Dear Humphrey Alumni, Supporters, and Friends,

As we enter a new year, I find myself reflecting on the wonderful events of 2012, while also wondering about the year ahead. One of these experiences comes from an afternoon I spent with our Fellow, Mar Mar Thwin from Myanmar. We were sitting in my office having a typical discussion when we began to talk about an email we both received from Stand for Children. The email asked us to sign, then forward on, a petition to encourage our elected officials to fully fund education. As I helped Mar Mar sign and forward the petition, the sheer joy and excitement she exhibited was contagious. She just couldn’t imagine that she was able to directly impact and participate in our government. Her belief in the potential of the petition to create change was wonderful to behold.

As I reflect on the experience, I realize how wonderfully lucky we in the U.S. are to have such opportunities and how often we take them for granted. I began to wonder, if Mar Mar had not come to my office, would I actually have signed and sent the petition?

I hope that each of you take the opportunity this year to experience wonderful moments and memories, but that in doing so, you also take time to wonder about your influence on our global society.

Sincerely,
Nancy Dickson,
Director of Vanderbilt Humphrey Program
Current Fellows:
“What is wonderful about the program and what do still wonder about?”

It’s really a wonderful feeling to be among my fellow leaders from different parts of the world. How wonderful it is to be in one Humphrey global family! I’m very proud of the fact that our batch is so united and close to each other.

Due to our diverse backgrounds, we are different in our leadership styles, learning approaches, questioning techniques, social interactions, etc. but we share a common spirit among us: “Unity in Diversity”. I am already excited about seeing the awesome changes we hope to bring about for our countries.

I am still wondering to what extent my takeaways will be contributing to our education reform and am already looking forward to seeing the awesome changes we hope to bring about for our countries....

~Mar Mar Thwin, Myanmar

Something wonderful: The impact of networking! This is a huge developmental impact for me. With this great learning experience I am able to connect with people and organizations that are contributing to my growth and development.

What I am wondering about is Community Service. With the experience of service in the program, I am wondering how I can get my community more involved in community service.

~Roseline Sherman, Liberia
I have had a wonderful study of “serving humanity through education and community involvement” in my fall semester at Vanderbilt for my Humphrey year. Among the people of my community, there is a saying: “A neighbor is in need of his/her neighbor’s ashes.” If you have no ashes needed by others, no one will attach any value to you. Today voluntary or non-profit organizations have founded companies and foundations that are servicing others enthusiastically. The “MLK Joint Day of Service” is the best example of service work I have seen.

I hope to be introduced to various organizations and programs which facilitate interfaith dialogue; to be made aware of various teaching and learning opportunities, including biblical approaches; and to participate in professional affiliation with InerFACE Ministries, Nashville for the upcoming second spring semester.

~Mohamed Yunus, Myanmar

I really appreciate and salute the spirit of the Humphrey team at Vanderbilt, our loved ones, Friendship Families and AmbassaDores who have made our life easier and enjoyable in Nashville. It was amazing to experience the spirit of volunteerism. Fall semester has helped to enhance my understanding and broaden my horizon about the influence of the sphere of education.

For the upcoming semester I am hoping and excited to find a project that enables me to transfer my dream into reality: to make the difference in the life of underprivileged children in India. I am also excited about the actual practical learning experience in the field of assessment with Discovery Education Assessment. Lastly, I am hoping that this upcoming semester will provide an experience of adventure.

~Hiral Adhyaru, India
Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 20th, 12-1 pm:
Fellow Hiral Adhyaru presents at World on Wednesdays on The Colors of India
Location: Lower Level Meeting Rooms, Student Life Center, Vanderbilt Main Campus

Friday, February 22nd, 12-1 pm:
Fellow Guillherme Bueno de Camargo and Ambassadoire/graduate student Max Pendergraph present at Peabody International Learning Series on Affirmative Action in Brazil
Location: Home Economics Building, Room 104, Peabody Campus, Vanderbilt

Wednesday, March 27th, 12-1 pm:
Fellow Nana Bilali Ka presents at World on Wednesdays on Current Events in Niger
Location: Lower Level Meeting Rooms, Student Life Center, Vanderbilt Main Campus

Friday, March 29th, 12-1 pm:
Fellow Roseline Sherman presents at Peabody International Learning Series on Transforming Liberia
Location: Home Economics Building, Room 104, Peabody Campus, Vanderbilt

Tuesday, April 23rd & Wednesday, April 24th, 8am-12:30 pm:
Fellows’ End of Institute Final Presentations
Location: Home Economics Building 104, Peabody Campus, Vanderbilt

Thursday, April 25th, 5:30-8pm:
Humphrey End of Year Celebration!
Location: Wyatt Rotunda, Peabody Campus, Vanderbilt
Alumni Notes:
“What is wonderful about the year and what do you still wondering about?

It is wonderful that winter is over, so we can enjoy the wonderful sunshine, probably the only thing that all mankind can share without complaining about who has more or who has less because it is enough for everyone. It’s easy to defeat the effects of sunshine with a simple umbrella yet winter requires tones of clothes. May be winter comes to bring business for clothing factories and so does summer!

I still wonder why mankind cannot learn to share the wonders that come with winter yet the world does not come to a standstill during winter. Unfortunately, snow that brings joy is only for a few. Here in Africa sunshine continues even in winter. What an unjust world we live in!

~Peter Inampasa, Swaziland

It is wonderful that I got back to my home country, Cote d'Ivoire, in order to adapt everything I acquired in the US to the empowerment of women with disabilities. I still remember my time in Nashville with the wonderful people, namely Humphrey Director Nancy, Coordinators, Friendship Families and Fellows. Thank you Lord for such a great opportunity.

I still wonder whether our paths will cross again as each of us lives in countries from different continents. But there is a saying in my country: ”Only mountains never meet”. I’m sure we'll get to meet again and share our experience so far. GOD bless you all!

~Charles Kouadio, Cote d'Ivoire

It is wonderful that technology can bridge space and time for friends across the world.

I still wonder how I can send something of the sun and blue sky of my country to you guys who are freezing!

~Margaret Li Yin, Mauritius

Pictured: Alum Sonia Dias with Humphrey Supporter and Partner Linda Ragsdale during Linda's trip to Brazil for her organization, Peace Dragon.
Appreciation:
The Humphrey Fellowship Program would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our many partners and supporters!

“I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks.” ~William Shakespeare

Andy Van Schaack surprises Fellows with a gift

Andy Van Schaack, Assistant Professor of the Practice in Vanderbilt’s Department of Human and Organizational Development, gifted each of the Fellows with their very own Livescribe smart pens and accompanying notebooks! Now, whenever our Fellows need to take notes, their smart pen can record audio of whatever is being said as they write. After note taking, the Fellows can tap the pen on a sentence or word and the pen will play whatever was said at that precise point! Professor Van Schaack serves as Livescribe’s science advisor and has played a pivotal role in the design of this incredible device. Thank you very much for this amazing, innovative, and useful gift, Professor Van Schaack! This is integrated educational technology at its best!
Humphrey Fellowship Program

Humphrey Friendship Families
Kathy & Harvey Bennett                                  Karen Thorborg
Charles & Barbara Parker                              Susanne Bennett
Aurora Daniels & Chris McKee                  Kathy & Bill Edson
Jakayla Robbins                                                  Barbara Brown
Rebecca & Craig Laine                                     Catherine Miller
Kelly Hill & Nathan Grady                   Sally Nance
Emily, Josh & Kat Pendergrass                       Pat & Pete Toth
Heath & Gunnhild Henly                   Sheila & Halsey Fischer
Adrienne & Jeff Spraggins                  Sara & Gerald Turcotte
Joell, Holling & Jaden Smith-Borne
Heidi, David, Reid, & John Wendling

Humphrey Ambassadores
Megan Ames                                  Jessica Lyon
Katie Barcy                               Karina Mendez Keil
Megan Bennett                              Kathy Murphy
Mae Cooper                                Ashley Nichols
Jessica Edwards                          Ashley Parker
Rebecca Frary                        Max Pendergraph
Violet Gau                                      Shannon Riek
Ji Hu                                       Elizabeth Spitznagel Rose
Jeff Jorge                                    Carissa Tsiris
Nick Kochmanski                        Alyssa Van Camp
Camryn Krause                       Yuanqi (Suzy) Wang
Chelsea Lanzoni                              Can Zheng
Charry Lee

Thank You!!