership Forum.

And as part of the Fulbright Outreach Lecturing Fund, he worked to bring Fulbright Visiting Scholar (University of California Irvine) Ricardo Fabrino Mendonça to Syracuse University and our associate campus, SUNY Oswego to talk about the 2013 demonstrations in Brazil through the lenses of democratic theory and current debates within social movements’ literature.

Syracuse Humphrey fellows Rodolphe Peguewinde Bance (Burkina Faso) and Kherel Naksyl (Russia) attended the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC. It was an excellent networking opportunity to meet those working around the world in economic development, public finance management, civil society organizations and IMF and World Bank staff.

Hanna Yahorava (Belarus) attended the International Democrat Union Forum in Washington, D.C. which also included an advance program for campaign managers. She found the conference to be inspiring and helping to fulfill some of her goals as a Humphrey fellow.
Fellow Reflections

Sreeparvathy S.L.
Sreeparvathy S.L. is a current Humphrey fellow from India.

Festivals, they are meant to spread happiness. They connect people and create memories. They generate warmth like a scented candle. I come from India, the land of festivals. Each state of India and each religion has its own festivals. Then we have festivals celebrated across India. Each month will be colorful with a festival.

I landed in Syracuse on 31st July, 2019. Come August and September, oh I missed many celebrations. Our Independence Day, Onam the biggest festival of my State..., life is like that, but we had a ‘limited edition Diwali’ in the University.

Then came ‘Thanksgiving’, something new to me.

I usually write assignments sitting at the Humphrey room of the Maxwell school. Other fellows say I am addicted to that room. While writing my assignments I have seen Raymond coming there. He cleans the room and we greet each other with a ‘hello’.

Before Thanksgiving week also, he came for cleaning and asked me about my Thanksgiving plans, I showed him the assignment papers. Writing assignments, preparing for class ... other than reading about the history of the festival, I didn’t plan anything to celebrate the occasion. “Thanksgiving break is going to be a normal week for me” I told him. He then suddenly asked whether I can help him with an Indian recipe for Thanksgiving—an easy to cook vegetarian recipe. I am a person who doesn’t love cooking. What should I tell an American who asked me for an Indian recipe? Til that point, I had never guided anybody in cooking. I came to know that Raymond’s son-in-law is from India and he wanted to give him a surprise. Yeah, Thanksgiving is the right occasion. He rightly guessed that I don’t take meat. So was his son-in-law and he expected me to know the recipes of vegetarian dishes. He showed me the photos of his daughter in wedding attire— a beautiful saree. But from which state he is, Raymond didn’t know. From the photographs I couldn’t make it. I found women wearing sarees from different states of India. In India, food habits also change from state to state. So, what recipe I should give him??

I was in New Delhi before I came to U.S. Delhi is not my native place, but I was working there. One day my friend had come to me and asked, “I placed an order for carrots, and it is more than my requirements, shall I bring some carrots to you?” In India we add spices to almost all vegetables and cook them. Usually I do the same thing with carrots, but at that time I told her that we will together make some sweet dish out of carrot and we made gajar ka halwa i.e. carrot halwa.

Yes, carrot halwa is the only thing I have made delicious. “Yes, I shall give you recipe,” I told Raymond. Irrespective of states, it is relished by almost everyone and is easy to cook. I assured him that the recipe will be on the table I was using as he will be on leave for a couple of days and after that for another two days, I shall not be going to the Humphrey room as we had other activities and site visits. I also told him to go to the YouTube after reading my note as I wanted him to

...
see different stages before he started cooking. I made sure that it is available in YouTube in English.

As promised, I left the recipe with some extra instructions on the table. It was a detailed note. After two or three days, I found a small packet on the table where I used to sit. I didn’t open it as I was not sure for whom it was intended. Raymond appeared from somewhere and told me that the packet contained coffee cakes for me and thanked me for the recipe. I also thanked him.

After Thanksgiving again Raymond appeared, “Wow!!!” he thanked me profusely and said everyone was surprised and thrilled to have a special Thanksgiving dish. It came out delicious. This year his son-in-law had taken his parents to U.S. and all were amazed and appreciated his efforts. All of them liked his special Thanksgiving dish. Raymond was also very happy. His eyes were glittering. He thanked me again. He sat with me and showed me some photographs of his grandchildren. I also became very glad. Here is a person who I don’t know much and see very rarely and is not connected to me directly, but we could make each other delighted. Magic of the season may be. After a while he said goodbye and wished me luck for my semester exams.

The pleasure we derive from the pleasant mind of another person is truly unique.

The memory of Thanksgiving will always be glowing in my mind, like a sweet-scented candle.

Rodolphe Peguewinde Bance

Rodolphe Peguewinde Bance is a current Humphrey fellow from Bukina Faso.

From the Sandstorm to the Snowstorm

Burkina Faso, a sub-Saharan and landlocked country, has a desert in the north side called SAHEL. During the winter time, there is periodic sand storm that blow everything around. The sand covers house, people faces, cars and roads. We call it HARMATTAN!

When coming to US for the Humphrey Fellowship, I was happy to escape this weather that I hate. Leaving this dusty sand everywhere covering the nature, housing, car and face was great joy for me.

And then, I am in SYRACUSE-North of USA, July, August, September, October were beautiful! Beautiful time, nature with colorful trees; dust free environment. I like that!

Challenges, opportunities and beauties are everywhere, all depend on the way we view and appreciate them!

The nature says: we are the same, we are the world! Let us work together!
Imran Hamid

Imran Hamid is a current Humphrey fellow from Pakistan.

I am a member of Pakistan Administrative Service, the elite civil service whose officers serve as principal representatives of government in districts in earlier part & as administrative Secretaries of different departments/ministries or as Chief Secretaries in later part of their careers. I was selected in HHH fellowship in 2019 & was enrolled in Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs which is a prestigious institute and ranked as No.1 in the field of public affairs. Initially, I was ambivalent of my experience of Humphrey year; however, my uncertainties got removed when I was warmly received by Mr. Rustan (my host), Ms. Margaret & Ms. Martha. To our ease, school had also appointed “conducting officers” to resolve our teething issues properly.

Right from the beginning, I engaged myself in diverse activities. I visited UNO & World Bank where I met their high-ranking officials. Likewise, Global Leadership Forum gave me global perspective of different issues of contemporary world. It also provided a prodigious opportunity to exchange ideas with other accomplished professionals from varied backgrounds. For example, during one of the courses which I was taking at Maxwell, Prof. Hyder told about a project in which land owners donated lands free of cost for construction of roads in Bangladesh. This idea fascinated me much because I am privy to the complications of land acquisition processes in the sub-continent. Hence, I approached some Bangladeshi officers, whom I met during GLF, and requested them to share further information. I am sure I will be able to introduce that kind of practice in Pakistan as well.

Similarly, when I came to know about partnerships between Executive Education at Maxwell different governments and international universities, I hatched the idea of introducing something comparable in Pakistan. Humphrey director Margaret Lane and Executive Education director Steve Lux provided guidance and this idea has gained traction in my country. I have been tasked to submit a detailed proposal for approval of competent forum in Pakistan.

Furthermore, comprehensive module of “managerial leadership” & outstanding teaching methodology of Prof. Gerard compelled me to contact management of Civil Services Academy, Lahore for introduction of similar type of leadership module in the training of “budding” civil servants. Upon my return, I would try to arrange a “leadership seminar” and, if possible, invite Prof. Gerard to interact directly with officers.

However, hitherto, the most interesting part is my “Professional Affiliation” with Onondaga County Management. I’ve got some significant ideas which I would practically reproduce in Pakistan mutatis mutandis. For example, I’ve already discussed the idea of launching “classDojo” type of application with our provincial IT team, so that parents may become part of their children’s schools.

It is still half-way of my fellowship, yet I certainly feel that my administrative skills have sharpened a lot via elevating international exposure in the arena of public administration.

I wish the HHH fellowship may keep on enriching skills & knowledge of professionals from different parts of the world to make our planet a better place to live.
Barbara Barrios Dumanoir is a current Humphrey Fellow from Panama.

When I performed the first step to get involved in this Fellowship, I never imagined how much I would grow as a professional and as a person. Besides the opportunity of studying courses that can help me in my professional life by gaining new knowledge, I have been able to meet fellows from other countries with projects that could also be very useful for Panama.

I met professors at the Maxwell School who are experts in the areas I was interested in: technology and conflict management. Thanks to those connections, I started the program to be a volunteer mediator at the New York Court System and will apply that knowledge in my country. Furthermore, I made the initial approaches with NGOs like ProLiteracy and MANOS Child & Family Center, to learn more about their projects and advocacies and modify them to apply those at my return to Panama.

What I value most of this Fellowship learning more about the U.S., its people, its culture and being able to help them learn about Panama.

After this experience, I am more a citizen of the world, confirming that we have more things in common with each other than differences.
San Thida

San was a 2014-2015 Syracuse Humphrey Fellow from Myanmar.

The Humphrey Fellowship Program promoted my professional and leadership skills in my work. As a government official, after completion of Humphrey program (2014-2015), I continued my original assignment of Budget Department at training, research and ICT division as deputy director. I am participating in the country’s Public Financial Management (PFM) reform as a project coordinator of Modernization of Public Financial Management project (MPFMp) to improve revenue mobilization, to support responsive Planning and Budgeting, effective budget Executing and Financial Reporting, Fostering External Oversight and Accountability. Key achievements with transforming to a self-assessment system (SAS), establishing Tax Administration Law, improving Fiscal Transparency, practicing Medium Term Fiscal Framework, improving Macroeconomic forecasting, issuing Project Appraisal and Monitoring Guideline, establishing Treasury Department and Public Debt Management Law, improving financial reporting with FIRST system (Financial Information and Reporting System for Treasury, processing for developing Core Banking System, establishing the PFM Academy for sustainable institutional platform and skills-base for PFM are benefited under the MPFMp. I was promoted to director position on August 2018, and recently I have been assigned to the PFM Academy. I would like to introduce regarding with my newly assignment to you as following: the implementation arrangements of the PFM Academy are taking into account existing institutional structures under the Budget Department with the oversight of PFM Academy Management Board led by H.E. U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry. The targeted PFM Academy training beneficiaries are all public officials including State and Region government officials.

PFM Academy is planning to deliver those four modules such as Module 1: Foundations of PFM, Module 2: Planning & Budgeting, Module 3: Accounting & Audit, and Module 4: Finance & Management. Moreover, based on the needs of PFM reform, special purpose training programs, seminars, workshops will be delivered under the PFM Academy.

The vision of PFM Academy is to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development of the country by upgrading the Public Financial Management capability of entire public officials for accountable, responsive, effective and efficient public service deliveries through strengthening institutional capacity with the mission of PFM academy to consecutively generate public officials who are competent in attributes of a sound public financial management system.
Faisal was a 2015-16 Syracuse Humphrey Fellow from Pakistan. He is currently Commissioner, Sibi Division, Government of Balochistan.

I have realized that with the passage of time and as we grow older (and perhaps wiser), some of the hackneyed phrases that we had hitherto blithely ignored, begin to make a lot of sense. Take for example the “time flies” idiom; I feel as if it was yesterday that I returned from Syracuse, but actually three very long and “interesting” years have passed and am already on my second assignment as a civil servant.

The first assignment upon my return from the US was to lead the Polio Eradication Program in the province of Balochistan. I learnt a lot during the course of my two year stint, both from the collective and at times obstinate wisdom of the society and the International Partner Professionals from different organizations. Humphrey Fellows may like to benefit from winter class which I took on NGO Management and at the same time from lessons in leadership with particular emphasis on how to adapt between the different leadership frames.

The second and my present assignment of commissioner of a division (a cluster of districts) requires both patience and fortitude in abundance. As if the geography and terrain wasn’t challenging enough, around half a dozen manmade or rather self-inflicted issues have provided me with leadership opportunities to the extent that I’m afraid that at this rate I might soon be running out of tricks.

Despite one’s disinclination towards learning and accepting novel ideas, some of them do get stuck. The simplest among them are the most potent. A book referred to our cohort during the Humphrey year and authored by Peter M. Senge, goes by the name of The Fifth Discipline. It has the beauty of highlighting the solutions to leadership conundrums that were hiding in plain sight throughout my professional life. It is the mental models that we have so diligently created and nursed for decades that are our biggest failure as a leader.

I remember reading a quote of John Maynard Keynes “In the long run we are all dead” in the development class and like some of the other ideas, this one too just got stuck. I have focused on small development projects with immediate impact for e.g. building rooms and washrooms in a far-flung school, provision of blood to patients with congenital diseases, mending a road somewhere, arranging excursion trips for students, etc. I have made myself to believe with some effort that there are people in the government who can look after the long term projects and initiatives. Considering the ephemeral nature of our tenure on different positions, it would be in the best interest of the population that I engage in these small projects and move on.

A year of learning, adventure, reflection and the opportunity to create grand memories awaits the incoming lucky cohort at Syracuse University.
Filip Mitrovic
Filip was a 2015-16 Syracuse Humphrey Fellow from Serbia.

This is a short reflection on my work, places where I work after Humphrey Fellowship and lessons, I try to take with me as an alumni.

I have enjoyed previous year and a half, with UNICEF as a MICS Consultant. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) is the largest source of statistically sound and internationally comparable data on women and children worldwide. In my role as a consultant I work with national statistical offices to assist in design and customization of surveys for their country. Fun part is not just planning and crunching data (which I do enjoy very much), as I also participate in training fieldwork teams to conduct face-to-face interviews with household members on a variety of topics - focusing mainly on those issues that directly affect the lives of children and women. In later stages of the survey implementation, my role would allow me to go to the field with teams of interviewers and provide feedback on survey implementation. MICS is a major data source during the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to measure Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and we collect data on human well-being and development, academic progress and education in the country, energy use, quality of water used by households, social transfers and other assistance programs, immunization and many more. So far over 300 surveys have been implemented in more than 110 countries. National statistical offices build capacity of staff of by working on such a household survey, creating a trove of precious data for policy makers - ministries, international community.

MICS Consultants get to have an interesting daily schedule in assisting with this process. For the last half year additional perk is travelling and working with diverse number of cultures and settings of Pacific island countries.

Since moving from Serbia my duty station is in Fiji, but since in the region I spent almost three months working and living in main island of Tuvalu - Funafuti. Tuvalu population is just above 11,000 people with 6,000 living on the main island. Implementing MICS, survey with extensive training and testing (over two months needed to finalize both before fieldwork commences) was both challenging and interesting. Compared to most countries Tuvalu could be considered remote, as there are only two flights per week in and out of the main island (the other eight islands can be reached by boat only).

Unless plane is landing or departing, airport runway is a playground for all sports at any other point. It was a great place to have morning jog, especially if I was there between 5 and 6 in the morning when heat is still manageable. Other perks of Funafuti include 0 minutes spent on commute: airport is right next to lodge I stayed in and directly across the street of the government building (all ministries are located in this two-story building, highest object in the country). So, everything was close by in Funafuti. On the other side internet is not the fastest in the world and cell reception
is not the most reliable (it was really easy to determine if it either was working or not – one would just to look up at the only cell tower in the island - if there was a maintenance worker climbing on top of it to fix reception, it was not working). Also, due to its remoteness, some goods are not as present in Funafuti as they would be in other places. Most of the fruit is imported, as well as majority of other goods. Cargo shipments arrive every two to three weeks, so when you hear cargo ship came to wharf, going to one of a few stores in the island gave me the same rush as going to a clearance sale.

Same issue was with items needed for the survey. We train staff to perform water quality testing in the household and to do this test properly they need to use hand sanitizers before every test. Staff also measures height and weight of every child under 5 to later calculate prevalence of stunting, heaping and other important indicators. Measuring equipment for all tests is shipped to the country, but items like hand sanitizers and weights to calibrate scales for measurements are procured locally. These also had to be brought in the country as well, as none were available locally. Oh, important note, there are no barber shops in Funafuti, or ATMs and credit cards are not accepted anywhere.

During and after training, observing teams during fieldwork was great experience also. Interviews would often take place in the hammocks (ever present in front of the houses), with ocean in the background. Personal highlight was being a foreigner (palagi), especially while visiting households in the outskirts of the island. Kids would get super excited and gather up to say ‘hi’, it was very important to high five everyone, a practice I honored and enjoyed, throughout the fieldwork.

Some residents would say they believe despite remoteness, and lack of some services their country is the best place to live in the world.

Since in the Pacific, I also monitored the implementation of the same survey in the Kingdom of Tonga. Compared to Tuvalu, Tonga seemed very large and more familiar setting in terms of services and goods available. Monitoring fieldwork is important to make sure data is collected in line with defined methodology and standards. Next to main island in the Kingdom, I visited teams in island of ‘Eua, famous for whale watching as waters around it are among deepest in the world and whales gather for breeding. Also, to get to ‘Eua, one takes a shortest commercial flight in the world, lasting just below 10 minutes.

I did not have a chance to see the whales due to schedules, but I did learn a what “Kai ke mate” means – eat until you die. While taking a lunch break with the team of interviewers, they served more food then I would expect for a holiday feast.

When thinking about my experience in Syracuse, there are a few lessons I find relevant since my time as a
Humphrey Fellow:

• During my year at Maxwell I enjoyed developing new skills in using data in policy analysis and decision making. Those technical skills made me at ease in looking at work opportunities like the one I am enjoying right now - from working on monitoring and evaluation in emergencies to operational implementation of household surveys.

• Equally important for me, was another realization I had during the year in Syracuse. It is about public service, field I have spent most of my professional life before the Fellowship. I realized that being in public service is not defined by a position a person holds but understanding what community one is serving.

Next to the skillset, a perspective on this guided me on the career choices in the three years since Maxwell.

• Third lesson I try to carry forward from my time as a Fellow is about understanding that different cultural backgrounds of people we work with lead to different expectations and habits from our own and our own culture. To be successful in implementing any technical expertise, serve targeted community effectively, cultural appreciation as a first step toward cultural understanding is important.

Regardless of what someone does, where they live and what was their Humphrey experience, positive attitude and sense of humor can help, almost anywhere.

Magda Monteza

Magda was a 2018-19 Syracuse Humphrey Fellow from Panama.

The experience as a Humphrey fellow is an adventure of just over three hundred days. When I am writing this, two hundred and ninety nine days have passed. Now, when I look back, from Washington, D.C., where I do my professional affiliation, I realize that time goes by so much faster than one thinks. I soon understood that time is a resource that must be treasured and used wisely to take advantage of everything. That is the only way to shrink the activities in the wish list... because there will always be one.

Flexibility is a word to characterize the program. I knew I was coming to one of the best schools in public affairs in the country. Even though one can be lost in finding what really was planning, my learning process included the frameworks to analyze public policy process, something lacking in Latin American countries and the Asian experience in the global economy and governance, which offered a vision about public-private partnerships in countries such as Thailand, China and India. But it also provided a new perspective about public infrastructure, a demanding class that offered the opportunity to listen to great guest speakers involved in megaprojects that developed as public-private partnerships and smart cities. I audited classes to complement my knowledge about non-profit organizations, governance and policy process in the field of science and technology.

Indeed, professional development is a key point as a Humphrey fellow and the Maxwell School is full of opportunities to improve various competencies such as public speaking, professional image and the whole package of leadership skills. What a great experience to study and learn through different case studies oriented for experienced scholars. Knowledge I received was complemented with site visits and presentations by different people that you never thought you’d be listening to in person, such as Trevor Noah; Susan Goldberg, editor in chief of National Geographic Magazine; Hubert H. Humphrey, III; and former President Jimmy Carter.

The opportunity to participate in a Peer to Peer presentation was extraordinarily satisfactory. It was an honor to have the participation of the majority of fellows, classmates and friends, and three scholars in attendance supporting. I participated in most of the workshops sponsored...
by the Conflict Management Center in the Program for Research on Conflict and Collaboration in addition to those offered by the Program of Latin America and the Caribbean at the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs. I like to think that was the beginning of a long-lasting relationship with these centers.

For the individual part of the program, I was dedicated to improving my skills in English and that quest helped me to build other connections with people from the Central Public Library and SUNY ESF. I found a place to dance salsa, merengue and bachata. I traveled to different places and enjoyed each one of them. I had a lot of fun, in the right amount to handle the stress of classes and papers, plus my duties as a mother of two new adults back home.

The interaction with people from different countries was complex and provided mostly happy and enriching memories. I enjoyed my host family in such a special way because I was living with them, which made it possible to build a strong bond. I tried to enjoy every moment in the right perspective and context. I learned a lot from a very personal perspective. Life is a path that put many people in to interact and learn, and

the Humphrey year certainly is about connecting with people to create an amazing network.

A Humphrey fellow must be looking always outside the comfort zone. It was not easy to accept all the challenges as they came, but one must try to do it with joy and enthusiasm. The program itself challenged my vision and my personal mission. But I am grateful for the opportunity and I feel proud to be part of the Hubert H. Humphrey legacy.

Looking back at the big picture, I can say that being a Humphrey fellow is an experience focused on connecting with one’s self and with people, and it is deeply transforming. I will make use of these learnings all my life and hope to be wise enough to contribute towards the creation of coalitions my country needs and encourage young people to go after their dreams to make a better world every day.
Maverick Boejoekoe

Mavrick was a 2018-19 Humphrey Fellow from Suriname.

When I started my Humphrey Journey the focus was: getting a better understanding of how countries in financial crisis implement programs and how poor communities could benefit from these programs.

Different professors told me that this was a very broad topic. Now that I am reaching the end of my Humphrey year, I think that it was very good to have a broad question, because it allowed me to get different perspectives on different development issues.

The courses that I enrolled in at Maxwell targeted my background in the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) sector in Suriname. The emphasis was on civil society, leadership, project management and writing and the management of the board of NGOs in the US. These courses gave good insights on development issues and triggered my interest in international development. These have also partially answered the above mentioned question. Communities are “developed” by utilizing the assets that they already possess and by engaging with them to understand their problems and the solutions the members of these communities propose. The NGO landscape in the US is very different from Suriname, but it is possible to adapt some of these things such as a professionalization of the board.

My professional affiliation was at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) with the Americas Program, which focusses on Latin American and the Caribbean. In this organization I got a better understanding of the saying “the eye does not see itself.” The Humphrey Fellowship enhanced my interest in this region and it is a part of the world that I want to focus on. The conclusion from the readings in my courses and PA is that good governance and transparency are a prerequisite for the development of countries. This will strengthen institutions in the public sector and open the door for investments. My PA concluded with participation in a private roundtable hosted by the Americas Program focused on Suriname and some of the issues it is currently facing.

The Humphrey Fellowship has re-emphasized how much I still need to learn and that Suriname is part of a bigger world.

The experience has given me much better understanding of situations in these countries and I have appreciated the learning and the education that my fellows and the professors brought to the program.
When Marina reminded me for the second time that I still hadn’t sent her my brief on my Humphrey year, I cringed. It is not that I didn’t want to do it. It is not that I didn’t know what to say. It is just that there is so much, and the entire experience has been so intensive and expansive, that it seemed like an impossible task.

Moreover, because I could have never imagined that that one year in the US as a part of the Humphrey Fellowship program could be so rich and unexpected.

I come from a country that has been exposed to the Western culture. I grew up with European and American music and movies, and as a grown up I was studying from American books of business and management. I had been working in international organizations like the USAID and the American Red Cross, and with international staff before. I was a Harvard Business Review subscriber, I was reading all sorts of magazines and books from various sources covering diverse topics and was I pretty confident that I was well informed about the world.

And then came the Humphrey Experience. One hot August day I arrived at the Eggers Hall at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, at Syracuse University in New York State. I faced the 12 pairs of curious and smiling eyes of my fellow cohorts, each one with a flag of her/his own in the middle of the desk. Our coordinators welcomed us with lots of information, ready for every question we had, so that we could integrate as soon as possible.

What followed that year happened at the speed of light. It is always like that when you are experiencing entirely different daily activities, with new people, in a new setting. We had a wonderful opportunity not only to choose our academic focus, but also had at our disposal courses from other schools and numerous seminars, talks, conferences, collaborations with other campuses and all of that while having fabulous time. I cannot calculate the number of miles that we travelled, the people from all over the world, with whom you realize how much you have in common, but also, from whom you learn just how much there is still to learn about the world; and all of it happens at the same time.

Sure, there were days of anxiety, missing home and loved ones, and a lot of introspective questions about our calling, about who we are, our aspirations, and visions about the future of the world. Each class brought some new understanding, each seminar a new focus and new questions, each journey revealed something new we didn’t know about ourselves.

Topics varied from our joint interest about digital government with Ibrahim; African culture with Mireille and Binta; what did it mean to be a professional woman in Bangladesh with my dear friend Taifa; global issues like international development and climate change with Nazla; and all the curious topics with the unforgettable Nick, always spiced up with his unique wit. This brief summary is too short to encompass all the wonderful people from the other 12 campuses, that will always remain dear friends and exceptional as people.

Syracuse University was unique because it also offered to us an official certification for our program of choice. I am now a very honored recipient of the Certificate of Advanced Study in eGovernment. It shall remain one of my dearest achievements.

I had the opportunity to be a part of a fabulous organization for my professional affiliation program, which is an integral part of the Humphrey Fellowship. That organization is the Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes, at the School for the Future of Innovation in Society at Arizona State University at Washington, DC. I was surrounded by top scientists whose mission is to make science and technology policy relevant to people’s lives. I found this mission very close to heart and each day spent there meant a step closer to a new me.

And all of it happens without all of us being fully aware of its impact. And then suddenly, the program ends, and I am back where I started. And as one of my favorite quotes go: “Going back to where you started, is not the same as never leaving”.

As I am concluding this brief summary, I am now even more certain that I didn’t do it justice. It really is an impossible task to describe the Humphrey Experience.

You would have to experience it yourself. Good luck!
Ronnie Amorado

Ronnie was a 2009-10 Syracuse Humphrey Fellow from the Philippines.

Athenian Oath as intentional conduct

“It is not the oath that makes us believe the man, but the man the oath.”
- Aeschylus

I started to develop a keen fascination of the Athenian Oath when I went to the Maxwell School of Citizenship in Syracuse University as a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow in 2009 to 2010. I have always been interested with oaths and their passionate proclamations.

But in Maxwell, I was much drawn into the Athenian Oath.

It exudes a deep evocation and conveys a principled detachment. To the extent that good leadership is anchored on value creation and contribution, rather than by a franchised position and status in society, the Athenian Oath is an embodiment of eucracy – or the rule of what is good, and euthenics – or enhancing the environment that makes man good. The oath radiates trust, integrity and citizenship as eucratic virtues.

Solon, a Greek statesman, was known for his counsel to put more trust in the nobility of character than in an oath. While this is true, it is important to note that oaths manifest in, and thus represent, the nobility of character. Oaths are more than rhetorics and promises. They speak of covenants and vows, of deep aspirations and pledges. Oaths are therefore honorable and principled commitments as a person swears by his honor and reputation.

Oaths may be broken or fulfilled later than promised. In fact, because of human fallibility, oaths may not even be fulfilled at all. What is imperative is that they create intentional conduct that deeply guides a desired behavior. For good leaders, oaths are very important.

In Kakistocracy (2012) and Lord Anthony (2017), I made use of the Athenian Oath as an exhortation of intentional conduct. Peripatetic also recognizes this oath – to walk the talk means to live by the Athenian Oath. To walk the talk signifies intentional conduct.

The Athenian Oath is the philosophic oath of all free governments and public bureaucracies, of all visionaries, leaders, managers, planners and administrators from around the globe. In a nutshell, the Athenian Oath swears to leave this community better than when we found it!

The oath has become a very inspiring philosophical foundation of the Maxwell School of Citizenship. Being the first and oldest public administration school in the world, Maxwell School prides itself of shaping the evolution of citizenship education and public administration theory and practice in democratic societies worldwide. At the crux of this pride lies a very strong influence from the Athenian philosophers in the ancient Greeks from over 2,000 years ago.

The Athenian Oath of the City-State is proudly inscribed right at the giant wall by the entrance foyer of the Maxwell Hall just beneath the statue of Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), political philosopher and one of the most influential American Founding Fathers (also the 3rd President of the United States).

1 Culled from the author’s recently published book entitled, Peripatetic: Practical Lessons on Leadership (2019). The author is currently the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University of Mindanao, the largest private higher educational institution in the Southern Philippines. He continues to conduct research and write books on the side as his authorial endeavors and espouse leadership and citizenship through life depiction and social commentary. Because of his work for the past 2 decades, the author was bestowed the 2019 Leaders and Achievers of Davao (LEAD) Award in the category of Leadership Education. The award was given by the Junior Chamber International Senate and the Davao Jaycee Senate Foundation.

2 The book entitled, Kakistocracy: Rule of the Unprincipled, Unethical and Unqualified, was the result of the author’s fellowship and professional affiliation in Maxwell in 2009-2010.

3 The book entitled, Lord Anthony’s Antonio T. Uy: A Scout’s Biography, was one of the biographical research works of the author.
the United States) and who wrote the Declaration of Independence in 1776:

We will never bring disgrace on this our City by an act of dishonesty or cowardice. We will fight for the ideals and Sacred Things of the City both alone and with many. We will revere and obey the City’s laws, and will do our best to incite a like reverence and respect in those above us who are prone to annul them or set them at naught. We will strive increasingly to quicken the public’s sense of civic duty.

Thus in all these ways we will transmit this City, not only not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us!

In the ancient Greece, Athenian men were obliged to make this oath when they reach the age of seventeen. A derivative of this oath – known as the Oath of the Young Men of Athens and inscribed on a bronze plaque in the Thacher School in California – also reads:

I will not disgrace these sacred arms, nor ever desert a comrade in the ranks. I will guard the Temples and the Centers of Civic Life, and uphold the ideals of my Country, both alone and in concert with others. I will at all times obey the Magistrates and observe the Laws as well those at present in force as those the Majority may hereafter enact. Should any one seek to subvert those laws or set them aside, Him I will oppose either in common with others or alone. In these ways it shall be my constant aim not only to preserve the things of worth in my Native Land, but to make them of still greater worth.

An earlier version of this oath, known as the Athenian Ephebic Oath (because they made the oath in the Ephebic College in Athens) reads more in elaboration:

I will not disgrace my sacred arms Nor desert my comrade, wherever I am stationed. I will fight for things sacred And things profane. And both alone and with all to help me. I will transmit my fatherland not diminished But greater and better than before. I will obey the ruling magistrates Who rule reasonably And I will observe the established laws And whatever laws in the future May be reasonably established. If any person seek to overturn the laws, Both alone and with all to help me, I will oppose him. I will honor the religion of my fathers. I call to witness the Gods ... The borders of my fatherland, The wheat, the barley, the vines, And the trees of the olive and the fig.

Nicolas B. Pichay, a fellow Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow in the Maxwell School, an award-winning poet and littérateur and a legislative lawyer by profession, made an excellent Filipino translation of the Athenian Oath for popular appreciation in the Philippines. I also used the same piece in Lord Anthony.

Panunumpa ng mga taga-Atena

Mag-isang man o sama-sama, Lagi naming pagsisikapang itaguyod Ang mga mithiin at kabanalan ng ating bayan. Pagbubutihin naming lumowig Ang kamalayan ng mabuting paniniibihan sa kapwa. Igagaling namin at susundin Ang mga batas na makatarungan; At ipamamana naming Ang isang bayang hindi nakulangan, Kundi humigit pa, Tumimyas, nag-ibayo ang ningning Kaysa sa bayang nadatnan.

As a take-away, my own piece of the Athenian Oath serves my own intentional conduct in all my professional affiliations:

To opt and to go,
Alumni Updates

Nimrod Goren

Nimrod (Israel, 2009-2010) was awarded the Centennial Medal from International Education (IIE) for “promoting peace and fostering mutual understanding between Arabs and Israelis [and] dedication to the field of international education and exchange.” IIE President Allan Goodman and IIE Trustee Victor J. Goldberg presented the award which recognizes Israelis and Palestinians working together for peace.


In October Nimrod travelled to Washington, D.C. for discussions at the J Street National Conference on democracy, foreign policy and security in Israel and at the Center for American Progress, with an audience that included several Arab countries, where discussion focused on de-escalation of conflicts in the Middle East.

(video here: https://youtu.be/kZWPvhm7xz0).

Nimrod also had the chance to catch up with Humphrey director Margaret Lane where they reminisced about his program year, the opportunities and impact his fellowship had and how it enabled him to create the independent think tank, Mitvim, where is founder and head of the organization.

(Images of talks and award courtesy Ronnie Amorado)

Ronnie Amorado

Ronnie (2009-2010, Philippines) has published his third book since his Humphrey fellowship in 2009. A lecture and book launch was held in September at the University of Mindanao, Philippines for “Peripatetic: Practical Rules on Leadership,” which includes a back cover review by fellow Syracuse Humphrey alum Nicolas Pichay.

Ronnie also had the chance to catch up with Humphrey director Margaret Lane where they reminisced about his program year, the opportunities and impact his fellowship had and how it enabled him to create the independent think tank, Mitvim, where is founder and head of the organization.

(Images of talks and award courtesy Ronnie Amorado)

In October Nimrod travelled to Washington, D.C. for discussions at the J Street National Conference on democracy, foreign policy and security in Israel and at the Center for American Progress, with an audience that included several Arab countries, where discussion focused on de-escalation of conflicts in the Middle East.

(video here: https://youtu.be/kZWPvhm7xz0).

Nimrod also had the chance to catch up with Humphrey director Margaret Lane where they reminisced about his program year, the opportunities and impact his fellowship had and how it enabled him to create the independent think tank, Mitvim, where is founder and head of the organization.

(Images of talks and award courtesy Ronnie Amorado)

Ronnie Amorado

Ronnie (2009-2010, Philippines) has published his third book since his Humphrey fellowship in 2009. A lecture and book launch was held in September at the University of Mindanao, Philippines for “Peripatetic: Practical Rules on Leadership,” which includes a back cover review by fellow Syracuse Humphrey alum Nicolas Pichay.

Ronnie also had the chance to catch up with Humphrey director Margaret Lane where they reminisced about his program year, the opportunities and impact his fellowship had and how it enabled him to create the independent think tank, Mitvim, where is founder and head of the organization.

(Images of talks and award courtesy Ronnie Amorado)

In October Nimrod travelled to Washington, D.C. for discussions at the J Street National Conference on democracy, foreign policy and security in Israel and at the Center for American Progress, with an audience that included several Arab countries, where discussion focused on de-escalation of conflicts in the Middle East.

(video here: https://youtu.be/kZWPvhm7xz0).

Nimrod also had the chance to catch up with Humphrey director Margaret Lane where they reminisced about his program year, the opportunities and impact his fellowship had and how it enabled him to create the independent think tank, Mitvim, where is founder and head of the organization.

(Images of talks and award courtesy Ronnie Amorado)
Roxana Silva Chicaiza

Roxana (2009-2010 Ecuador), attended the December meeting of the Asociacion de Magistradas Electorales de las Americas (Association of Electoral Magistrates of the Americas) in Mexico City to share experiences about women’s political participation in the democratic process.

She also heard updates from the Observatorio Regional Democracia Paritaria, Acoso y Violencia Política (Regional Observatory Democracy, Harassment and Political Violence) and received special recognition from the Corporativo de Inteligencia Educa as International Ambassador for her support and commitment to the Mujeres que construyen (Women Who Build) program.

Simpson Snoh & Shouvik Mitra

2009-2010 Humphrey fellows Simpson (Liberia) and Shouvik (India) had a reunion after 9 years when Simpson travelled to India for his work in November. Shouvik works as a consultant for the World Bank and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He also in on the board of two nonprofits in India. Shouvik’s work focuses across the rural economic prosperity domain.

Elena Marchan

Elena (2011-2012, Ecuador) was selected as a presenter during April’s 40th anniversary Humphrey Fellowship Program conference in Panama. The three-day conference, “Realizing Full and Inclusive Democracy in Our Hemisphere” was hosted in Panama City and focused on good governance, social justice and the human legacy of more than 1,000 alumni across the western hemisphere and the communities enriched by them. The conference served as a conduit to the future, documenting stories and successes and charting s path forward.

Elena participated in a plenary of Humphrey alumni from Panama, Chile and Brazil. Jennifer Gibson, Branch Chief US Department of State Bureau of Education was the moderator. Elena also discussed how Ecuador needs a systemic shock to separate itself from corruption in a talk entitled, “A Moment for Systemic Transformation.”

Another Syracuse alum, Cesar Perez Carrera (2014-2015, Guatemala)
also attended the commemoration. It was a first-time meeting of the two Syracuse alums.

Pierre El-Haddad, Lara Saade & Dahlia Kouhry Sader

Lebanese Syracuse alums Pierre (2016-2017), Lara (2014-2015) and Dahlia (2012-2013) met with representatives of the U.S. State Department at the Embassy in Beruit in December where they discussed the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship program and its impact.

Gina Chacon & Ana Marcela Parades

Gina (2012-2013, Mexico) and Ana (2012-2013, Ecuador) were international visitors for the 2019 elections in Argentina, held October 27, 2019.
Gina writes that she is now Public Policy Coordinator of the Mexico Program for Wildlands Network. She fosters better public policies for the protection of the environment in North America. She works to increase support for private lands conservation, natural protected areas, and wildlife corridors and also to improve enforcement practices around wildlife protection.


Gina also met Syracuse Humphrey Director Margaret Lane during Margaret’s visit to Mexico City in October, featured elsewhere in this newsletter.

Dee Moskoff

Dee (2013-2014 South Africa) visited the Maxwell School to speak with international relations students about ConnectNetwork, where she is executive director. Dee has maintained strong ties to the Maxwell School and Syracuse University, assisting students in internships and opportunities abroad within ConnectNetwork. She also spoke with Humphrey fellows about the professional affiliation process, the benefits of networking as well as some potential challenges and opportunities that may await return to their countries and organizations. In addition to being a Humphrey alum, Dee completed her Executive Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School in 2015.
Cesar Perez Carrera

Cesar (2014-2015, Guatemala) delivered a workshop on Smart Cities at the Guatemala Innovation Forum GIF2019 in November. This forum was organized by the Government with the help of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, an independent U.S. government foreign aid agency, the Inter-American Bank (IDB) and other international stakeholders. It brings together more than 1,000 people interested in innovative topics.

Laura Dittel

Laura (2014-2015, Slovakia) has stayed engaged with the Humphrey program, discussing it during a U.S. embassy-organized event held at the World Ice Hockey Championship in Kosice. She also met with 2014-2015 VCU Humphrey alum Francis Kofi Torkornoo (Ghana) after he attended a conference in Vienna. He used the opportunity to visit Bratislava while “in the neighborhood.” Additionally, Laura was interviewed in May for the Slovak online version of Forbes magazine about the role of NGOs, their challenges and the motivation of people working in this third sector. She states that the article was a response to disinformation, conspiracy and hoaxes spread primarily by some web sites during the last two years in Slovakia.


For more than a year, Laura has been serving on the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society forum where she’s been focused on internal reform of the organization and the transfer of experience from the Slovak and European NGOs to Eastern Europe to help these countries to integrate their goals. She also reports that the Carpathian Foundation, where she is director, became a fund operator of the Norwegian Funds. The organization is a member of a consortium along with Open Society Foundation under the leadership of Ekopolis Foundation. The program will distribute 9M Euros to the Slovak NGO sector.

Mirajahon Turdiev

In the summer of 2018, Mirajahon Turdiev (2014-2015, Uzbekistan) proposed to the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the United States that he visit Syracuse University to meet with the university leadership and explore partnership possibilities with Uzbekistan’s higher education institutions and public service offices. In late February 2019, Ambassador Vakhabov and the Embassy’s key personnel visited Syracuse University to meet with the Chancellor, and deans of Maxwell School and the School of Information Studies (iSchool) and students from Uzbekistan. Representatives from these schools followed up with a visit to Uzbekistan. An MOU was signed between the Syracuse University and Tashkent Institute of Information Technologies to start the initial discussions on academic collaborations. (Mirjahon is pictured second from right).
André (2015-2016, Cameroon) sent photos of he and his wife, Beatrice during a trip to Dakar, Sénégal. He was attending a convening of the African Tax Researcher’s Network and visiting a Jehovah’s Witnesses missionary house. They also toured Gorée Island in Sénégal, one of the places in Africa from which slaves were sold and transported out of Africa.

Claude Fanohiza

Claude Fanohiza (2015-2016, Madagascar), Executive Director of Tany Meva Foundation signed an agreement with USAID Madagascar this summer that creates an innovative and sustainable funding system to help support natural resource management initiatives of community organizations. (images courtesy Tany Meva Foundation)

Yuliya Gureyeva Aliyeva


Nazla Mariza

In March, Nazla (2017-2018, Indonesia) represented her organization, Center for Public Policy Transformation at a USAID grant award signing ceremony for a Municipal Waste Recycling Program. United States Ambassador Joseph Donovan and a local government partner from Gowa District in South Sulawesi witnessed the signing. The goal of her 2-year project is to “Strengthen Local Government Capacity and Coordination in Best Waste Management Practices.” She is Executive Director of the Center.

In May, she was asked by the American Indonesian Education Foundation (AMINEF), the institution that administers Fulbright programs in Indonesia, to represent Indonesian Humphrey fellow alumni to talk about Humphrey Fellowship Program during a Pre-Departure Orientation Session for the next two Humphrey fellows from Indonesia. During this time Panoreja (Nora) Buklevska (2017-2018, North Macedonia) was visiting and also provided her perspective for the incoming fellows.

Nazla was able to meet Indonesian alumni from 5 different cohort years, from 1998 through 2011. As a result, an Indonesian Humphrey Alumni Forum has been created, which currently is utilizing WhatsApp to become established.
She is working on increasing the number of those who are connected. She also participated in the Humphrey Fellowship 40th Anniversary conference, “Indo-Pacific Pathways to Cooperation” in Jakarta where Nazla provided some reflections during the closing session.

This fall the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) website, which was her professional affiliation host, posted an article based on her research.

https://csisprosper.com/2019/08/19/the-future-of-low-skilled-manufacturing-labor-in-industry-4-0/?fbclid=IwAR3jX6UafZjY4-2cY7YxcRaLFb-T_KN8Ptidzd7xgarLU8wbQiWSGjVQQJU

Anton Shevchenko

Anton (2018-2019, Ukraine) has had some dynamic projects since returning to his country in June. He spent the summer in Somalia, analyzing the United Nations Mine Action Service projects, supporting the UN’s special political mission and the African Union peacekeeping mission in that country and provided reports to the UN HQ in NYC. Anton was also involved in the drafting of an annual budget for such projects and providing advice to the project units on result-based project management. He is pictured during UN safety training in Mogadishu in July.

Back in Ukraine this fall Anton worked for the United States government’s Biological Threat Reduction Program providing policy advice to Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp., a federal business contracted by the U.S. Government to implement non-proliferation projects in Ukraine.