Host Family Handbook

Humphrey International Fellowship Programs

2009 - 2010

Executive Education Program
The Maxwell School of Syracuse University
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A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Dear Host Family:

WELCOME to the Hubert H. Humphrey International Fellowship Program (IFP) at The Maxwell School of Syracuse University!

The Humphrey Fellowship staff at the Executive Education Program at Maxwell sincerely hopes your participation in this program will be a meaningful and exciting experience for you and your family.

This handbook is designed to assist the host families in understanding the programs in which the Fellows are involved and to provide guidelines for how they can be most helpful to the University and the Fellows.

We very much appreciate the families that serve as hosts for these International Fellows who come to the University for extended periods of time. Past Fellows at other member universities have also expressed their gratitude for the generous hospitality and assistance they received from collaborating families.

Thank you for your partnership in welcoming Humphrey Fellows to Syracuse University and Central New York- we look forward to a wonderful year together!

Please note that this handbook and other helpful documents are available on our website at: http://www1.maxwell.syr.edu/exed.aspx.

Warm Regards,

Margaret Lane
Program Coordinator, Humphrey International Fellowship Programs
Executive Education Program
The Maxwell School at Syracuse University
**HOST FAMILY PROGRAM MISSION**

The mission of the host family program is two-fold:

1. To assist the International Fellows in adjusting to life in the United States and Central New York and;

2. To provide an opportunity for cultural sharing between the host families, the community, and the International Fellows.

**INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program was initiated in 1978 to honor the late Senator and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and his life-long commitment to international cooperation and public service. The program brings accomplished mid-career professionals from designated developing nations and emerging democracies to the United States for an academic year (ten months) of study, related professional experience, and cultural exchange. The program provides a basis for lasting ties between United States citizens and the Fellows and strengthens the global exchange of knowledge and experience. This program is administered through the Institute of International Education (IIE) in Washington D.C. and Syracuse University Humphrey Fellows are hosted by the Executive Education Program at the Maxwell School.

More about this program can be found at the following website:

Hubert H. Humphrey
U.S. Vice President 1965 - 1969
Syracuse University was the first in the nation to offer graduate professional education in public administration, beginning in 1924, and the program has been unwaveringly strong ever since. The School’s number-one ranking — awarded by U.S. News & World Report for as long as rankings in public affairs have been offered — reflects the strength of the School’s public administration program and M.P.A. degree. Sitting alongside public administration is a well-regarded interdisciplinary program in international relations, offering both a graduate professional degree and undergraduate majors. Maxwell’s I.R. master’s program was recently ranked among the nation’s top ten by Foreign Policy magazine.

And, in an arrangement that is unique among major colleges and universities, Maxwell is also home to Syracuse University’s scholarly programs in the social sciences — anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, social science, and sociology. The co-mingling of these scholarly programs with Maxwell’s professional degrees creates rich, compounding benefits for students and faculty members on both sides of the aisle. Scholarly research is tested by the “real-world” perspective of the professional programs. Meanwhile, career preparation in P.A. and I.R. is informed by a broader understanding born of the social sciences.

Maxwell’s high esteem draws in large part from the unfettered cross-propagation of theory, policy, and practice — apparent in the classroom and in Maxwell’s eight interdisciplinary institutes (some of them co-sponsored with other Syracuse University departments). In the institutes, scholars work side-by-side with practitioners on matters of domestic public policy, global affairs, citizenship and public affairs, environmental policy, conflict resolution and collaborative management, and national and international security, among others.
DEAN MITCHEL WALLERSTEIN

Mitchel Wallerstein, G’72, is the dean of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and a professor of political science and public administration. He has been engaged in teaching, research and public policy analysis and formulation, working from many vantage points: academe, a policy think tank, government and philanthropy. Before joining Maxwell, Dean Wallerstein was vice president of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation where he directed the foundation’s international grant-making division, known as the Program on Global Security and Sustainability (GSS). He is the author of numerous books, articles, monographs and other publications. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the International Institute for Strategic Studies. He is interested in International Relations, U.S. and International Security, and Global Governance Issues. In addition to being dean of the Maxwell School, he is also its first dean to be an alumnus, graduating with a Master of Public Administration in 1972. He also holds a Ph.D. (1978) and M.S. (1977) in political science from M.I.T.; his A.B. (1971) is from Dartmouth College.
CONTACT LIST: INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS FACULTY, STAFF, AND VOLUNTEER HOST FAMILY COORDINATORS

The Humphrey Fellowship Program at The Maxwell School at Syracuse University is supported by academic faculty and staff who work as a team to assist Fellows in achieving the goals of their fellowship year.

Humphrey Fellowship Program
Executive Education Program
The Maxwell School
219 Maxwell Hall
Syracuse, NY 13244
315-443-3759
http://www1.maxwell.syr.edu/esed.aspx

Margaret Lane
Program Coordinator
219 Maxwell Hall
Phone: 315-443-8708
Email: melane02@maxwell.syr.edu

Tammy Salisbury
Asst. Program Coordinator
219 Maxwell Hall
Phone: 315-443-3159
Email: mtsalisb@maxwell.syr.edu

HOST FAMILY PROGRAM VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Rob Myers
315-443-3759
Email: remyersi@syr.edu
**Host Family Program Perspective & Activities**

The Host Family Program contributes to the wealth of experience of each Fellow. It is often through the host families that the first personal contact with U.S. culture is established. We anticipate that this contact will provide a long-lasting link with Central New York and the United States. The host families are true ambassadors of the United States and carry on the legacy of Hubert H. Humphrey.

There are tremendous rewards for participating as a host family. The learning is definitely reciprocal and many lifetime friendships can be developed. Not only do host families learn about the country or region of their Fellow, they can develop a whole new appreciation for international affairs.

The relationship you have with the Fellow will be most rewarding if you develop a mutually open and friendly manner of communication. At the same time, keep in mind that U.S. society and culture tends to be more open/direct than that of other cultures.

In many cases, the Fellows will experience a significant shock as they transition from their own country and culture to that of the United States. That shock will tend to ease with the passage of time. Contributing to this shock is the reality of Fellows living away from their families and friends for an extended period of time, often for the first time in their lives.

During the year, Fellows will be away from campus for extended periods of time. Program elements include trips to Albany, New York City, and Washington, D.C. Moreover, some of the Fellows will be away from campus as they pursue their professional affiliations in the spring.

Keep in mind that no guidelines meet all purposes and situations. Flexibility is usually required. If you experience difficulties in the relationship between your family and the Fellow, please contact our staff as soon as possible. We are here to support you and we are always willing to do what we can to foster your relationship with the Fellows.
RESPONSIBILITIES & GUIDELINES FOR HOST FAMILIES

The following are general guidelines to help host families welcome the international Fellows to the United States and to assist in building a rewarding relationship between the host families and the Fellows. These guidelines are intended to be helpful for both the Fellows and the Host Families. If you find that you are unable to assist with any of the following, notify Margaret Lane or Tammy Salisbury so that other arrangements can be made.

1. **AIRPORT ARRIVALS:** Greet and pick-up the Fellow at the airport Tuesday, **August 11, 2009.** You will be informed of the Fellows exact arrival schedule and email address.

2. **OPTIONAL ARRIVAL OVERNIGHT STAY AT YOUR HOME:** Host the Fellow in your home for the first night, or up to three nights. Many of the Fellows will have spent many hours, if not days, traveling and will need some rest in a comfortable environment. **OR,** your Fellow may decide to go directly to his or her residence.

3. **ACCOMPANY TO ORIENTATION:** Bring the Fellow to the Maxwell School to meet with the International Fellowship Program staff and find the Fellowship office. This will take place on **Wednesday, August 12th at 9:00 a.m.** The Fellowship office is located in the Executive Education offices, Room 219 Maxwell Hall on the Syracuse University campus. Parking will be available in the Irving Garage. To make parking arrangements please contact Tammy Salisbury, Assistant Coordinator, at mtsalisb@maxwell.syr.edu. A campus and parking map can be accessed here: [http://parking.syr.edu/Parking/uploads/NorthSouthCampus032008.pdf](http://parking.syr.edu/Parking/uploads/NorthSouthCampus032008.pdf)

4. There will be a Humphrey Program BBQ following the Fellows’ orientation session on **Friday August 14th at 5:30p.m.** at the Inn Complete on Skytop Road on South Campus. It will be a casual gathering where Humphrey Fellows, host families and program staff can meet and mingle.

5. **BANKING:** Assistance in understanding the US banking system is appreciated. Staff will help them open an initial account at HSBC so they can have immediate access to their funds, but they may want to change later if they have need of specific services. Information about banking options is enclosed. Fellows have to have a bank account to deposit their first check. This money may be required to pay their deposit for housing.

6. **OPTIONAL: FURNISHINGS:** Assist the Fellow to find furnishings for their residence. Depending on their housing selection, Fellows may or may not have a furnished apartment. Either way, they may wish to add their own personal touch.
In the past, Fellows have purchased items off of online sites such as Craig’s List (www.craigslist.org), visited local second-hand stores, or borrowed items from host families. Host families, with your local knowledge, could be especially helpful in assisting Fellows making their house a home.

7. SHOPPING: Once the Fellow has located their housing, we would suggest taking them to the nearest grocery store, such as P&C, Wegmans, Price Chopper, Aldi or other areas shops and stores to help orient them to shopping systems in the United States. It is also advisable to help Fellows in understanding the bus routes which they can take to get to the grocery store. This SU Parking website offers various links to CENTRO Bus services and schedules: http://parking.syr.edu/Parking/display.cfm?content_ID=%23%28%23%28

• Area Farmer’s Markets (in season) can also be an especially nice trip to take together. They provide fresh, local, reasonably-priced produce and other food items. In particular, the CNY Regional Market offers a kaleidoscope of produce and people. Here is a link to some area markets: http://www.nyfarmersmarket.com/regioncentralonondaga.htm

**SUGGESTED HOST FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

The following are offered as ideas for building a relationship with the International Fellows, as a means of extending hospitality, and as a way to introduce the Fellows to United States culture.

♦ Host the Fellow and their family for lunch or dinner during significant holidays such as Thanksgiving, Chanukah, Christmas, Eid Il Fitr or New Year’s.

♦ Invite the Fellow and their family to cultural events such as picnics, theater outings, museums, festivals, orchestra concerts, sporting events, or dinner out (explain, as this may not be a cultural norm for them). Please be sure to let the Fellow know what they may expect to pay for the outing. The Fellows receive a stipend that allows them to consider budgeting to pay for their own expenses at such events.

♦ Invite the Fellow and their family on a trip to a lake, park, and Upstate New York or out-of-state cities.
♦ Similarly, when the Fellow invites you to attend an event with them, please inquire about the cost and reassure them that it is okay for you each to pay your own expenses. They are typically quite reluctant to suggest this option. There may also be times when they wish to host you as their guest.

♦ **Please note** that while we are a daytrip away from some great locations in Ontario and Quebec, Canada, **Fellows may require special travel documents or visas** to leave the United States. Please check with Humphrey staff (Margaret Lane or Tammy Salisbury) in Executive Education before making these plans.

Each time you extend an invitation, please be sure to emphasize that an invitation is a request and not an obligation; emphasize that your relationship with the Fellow will not be hurt if they refuse the invitation; let them know that if they accept they will be expected to let you know if they later are unable to attend; and advise them of the expected arrival time for the event. It may be helpful to extend invitations as a multiple choice, such as, “would you rather attend a theatre performance or a sporting event?” This can help you get a better sense of a Fellows’ interests in a way that is culturally neutral.

### Some possible activities for Host Families and Fellows and family:
- Museum of Science and Technology
- Syracuse Stage or other regional theater
- Green Lakes State Park, Beaver Lake Nature Center, Onondaga Lake Park
- Ice skating at Tennity Ice Pavilion, Clinton Square or other area rinks
- SU Football, Basketball, Lacrosse or other Carrier Dome sporting event
- Visit a farm or somewhere with an agricultural focus such as Critz Farm in Cazenovia
- Go to any of the numerous parks in CNY
- Fairs and festivals—NYS State Fair
- Finger Lakes/Lake Ontario
- Musicals, plays or concerts at area high schools
- Skiing- downhill or cross-country (XC at Beaver Lake or Highland Forest)
- For families: Playing in the snow- building snowmen, sledding, etc.
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Burnet Park Zoo
- A family wedding
- A book club
- Erie Canal Museum, Onondaga Historical Association
• Local eatery landmarks: Heid’s, Peter’s Polar Parlor, Sno-Top, Dinosaur BBQ
• Farmers’ Markets- see information above Green Lakes State Park
• Sporting events- Syracuse Chiefs, Syracuse Crunch, International Sport Horse Tournament
• Fall colors—take a drive along Route 20 or your favorite leaf-peeping route
• Pick-your-own locations: apples, pumpkins, strawberries, blueberries, etc.
• Think spring! Maple syrup festivals and events
• Different neighborhoods and villages of CNY
• Neighborhood gatherings, including some of the ethnic festivals
• Some activity around elections
• Simple walks or picnics- we are blessed with wonderful parks!
• Go to the movies
• Daytrips to Albany, Ithaca, Buffalo, Rochester
THINGS HOST FAMILIES SHOULD NOT TAKE ON

♦ Don’t host the Fellow in your home for extended periods of time. Usually, three nights is sufficient time for them to find adequate housing and get moved in.

♦ Never give or lend money to the Fellows. The Fellows have scholarship funds that should provide sufficient resources to cover ordinary expenses.

♦ Do not give advice to the Fellows regarding immigration, work, medical, or legal issues. They must comply with complex, frequently changing policies and it is important that these issues be handled in accordance with current laws.

♦ You should not assume the responsibility of disposing of or shipping Fellows’ boxes at the end of their stay in the United States when the Fellow has departed for home. The Fellows are advised to take care of shipping their items with sufficient time allotted in advance of their departure.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Occasionally, Fellows experience difficult times during their stay in the United States. Some of these difficulties are common aspects of life and living in another culture. However, some of these can become serious threats to a Fellow’s wellbeing. While we understand the desire to assist them, it is important that the program staff be aware of any potential problems in the Fellows’ lives. It is much easier to deal with a potential problem than to deal with a crisis. You will be provided with a list of contact information for Fellowship staff. Please contact us if you feel there is something we should know about. We would rather error on the side of caution. In an emergency situation, please contact Margaret Lane or Tammy Salisbury.

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

As part of a public university, the International Fellowship Programs does not promote or sanction any particular religion. Both our cultural host families and the fellows come from many different cultural and religious backgrounds. Because we do not match fellows with hosts based on religious affiliation, you may well find that your Fellows’ religious affiliation or beliefs differ from yours. It is important that we demonstrate respect for all religions and
belief systems, and we hope that this will enhance greater understanding of diversity for the group as a whole.

Making, accepting, and declining invitations is closely tied to a person’s culture. Some Fellows come from societies where to decline a host’s invitation would be very uncomfortable and disrespectful. If you would like to invite a Fellow to a religious event, be sure it is clear that he or she has the option to decline. Also, please make it clear if the focus of an invitation is primarily religious.

**FOOD & DIETS**

Please ask what food restrictions your Fellow might observe. As a general rule, Muslim Fellows avoid pork products and Buddhist Fellows avoid beef products. Many Asian Fellows also consider rice to be an essential element of every meal. Some Fellows may be vegetarian or vegan. However, as each Fellow is unique in food preferences, it is best to ask each individual about their specific food preferences rather than make any assumptions.
Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program Participants at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University 2009-2010

Joseph Abass Bangura, Sierra Leone

Mr. Abass is joining the Executive Education Program from Sierra Leone. While studying at the Maxwell School, he will be focusing his studies on social transformation through business investments such as microfinance. He also has an interest in the creation of a middle class in developing countries. Mr. Abass runs an NGO designed to “teach professionals and community leaders the minimum qualities needed to make great leaders – Vision, Integrity, Passion and Courage”. He also publishes a quarterly magazine and hosts a radio program that teaches these values.

Ronald Amorado, Philippines

Mr. Amorado comes to Syracuse University from the Philippines. He wishes to focus his studies as a Humphrey Fellow on the topics of public policy analysis and policy evaluation especially as it relates to good governance and anti-corruption reforms. Mr. Amorado has been working for numerous years working with government agencies and private sector organizations on discourse, research, providing training and public lectures on corruption issues. He holds a Ph.D. in Governance and Anticorruption Studies from Ateneo de Davao University.

Nimrod Pinhas Goren, Israel

Mr. Goren joins us from Israel. He has worked as the founding director of a policy-oriented NGO within Israel which enables students and young professionals to take a positive, strong role in shaping Israel’s relations with its Middle-Eastern and European neighbors. He will focus on how civil society can promote conflict resolution and influence foreign-policy making, non-profit management, public policy and leadership. Mr. Goren will return to Israel to establish an institute of regional policies which will work toward resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict allowing Israel to allocate more resources to education welfare and civil infrastructures. He holds an MA in Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies and is about to complete his Ph.D. from Hebrew University.

Alexei Ionasco, Moldova

Mr. Ionasco joins the Maxwell School from Moldova. His focus of studies will be on policy analysis, policy administration, organizational change and leadership in order to assist his country in ensuring sustainable economic development. For the past 11 years he has worked for the World Bank as an Operations Analyst/Officer focusing on policy dialogue on social protection and social development issues. He has made great strides by helping to reform the pension system of the Republic of Moldova. His interest while at Maxwell is to strengthen skills in order to effectively plan, organize and conduct high quality impact evaluations and analyze policy. When he returns to Moldova, he plans to assume a greater role in leadership in either an international organization or think tank in Moldova or in
government institutions that develop and implement policy. He earned an MA in Political Science from Central European University in Budapest, Hungary.

**Dong Seok Lee, Republic of Korea**

Mr. Lee comes to Syracuse University from South Korea. He currently works for the Korea Communication Commission, which regulates information technology certification of new devices. Through his studies, Mr. Lee wishes to learn more about U.S. information technology policy, laws and regulations of telecommunications. He will also focus on leadership, discussion and negotiation skills. He will then return to Korea to renovate and restructure processes needed for efficiency and to steer policymaking, upgrade the current IT device certification system and design laws on IT certification which will lower the cost of certification, shorten product release cycles and protect consumers. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Yonsei University.

**Jamel M’Hedhbi, Tunisia**

Mr. M’Hedhbi joins us from Tunisia where he works to coordinate national strategies and projects for the integration of information technology to the populace. After his research and studies in policymaking, strategic implementation and deregulation, he will return to Tunisia to develop and deploy new communication strategies and policies to help the processing and privatization of the information technology field. His newly-honed skills will enable him to ensure that this process will be fair and balanced.

**Shouvik Mitra, India**

Mr. Mitra comes to Syracuse from India, where he works in helping build community capacity, enabling greater economic opportunities for rural citizens. Families in poverty in these areas can benefit from both increased health and education services. These services in turn can foster a higher standard for living for a population lacking a voice or strong institutional support. While at Maxwell, Mr. Mitra plans on concentrating on social/public policy, policy analysis and microeconomics as well as rural and fund development. He plans to return to India to continue work increasing rural standards of living and economic opportunities, adapting successful models of rural development to his homeland.

**Anita Sarmah, India**

Ms. Sarmah joins us from India where she works with the Indian railway system. Her goals for her studies and research are to “catalyze private investment to create infrastructure in the Indian Railways”. Her vision is to enhance or make possible rail-side warehousing, world-class stations, a dedicated freight corridor, port connectivity and the use of private container services. With these plans she will focus on public administration, finance, law, managerial finance and risk management.

**Emma Silva, Ecuador**

Ms. Silva comes to Syracuse University from Ecuador where she works to design and implement projects on accountability, social control and human rights for Ecuador’s citizens. Through her studies and research she will focus on public policy analysis, democracy, anti-corruption, nonprofit administration and techniques for citizens to be able to exercise their
rights and responsibilities. She aims to promote social and political groups to assist
government in improving public administration, fiscal accountability and citizen accessibility
of public information as well as in promoting peaceful social change in Ecuador’s
government and civil society. She most recently earned a Master’s degree in Political
Science at Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLASCO).

**Simpson Snoh, Liberia**

Mr. Snoh joins us from Liberia. Mr. Snoh’s focus will be on mitigation of conflicts,
public policy analysis and evaluation, system processes, best practices, quantitative methods,
conflict analysis, decision-making and analytical skills. His goals on his return to Liberia are
to implement conflict mitigation in the design, management and evaluation of public service
policies and program in the country’s post-conflict and development goals. Additionally he
plans to be a manager and leader in national public service organization, a national capacity
building trainer emphasizing public service governance and conflict mitigation.

**Addys Then Marte, Dominican Republic**

Ms. Then Marte comes to Syracuse University from the Dominican Republic where
she has worked in the public and NGO sectors. Her experience has been in managing social
development projects such as strengthening public participation as well as increasing social
responsibility and volunteerism in the business sector. She will focus on public policy
analysis, formulation and implementation of public policies, international cooperation and
international free trade agreements. She also plans to explore the dynamic and
interdependent relationships among government, private sector and civil society. When she
returns to the Dominican Republic, she will continue to strengthen civil society
organizations, promote public policy for citizenry and further her country’s transparency in
government action.
A FINAL NOTE

We look forward to having you participate as a Host Family for our Humphrey Fellows. The cultural exchange will be rewarding for everyone involved. It's an opportunity to be an ambassador for The Maxwell School at Syracuse University, Central New York and the United States. Thank you!

(special thanks to International Fellowship Program, HHH Institute of Public Affairs University of Minnesota for handbook guidance)