"What you do, what each of us does, has an effect on the country, the state, the nation, and the world." Hubert H. Humphrey said this in 1968, and it still holds true today.

The departure of the Fellows is always bittersweet, but we know they are off to spread the Humphrey Spirit. At least once a week, we hear from a Humphrey Alumni about how their experience in Nashville and at Vanderbilt is positively impacting their work in their home country. The support, knowledge, and kindness that have been shared with the Fellows will continue to have a global reach!

We are excited to announce that the newest cohort of ten Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows will arrive in Nashville on Tuesday, August 11th. They hail from China, Cote D’Ivoire, Iran, Myanmar (2), Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan (2) and Uruguay. The Fellows’ bios can be found on page 4-6 of this newsletter.

Once again, we continue to be thankful for each of you for your support and for spending time with the Fellows and Fellowship. You are certainly having an impact on the world!

Sincerely,

Nancy and the Humphrey Team
Fellow Spotlight

Lhamo Dongtse of China (Tibet)

The Humphrey Year was certainly a roller coaster. Yet, because I had such mindful support from the Humphrey team, Fellows, and other kind people, my stay was safe and joyous. As our Humphrey song says, wonderful people “gave me their hand” and “opened their arms so I could grow stronger.” I am grateful for my Humphrey Year of discovery, in which I developed my leadership skills at Vanderbilt University. It stretched my mind to another dimension, in both professional development and cultural exchange. Now I am more confident to be an agent of change for my community’s improvement in education.

Nancy Mendy of The Gambia

Organizing The Gambia’s independence was an awesome experience, and I wanted to be as inclusive as possible. I believe that everyone should make an effort to be inclusive, regardless of one’s area of interest or geographical location. For one to be inclusive, one must involve everyone, despite shortcomings. Being a team leader for the month of February further boosted my confidence, as I had to be a leader amongst leaders for a whole month. It was a very rewarding experience, which fully prepared me to become a more refined team leader.

Kelly Cardozo of Brazil

The program stimulated us to create strategies and values involving all Humphrey Fellows in different perspectives of leadership. I realized that within the interaction between schools, community and students, there should be more of a focus on student success, commitment to quality education, and powerful work ethic. This generates more sustainable processes and actions in the school environment. The program provided that experience outside of class. After my month as a Team Leader, I found that I could improve by clarifying my goals and purposes. My mission is to build new relationships that will allow me to gain more influence in order to apply public politics of education to Afro-Brazilian youth. I am ready to come back to Brazil and apply this new knowledge and experience!

Geeta Motilal of South Africa

As a Vanderbilt Humphrey Fellow, I experienced the meaning of being a purpose-driven leader among leaders, and to focus on influence over authority. I learned to look at my individual strengths, weaknesses, and biases with an emphasis on emotional intelligence and leading intentionally with balance, discipline, and direction. I have recognized that equity and quality improvement in my country can only be achieved if I ask myself, “What can we do better to support those upon whom we depend, and of whom we ask so much, to achieve what we highly value—quality education for every child?” I must intentionally embed this into my leadership practice and my impact plan. This is learning outside the constructs of the classroom and becoming a true agent of change.
Thank you to our Associate Campus: Volunteer State Community College

On Campus Partners:

Thank you Check out our website! We have added links to your organizations as a special thank you! Humphrey Fellowship Supporter Page

Many thanks to Peabody Faculty, Humphrey Advisors, Friendship Families, and
Introducing your Fellows for 2015-16!

Xiaolin Li, of China, is Director of the Department of International Cooperation at the China Population Welfare Foundation. In her Humphrey year, she is eager to learn about the management and operation of nonprofit organizations, as well as how to guarantee openness and transparency, in order to improve the professionalism and effectiveness of organizations in her country.

Issa Toure, of Côte d’Ivoire, is an English for Specific Purposes Teacher for the Yamoussoukro Professional Training Center, and has twelve years of teaching and training experience. In his Humphrey year, Mr. Toure wants to learn about successful youth entrepreneurship models and acquire knowledge and skills in social education pedagogy so that he can design sustainable community development.

Note: Information about our Iranian Fellow to be released when she arrives.

Khin Mon Nyein, of Myanmar, is an Education Specialist for UNICEF Myanmar and leads both the National Secondary Life Skills program for adolescents in secondary schools nationwide and the non-formal education program for out-of-school youth and children in 97 townships. During her Humphrey year, Khin Mon Nyein plans to acquire knowledge and skills in the fields of regional and national education planning and administration, development of education policy, and advocacy strategies for institutionalizing non-formal education.

Soe Than, of Myanmar, is a professor and head of the methodology department at the Yangon Institute of Education. He has long been devoted to public service, having performed roles including teacher, headmaster, and curriculum developer in primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions. He is also an accomplished and widely published academic researcher. During his Humphrey year, Mr. Soe Than would like to undertake comparative studies of TEFL programs around the world, while learning about innovations in language-teaching learning technologies.

Fun Facts!

In China, Facebook, Twitter, and The New York Times have been blocked in China since 2009.

Côte D’Ivoire is known as the “Jewel of West Africa” and has three distinct geographical areas – coastal lagoons, dense forests, and the savannah zone.

Iran is the only country in the Middle East that uses the solar calendar, and marks the beginning of the New Year at the spring equinox.

In Myanmar, weaving is a traditional art form, often made into the traditional taya acheik cloth.
**Fun Facts!**

**Nigeria** is the most populous country in Africa, and the 7th most populous country in the world.

**Pakistan’s northern Gilgit-Baltistan region** is home to the 2nd highest peak in the world (K2), along with 5 of the 14 tallest peaks in the world.

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**Introducing the Fellows 2015-2016!**

**Wellington Oboh**, from **Nigeria**, is a Senior Education Officer in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Secondary Education Board and an ICT teacher, trainer, and consultant. He was recently selected by the Minister of the FCT to help shape a policy roadmap for e-education, and he coordinates a Nigeria-South Africa partnership for promoting new ICT skills among teachers and learners. As a Humphrey Fellow, Mr. Oboh looks forward to seeing new possibilities for making a difference. When he returns home, he hopes to capacitate educators in the formal education sector by designing a program for digital literacy, giving them skills for delivering content in more engaging ways, and taking advantage of the limitless opportunities technology offers to transform the education sector.

**Tahira Akhtar**, from **Pakistan**, is a Deputy Registrar at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur in Southern Punjab and an established leader in the field of educational administration, planning, and policy. During her Humphrey year, Ms. Akhtar looks forward to learning about gender reform, social enterprise, and university-business partnerships. When she returns home, she hopes to guide the Career and Development Center through an evolution into an Incubation and Training Center, which will not only bridge the gap between the theory and practice of gender reform, but will also serve as a platform for community development.

**Khan Zada**, an instructor and trainer at the Aga Khan University Professional Development Center (PDC), Chitral, in a remote northern region of **Pakistan**, has over ten years experience as an educator with a focus on faculty development, curriculum development, and early childhood education. As a Humphrey Fellow, Mr. Zada looks forward to expanding his knowledge and skills, especially in educational administration, and learning from a multicultural environment. He looks forward to the opportunity to learn from different voices and perspectives in educational policy and administration.
Olto Thomas, from Papua New Guinea, is a Planning, Monitoring, & Evaluation Officer for the Ombudsman Commission of Papua New Guinea, an organization dedicated to fair treatment of citizens by the government. She is responsible for developing reporting processes, and writing annual performance reports and management frameworks. Through the Humphrey Fellowship, Ms. Thomas hopes to gain critical analysis and research skills in order to manage the social and economic development needs of Papua New Guinea. She is committed to building integrity and transparency frameworks for professionals in public office.

Gabriela Zazpe, from Uruguay, is an ESL Supervisor for Uruguay’s Secondary Education Board and manages the supervision of teacher performance nationwide. During her Humphrey year, Ms. Zazpe looks forward to gaining both theoretical knowledge about assessment practices and practical insight through work in high schools. She hopes to be able to develop a system of ongoing mentoring and professional development in Uruguay and to implement creative and fair ways of evaluating and certifying teachers, empowering teachers to become researchers of their own praxis, and better educators altogether.

This fantastic cohort of ten Humphrey Fellows consists of eight education professionals and two public policy professionals from eight different countries. As you can see from their bios above, each Fellow has very diverse interests, including the structure and operation of local NGO's, Public Policy on Health, K-12 education and even Information Communication Technology in the classroom.

Please join us to welcome our 2015-16 Humphrey Fellows on Thursday, September 24th at 5:30pm at the Wyatt Center Rotunda!
Well Wishes Humphrey Team 2014-15!

Amanda Blewitt graduated from the IEPM program with a Masters degree. She has accepted a position as the Executive Director of Un Mondo, an NGO that facilitates access to health care, education, and livable wages in marginalized Honduran communities by promoting self-sufficiency. Web: www.unmundo.org

Elizabeth Rose graduated with dual Masters degrees in Public Health (Global Health focus) and Education (International Education Policy and Management). Elizabeth has accepted a position at (VIGH) Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health and will also be a Friendship Family this year!

Shannon White has accepted an offer as the Business Development Manager for TruHire, a Tennessee-based staffing company with cutting-edge video interview technology in career placement. Shannon will not be too far from the program, as she will be an active member in the community. You can catch her at TFLI’s First Annual Young Professional Women’s Event in October as a guest speaker!

Please welcome your New Humphrey Team!

Welcome Anna Dufur, a 2015-16 Humphrey Graduate Assistant. She is a first year GA; she is working on a Masters in Leadership and Organizational Performance. She is a Nashville native that has taught high school English in MNPS for three years, and has additional experience as a teacher leader and mentor.

Welcome Kalyn Rabuse, a 2015-16 Humphrey Graduate Assistant. Kalyn will finish her M.Ed. in International Education Policy and Management (IEPM) next year. She served as a Humphrey AmbassAdore on “Team Geeta.” She comes to HHH with experience in exchange programming and has just returned from her internship with Sister Cities International in Fort Worth.

Welcome Cynthia Feng, the new Humphrey Program Coordinator. For the past 5 years, Cynthia has been working in various higher education institutions in China and the U.S., including international affairs offices, international student and scholar services, and international research projects. She obtained her M.Ed. in International Education Policy and Management from Peabody College.

Nancy Dickson is excited to continue to serve as the Program Director of of the Humphrey Program but will also lead Leadership Induction Project for Peabody’s Abu Dhabi Education Project! Exciting news!
**Alumni Accolades**

A plaque was presented to the Humphrey Team after the 2014-15 Year End Celebration to honor the 2013-14 cohort, all of the cohorts before them and after them that are making a difference in the world. It will hang in the Humphrey Team office as a reminder of all that is offered to the Fellows from U.S. Department of State, American citizens, IIE, Vanderbilt University, and our program supporters.

Sarah Qaiser writes, “My dear fellows, I miss everyone of you. Although we are all far away in our countries with our families and countrymen, I am proud and happy that we are still together. Vanderbilt and our Humphrey team will hold us together forever.”
Reflections of the 2014-2015 Humphrey Fellows

We thought you might like to see the words of the song, “Nothing is the Same,” that was written by the cohort and Todd Henkin, a Nashville songwriter. The cohort and Todd performed this song at the End of Year Celebration.

Nothing is the same (I have changed)
With wonderful people who gave me their hand
Who opened their arms so I could grow stronger
I had to leave, to learn and unlearn
Now my bag is full that I’m bringing home

CHORUS
I had to leave to make a change (to make a change)
Nothing is the same
I had to leave to make a change
Nothing is the same
I have changed
10 months is too long to leave the ones you love
My children have grown, grown fast without me
I had to leave to learn again to listen
Will they know me back home I feel like a different person
CHORUS
I am bright colored shoes, I am a new attitude
I am a pair of hands I took away now I’m bringing back
I am satisfaction of a mission complete
I am a hundred books I’m bringing home I hope to read
I am a leader, when I’ll empower, the ones that I lead

I had to leave to make a change, to make a change
Nothing is the same
I had to leave to make a change, to make a change
Nothing is the same
I have changed
I had to leave to make a change, to make a change
I have changed.

Thank you to all of you who have helped the Humphrey Fellows change, which allows them to have a positive impact in the lives of their families, youths, communities and countries. The Fellows have left a lasting impression in Nashville.