Goodbye and Good Luck to the 2013-2014 Humphrey Fellows!

When fellows arrive in August, the following April seems so far off in the future. Yet before the Fellows realize, April is here, with the Year End Celebration, the anticipation of Professional Affiliations and wrapping up studies at Maxwell. It is always a bittersweet time. We wish the 2013-2014 Humphrey Fellows all the best as they return to their countries with the Athenian Oath echoing in their minds: “...we will transmit this city not only not less, but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.” Farewell Fellows — best wishes and we hope you keep in touch!
Meet the Dean

As part of wrap-up week activities, Maxwell School Dean Jim Steinberg sat down with the fellows for a wide-ranging conversation. He thanked Fellows for the breadth and depth of expertise they bring to the school, as public sector leadership is no longer a single-dimensional endeavor but rather a convergence of multiple sectors including NGO, public and private entities. The Fellows stand at the intersection of these many areas and are a real asset for Maxwell.

Dean Steinberg also shared his foreign policy expertise as he entertained Fellows’ questions about politics, foreign policy and international security in their countries and around the globe. They were also curious about his experience working for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton — he replied she was a fabulous boss and leader of the State Department. He offered no guesses as to her intention to run (or not) for President in 2016!

Dean Steinberg is a former Deputy National Security Advisor under the Clinton Administration and Deputy Secretary of State under President Obama. He assumed his current position as Dean in 2011. Steinberg has a forthcoming book “Strategic Reassurance and Strategic Resolve: US-China Relations in the 21st Century” with Michael O’Hanlon, a senior fellow at The Brookings Institution.

Visit to the Tech Garden

In early February, the Fellows visited the Syracuse Tech Garden, a technology incubator that promotes entrepreneurship and fosters local business growth. Seth Mulligan, Vice President for Innovation Services provided the framework of CenterState CEO, the Tech Garden’s parent organization, and discussed the economic challenges and opportunities facing the region. He also highlighted a new venture capital firm located in Syracuse which was created to help support these burgeoning start-up companies. The Fellows this year have made some wonderful connections through the Tech Garden, including Andy Svakova (Slovak Republic), who is utilizing office space, and Dee Moskoff (South Africa) whose nonprofit is part of a test project by a student sandbox start-up called Centscere.
3rd Annual International Potluck

In what's become an annual tradition, the Syracuse Humphrey Fellows played host to family and friends with an international potluck party. Barry and Kathy Kogut once again graciously opened their home to host the party, and Fellows prepared dishes from their native countries. The event also served as a reunion after the semester break. The dishes were explained by the chefs, with credit given to the wives of some fellows who prepared the food! The food was delicious, plenty of family and friends were in attendance, and a good time was had by all.

Above: Fellow Karla Dominguez-Gonzalez (Mexico) prepares her dish.
Left: Fellows and hosts gathered at The Kogut’s home to celebrate the cuisines of their native countries.

Freeman on Freedom of Information Law

Bob Freeman, Director of the New York State Committee on Open Government, spoke to the Fellows in February about New York state policy regarding the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL). FOIL pertains to the public’s right to gain access to government records. Bob Freeman discussed open government within a state, national, and global context, conversing with the Fellows about these practices in their home countries.
Humphreys Take on the Big Apple

In the midst of a busy spring semester, Fellows travelled to New York City for a series of professional site visits, meetings and sightseeing.

On Thursday morning the Fellows visited the Clinton Foundation. Scott Taitel, COO of the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership and also a Maxwell alum, met with the fellows along with the Clinton Global Initiative Director of Programming, Alexandra Amouyel.

Thursday afternoon the Syracuse Fellows went on a tour of Central Park led by Jack Linn, former Assistant Commissioner of NYC Parks and Recreation. He highlights the important roles parks play in a democracy, as a public green space, a gathering place and as an economic development engine. That night, the Fellows had an opportunity to attend a Career Fair sponsored by a consortium of universities and colleges including NYU and Maxwell. The evening concluded with a networking reception with NYC-area Maxwell alumni.

On Friday morning the fellows visited Acumen, a which uses “patient capital” to fund in-country projects that tackle various elements of poverty. Acumen is located in the Google Building in Chelsea.
Above: Fellows meet with Maxwell alum Scott Taitel of the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership and Alex Amouyel of the Clinton Global Initiative

Right: Fellows pose at the entrance of the Google building before visiting Acumen.

Below: It’s a beautiful day to tour Central Park with Jack Linn, former Assistant Commissioner of NYC Parks and Recreation.
For the second year in a row, Maxwell welcomed 38 Humphrey Fellows from 15 host universities across the U.S. for the Leadership and Governance During Times of Crisis Enhancement Workshop in February. The Fellows came from 26 countries and spent five days at Syracuse University attending lectures, seminars and site visits in the Syracuse area. The workshop was led by faculty members from Maxwell and the Transboundary Crisis Management Project, part of the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs. On the first day, the Fellows attended “State of the Art in Crisis and Disaster Management” led by Professor Bruce Dayton, who is the current Associate Director of the Moynihan Institute. The Fellows also were able to see the GIS Lab in a presentation about “Visualizing Vulnerability: The Geography of Vulnerability,” and visited the Onondaga County Department of Health to hear from its Commissioner, Dr. Cynthia Morrow and Prof. Tom Dennison. Other sessions included Leaders and Leadership by Prof. Peg Hermann, Director of Moynihan Institute and Professor of Global Affairs, Crisis Communications with Michael Meath and Crisis Response by Randall Griffin, currently with Maxwell and formerly with the Department of Homeland Security.

Aside from the academic portion of the workshop, the Fellows spent time exploring both the Syracuse campus and the surrounding community. One afternoon, they received a campus tour and even got to meet Otto the Orange! Other activities included a trip to the zoo and an afternoon at Destiny USA. At the end of the week, they attended a farewell ceremony and dinner in Schine Student Center. The week was a huge success, and we are so thankful to everyone who participated!
Fellow Presents as Part of Ernst & Young Lecture Series

Syracuse Fellow Dee Moskoff from South Africa spoke at the Ernst & Young Spring Lecture Series at SUNY Oswego about the impact of HIV in the South African workplace. Despite having the strongest economy on the African continent, Dee spoke about the high prevalence of HIV in the country in part due to the lack of published information.

Fellows Discuss Women in Leadership

Syracuse Fellows Karla and Andy were invited to speak to Professor Yingyi Ma’s Sociology of Sex and Gender class about the experience of women in their respective home countries of Mexico and the Slovak Republic. The women also gave some insight about the current debate regarding women in the workplace, a conversation that has been fostered by books such as Sheryl Sandberg’s “Lean In.” At the end of the class session, Karla and Andy led a discussion to encourage an exchange of opinions about the topic among students.
Syracuse Fellows Dee Moskoff, Mohammed Ammash, Karla Dominguez-Gonzalez, and Bo Song attended the Atlanta Global Development & Social Justice Enhancement Workshop at Emory University. The workshop explored current issues in international social justice and human rights from the perspectives of professionals in the field. Specific areas of exploration and discussion included social media, education, poverty, gender, economic development, religion, terrorism, and public health. One of the highlights of the Workshop was that the Fellows were able to meet with President Jimmy Carter, as well as Fellows from other participating universities from across the country. This exchange was meant to encourage discussion about social injustices.

Global Development and Social Justice Enhancement Workshop at Emory University

Fellows Mohammed (left) and Bo (right, pictured with his wife Yuan) get books signed by President Jimmy Carter.
Fellow Attends ISA (International Studies Association) 55th Annual Convention at Toronto

Syracuse Humphrey Fellow Sanaullah Abro traveled to Toronto this spring to present a paper on “Security and Enforcement Challenges in Pakistan Emanating from Organized Crimes.” Maxwell professors Stuart Brown and Margaret (Peg) Hermann supported this project and selected Abro as a panelist for their project entitled “Global Black Spots Mapping Global Insecurity.” Abro presented his paper and presentation at the ISA (International Studies Association) 55th Annual Convention at Toronto held from March 26-29, 2014.

Millennium Development Goals Symposium at Cornell University

The Syracuse Humphrey Fellows visited Cornell University on April 11 for the Millennium Development Goals Symposium. The Symposium featured guest speakers who were lead specialists from the United Nations and Cornell University, including Mr. Marc-Andre Dorel, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations. The Fellows learned a lot that day and were also able to spend time with their Cornell colleagues, who were wonderful hosts!

Cornell and Syracuse Fellows gathered one last time during the Millennium Development Goals Symposium in April. For many, it would be the final opportunity to gather before the end of the Humphrey year!
A highlight of the year-end activities was the annual celebration, where fellows gathered with families, friends, host families and invited guests, including faculty and staff to commemorate the fellows’ collective accomplishments. Keynote speaker featured Distinguished Professor of Public Administration Walter Broadnax, who reflected on his life of service and encouraged the fellows to be leaders of change. IIE liaison Lauren Stewart was on hand to offer statements of congratulations from the U.S. Department of State and the Institute of International Education and to hand out certificates signed by Secretary of State John Kerry and President Barack Obama. President Jimmy Carter and Evan Ryan, Asst. Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, offered recorded congratulatory remarks. Dee Moskoff was selected by her peers to represent the group and provided heartfelt reflections of their transformative year. The full text of Dee’s reflection is included in this newsletter.

After photographs with leadership seminar faculty Steve Lux and Catherine Gerard and Humphrey program director Margaret Lane, the evening concluded with a slide show of the year’s highlights.
Another Friend in Another City

The following is the text of Humphrey Fellow Dee Moskoff’s reflections, based on the collective input of all of the 2013-2014 Syracuse Humphrey Fellows.

10 strangers in a new country;
8 cultures, 8 languages;
1 women’s rights activist;
2 moms, 5 dads;
1 techie;
1 wedding;
7 government officials;
2 NGO leaders;
1 private sector;
2 honorary Humphrey fellows;
9 Humphrey children + 1;
ages that range from 32 to 49 and 11/12ths.

Bringing our warm Humphrey hearts to the coldest if not snowiest city in the USA for a once in a lifetime encounter, where we “found ourselves.” Where we learnt that people are (just) people, that we are all ordinary people achieving extraordinary things, and no one more important than the other.

Collectively, and through our host families, we have been orientated, chaperoned, introduced to Ice Hockey and Basketball (Go Orange!), been to the NY state fair, blue-berry picking, beer-tasting, dinners, farm visits. Et all!

We have had a taste of Washington DC, New Joyzee, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, California, Idaho, Orlando, Atlanta, Connecticut, Tennessee and Colorado. And of course Syracuse ... where we remained in a “New York state of mind.”

And where collectively we learnt about policy analysis, data mining, climate change, global governance, NGO management, UN managing change, science technology, economics, gender and economics. Most important we learnt how to be global leaders in a dynamically changing world.

Our gratitude goes to the sensational Six – you know who you are! (In no particular order or rank of preference)

1. Steve - you created an environment that ‘messes with our minds’ and then you still tell us that that’s a good thing.

2. Tammy - you felt with us, cared for us, listened to us, sorted out our issues and embraced us with your motherly heart, a special quality that each one of us will take home with us. You are never too busy for us and in the moment that we are with you make us feel we are the most important person in your life.

3. Martha - your organizational skills are superb and you enabled us to expand our worlds in ways we did not consider before - who ever would have thought of looking at the under-water drainage systems of Syracuse, or what it takes to administer Central Park in NY City. You have opened new dimensions to our worlds, and done it with style.

4. Margaret - you are truly sensational, your gentle yet no- nonsense approach spurred us on, encouraging us and holding us accountable for our time here, always willing to make a plan to make the impos-
possible possible and being our biggest fan.

Catherine – What a gem! You have created for us a platform to change, through your mentorship and leadership you have challenged us, reshaped our paradigms and 'four-framed' us for the future.

Sixthly – All those others who taught us, administered for us and who assisted us, thank you, thank you, thank you.

And now we join the ranks of the Humphrey Alumni and the ‘Maxwell Mafiosi’ as Global Citizens. We go home with a new appreciation for our own countries, to our worlds where public service supply is in constant tension with the demands of society. Where MRS does NOT equal MRT, and where we, the Humphrey Fellows of 2014, will do all we can to transform our societies towards equilibrium, building a better world in our present time, and when that time is up, that it can be said of us:

We governed well, we maximized our resources, we left a legacy so that the generation that is quickly coming after us can stand on our shoulders to even greater heights. Now as we prepare for the challenges of our return home, with a certain unspoken fear of the ‘unknown’, yet equipped with our new tools for good citizenship...

We will say as the Americans say: “Ah, we'll figure it all out!”

Thank you to Maxwell, to IIE and the US State Department for giving us this opportunity!
Alumni Updates

Brahmanand Thakur, 2011-2012 Humphrey alum, was a finalist for the U.S. Department of State’s Alumni Impact Award for his creation of CoIn (CoWork, Collaborate, Incubate, Innovate), the business incubator he co-founded in Kathmandu. There were over 40 entrants this cycle, and although he was not selected as a recipient, his ideas, energy and efforts make a difference in Kathmandu!

Brahma poses with other 2011-2012 Humphrey Fellows at a mini-reunion this March. He and fellow Nepali Sanjay Neupane (from University of Maryland) hosted Katti Martinez from Honduras and Anupam Kishor from India when they visited Nepal.

Mohammad Atul Mondal, 2012-2013 Humphrey alum, is the Executive Magistrate at Dhaka South City Corporation. Congratulations Atul!
Mitvim - The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies, a think tank founded in 2011 by 2009-2010 Humphrey Fellow Nimrod Goren, was listed this year as one of the top 50 think tanks in the Middle East and North Africa. He also led two Jewish-Arab expert workshops with a 2010 CELF (Civic Education and Leadership Fellows) alum, Kamal Hassan, dealing with the role of the Palestinian citizens of Israel in shaping Israel’s regional relations. The workshops were held in Nazareth and Jerusalem, in cooperation with Mitvim and the Abraham Fund. They’re now developing a set of policy recommendations based on these workshops. Nimrod also met with Turkey’s former Foreign Minister, H.E. Yaşar Yakış, who visited Israel to promote Israel-Turkey Reconciliation at the invitation of Mitvim.

Khaled AlAjmi, 2010-2011 Syracuse Humphrey Fellow from Saudi Arabia, recently welcomed Syracuse University’s new chancellor, Kent Syverud and his wife, Dr. Ruth Chen, to Syracuse University’s MENAT (Middle East, North Africa and Turkey) Council during a reception in Dubai. The event was attended by other Syracuse University alumni in the region.
When Disaster Strikes

A message from alumna Andrijana Vojnovic, a 2012-2013 Humphrey fellow from Serbia:

“I just wanted to inform you that Serbia and Bosnia have been severely affected by floods—the worst in last 100 years. My family back home is safe as Belgrade was not severely hit by flood waves, but close to 30,000 families are displaced and lost their homes in Serbia. A state of emergency is now in place and the situation is still developing, with waters beginning to subside in some places but continuing to rise in others. The floodwaters passing through Belgrade are being monitored constantly. Regards from Kosovo. I hope all is well.”

If you would like to make a donation to help flood relief efforts, Andrijana recommends donating to the Novak Djokovic Foundation or UNICEF Serbia.

As the newsletter goes to press, our hearts and minds are with the situation in Iraq. Our thoughts go to our two Iraqi Humphrey alumni and their families. We wish them strength and resolve; safety and security, now and always. We join with your Humphrey family in wishing you a return to peace soon.
2011-2012 Syracuse Humphrey Fellow Rezwana Siddiqui of Pakistan recently returned from a trip to the border of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran in her role as Secretary (Customs Reforms and Projects) with additional charge of Secretary WTO, Customs Wing, Department: Federal Board of Revenue for the Government of Pakistan. This trip, organized by the Pakistan’s Ministry of Defense, was part of the Trade Facilitation Project to enhance transit facilities and develop a state-of-the-art customs border station at the juncture of these three countries. Rezwana was the first author of the concept paper, which has since been sent to the Prime Minister and approved.

The trip was a risky one, but they were committed to seeing the realities on the ground. “Some of the security risks included IED explosions, drone attacks, bombs, and missiles,” Rezwana said. “A helicopter was shot down in the same area a few days after. I was the only female on board, but I cannot put my soul into a project document unless I have a feel for the area and where the infrastructure needs to be developed.”

She visited Michini Checkpost, Torkham, Khyber Agency; Chaman, Quetta, Province of Balochistan; Wahga, Province of Punjab. She will be in our thoughts during her future travels!

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.
Fellow Reflection: A Poem

Some reflections are best expressed in prose. Others, in poetry. 2013-2014 Humphrey Fellow Esther Nalliw-Licnachan from the Philippines wrote the following poem about her time at Maxwell.

Tribute to the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program
By: Esther Nalliw-Licnachan

From humble beginnings in the town of Mayoyao
I have trekked to the summit of Mt. Amuyao
A thrilling and exhilarating adventure
Treasured the experiences provided by culture and nature.

Department of State of the US of America
Saw my file and granted me a Humphrey Fellowship
In the Empire State of New York I charted ship
To fulfill a wish I made in my sleep.

Syracuse University greeted me with its majestic castles
Never did I imagine to be schooled in such setting
For I have learned of stories that kings and queens live in castles
Why not? Today’s students are tomorrows leaders, as academes are betting.

O Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
You have given me a mentoring fit for a lifetime
Painfully but gainfully learned and earned the art of leadership
Crafted and taught by the best mentors in the realm of public administration.

I ask no more as I traveled and experienced a lot
To the summits of the Empire State, the Windy City, the Spirit of America
Traversed the Shenandoah park, various museums and repositories of knowledge
Mingled and jingled with families, friends and rekindled ties that binds to mention a few.

O Hubert H. Humphrey how good it is that you were God-sent
A lot of global mid-careers are jubilant and eager to re-live your life
As I travel back to my humble beginnings
I shall nurture and share the life I gained from the 10-months I trained.

We’re excited to welcome the new class of Syracuse Humphrey Fellows, who will be joining us this coming August. The 10 Fellows hail from Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Myanmar, Pakistan, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovak Republic, South Korea, and Uzbekistan. Stay tuned for posts on our Facebook page once they arrive!

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!
Left and above: The Fellows smile and cram into an elevator, heading up to Acumen in NYC.
Left and center: Andy gives a “thumbs up” with everyone’s favorite Orange.
Right and center: Host family Grace and Michael Flusche celebrate the holidays with Fellow Sanaullah Abro and his family, in addition to Ana Marcela Paredes and her daughters. Ana Marcela is a 2012-2013 Humphrey alum from Ecuador.
Right and below: Dee, Karla, and Esther took up knitting to survive their first Syracuse winter!
Right and below: Host family and Fellows selfie.