We welcomed our latest cohort of Fellows in early August; they are my sixth group and I cannot believe how fortunate I am, once again, to meet up with such wonderful people. They inspire me with their enthusiasm, devotion to the public good, and their strength and courage. As long as there are such people in this world there is hope for all of us to make it a better place. Indeed, the Humphrey Fellowship Program has been one of the highlights of my several decades in global development work.

Our task in the Humphrey Program at Cornell is to develop individual programs tailored to meet the needs of each Fellow in the areas of leadership and specific academic subjects. Meanwhile, we foster group cohesion and team spirit among the whole group of Fellows. This can be a challenge for the Fellows because they come with a wide variety of viewpoints and cultural and social backgrounds, and of differing professional experience and skills and seniority levels. In this regard, the invitation to the Fellows to present a joint presentation and poster at the Global Leadership Forum (GLF), which took place in Arlington, Virginia from October 29 to November 2, provided a challenge and an excellent opportunity for them to work together and pool their impressive resources while practicing the art of negotiation and showing mutual respect for each other’s points of view. I was deeply impressed with the results as were many GLF participants.

Within the context of the theme of the GLF—‘Humphrey Voices: Leadership for our Shared Future’ — they decided on the topic ‘Community Leadership for Global Environmental Sustainability’. The overall message of their presentation was that community leadership is vital to effective development. Specific issues they identified included: (i) the top down approach has not trickled down to the last person; (ii) community participation in managing resources has been part of policy discourse for over two decades but has not taken flight as one would hope; (iii) community empowerment is the highest form of participation; (iv) environmental issues are global and solutions are often local; (v) integration of contemporary with indigenous and traditional knowledge is essential; and (vi) achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) often requires inputs from local community leaders. The Fellows developed a new strategic approach to address these issues. They named it the RITA model in which Responsibility, Inclusiveness, Transparency and Accountability are the key components.

So, here we have a shining example of how Fellows of diverse professional backgrounds from Asia, Africa and Latin America can come together and not only deliver a very well received presentation and accompanying poster but also create a completely new concept of how the vital element of community partnership can be better translated into action for the good of the world’s poor and hungry and our global environment. I find that inspiring.
The 2017-2018 Cornell Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows:

From left to right, front row:

Isabelle Lopes Picelli, Brazil
ial32@cornell.edu
Rural land reform

Ratchada Arpornsilp, Thailand
ra637@cornell.edu
Social inclusion and gender equality

Fawzia Tarannum, India
ft227@cornell.edu
Water conservation and management

Ranjana Das, India
rd544@cornell.edu
Livelihood advocacy for marginalized communities

Sumaira Ishfaq, Pakistan
si264@cornell.edu
Economic empowerment of rural women

Sulemana Alhassan, Ghana
sa2276@cornell.edu
M&E and postharvest loss reduction

From left to right, back row:

Emmanuel Ajani, Nigeria
eea78@cornell.edu
Renewable energy

Tarig Ahmed, Sudan
tta9@cornell.edu
Renewable energy

Bob Mandinyenya, Zimbabwe
brm95@cornell.edu
Biodiversity and wildlife

Ackson Joseph Mwanza, Zambia
am2923@cornell.edu
Rural agricultural extension
Friendship partners in Ithaca’s community and our associate campus partnership with Alfred State College have a long history with the Humphrey Fellowship Program. These relationships multiply the effectiveness of this program far beyond professional development for the Humphrey Fellows. We cross the soft borders between “us” and “them,” break stereotypes, and find common ground like enjoyment of good food, social activities and professional interests. Through the friendship partners and our Alfred State College connections, Humphrey Fellows meet American citizens, young and old, from different socioeconomic classes, different races, political affiliations, urban and rural folks.

Now let me turn my attention to Alfred State College. This small rural college is doing a lot right now to educate many first generation college students with knowledge and skills that employers need. The college boasts a 98% placement rate after graduation. The college has won state and national awards for their zero energy house. They serve as an incubator for the following fields: agriculture-related businesses; computer-related businesses, including cyber security, construction; manufacturing; automotive-related businesses, alternative fuels; architecture, engineering and design technology; culinary arts and baking production; digital media and animation and; manufacturing of equipment for renewable energy including geothermal, solar-thermal, photovoltaic, and wind turbines. We are always impressed by what we see and experience during our visits.

A pilot project that began in fall 2007 between Cornell University’s Humphrey Fellowship Program and Alfred State College is a partnership in the 11th year. In 2007, the College began a major effort to strengthen longstanding academic programs in agriculture, emphasizing environmental and economic sustainability and emerging market opportunities for sustainably produced food. Alfred State College located in western New York in rural counties among some of the lowest income in the northeastern United States, had many students with little contact with racial diversity, people from other countries or travel outside of the U.S. prior to their study at Alfred State College.

This year for International Education Week, Fellows and staff participated in a roundtable speed networking event to discuss study to careers and culture. This opened up quick introductions and conversations that made it easier for each other to move from a foreign to familiar environment. Fellows made presentations about marketing agricultural products, contemporary social problems and environmental science.

Over the 11 years, Humphrey Fellows have contributed a lot with workshops, and learned a lot from students, faculty and community members. We have seen evidence that a local fisherman’s group in Wellsville, where the Alfred Technical College is located, have influenced a big oil company to clean up environmental degradation to water and soil for as long as it takes to make it right for the citizens in the community.
WHAT FRIENDSHIP MEANS

By Friendship Partner Grace McMenamin

I've been a friendship partner for 3 years. Each year I realized how absolutely delightful it is to be part of this international group. Recently several of the fellows and some of my friends sat at my dinner table eating pizza, folks from Asia and Africa and of course the United States. As we ate, we talked about the differences in our culture. However, most our conversation centered around family and food and kindness and the future. What I've learned from Humphrey Fellows is that the more different we seem, the more similar we really are. If anything will help save the world, it's programs like this, where folks from other countries come to us with an idea of what America is, and leave with wonderful memories and the truth about how Americans really are. And the same thing for us: we have these preconceived notions about people from far away places, when actually they're just like you and I. They want to have a happy, safe lives.

Recently, we held a karaoke fundraiser for Tompkins Leaning Partners (Tompkins County's adult/refugee literacy program) and many of the Fellows attended. Some sang in their native language, and others tried popular music songs in English. They were all very brave. The hit of the evening was when they all got onstage and asked us to sing "We Are The World" with them. There were about 30 to 40 folks in the audience. We all stood up, linked arms and hugged and sang for all we were worth. There was not a dry eye in the building. I can't tell you how that affected all of us...such warmth and love and peace filled the whole room.

Last year my fellow was Gaytri from India. We took a ride to Trumansburg to see another part of the area and stopped at a restaurant for lunch. Gaytri didn't know what to order so I suggested we have a standard non-meat American lunch. We had grilled cheese, French fries and cole slaw, foods she had never had before. I delighted in how she described the tastes and textures, and then we had lemon meringue pie for dessert. That about made her swoon. Our secret word after that for something wonderful was meringue.

If I have to pick the one blessing that has come from my association with the Fellows it would be thankfulness. I am so thankful for what we have in this country.

We are so blessed and every time I hear their stories and I am more convinced that I am so lucky to live here. I am also thankful for the wonderful insights they have given me. They share their life experiences that one would could never learn from a from a book or Youtube video. These are real people sharing their real life experiences. What an honor to be part of this amazing program.
WHAT I LOVE ABOUT BEING A HUMPHREY FRIENDSHIP PARTNER
by Linda Gasser (who is a Friendship Partner with spouse, Lenny Nissenson)

What is it about being a Friendship Partner to a Humphrey Fellow that is so attractive? Being a Friendship Partner is a role that we cherish! I began working with the Humphrey Fellows as an instructor providing leadership training to groups during the academic part of their year. While doing this I discovered the program at Cornell also had a component called “Friendship Partners” in which Fellows are paired with local people—individuals, couples, or families—who serve as friends, supports, and “cultural bridges”, getting to know a Fellow, being a local friend who can provide support outside of the program in navigating US culture, enjoying various celebrations, or just getting exposure together to local life. It sounded like fun and so my husband and I joined this part of the program as well. And wow, has it been wonderful!

What do I enjoy so much about it? My husband & I have been friendship partners since 2009. We started with a Fellow from Vietnam because my husband had been there & spoke some Vietnamese (not a requirement!) and I had worked with refugees from there previously so we thought it would be interesting to meet someone from contemporary Vietnam. My husband and the Fellow established a very nice bond and we also got to know the Fellow’s 2 roommates (from Nepal & Ivory Coast) as well, so we shared joint meals from several countries, went to movies together that generated great conversations, shared holiday & birthday experiences, sang together, and just hung out. We loved the camaraderie created. We were hooked. Each Fellow is different and we have enjoyed being in this role with 9 Fellows total (so far!).

Why do we keep doing it? Well, here are some of the benefits for us. We learn so much: Fellows are very interesting people! Hosting a Fellow as a Friendship Partner means we meet people from all over the world and learn about them as individuals, their families, their countries, their cultures, their hopes and their dreams. We have met people working in environmental ministries, NGOs for indigenous peoples and women’s rights, water and waste management, resource conservation, food security, and wildlife conservation (lions!) and so have learned a lot about these fields. We have learned in deep ways that we are not very different. We have expanded our own horizons about the world, what is happening in far-off places, what is unique, and what is interesting to see or know about historically, geographically, culturally, economically, and politically. Not only do we get to know “our” fellow, but we have the chance to meet and learn about all of them since we have many gatherings. Thus, the learning multiplies.

We can be of help to someone: We care about other people and like to be of service, and Fellows appreciate & benefit from our being there for them. While all Fellows are adult, mid-level career professionals who often know several languages and each has a personalized study & development plan, they experience so much that is different. Though many will go on to become leaders of significance in their own countries, while here each is trying to carry out a development plan in a country that is
new & often very different from what they know. It can be confusing, complex, frustrating, and sometimes a cause of some anxiety or homesickness. We enjoy helping “our” fellow get settled in with a new home, new country, new language, new educational system, and new culture to navigate. When a Fellow brings family members, we have fun playing with the children & taking them around to fun Ithaca places. Fellows’ development plans inspire us. Sometimes we can help them make linkages in the academic or local community (or even beyond) to further their learning or development plans and that is rewarding as well as stimulating. We help a Fellow navigate everything from how to buy food, access the complicated US healthcare system, or understand the US system of government to how a holiday is celebrated here, how to return an item to a store, or what places to visit during breaks. It has been very interesting to be with Fellows here at presidential election times—both for Barack Obama and for Donald Trump—and to take them to see our voting processes or watch election returns together, sharing opinions and reactions with them & their family members back home via Skype. All these activities gives us a chance to reflect on our own culture, experiences, and observations and enhances our own awareness.

We have lots of fun!: We enjoy the connection & camaraderie that seems to be a frequent aspect of being a Friendship Partner. Fellows are interesting & nice people. We laugh a lot, share interests in common as well as share new experiences together. We may cook for each other, learn about new foods, or have deep discussions about gender issues, marital customs, family life and business. We have our family members and grandchildren meet with Fellows and enjoy expanding their & our views of the world. We’ve had pumpkin-carving parties and Halloween trick-or-treating outings, Hanukkah, Passover, Christmas and Easter festivities, and celebrated their holidays, too. We are frequently inspired when we hear Fellows’ stories of trips they take in the US, experiences they have, and the things they hope to do in their lives. There are great gatherings of Fellows, Friendship Partners, and staff throughout the year where we eat, play, laugh, share deep discussions and hearty jokes. It feels like being part of a very special community together that is warming & enjoyable.

We have more fun traveling: Knowing fellows means we get invited to interesting places with people who know how to have fun! We have gotten to know some countries better through an insider’s eyes. So far we have been able to visit 4 of “our” Fellows on travels to their countries. On each visit we have benefited from Fellows’ hospitality, advice, and assistance and have spent lovely times making new memories together! Most recently we went to Montenegro and were treated to mountains & sea, fascinating history, lots of interesting sites, and amazing food—we even had home-caught & cooked barracuda and a personal wine-tasting from our hosts! We’ve also been to Serbia (Belgrade is one of Europe’s oldest cities!) & Macedonia (birthplace of Mother Theresa).

My husband and I both feel we get more out of being a Friendship Partner than we put in, and that it is one of the most enjoyable, interesting, and inspiring things we do. We are always and continuously inspired by the Humphrey Fellows we get to know, we expand our openness to the world each year, and we each feel so lucky to be a Friendship Partner to Fellows. Hopefully, absent politics, the Humphrey Fellows Program will continue to benefit all of us long into the future.
Fellows regularly contribute to a Massive Online Course for Civic Ecology as Teaching Assistants, volunteer with Cornell Botanic Gardens, are guest speakers in classes and seminars, regularly volunteer with community organizations Loaves and Fishes and the Village at Ithaca. Two alumni have started garden-based businesses to serve the public in Haiti and Mozambique following their Fellowships. See Kinlim’s article.

"The test we must set for ourselves is not to march alone but to march in such a way that others will wish to join us."

— Hubert H. Humphrey
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Elizabeth Adjei, ’97-98, Ghana is her country’s Ambassador to Spain. She was formerly the Head of Ghana’s Immigration Service.

Maria Paz (Marichi) De Sagun ’82-83 Philippines
Project Management Specialist, Office of Health USAID

Dr. Kesrat Sukasam ’94-95 Thailand
Head, Implementation Support Branch, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, in the Hague

Dr. Mounir Louhaichi ‘95-96 Tunisia
Principal Rangeland Scientist, ICARDA, Jordan

Peter Enoh, ’01-02 Cameroon
Director of Standards and Control, of the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development

Dr. Ohnmar Khaing, ’08-09 Myanmar
Program Manager, Australian International Agricultural Research and Disease Control

Michael Moscarelli, ‘14 Cornell MPS student and Graduate Assistant
Director, Agriculture and Food Security, Partners of the Americas

Dr. Kurt Manrique Klinge, ’14-15 Peru
International Specialist in Agricultural Innovation for Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture IICA, Trinidad and Tobago

Betzaida Chavez, ’15-16 Panama
Executive Director of the Environmental Office of the Trade Promotion Treaty between Panama and United States.

Courtney Smith, ’16 MPS student and Graduate Assistant
One Acre Fund, Kenya
Dr. Terry Tucker was invited to a conference “Natural Resources Management, Technology Trends and Livelihood Support” in Manipur, India organized by Dr Rajkumari Devi ’08-09. Dr. Petch Manopawitr (left) from Thailand also attended. Sunita is holding a cake with a Cornell seal, baked specially for this reunion.

Pablo Jaramillo ’07-08 (left), Project Manager with Luker Foundation from Colombia visited Kakha Karchkadize ’07-08, Professor, Tsibilisi State U. in Georgia this fall.

Francine Jasper was invited to participate in the bi-annual Women Leading Education conference in Brazil, which was organized by Dr. Rosangela Malachias, (right) a 2009 Humphrey Fellow at U. of Maryland. Ninety seven participants ages 14-80, from 11 countries, participated in the event.
ALUMNI UPDATES

Mrs. Sian Cuffy-Young '11-12 has been involved in the environmental field for over twelve years. She is no stranger to challenge as her experience stems from the waste and mining sectors – two fields many shy away from. She also has a wealth of experience in environmental management systems and education and has received training in behavior change through the method of community-based social marketing with the University of Tennessee. She is a Colorado Certified Environmental Educator, Speaker and Principal Consultant of Siel Environmental Services Limited. One of our honored accomplishments was when she was selected to be a Fulbright Hubert Humphrey Fellow placed at Cornell University, one of the United States’ top academic institutions.

Irfan Razzaq '13-14 returns to campus to meet and encourage current Humphrey Fellows in their professional development journey. "I started as an administrator for water in a county similar to Tompkins County. After my HF ship year, I did everything I could and expected nothing. When you work to improve the lives of people, you are set.”

He is now an agriculture and policy worker in Punjab working to improve the lives of 200 million people with a multimillion dollar budget project in the finalization stage with the World Bank. He credits the Humphrey Fellowship Program, his mentors and Cornell, for learning the power of networking to his success.

Irfan Razzaq ‘13-14, Policy and Strategy Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture, Punjab, Pakistan discusses collaboration with Cornell faculty Dr. Chatrchyan, Director, Cornell Institute for Climate Smart and Dr. Styger, Associate Director, Climate-Resilient Farming Systems. He returns to U.S. with a delegation from Punjab, Pakistan to finalize the implementation of a project with the World Bank.

Milica Petrovic '16-17 invited Cornell University professor Dr. Rick Geddes to participate in a conference entitled "New Technologies in the Service of Sustainable Urban Development," which took place in Podgorica, Montenegro. He gave a presentation about infrastructure investments and the role of public-private partnerships in infrastructure delivery to an audience of Montenegrin decision-makers and other stakeholders. The topic was particularly timely because Montenegro is currently transitioning to an open market economy and the private sector needs to be invited to participate in infrastructure delivery.

Apart from the speaking engagement, this was not only an opportunity for Ms. Petrovic to show Dr. Geddes some of the things about Montenegro she had highlighted while taking his class at Cornell but also contribute to facilitating the exchange of information and sharing of experiences between the two countries. Ms. Petrovic was hosted by Cornell University during the 2016-2017 program year.
URBAN AGRICULTURE WITH ISABEL KINLIM

Isabel Kinlim, Cornell Hubert Humphrey Fellow 2013-'14, from Mozambique created a new entrepreneur business called Pathway in 2016 that aims to promote urban agriculture & composting (5R) in the cities. This idea came out after her professional affiliation at CIFAD, Cornell University, where her assignment was to write a business plan for empowering women through agriculture by using the large experience and knowledge at CIFAD (special thanks to Beth Medvecky). Since this time, it has benefited many modern women who are very busy in their career but also interested in healthy eating and fitness.

Recently, Pathway participated in market for exhibition of aromatic herbs and others (tomatoes, parsley, rosemary etc in a pot) for seven days to engage and training people one to one. It also created a flow in our stand that aroused interest of the national television agency Broadcast National and International’s program TV/M that interviewed the Pathway to raise up women awareness for this practice.

The challenges now are to collect information and train people to take care of their vegetable garden without any use of chemicals pesticides and fertilizers, but only local and natural’ ones by using native knowledge because it is for a very small portion of land or (vegetable gardens or herbs and vegetables in pots). The second challenge is to introduce composting on a small scale for households.
WHAT MY HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP MEANS TO ME

By Fawzia Tarannum, India

Paulo Coelho, the famous Brazilian novelist and lyricist once said, “One day you will wake up and there won’t be any more time to do the things you’ve always wanted. Do it now.” That’s easier said than done. It was in early April 2016 when the Fulbright Commission gave a presentation at my university back in India that ignited an interest in me to apply for the Humphrey Program. I was always fascinated by people who had Humphrey Fellow written on their business cards but when the opportunity knocked at my doors, I procrastinated for two months. It was not because I did not wish to, but because I couldn’t prepare myself mentally to be away from home for a year. I would have probably just let it pass, had it not for my husband checking with me just a couple of days before the deadline and ensuring a ‘just in time’ submission.

Today, half way through the Humphrey year, I am quite sanguine that had I missed it, I would have regretted having let go off the ‘once in a lifetime experience.’ I am sure my co-fellows from the nine different countries would bear me out on this. There are over 150 Humphrey Fellows hosted by the United States every year but we consider ourselves as the chosen ones, having the privilege of being at an Ivy League University known for its academic excellence and diversity. The beauty of the program lies in making each of the fellows feel special from day one. The virtual pre-departure orientation with the Humphrey Program Staff at Cornell, the presence of the entire crew including the friendship partners welcoming us at the airport, the support provided by everyone to help us settle down and the volley of invitations to parties and visits are all evidence of the warm hospitality extended by the host organization. We are experiencing the American Culture and I can vouch for a fact that no amount of orientation in our countries could have prepared us for its all-embracing warmth. It hasn’t taken us too long to soak in this amazing culture where mails are responded to within a few hours, classes are held as per schedule, people are ever warm and friendly and there is food at (almost) every seminar.

The Humphrey program being a non-degree granting program provides the fellows with the flexibility to build their program plans and hone their leadership skills through a series of workshops and seminars on diverse themes, academic courses of interest, professional visits and voluntary engagements. The program is benefitting us in more ways than one. Today our network and consequently our net worth has multiplied manifold and we feel better equipped to deal with issues related to environment and sustainability. We have acquired several practical skills to engage with community and are already laying the framework for collaborative projects in the future. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step—for us it is the honor of being a Humphrey Fellow.

INSPIRED BY INNOVATION AT CORNELL

By Ryan Sherman, Graduate Assistant and MPS student ’17-18

The future became poignant for me in a new way this year. Both my brother and sister gave birth to their first children, two beautiful boys, Lucas and Silas, giving our family the first two members of the next generation. Over the course of just a few months, the fate of our world went from being academic to intensely personal. Words like sustainability, conservation, and international cooperation had for years become jargonous. This lassitude dissipated rapidly when I met Lucas for the first time this Thanksgiving.

Lucas and Silas, giving our family the first two members of the next generation. Over the course of just a few months, the fate of our world went from being academic to intensely personal. Words like sustainability, conservation, and international cooperation had for years become jargonous. This lassitude dissipated rapidly when I met Lucas for the first time this Thanksgiving.

Cornell is the best place to have such a revival of spirit. Agricultural innovation and international cooperation are the principles that epitomize the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. With UN projections putting the world’s population at 11.2 billion by year 2100, these ideals offer the greatest hope for our planet and humanity. Ideals alone are not enough however, and it is Cornell that also is doing the crucial groundwork.

One prime example is Professor Ying Sun, a researcher who recently joined the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Her team has adapted GIS and remote sensing techniques to study NASA satellite images to determine how much photosynthesis is taking place over large areas. In this way, they are able to learn better how heat and drought slow and change the process of photosynthesis at an ecosystem level. This research is foundational to creating improved agriculture models able to anticipate how crops will respond to environmental stresses.

Additionally, on the horizon at Cornell are six new projects focusing on the intersection of technology, agriculture, automation, weather forecasting and natural resource management. These projects are based in the collaboration of experts across campus who seek to apply Cornell’s multidisciplinary approaches to agriculture to improve the prospects of New York and the planet.

Yet, it is not cutting edge research alone that has encouraged me. Through my work with the Humphrey Program, I have been inspired by future leaders from around the world participating in the program. It is the ethical fortitude, and strength and character of people like them that make possible a world based in mutual understanding—one that protects the weak and vulnerable, and seeks to improve lives for everyone.
Alumni stay connected with the Humphrey Fellowship Program! Contact fj10@cornell.edu
www.Facebook.com/cornell.humphreys
www.humphreyfellowship.org for grant opportunities and alumni directory

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