Welcome

As we begin a new semester and new year, Emerson’s poem resonates with us. “Write it on your heart that every day is the best in the year” captures the spirit of each Fellow. They are immersed in internships, developing impact plans, teaching and learning on campus all while serving the Nashville community; and it is only January!

As the Fellows continue to learn, apply, and reflect on their experiences in the US and future impact in their respective home countries, we are thankful for the collective network that supports the Fellows each and every day. It’s because of this network that "every day is the best of the year" and for that we are grateful.

Sincerely,
Nancy and the Humphrey Team
**Humphrey Program: Join in our Mission!**

“Create a more secure, democratic, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community.”

-U.S. Department of State

Inspired by the U.S. State Department’s mission, this year we have grown our Humphrey community, welcomed cross-country collaborations, and applauded our Alumni as they work in harmony across the globe with students and faculty from the Nashville area.

In Nashville, our Fellows are supported by record numbers of Friendship Families and AmbassaDores – over 30 of each this year – and our academic advisors continue to provide professional guidance.

Back in their home countries, our Fellows stay connected with Nashville and work in tandem to create a more prosperous world for all. In July, two Vanderbilt students completed internships with Humphrey alumni Roseline Sherman and Wilson Javier Vasquez Caldron, and Volunteer State Community College faculty, John Espey, will take a group of students on an immersion trip to Mongolia, home of Alumna, Dolgormaa “Dolly” Jamiyan (read more on page 5).

**Would you like to be a change agent as well, working around the world with Humphrey Alumni?** Our [interactive alumni map](http://tinyurl.com/hhhalumnimap) (below) lists alumni, their jobs, and email addresses so you can reach out and arrange an internship, short volunteer trip, or other cross-country collaboration! The possibilities to start change and to work for a more prosperous world are endless! (http://tinyurl.com/hhhalumnimap)
Humphrey Fellows: Making Plans for Change

Our current Fellows share their New Year’s Resolutions about how they will carry out the Department of State’s mission when they return home.

Siradj Mahamane, Niger

I actually cherish the State Department’s mission of “Creating a more secure, democratic and prosperous world.” In fact, in a world where many factors in different areas contribute to disrupt peace at any time, where a certain number of practices hamper the settlement of real democracy, where the conditions in which the greater majority of people are living are disastrous, we actually need to stand firm and fight for that cause by bringing our modest contribution. Creating a more secure world is possible through sensitizing the communities on the importance of the values of peace. In some contexts, inviting stakeholders to a FORGIVENESS forum can play an important role in achieving that peace. In my point of view, recourse to violent means cannot be the best way to gain or regain security in the world. Non-violence is the best option for me, and the situations today in different areas of the world illustrate this assertion.

On the other hand, democracy can help achieve tremendous things, especially in countries where so far many liberties are denied to the citizens. Communities can be the agent of this change, which can be achieved peacefully, in non-violent ways. These are, in my view, the conditions of living a prosperous world.

Roselle Mendoza, the Philippines

To make an impact for a better community back home, I will use the new skills and new ways of thinking I acquired during my Humphrey year to:

- Have a clear vision-mission statement which addresses the specific needs of my community.
- Utilize a strategic action to systematically involve the community (parents, teachers, students) and holding everyone accountable for the achievement of the goals.
- Maximize all the opportunities while on Fellowship that would hone my leadership skills and contribute to my professional development.
- Prepare an Impact Plan that is specific, measurable, achievable, result-oriented and time-bound.
- Hone my empathic listening skills, build lasting relationships, nurture respect and trust to all stakeholders.
- Reach out to other spheres of influence like the health sector, local government units, non-government organizations, private citizens for additional resources.

Farhan Vakani, Pakistan

“The world is moving so fast that if you do not educate yourselves you will be not only completely left behind, but will be finished up… No sacrifice of time or personal comfort should be regarded too great for the advancement of the cause of education.” —Muhammad Ali Jinnah

My goal is to play a pivotal role in providing best practice accredited continuing medical education (CME) activities that can improve physician’s competence, performance, and patient health status. In addition, learn to communicate, team-up, collaborate and share the well-informed success stories with the stakeholders and the academia to accomplish better health outcomes.
Humphrey Partners: Building Community in Nashville

As we work for a more prosperous world for the American people and the international community, this winter we have been nurturing existing community partnerships and growing new ones.

Susan Ragsdale and Ann Saylor are a dynamic training and writing duo who have dedicated their lives to youth education through positive youth development. They have played a fun role with the Vanderbilt Humphrey Fellows... playing games with purpose. At the beginning of the year, Susan and Ann teach Fellows games and training techniques that can be used in schools and workshops. Then each January, Fellows share their own traditional games from their home country with students at Eakin Elementary School. Betsy Woods, Eakin’s International Baccalaureate Coordinator, annually helps host Global Education Week, during which Fellows teach games and activities to students over three days. It is true mutual exchange in action.

“Hearing about the needs and strengths of other countries, and swapping best practices with experts from other countries,” is one of Ann’s favorite parts of working with Fellows. Susan refers to their work as “heart work” and her greatest feeling of success with the Fellows comes from the joy of the "aha" moment when Fellows realize how they can implement what they have learned and begin to look at their work with youth differently.

Ann and Susan have recently released their seventh book, “Groups, Troops, Clubs and Classrooms: The Essential Handbook for Working with Youth,” which shares strategies for activating young people’s innate strength and skills so they can become positive forces for self-realization and community betterment. Learn more about their work at www.TheAssetEdge.net.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming Gang Li and Qian Zhao, visiting scholars from China, to our Humphrey family. The pair is studying with the International Affairs program at Peabody College and have joined the Fellows on both site visits to local schools and participated in activities that engage the youth of our community, including Eakin Elementary for Folktales and Migration Stories, Peabody pumpkin carving and Thanksgiving dinner.

Dr. Zhao is an Assistant Professor and the Assistant Director at the Institute of Educational Statistics and Measurement, in the Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University. Her research interests lie in principal instructional leadership and school evaluation and she has been the principal investigator on four research projects and cooperated on ten other research projects. She has published over 20 articles in Chinese and international journals, co-authored six books, and is the editor for four Chinese journals.

Mr. Li is a second-year PhD student from Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University. His research focus is school improvement, with a special emphasis on principal leadership and educational policy.
Humphrey Alumni: *Working in Harmony Across the Globe*

We are excited about the cultural exchanges that our Alumni and Partners have engaged in as they work to create better communities at home and away.

Since returning home to Mongolia in 2010, Vanderbilt Humphrey alumna, Dolgormaa “Dolly” Jamiyan, (Mongolia 2009-10), has desired to do something different with the knowledge and information that she gained during her Humphrey year, and moreover, to use the network that she established with U.S. educators. One of the contacts she made while here was with Dr. John Espey, Director for International Education and Business Professor at Volunteer State Community College. Dr. Jamiyan, who is the Director for International Joint and Exchange Programs at the Institute of Finance and Economics (IFE) in Mongolia, kept in contact with Dr. Espey. In 2011 their colleges signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote the strengthening of mutually beneficial educational exchanges and cooperative programs. By January 2014, IFE sent its first delegation of students and a faculty member to Volunteer State Community College for a cultural exchange. While there, Vol State arranged for the delegation to visit two other universities in the area.

“That was a great and unforgettable experience for our faculty and students to learn about American people and their culture, academic environment, and American students,” remembers Dr. Jamiyan. During their visits, the group gave presentations on Mongolia, its history, people, economy, culture, and traditions.

This trip was possible thanks to many efforts of John Espey and Anne-Marie Ruttenbur, who is a coordinator of International Education at Vol State. Calling upon southern hospitality, they organized home stays for the delegation and provided tours of the Greater Nashville area. Upon the students’ return, they shared their American experience with IFE students and faculty members, teaching others what they had learned about the people they met and places that they visited while in Tennessee.

Dr. Espey notes that, “The initial participation by Dolly as a Humphrey’s Fellow at Vanderbilt has grown a relationship that affects students, faculty, other institutions and states as well. The relationships have grown!”

IFE is now looking forward to Vol State’s visit. Plans are under way for a Vol State visit to IFE and Mongolia in Summer 2015. We look forward to hearing more about the mutual exchange spurred by the Humphrey Program.
Professional Affiliations and Appreciation

A special thank you to all of the local schools and organizations for serving as PA Hosts for the Fellows!

Each spring the Fellows engage in individual professional development activities to support the Fellow’s goals. This semester the Fellows will engage in a high level internship at a school or organization in the Nashville area where they will participate in the daily operations and contribute to the mission of the organization.

To all of you who enhance our program and enrich the Fellows with your devotion to their professional development and connectedness, THANK YOU!

We are happy to announce a new addition to our website to show our appreciation to you. The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at Vanderbilt’s website has a new page titled, “Supporters.” Here you will find your organization’s logo and link to your webpage. If all goes as planned, you should see the page active and “live” as of February 6th!