The 2013-2014 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows have embarked upon their year of academic study, professional development and cultural exchange at the Maxwell School. Executive Education welcomed the ten fellows in August for orientation, before beginning their official program year.

The Fellows hail from eight different countries, including China, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Slovak Republic, and South Africa. This is the fifth year the Maxwell School are hosting the Humphrey Fellows, who are focused in the areas of public administration, NGOs, and leadership. These Fellows are mid-career professionals and leaders in their respective countries, whose experience integrates into Executive Education and its mission of preparing leaders for a global community. Fellows hail from government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

During their program year, fellows will embark on academic coursework, professional development, site visits and leadership seminar. A six-week professional affiliation rounds out their professional experiences. They also have the opportunity to speak at various forums and panels, including Executive Education’s Peer to Peer series, which features both Humphrey Fellows and Exec Ed students.

Another important component is cultural exchange, which is achieved by relationships with American host families and voluntary participation in activities and events on the Syracuse campus and in the surrounding community.
The Syracuse Humphrey Fellows took a trip to the Center for New Americans, a refugee resettlement agency and part of the nonprofit Interfaith Works. They met with program director Helen Malina and learned about refugee resettlement in Syracuse. Two refugees from Bhutan and Iraq offered their perspective on the experience. They are now case managers with the agency, tasked with helping the newly arrived refugees settle into their new lives in the U.S. This is an especially valuable connection as the case managers have the cultural connections in addition to successful resettlement themselves. The Fellows traveled to a warehouse to select items for a newly arriving refugee family from Myanmar (Burma) with housing manager Patrick King. He discussed partnerships that have been created with area landlords, who provide rental apartments for the refugee families. Finally, they visited the apartment, located on the north side of Syracuse, where the family will establish their new home. Mohammed Shaker Ammash is continuing the work started by Hazim Hamed, an alum also from Iraq, in connecting with refugees from Iraq.

New York Politics: A Day with Dave Valesky

After learning about American political systems from Prof. Grant Reeher, the Fellows had an opportunity to see it from a politician’s view in October. Senator David Valesky welcomed the Fellows at his regional office for a morning of political immersion and discourse, cultural comparisons and discussion of New York State politics. A founding member of the Independent Democratic Conference, Senator Valesky has been representing NY’s 49th district since 2004, and has welcomed the Fellows as part of their Humphrey experience both in Syracuse and Albany. Sen. Valesky discussed not only the politics, issues and process of NYS government, but answered the Fellows’ questions concerning federal and global issues as well.
Fellows visited ProLiteracy in October to learn about this international NGO headquartered in Syracuse on the Near West Side, whose work spans over 30 countries. Through its Literacy for Social Change program, more than 2.2 million people across the globe have learned to read.

As a follow-up session, a number of Fellows attended a training session about the social change initiative, which focuses literacy efforts in six areas: health, economic self-reliance, education, environment, peace and human rights/status of women.

Humphrey Fellows listen to ProLiteracy staff provide an overview of their international literacy initiatives, including 'Literacy for Social Change' training offered by the NGO headquartered in Syracuse.
The Fellows had the opportunity to view a taping of WCNY’s Ivory Tower television program in October. The program, aired weekly on PBS affiliates across the state, features academics discussing local, national and world events. Following the discussion, they received a tour of the station’s new facilities on the Near West Side and saw what’s involved in both producing and airing programming. The visit culminated with a discussion with the show’s host, former Newhouse School Dean David Rubin and SUNY Cortland Professor Bob Spitzer, who provided their perspective on First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and the press, and details of how the weekly program comes together.

The October 11 episode can be accessed [here](#).

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**Learning about Onondaga County**

The Fellows met with Deputy County Executive Bill Fisher, Chief Fiscal Officer Steven Morgan and Nora Spillane from the Office of Economic Development. The Fellows learned about county government, and how it collaborates with city, state and federal agencies. Among the topics discussed was the organizational chart of Onondaga County government, which lists the residents of the county at the top—even above County Executive Joanie Mahoney. Also discussed was the recent co-location and collaboration of the city and county economic development offices.

Fellows met with Onondaga County officials.
Meeting Cornell Colleagues in the Adirondacks

The Syracuse and Cornell Humphrey Fellowship programs joined together during a September weekend filled with networking, team building and cultural exchange in the Adirondack Mountains of New York State.

Before meeting up with Cornell in Lake Placid, the Syracuse cohort spent time at SU’s Minnowbrook Conference Center, participating in a professional development session about elevator speeches and having time to relax and getting to know one another. Many took advantage of the sunny day to kayak or venture out on a paddle boat. The following morning, most hiked to the summit of Castle Rock to admire the view of Blue Mountain Lake. En route to meet their Cornell counterparts, they stopped for a picnic lunch at Buttermilk Falls, near Long Lake.

The trip provided a chance for Cornell and Syracuse Fellows to become acquainted. For some, it was a chance to re-connect or meet fellows from their country. One of the activities was seeing the summit of Whiteface Mountain which offered a spectacular view for miles. The two campuses also brainstormed ways to collaborate on a future endeavor. Some conversed long into the night!

Fellows from Syracuse and Cornell spent time collaborating and enjoying outdoor activities.
Celebrating International Education Week at Affiliate Campus OCC

In recognition of International Education Week in November, the Syracuse Humphrey Fellows attended various events on the campus of the program’s affiliate campus, Onondaga Community College. Capping off the week was the annual Central New York International Citizen of the Year Awards Dinner, held at OCC. The event featured the keynote address "Border Conflict and Refugees" by Dr. Paula Banerjee. She spent the fall semester at SUNY Oswego as a Fulbright Scholar. Awards were presented to area residents who embody the ideals of international citizenry. The night also included multicultural cuisine and African drum music.

The Fellows were also invited by OCC leadership to its annual International Thanksgiving Dinner where they could learn about the traditions of this American holiday. The event was held for international students hailing from more than one hundred countries, and the food served included both traditional Thanksgiving dishes and a variety of international dishes. The event was organized by students in OCC’s hospitality program.

An additional observance during International Education Week included a panel presentation entitled, “The Benefits of International Exchange” featuring current fellow Sanaullah Abro and Humphrey alum Ana Marcela Paredes. They spoke of their experience living and studying in the U.S. and the opportunity to share their culture and traditions, partaking in a true two-way cultural exchange. Both also have dependents in the U.S., which has provided the chance for this exchange to involve their family members as well. Also participating in the discussion was an Onondaga student and faculty member Rick McLain, who spearheaded the event.

Onondaga’s International Citizen Awards Dinner. (Clockwise from back row: Mohammed Ammash, Sanaullah Abro, Bilal Memon, Ana Marcela Paredes, Esther Licnachan, Tammy Salisbury, and Ana Marcela’s daughter Ananda.)
Newhouse students hear Fellow’s Presentation

Syracuse Humphrey Fellow Dee Moskoff, of South Africa, recently spoke to a Media Ventures class, taught by Professor Sean Branagan, at the Newhouse School of Public Communications of Syracuse University. Her talk focused on Social Enterprises, and how small to medium NGOs can remain sustainable in a challenging funding climate, while maintaining a positive social impact in its surrounding community.

Humphrey Fellow featured at SUNY Oswego Lecture Series

On October 31, fellow Karla Dominguez Gonzalez was the featured speaker at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Oswego about “Government Policies for Equity: Gender Mainstreaming in Mexico.” This talk was part of the Ernst & Young Lecture Series on Gender Equity in the Workplace, which has been held for 10 years at SUNY Oswego. The series was established through funding from one of the SUNY Oswego alums, who is committed to an equitable workplace for women. His company, Ernst & Young, has matched his contributions to the fund, and the lectures have covered a range of topics that relate to the workplace. In recent years, it has taken a more global perspective on those topics, including gender equality.

Karla was invited to talk about her experience as Director against Corruption at the Mexican Ministry of Social Development, specifically regarding her coordination of the gender mainstreaming strategy within the Ministry. She talked about the good practices in the Mexican Public Administration such as improvements in legislation and the institutionalization of certain gender strategies, such as the establishment of Committees for the Prevention and Attention of Sexual Harassment in the workplace, while at the same time, she commented on areas of opportunity for the future.

This lecture had a full auditorium of people from the class “Gender Equality in the Workplace,” other students, faculty and members from the community. At the end, she had the opportunity to share her experience with some students during the dinner that was held in her honor by the host professor Susan Coultrap-McQuin, from the Department of English and Women’s Studies at SUNY, Oswego.
The Syracuse Humphrey Fellows enjoyed a day in the country with hosts Barry and Kathy Kogut. They got a slice of rural America and family farming by visiting an alpaca farm, pumpkin patch and cattle farm. They also toured the Kogut’s vegetable garden and went home with some of the harvest! The afternoon culminated with a delicious pasta dinner made with produce from Barry and Kathy’s garden.

The day provided an opportunity to learn about the country life in New York State, with its abundance of small family farms amid the bucolic rolling countryside.
**Trip to Skaneateles**

The culmination of the 2 1/2 week orientation was a trip to Skaneateles, NY, the picturesque Finger Lakes village west of Syracuse. After weeks spent settling in, and becoming familiar with the Fellowship program, Fellows wandered the village and enjoyed the lovely views of Skaneateles Lake. A boat tour allowed them to learn about some of the landmarks and history of the lake, with its spectacular views of homes, and sailboats galore. And no trip to Skaneateles is ever complete without a stop at Skan-ellus Drive In for ice cream on the drive back to Syracuse!

**Alumni Attends Humphrey Conference at Lahore University**

*From Hassan Arshad (Pakistan), 2012-2013 Syracuse Humphrey Fellow*

“New Solutions to Old Problems” was the theme of the 10th Annual Fulbright and Humphrey Alumni Conference held at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) during November 22-24, 2013. The conference brought together Fulbright and Humphrey Program alumni from all over Pakistan for discussions and academic presentations on a wide range of topics including Energy, Education, Health, Agriculture, Environment, Cultural Studies, Gender, Peace, Entrepreneurship and Economics.

Fulbright and Humphrey alumni including vice chancellors, senior university faculty and various prominent government officials enthusiastically attended the conference and participated in the discussions. Alumni working in nearly every sector all across the country attended the conference.

**Update on the Philippines**

There is no greater a sense of a global community than when disaster strikes. In November, Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines, killing almost 6,000. Syracuse Humphrey Fellowship has two Fellows from the Philippines: Alum Ronnie Amorado (2009-2010) and current Fellow Es Lichnachan (2013-2014). Thankfully neither was directly affected by the typhoon but it didn’t lessen the impact felt as a fellow citizen to those whose lives and livelihoods were so devastatingly changed. Numerous groups on the S.U. campus, in the Syracuse community and the Humphrey Fellowship Program have created avenues to support ongoing aid and assistance.

*Photograph from telegraph.co.uk*
The first Syracuse Humphrey wedding took place in early November. Humphrey Fellow Bo Song, from China, wed his fiancé, Yuan Cheng, in a ceremony held at the home of Grace and Michael Flusche, Song’s host family. It was a lovely ceremony and celebration with Fellows, families and friends in attendance. Michael officiated the vows and Grace provided a reading during the ceremony. Alum Ana Marcela Parades’ daughters, Carolina and Ananda also sang a duet in Spanish to add to the special occasion. We wish Bo and Yuan much health and happiness as they begin their lives together! Congratulations to the newlyweds!
Even if or when you have experienced living abroad for a while, getting back to your own country is always unsettling in the beginning. This happened every time I got back from a long stay abroad; like I moved about my days at home and in the office feeling that something was missing but I had no idea what it could be. It took time to unravel myself into the setting and soon I started discovering things I did not even know I had missed when living in Syracuse. One such thing among all was the very game of “Buzkashi”. A nice day a friend invites me to a game and I get to ride one of those special horses and suddenly there are flashbacks reminding me of the times I used to play such Afghan games. This incident made me realize, that while some things change as we move on in our lives, there are other attachments which remind us of our own individual identities and make us enjoy life in the long-term.

Likewise, when I look back at my Humphrey year, I say to myself: ‘what a constructive and fun year’. Obviously, it is more than a year now since I settled first in Syracuse and the things I miss or remember the most are not Maxwell 219, the Archbold gym, the university or the city, it is rather the friends, instructors, and families I made and met and the times we shared together. I surely learned a lot and shared as much as I could. Now, I have made it a point to go back to Syracuse one day and re-live one of those very American experiences we used to get in our Humphrey excursions. I am sure they will bring back many comforting memories.
Alumni Updates

Nejib Khabbouchi, 2012-2013 Humphrey alum, was appointed governor of the province of Jendouba, a province in northern Tunisia, on the border with Algeria in September. Congratulations!

Phone Myint Win, a 2011-2012 Humphrey alum, has had a long association with Burnet Institute Myanmar, since 2007. In June 2013, he was appointed the Country Representative for the Myanmar Program. Previously, he was Program Coordinator with responsibility for overall management of Burnet Institute Myanmar’s programs. Congratulations, Phone!

Nejib Khabbouchi, 2012-2013 Humphrey alum, was appointed governor of the province of Jendouba, a province in northern Tunisia, on the border with Algeria in September. Congratulations!

2011-2012 Humphrey alum Brahmanand Thakur is now a visiting faculty member at Kathmandu University School of Engineering, his alma mater, teaching a course entitled Entrepreneurial Development for final year students in Environmental Science and Environmental Engineering. He states that his experience as a Humphrey Fellow in courses taken at the Maxwell School and School of Information Studies at Syracuse University have been among the resources that have helped guide him as he develops the course. The class will culminate with a business idea/plan competition where students submitting the best proposal will have the opportunity to participate in the incubation program at CoIn (CoWork, Collaborate, Incubate, Innovate), the business incubator company Brahma co-founded and is currently the CEO. Congratulations, Brahma!

Adrián Pérez, a 2012-2013 Humphrey alum, has been elected as a Congressman in Argentina. Congratulations to Argentina’s newest Parliamentarian!

We are in the process of collecting updates from Maxwell Humphrey alums for the next newsletter! Please pass along any news you wish to share- and photos are always welcome. You can post on our Facebook group page or email Martha at mhketcha@syr.edu.
Dhalia Khoury Sader, a 2012-2013 Humphrey alum, is now the regional program manager for Chemonics in the Libya Transition Initiative. She is based in Benghazi and heading the office in Eastern Libya. They work on projects with local groups, government and NGOs to support the democratic transition in the country. It is a huge project that will support moderate voice and bolstering security. Those projects include advocacy, constitution law and drafting awareness, elections, good governance, and civic engagement. Dahlia adds that while she lives in a sensitive and insecure environment, it is her pleasure to work on this initiative in support of democracy and good governance.

Kristine Jaunzeme, a 2011-2012 Humphrey alum, started to work as a legal consultant in the Legal Office of the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia. She also volunteers in the Prison Fellowship Latvia and for her church. She has been very busy—Kristine spent this past summer walking the way of St. James (the Camino de Santiago), traversing 920 km in 26 days across northern Spain, starting in the French Pyrenees and ending at the Atlantic Ocean!

Nimrod Goren, a 2009-2010 Humphrey alum, just co-edited a book full of articles entitled Israel and the Arab Spring: Opportunities in Change where the authors examine the future for Israel in the rapidly changing Middle East. The full book is available here.

Dr. Khaled AlAjmi, a 2010-2011 Humphrey alum, was named to the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey (MENAT) Regional Council. The four founding members of the Council just welcomed three new members, including Khaled. Read the news release here. Congratulations!
In February 2014, the Maxwell School will welcome 40 Humphrey Fellows from the 17 Humphrey Fellowship universities across the country for the Leadership and Governance During Times of Crisis Enhancement Workshop.

The week-long event will examine the dynamics and processes that occur as leaders struggle to cope with crisis situations. The workshop will include information about how crises have been managed at the most senior levels of government and NGOs around the globe. The overall goal is to give participants perspectives and tools to more effectively address a wide range of crises including humanitarian emergencies, political instability and civil unrest, terrorism, natural disasters, health pandemics, industrial accidents, financial crises, and foreign policy fiascos.

The workshop will be facilitated by experts from Maxwell’s Transboundary Crisis Management Project, located at the Maxwell School’s Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs. The agenda for the workshop includes presentations by faculty, managers and officials involved in both crisis management theory and practice. Professor Bruce Dayton will be spearheading the workshop; as the Assistant Director of the Moynihan Institute, Professor Dayton specializes in peacebuilding and conflict resolution in addition to crisis management.

This is the second year Maxwell has hosted the workshop. The workshop is dynamic, offering a combination of seminars, lectures, group exercises, site visits and concluding with a simulation exercise where participants will apply the lessons learned across the duration of the workshop in a dynamic and interactive setting. Syracuse Fellows who are not formally attending the workshop will serve as ambassadors during the workshop, attending the various social events throughout the week. We’re looking forward to hosting Fellows from across the country for this event!

**Stay up to date with us on facebook**

We want to hear from you! Join us on Facebook. If you have news, views, or updates, join our “Humphrey Fellows- Maxwell School, Syracuse University” group on Facebook. It’s a great way to keep in touch with past and current Maxwell Humphrey Fellows! This is a closed group—only current or former Fellows and host families are accepted. Our public Facebook page is The Hubert H Humphrey Fellowship Program at Maxwell, Syracuse Univ. and can be ‘liked’ by anyone!
Executive Education hosts an annual pumpkin party, to celebrate Halloween and to provide an opportunity to experience the tradition of carving a jack-o-lantern. It’s always a hit with students, Fellows and kids alike! Bo Song is surrounded by the fall harvest during the day in the country in September.

Left and below: During Orientation, a Host family BBQ picnic is always held to celebrate the upcoming Humphrey year. Our host families play a big role in the cultural exchange component of the program and the opportunity for global friendships and understanding is a life-long reward for all. Thanks to all the host families and friends who are so generous and welcoming to our Fellows year after year.