Dear Humphrey Supporters,

January marks the mid-point in the Fellowship year. The Fellows have made significant progress in meeting their individual goals—they’ve completed academic courses and Humphrey seminars, attended workshops and conferences, secured internships, and built extensive networks on and beyond the Vanderbilt campus.

“What you do, what each of us does, has an effect on the country, the state, the nation, and the world.”

- Hubert H. Humphrey

Fellows also have engaged with the community through service, one of the core components of the Humphrey program. Participation in service honors the legacy of Hubert H. Humphrey. It also serves as an opportunity to learn, as Fellow Alonso Silva explains: "Sometimes, in the field, is easier to meet previous conceptions with a new perspective and new knowledge, which finally becomes precious insight for a better personal understanding and life."

The Fellows have sorted school supplies and assisted with teacher shopping at LP Pencil Box, organized donations for refugees at Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement program, helped out at the Second Harvest Food Bank; and painted a firehouse with Hands on Nashville in honor of Martin Luther King Day of Service. Fellows reached out to students at Hume-Fogg Academic High School; introduced students at Eakin Elementary to life in their home countries; and engaged in a range of individual service projects in a variety of settings.

*Please visit page 3 where we share some of the Fellows’ reflections on what service means to them.
Since our last newsletter, the Fellows completed the second of three Humphrey Institutes, in which they explored various spheres of influence in education. Highlights included talks from Peabody professors Stephen P. Heyneman, Claire Smrekar, and Brian Heuser, who explored the role of economics, community, and politics in shaping educational policy and practice. Fellows visited Nashville Public Television, the Metro Nashville Public Schools Instructional Technology Center, Southwest Community College, and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. Fellows also explored the relationship between health and educational outcomes with Marie Martin of the Vanderbilt Institute on Global Health, technology and education with Rich Germano and Shuanmuga Sundaram, and economic development with Marc Hill of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce.

The third institute has presented the Fellows with examples of educational leadership in action. Seminars with Superintendent Chris Barbic of the Achievement School District, Rich Haglund, Director of Charter Schools for the Tennessee State Board of Education, and Vol State have enabled the Fellows to engage with issues of education policy, inclusion, and school reform. Future seminars will include a visit to Healthways, a training on writing proposals with Pearl Sims and Linda Ragsdale, and a leadership workshop with Stephanie Brodtrick of Vanderbilt’s Organizational Effectiveness team. The Fellows will also meet with Xiu Cravens, Peabody’s Associate Dean of International Affairs and Sue Erickson & Lee Ann Lannom of the library to learn how to be more effective researchers.
Spirit of Service: Reflections
Julieta Sandoya, Ecuador

I believe that service is a kind of virtue. I was first able to volunteer one month after arriving in Nashville. I worked at STEM Academy Magnet school with the “Parents as Partners” program. This particular school focuses on STEM fields, (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) and has a large Latino population. I was able to work with the children there while the parents attended a workshop that taught them how to be advocates for their children.

At home in Ecuador, I am accustomed to volunteering, however it is not a common thing for most. I want to encourage people to understand and act on this idea of service that means giving back without receiving a tangible reward. Service is its own reward. It truly enriches the lives of those we help as well as our own. I think this sort of work expands our minds and hearts.

Sonia Dias, Brazil

My time here in Nashville has introduced me to a wide variety of new experiences. One of them is service. One of these was a reading at Nashville Public Library. I did a reading of 3 children’s Brazilian books. It was my first time reading to an audience so I was a little intimidated. However, it was a wonderful experience sharing these stories. Afterwards I even discovered that there had been magic show at the same time but some of the kids chose to come to the reading instead. It was great to see them take an interest in reading!

I also had a very good experience speaking at Harpeth Hall School. I have been twice. The first was in a class of students interested in Latin America, specially Brazil. My topic was the racism in Brazil; we also talked a lot about other aspects like our food, familiar relations, Amazon Forest and Brazilian music and instruments. I was impressed with how the students know about my country and how they are open and want to know more. The second time, I talked in a class about refugees in. The fact that the students were really interested in this important humanitarian issue really struck me. I have been so impressed with all the youth I have interacted with; I am optimistic that they will help build a great future for all of us.
Spirit of Service: Special Guest Nicky Abdinor

Extraordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things

When Cathy Arendse came to the United States, she saw that there were many opportunities and accomplishments in the United states for individuals with disabilities. Cathy also realized that South Africa has much to be proud of in the field of Special Education (although there is work to be done; one such point of pride is the work of a young woman named Nicky Abdinor.

Nicky is an outstanding young woman who has defied the odds. Born with no arms & shortened legs, Nicky has learned to do things that the disabled in South Africa don’t often have the opportunity to do. She is a clinical psychologist with her own practice, a part-time lecturer at a university, and the driver of her own adapted car.

Realizing the independence that driving a car allowed her, Nicky started an NGO called Nicky’s Drive to fund adaptations for the disabled in South Africa. Driving a car gave her the mobility to work, study at the university, and have a meaningful and social life in a place where a disability is more often than not an impediment to these things. By providing adapted cars through Nicky’s drive, and sharing her story, Nicky seeks to empower other disabled individuals and raise awareness about some of the needless obstacles for the disabled in South Africa and around the world. Being disabled should not have to be a disadvantage.

Nicky was invited to Vanderbilt by Cathy along with help from The Humphrey Fellowship Program, her mentor and advisor, Professor Sharon Shields, and Elise McMillan director of the Kennedy Center. Nicky and Cathy are building an alliance to transform the policies and opportunities for individuals with disabilities in South Africa. They plan to work together to improve the life of the disabled by spreading awareness through Nicky’s story and pooling resources to ensure that disability policies are enforced in South Africa.

Nicky’s mother, Margie, joined her in Nashville as well. She is also a great source of knowledge and inspiration. [For more info on Nicky’s Drive please visit: www.nickysdrive.com]
Davry & Chris French: one half of his Friendship Family

Aye & Alonso “sword fight” at the refugee resettlement warehouse

Davry, Tomy & Julieta celebrate Thanksgiving with the Edsons

Charles & his friendship family the Bennetts

Alison & Sobia paint at fire station # 26

Alonso with 3rd graders at Eakin Elementary

Charles plays in the snow!

Sobia with Dean Xiu Cravens

Gingerbread House Making

Humphrey Fellows with Peabody’s Dean Benbow
Our Talented Humphrey Fellows: Career Updates & Accomplishments

Aye Myint Than Htay, Myanmar

Aye has been promoted from Director of Education Programs to Senior Programme Advisor for Save the Children. He will be taking on the new role as the SPA for Education effective February 10, 2012 under the Program Development and Quality Department. Aye is pictured at Peabody with his wife, Kyi Kyi San, his daughter, Saung Myat Tha Zin Oo (12), and his son, Kuang Myat Swan (7).

Tomy Bawulang, Indonesia

Tomy is the new Executive Director of Regional Development in the Acceleration Committee of Sangihe Regency. This committee is responsible for aligning the five main sectors of development (Regional Offices of Education, Maritime, Transportation, Health, and Agriculture) in a partnership to accelerate the process of rural development. The main project of this committee is developing a strategic plan for the years 2012-2016 in collaboration with those five departments.

Part of this plan is to reduce unemployment and poverty through a community-learning center. This Learning Center will serve the community by providing life-skills training to help empower the unemployed and teach them skills and how to be small-scale entrepreneurs.

Margaret Li Yin, Mauritius

As of December 2011 Margaret is a MBTI (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator) certified practitioner. Her training took place at the AMA (American Management Association) center in New York.

Margaret also won second prize in a country-wide story writing competition organized by the AML (Association Mauricienne pour la Lecture) in December 2011 in Mauritius.
Alumni Update: 2011-2012 Humphrey Fellows

Ya Rachel Kouame, Cote d’Ivoire

11/27/11: I started work just a few days after my return because our department of schools at the ministry was preparing a seminar on students organizations and school violence. I participated as an organization team member and resource person. Because all cannot be done in the official agenda of the ministry, we created an organization called "Volunteers for Education and Peace" to promote leadership in teaching, human dignity, service learning and peace among teachers and students and beyond. Already four themes have been dealt with: 1: Life in an organization 2: The leader in you 3: Respect for life and human dignity even in times of war 4: Community service & volunteerism. We have not yet started with the curriculum writing because the whole ministry is busy with the World Bank missions. We also still need more insights into what the actual needs are after our traumatic last year; but organizations, offices, and infrastructures are being rebuilt. Things are coming back together over time and we are certainly working hard; and we are hopeful for the future of our country.

Soraya Faculo, Philippines

12/5/11: The Global Peer Dialogue Network that we are in together with Hume Fogg started and 4 of our teachers are already practicing the framework. We got them connected to Edmodo, a social networking site dedicated to education and there they collaborate by sharing their experiences. I am working on the construction of 4 classrooms with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and I am negotiating today with our mayor to help in the development of our site so that the Chamber can build the classrooms more quickly.

This work brings to mind meetings I had with the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Listening to the conversations helped me a lot in understanding the business sector side when it comes to issues in education. I also think of my 3 day course at AMA on “negotiating to win,” and the activities and insights I learned from the conference. These experiences are helpful in my job now.
Save the Date

End of the Year Celebration
April 19, 2012
5:00 pm
Wyatt Rotunda
Vanderbilt’s Peabody College

Congratulations!

We would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Adrienne Spraggins, our (former) coordinator on her graduation from Peabody in Dec. 2011 with a Master’s in Higher Education Administration. We look forward to your many future successes, Adrienne!

Welcome!

We would like to introduce you all to Anna Van Windekens, our newest Humphrey team member. Anna is originally from Rutherfordton, North Carolina. After graduating from UNC Chapel Hill in 2006 with a B.S. degree in Biology and Spanish, she taught middle and high school in California and North Carolina. Her husband, Xavier, is Belgian and speaks French. Anna is pursuing her M.Ed. in International Education Policy and Management at Peabody College and works as a graduate research assistant in MNPS kindergarten and first grade classrooms on the Fuchs' Dynamic Assessment project. She’s excited to work with all of you & we are so happy to have her as part of the Humphrey Team.

“I will celebrate, but I know new goals and objectives will come, and I am ready to take them.” -Ronaldo
**Find Us!**

We’re on the web, Facebook, & Twitter. Get general info, the latest Humphrey news and events, as well as current happenings in education & the fellows’ home countries.

- [www.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/humphrey.xml](http://www.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/humphrey.xml)
- [www.twitter.com/vanderbilthhh](http://www.twitter.com/vanderbilthhh)
- [www.facebook.com/HumphreyVanderbilt](http://www.facebook.com/HumphreyVanderbilt)

**Thank You!**

Thanks for all your support in 2011! It was a Greatly rewarding and educational semester. We look forward to continuing to work with you!

**Sincerely,**

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program Coordination Team:

- Alison
- Nancy
- Katie
- Joyce
- Anna

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