

PEACE PIECES

Uppsala Rotary Peace Center Newsletter

April 2016

This is the first newsletter of the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center!

Rotary Peace Fellows are emerging leaders who promote cooperation, peace, and conflict resolution in their communities and around the world. Fellows are chosen for their ability to have a significant, positive impact on world peace throughout their careers.

Peace Fellows admitted to Uppsala University are enrolled in the Master's Programme in Peace and Conflict Studies.

Since 2012, the Department of Peace and Conflict Research is the proud host of the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center.

“The Rotary Peace Fellowship gave me the chance to explore academically new issues related to reconciliation and a new region—the Pacific—where communities are rebuilding after violence.”

*Anna Crumley- Effinger
Class XI fellow*



Class XIV Fellows arrive in Uppsala!

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Graduate Fellow in Namibia

José Lopez (Class XII alum) works as a project specialist for the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Namibia. In collaboration with the Namibian Ministry of Finance, GIZ implements a series of projects related to economic development. José's work activities focus on monitoring and evaluation of projects, and communication. This is José's first opportunity to live and contribute in Southern Africa. He is enjoying travel and learning about Namibia's cultural diversity and natural beauty. José is in contact with local Rotarians to discuss the wonderful opportunity of the Rotary Peace Fellowship. It is his goal to encourage local Rotarians to identify Namibians to apply.

First Stop: Home

Before heading to Namibia, José after his June 2015 Uppsala Graduation returned to his nominating Club Vista Hermosa in Guatemala City (District 4250). He used the opportunity to reconnect and share about his time in Sweden. He also had the chance to meet the new Uppsala Rotary Peace Fellow, José Alvarado (Class XIV).

Collaborative Rotary Hearing Project

Also importantly, José had the chance to discuss a project opportunity with Vista Hermosa Rotary Club. In collaboration with the Rotary Club of Boardman, Ohio, USA (District 6650), he presented the Guatemala Hearing Project 2015, a medical mission aiming to provide hearing aids for children and adolescents with hearing disabilities. After months of rigorous planning, the project joyfully implemented and delivered more than 358 hearing aids to patients in need, greatly improving their quality of life and enhancing their opportunities of success.

Letter from São Paulo

By: **Thiyagaraja Waradas**

The São Paulo Rotary Peace Symposium was my first International Peace Symposium as a Peace Fellow alum. I was excited and curious about the symposium as it was my first time to visit Latin America and to attend a Peace Symposium. The Symposium was divided into two parts: Peace Fellow Un-Conference, which was completely led by Peace Fellows, and the Rotary Peace Symposium hosted by Rotary International. At the Un-Conference we all felt like a family of peace workers around the world. Almost a hundred former Peace Fellows from different years, different countries, different peace centers, including the former peace center University of El Salvador, attended. It is a great and rare opportunity offered by Rotary International to get to know such a number of Fellows in one place and listen, learn and share stories of peace with each other. We all had one dream about a world with peace and no violent conflicts. We work in many ways and in diverse fields to create peace.

The formal Peace Symposium was a great venue to meet many committed Rotarians who have trusted and invested in us. I had the opportunity to share the story of the Uppsala Peace Center with many other peace fellows, as I was the first and only Rotary Peace Fellow alum from Uppsala Rotary Peace Center to attend the symposium.

I left energized and with an enhanced motivation towards peace-building. I hope and wish more Uppsala Peace Fellows will experience this rare opportunity in the future.

Thiyagaraja Waradas, Class XI alum and Co-Founder of Education Renaissance Programme.

<https://www.facebook.com/ERPLanka/>



Host Area Coordinator & Committee

The Host Area Coordinator's Committee and the Host Coordinator support the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center. They are the primary contact point between Rotarians in Sweden and the Rotary Peace Fellows. Each Fellow is assigned Rotary Host Counselors from local Rotary Clubs. The counselors will extend invitations to visit their Club or participate in some of the Club activities. The Host Area Coordinator's Committee also organizes opportunities for Fellows to interact with the Swedish Rotary family more broadly through events and experiences.

Magnus Elfwendahl

serves as the Host Area Coordinator and is a member of the Uppsala Carolina Rotary Club. He has a PhD and is a City Heritage Advisor, and joined Rotary in 2001. He is the former president of Uppsala Carolina RC 2012-13 and has served as assistant governor in District 2350 since 2013. His involvement with the Rotary Peace Center at Uppsala University started in 2013 as Host Counselor. He has served as the Host Area Coordinator at the Center in Uppsala since July 2015. His committee includes: Jan-Åke och Margareta Berg, Anna-Karin Höök, Ninni Lindskog, Peter Sobocki.



Thank you, Suzanne Brenning, first Host Area Coordinator!

Thank you to Past District Governor Suzanne Brenning for her service to the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center. The initial application for Uppsala University's Department of Peace and Conflict Research to become a center was during her tenure as District Governor 2009-10. Suzanne served as the first Host Area Coordinator, assisting with the many new challenges and opportunities: the first Annual Seminars, formation of committees, and placing of Fellows with Host Counselors.

Suzanne helped to welcome three classes of Fellows and graduate two (the third will finish in June 2016). This work included fundraising, logistics such as the challenges of housing and managing of more than 50 speaking engagements for Fellows, herself, and Rotary Center staff. Uppsala Rotary Fellows particularly appreciated the celebration of the Nobel Prize Ceremony and the feast of game Suzanne herself had hunted.

Suzanne became a Rotarian in 1992 and since then she has had many assignments within Rotary such as President, Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator (RRFC) Zone 15, District Governor, etc. Suzanne is a former opera singer and has been working all over the world. Suzanne is also a Major Donor. Thank you for your service to Rotary and the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center!

The above picture features Suzanne together with Eva Åkesson, the Vice Chancellor of Uppsala University.

AFE - what it stands for!

The Rotary Peace Fellowship includes an Applied Field Experience (AFE), between the first and second years of study, such as a placement with an inter-governmental agency or research on a particular topic hosted by an organization. The architects of the Rotary Peace Centers program viewed this component as an opportunity for Fellows to gain practical experience to complement their studies and to enhance their professional development and career trajectory.



Sireh Jabang giving a presentation on gender-based violence to children in Rusiga Primary School in Rwanda, outside of Kigali.
Photo by: Jean de Dieu Basabose

Educating in Rwanda

Uppsala Rotary Fellow **Sireh Jabang** (Class XIII) completed her Applied Field Experience with an organization called **Shalom Educating for Peace** (SEP) Rwanda. SEP has a mission of building and sustaining positive peace through education as enshrined in its three objectives: educating community for positive peace; researching for peace; and cultivating the culture of non-violence. Though SEP has a series of projects, Sireh was involved in the Living and Learning Without Fear (LLWF) Campaign aimed at addressing domestic and gender-based violence in schools and communities. This was a pilot project in three sectors namely, Masoro, Rusiga and Shyorongi all in Rulindo District (Northern Province of Rwanda) about 40-50 minutes drive from Kigali, Rwanda's capital.

Preventing Gender Based Violence

The project was divided into three stages, problem identification through a short research, followed by some training sessions on gender-based violence, and finally a community outreach program in the three mentioned communities on the theme "Domestic and School Related Gender Based Violence." Sireh had the privilege to participate in all the three stages.

Support to UN experts, Geneva

When individuals are needed for extra support within the United Nation's system, Fellow **Nicole Ella** (Class XIII) assisted with their deployment. Recently the UN's humanitarian response in Syria required additional expertise in the area of Protection and her unit aided with the placement. Nicole was based in Geneva for her Applied Field Experience (AFE) and internship and worked with the Inter-Agency Protection Standby Capacity Project (ProCap) and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap) project, hosted by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).



Nicole Ella, UN Office in Geneva.



Discussion in office in Cairo.

AFE in Cairo

The NGO with which Fellow **Takuya Koimaru** (Class XIII) worked is called Center for Arab-West Understandings (CAWU). It is located in Cairo, Egypt and promotes intellectual dialogues. Through a variety of programs, community members, religious leaders and politicians from Egypt and the West come together in meetings and forums.

Takuya Koimaru wrote a paper on the economic activities by the Egyptian Armed Forces. It filled a gap by writing from a position which focused on contributions of the Armed Forces, whereas many other papers are critical. To complete the task he interviewed a retired general and used local information sources collected with local staff.

Gender Equality work from Nairobi

Ahmed Abdi Wais (Class XIII) was hosted Equality Now in Nairobi, Kenya. It is an international organization that advocates for the human rights of women and girls around the world. Ahmed's work focused a sexual and gender-based violence project that was implemented to Egypt, South Sudan and Nigeria in collaboration with local partners. The objective of the project is to strengthen the political, economic and social response of African states as well to increase their accountability. Ahmed addressed the project's aim for better policy and legal responses to sexual and gender based violence.

Researching Gender protocols

Throughout his time in Nairobi, Ahmed reviewed the policies of the focus countries on sexual and gender-based violence along with the other international and regional commitment. Countries have made commitments in the form of UN Resolution 1325 looking at the role of women and peacebuilding; Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) from 1979 and the Maputo Protocol. Ahmed's study found that women and girls are severely marginalized in these countries in terms of representation and protection. These countries endorsed the above regional and international instruments but their policies have not changed the lives and rights of women in these countries.



Ahmed Abdi Wais



Reconciliation in Cambodia

Krystal Renschler (Class XIII) conducted independent research in Cambodia during her Applied Field Experience. She looked at the connection between genocide memorialization and reconciliation. She partnered with the Documentation Center of Cambodia to conduct in-depth interviews with genocide survivors and former Khmer Rouge soldiers in addition to psychological professionals, educators and policy makers. The qualitative data collected from this study will form the basis for her Master's thesis. Photo by Krystal of a mother holding a photo of still missing kids.

The Annual Seminar of the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center

“Stories of Change: Rotary Peace Fellows in Action”, Uppsala Rotary Peace Center’s second Annual Seminar was held May 9th at the Stockholm Nation in Uppsala, Sweden. Over 200 people attended the event and shared in the celebration of the wonderful work of the Center. The keynote speakers were Rotary International President K.R. “Ravi” Ravindran and Professor Hans Rosling of Gapminder. The Uppsala Rotary Peace Fellows from Class XII presented their research and shared experiences of peace work from around the world. Class XIII assisted with the hosting of special guests including Rotary Peace Center staff from Evanston, Swedish Rotarians, Fellow Alums, DPCR faculty, staff and other Master’s students. The day featured panels of students as well as a poster presentation of each Class XII Fellow.

The third Annual Seminar, entitled "Reflecting on Peace: Experiences of Rotary Peace Fellows", is scheduled to 7 May. This day will feature Class XIII Peace Fellows, who will discuss their current research projects as well as practical experiences of working with conflict resolution and positive change. The keynote speaker of the 2016 Annual Seminar is [Martin Schibbye](#), who will talk about his experiences of working as a journalist in countries torn by armed conflict and repressive regimes. Register by 21 April by following this [link!](#)

Fellows for 2017-2018 applications due soon!

Know someone who wants to contribute to peace through their working life? NOMINATE! Rotary is now accepting applications for the 2017-18 Rotary Peace Fellowships program. Candidates have until 31 May 2016 to submit applications to their district. Districts must submit endorsed applications to The Rotary Foundation by 1 July. All Rotarians in Sweden should think of friends abroad and in country to nominate!

About the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center

Uppsala Rotary Peace Center educates current and emerging leaders. Admitted Peace Fellows earn a Master degree at [Uppsala University](#).

Uppsala Rotary Peace Center is hosted by the [Department of Peace and Conflict Research](#), established in 1971 to conduct research and offer courses in peace and conflict studies.

Both research and teaching at the department focus on the origin, dynamics and resolution of armed conflicts on a scientific basis. Students will acquire knowledge and skills that provide the capacity to solve problems independently and the ability to monitor and critically evaluate the development of knowledge within peace and conflict research.



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