CU Congratulates 2014-2015 Humphrey Fellows!

Fellows and Professional Affiliations

Kurt Manrique-Klinge, Peru
   Inter-American Development Bank
Yves Martial Bitama Ada, Cameroon
   Corporate Council on Africa
Allan Franklin, Barbados
   Global Environment Fund
Blagoja Mukanov, Macedonia
   Carana
Jean-Marie Bukuru, Burundi
   United Global Co-Opportunities
Thomas Gnamessou, Ivory Coast
   NYC Office of Emergency Mgt.
Titilope Ojo, Nigeria
   Carana
Murat Ercin, Turkey
   UN Population Fund
Tallal Khan, Pakistan
   World Bank, Agr. Global Practice
Ahmed Slimene, Tunisia
   USDA Livestock, Poultry and Grain

Cornell University’s 35th Year Developing Leadership for the Public Good with the Humphrey Fellowship Program

Cornell University welcomed the 35th class of Humphrey Fellows during the 2014-15 academic year. Fellows mentored students travelling abroad, held discussions with students at Alfred State College, our associate campus about their careers and culture for better communication skills across cultures. This cohort worked together on a climate change global survey to assess attitudes and present at the Global Leadership Forum. These group projects revealed a lot about leadership styles. A few Fellows spent time during the Fall semester with local affiliations such as Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, where they helped with the development of a small farmers market, conducted surveys, volunteered with Village at Ithaca, and mentored students travelling abroad to their countries. Tallal Hassan from Pakistan accompanied a USAID funded team to Colombia for farmer to farmer training to develop groundwater networks for irrigation, development of microcatchment areas, rooftop rainwater harvesting, and better soil and land management practices.
Greetings from the Coordinator

Dr. Peter Gregory

Cornell University Humphrey Fellows have collectively been recognized the past three years for their unanimous support to raise awareness about climate change, and call for action to educate, advocate and mitigate the effects for the sake of survival on the planet. This academic year, our Fellows worked on a global survey to assess people’s awareness. The good news is that they found most people they surveyed were aware of climate change and the need to “do something”. The flaw with the survey was that they asked people like themselves, so there is still a lot of work to do. We learned that to make effective changes, we must be willing to do the step outside of our comfort zones and work with people with opposing views. In 2013 Fellows received an award from the Sustainable Tompkins County group for the semester long seminars organized to call local citizens and organizations to action. Seminar speakers also challenged Cornell University to change some of the fossil fuel use to alternative energy, specifically wind. We are proud to note, Cornell University Board of Trustees announced last fall Cornell will purchase Black Oak Wind Farm’s electricity for 10 years. Since 2008 the university has reduced carbon emissions by 32%. Alfred State College, our associate campus invited Humphrey Fellows to a special evening seminar to address an auditorium filled to capacity with students and faculty about why climate change is real and how this generation cannot afford to ignore the problem.

We live in times of rapid change with technology and in respect to agriculture, technology is highly relevant and applicable to improve low productivity, disease resistance, decrease economic disparity between the well to do and the poor in developing countries. Most scientists as I do, see the need for technology to meet the U.N. Millennium Development Goals and combat poverty by 2020. Humphrey Fellows as practitioners in developing countries bring to U.S. universities like Cornell fertile minds to both examine our theories for the reality on the ground and open minds to explore further possibilities.

Introducing Michelangelo Lieberman, Graduate Assistant for 2015

Mike Lieberman is a graduate student at Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, where he is earning his MPS in international agriculture and rural development. He graduated from Stony Brook University in 2011 with a BA in environmental studies. From 2011 to 2013, Mike served in Saint Louis Senegal as an Urban Agriculture Extension Agent in the Peace Corps. As a Peace Corps volunteer, Mike worked alongside various NGOs, Senegalese government officials, and US embassy personnel to bring attention to the plight of young street children in Senegal. This summer, he returns to Senegal to work with the community of Saint Louis regarding child begging and Koranic education.
It was a great honor for Cornell University’s Humphrey Fellowship Program to receive a visit of Marianne Craven, Managing Director for Academic Programs, ECA on April 14th. This is the first time for anyone at the level of her position from the Department of State to visit our Humphrey Fellows at Cornell. Ms. Craven met with Fellows, staff and faculty during her visit. She also attended our weekly seminar with two Fellows presenting. Dr. Ahmed Slimene from Tunisia talked about “improvement of the red meat sector in Tunisia through the Humphrey Program”. Murat Ercin, a regional planner from Turkey discussed “Regional Development Agencies as Catalysts of Rural Development”.

Ms. Craven was delighted to spend time with Fellows to learn more about their professional affiliations and the relationships that they’ve developed with Americans particularly the friendship partners during their year. A couple of Fellows talked about the importance of their friendship partners in helping them connect with individuals or agencies during professional development visits, in addition to the social value these friendship partners gave. Ms. Craven told us that the Humphrey Fellow alumni were the most active group in ECA, and she encouraged our Fellows to stay involved after their Fellowship year. She reminded Fellows of the many resources and grants available to alumni via https://alumni.state.gov

David Arthur Granger, Humphrey Fellow at the University of Maryland 1995-1996 won the Presidential elections in Guyana and was sworn in as the President on May 16th. He is the first Humphrey Fellow to become a head of state ….and hopefully others will follow! The university’s statement is here: http://www.merrill.umd.edu/deadline/
The culmination of the Fellowship year is a six-week work experience or Professional Affiliation, arranged by the Fellows, that integrates them with American organizations and provides another opportunity for meeting and working with their American peers.

I was fortunate to get a Professional Affiliation (PA) with Carana Corporation, a US company that designs and implements inclusive economic development strategies for governments, businesses, and international donors. CARANA is a major contractor for USAID and they are currently implementing the NEXTT (Nigeria Expanded Trade and Transport) project in Nigeria. NEXTT is a four-year program supporting the Nigerian government’s efforts to expand trade volume and efficiency domestically, within the ECOWAS sub-region, and beyond. The project focuses on trade in agricultural products that generate inclusive economic growth and development in Nigeria.

My first contact with CARANA was just before the NEXTT project commenced. I was invited to meet one of the directors who needed some information on the Shea Value Chain in Nigeria, a project that I was coordinating at the time. I also had the opportunity to meet with another director who was visiting Nigeria, to also see the prospects for CARANA. Securing a space for my PA was therefore a walkover. In choosing a placement for my PA, what mattered most was how the organization connected with my professional pursuit, the prospects of working with them and opportunities for future growth; I found this all in CARANA.

While at CARANA, my job entails working on the Shea Value Chain project in Nigeria and organizing a stakeholder’s conference that will be held in Nigeria in the month of my return. I am also participating with some research regarding new and existing USAID projects in West Africa and prospects that CARANA can leverage.

This experience offers me a strong foundation in International Development work. I hope to continue to explore the International Development field after my Fellowship ends.

Now, to the fun part of the Professional Affiliation experience. Six fellows from Cornell, and two others from Syracuse, and Minnesota rented a family house in Arlington, and we are living as one big happy team! It has been a very interesting journey, learning, unlearning and rediscovering ourselves. It reminds me of “Big Brother House”, a reality show that I consider a social experiment that tests how well people can live together, despite their differences. I must say the house has all the facilities we need including a lovely garden with swings, and a tree house. We started out with House Rules to guide everyone, and since that first day we met, we have sustained a weekly family meeting to evaluate the past week, and plan for the new week.

The experience so far has taught me the importance of culture, communication, coordination and the common good. I have seen that our strength as a team actually lies in our diversity. Our differences do not to tear us apart; rather they bring us closer, allowing us to form strong bonds that unite our hearts and minds through continuous interaction. This seems to be the best part of the Humphrey year!

If I am to advice new Fellows, I would say, “do not leave your PA to the last minute because of the pressure, do thorough research on organizations that work in your area of interest and contact as many as you can until you get an acceptance. Do not do this alone, involve your colleagues in PA placements, accommodation search, and other areas where their input could be very valuable. While you are at it, get your social groove on and enjoy the moment because before you know it, the 6 weeks are over. This is the best part!
Ahmed Slimene, Tunisia

Internship location, USDA Greeley Colorado

During the 2014-2015 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship program, I took part in many activities in relation to my area of expertise in my country of Tunisia. I have been involved in many workshops and trainings with regards to animal production and meat quality. I visited farmers and beef cattle producers, livestock auctions, abattoirs, processing plants and grocery stores. I also had the opportunity to attend many workshops and seminars throughout the US. I attended conferences in New York (Goat and Sheep Symposium and Cornell Nutrition Conference), Kansas (beef producer having 22,000 heads of feeder cattle), Texas (Beef Safety Summit Workshop), Atlanta (International Production and Processing Expo), Maryland (Animal Welfare Act Workshop USDA National Agricultural Library, Washington DC (Negotiation Skill Workshop, California (Situational Leadership and Colorado (Colorado State University Cattle Transportation Symposium).

Currently, my professional affiliation is with USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), which is located at 3459 West 20th Street Suite 223A Greeley, CO 80634. Randy Hammerstrom, the officer in charge, oversees the Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News reporting. This division within the AMS provides unbiased market information on a variety of agricultural commodities. This valuable market information is utilized by industry participants to make educated market decisions. Randy, and his staff are training me on livestock evaluation and how they gather, disseminate, and publish reports for the public to use. Randy has also lined up tours of cattle feedlots, lamb feedlots, beef further processors, auction markets, livestock cooperatives, and multiple trade associations. I have also been working with Leonard Woody, the Supervisory Agricultural Marketing Specialist, who is with the AMS Quality Assessment Division. This division provides a meat grading service to the meat packing industry. During my time with Leonard, we have been working on carcass evaluation. During this professional affiliation, I have been visiting beef cattle and sheep feedlots to learn more about the livestock grading system of both species. I also visited the Centennial Livestock auction, to learn about the management procedures for the auction. I learned about the animal evaluation at the purchase moment by the buyers, particularly for feeder cattle, sheep and goat. I also, obtained more practical knowledge in the grading system for live animals, including beef cattle, sheep and goat. I was given the opportunity to write a report after each livestock visit. This information has been posted it to the USDA website, in order to disseminate information to producers and buyers all across the United States. I had also the opportunity to spend three days within a fairly large slaughterhouse with the capacity to slaughter 5000 heads a day. Working in larger complex allowed me to learn more about the carcass grading system for beef and the different criteria used in order to classify the carcasses. Besides the beef slaughterhouse, I visited a sheep slaughterhouse to get more knowledge about the slaughter process and also the grading system for carcasses. From both visits, I was able to learn about food safety, including the HACCP system, and different points of the slaughter process, which reduces and controls the major critical points affecting the safety of the carcasses and meat distributed to the consumers. In order to learn about the ways to reduce water pollution and protect the environment, during the visit to the big slaughterhouse, I toured the portion of the facility that is devoted to waste disposal. While touring the facilities, I discovered that they have a composting company that is producing compost mixing the punch and the food scraps collected in the city. I will be visiting that company sometime next week.

During the final weeks of my professional affiliation, I visited Colorado State University work with professors at the Department of Animal Science, and also visit a small slaughterhouse in the region that focuses on the study of the sheep and the lamb grading system, including the different procedure to produce safe carcasses. The small slaughterhouse is similar in size to those in my country. It will be a good example to learn from, in order to implement these standards in Tunisia and improve the red meat sector. Finally, all these training will help me understand the best practices to improving specific points in the meat supply chain, and also solving the main problems, and issues that our professionals are facing. I hope to participate in improving production and the quality of meat that our consumers require.
In case you missed us on Facebook...our year in pictures
Fellows volunteered at the Red Cross, the annual Chili Cookoff, the Composting Fair, assisted with community design and planning projects, worked with teens and seniors in the Ithaca Community.
Alumni News

Tanja Popovicki was a Humphrey Fellow in 2011/12 at Cornell University. She has a masters degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Belgrade and over 12 years of experience in working with public sector in Serbia.

Tanja is currently engaged as Policy Advisor by German International Development Agency (GIZ) on the program that is aiming to develop a sustainable bio-energy market in Serbia. She is working closely with decision makers and other interested groups in Serbia on the creation of framework conditions for more efficient usage of renewable energies in Serbia.

Since her returning from the Hubert Humphrey Program, Tanja has been very active in the Fulbright Alumni Association of Serbia (FAAS). She first served as a member of the Steering Committee, then, in December of 2014, she took over leadership of the FAAS, becoming the first non-academic President. The organization gathers over 800 alumni from the programs of the Department of State (Fulbright, Ron Brown, JFDP and HHH). Tanja has also established informal Hubert Humphrey Alumni Chapter for Serbia in 2013. The FAAS is supported by the American Embassy in Belgrade its goal is to improve alumni networking within the Western Balkans region.

Maina Dhital, ‘12-13 from Nepal is a journalist for the Kathmandu Post, and continues to provide great media coverage for the Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat/BGRI. With Maina Dhital’s help and the help of SEJON (Society of Economic Journalists-Nepal), the Cornell DRRW/BRRI had 14 journalists attend the opening two hrs on Monday morning, March 16.

Read more of Maina’s articles http://www.ekantipur.com/tkp/reporter/457.html
Cornell University’s College of Engineering and the Mongolian University of Science and Technology
Sign an Agreement for Academic Exchanges and Technical Assistance Beginning Summer 2015

Boldkhuu Nanzad, a Humphrey Fellow in 2013-14 walked into the Geological Sciences Building in the fall of 2013 and happened to meet Profs. Larry Brown and Larry Cathles with the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. He discovered that both faculty were very interested in Mongolia and this relationship rapidly grew into a plan to develop a joint program around natural hazards and sustainable resource development in Mongolia through faculty and student exchanges. Mr. Nanzad, a gas and oil man by professional assisted CU graduate students with their class project, individual tutoring of a study abroad student with the Mongolian language and worked on developing the MOU between MUST and Cornell during his fellowship. These are extraordinary accomplishments given his own admission that he knew only 1,000 English words before he began his Humphrey Fellowship Program in the spring 2013.

The agreement includes: Exchange of faculty, research personnel, and other academic staff; exchange of undergraduate and graduate students for study and research; exchange of information on academic educational materials and scientific research that is of interest to both institutions; conducting joint research projects to solve challenging problems related to tectonics, natural hazards, and sustainable development of natural resources and mining operations and conducting lectures and courses, as well as organizing symposia and workshops, on issues related to advanced educational techniques.
Yongsong Chen ‘10-11 from China
Invited to the U.S. in April 2015 for the Gold Star International Visitors tour.

“Starting simple with a pledge card saying Leave No Trash Behind” is where we can start to protect our environment. Starting simple is the start of volunteerism."-Yongsong Chen

Mr. Chen is a pioneer in environmental education. He started his own NGO in China and promoted use of biogas for Chinese residents in his district. During his Humphrey Fellowship Program he was affiliated with Tompkins County Cooperative Extension and met regularly with farmers, extension staff to talk about alternative energy with biogas.

Read more about his 3 week tour here http://ivlpgoldstars.tumblr.com/

Olebeng Raperekisi’ 12-13 Botswana invited to speak about water rights on panel of Fulbright Minds in Denver Colorado, May 2015
Alumna Spotlight
Dr. Grazyna Chorazykiewicz from Poland

Is currently working with the Polish Government’s Department for Bilateral Cooperation at the Polish Ministry of Economy with Africa. The program is called "Go Africa", which is aimed at helping Polish firms to enter African market. She is responsible for Western Africa, particularly Nigeria.

She was a Humphrey Fellow at Cornell in 1995-96 focusing on Labor Relations and Social Policy. When she returned to Poland she worked a bit with the World Bank and then moved to Ministry of Economy working in the field of international relations and began her career in economic diplomacy. She spent 5 years in Slovenia and 6.5 years in Bulgaria as head of economic and commercial section of the Embassy of Poland in Ljubljana and then in Sofia. She obtained a PhD degree from Warsaw University in 2008. Grazyna writes “My one year at Cornell made a tremendous difference in my professional life and what I’ve achieved was thanks to you Humphrey Fellowship Program, the staff and faculty of Cornell and, all Americans I have met during my fellowship in the USA and of course the American Government that provided us with such a wonderful opportunity.”


http://www.csd.bg/imgShow.php?id=4716&art_id=9940

http://www.bcci.bg/news/1589

Humphrey Fellows Learn about the Olam Prize and the System of Rice Intensification

The System of Rice Intensification (SRI), an agro-ecological method of growing rice that enhances crop yields and is resilient to the adverse effects of climate change, has been awarded the international Olam Prize for Innovation in Food Security. SRI methods have been shown to increase crop yields by 20 to 50 percent – often as much as 100 percent and more – with significant reductions in water requirements and seed. The effectiveness of SRI methods has now been demonstrated in more than 50 countries. SRI is being recognized for its impact on the availability, affordability, accessibility and adequacy of food.

Norman Uphoff, senior advisor of Cornell’s SRI-Rice Center, professor emeritus of government and former director of the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD), who has been working with SRI for over 20 years, accepted the prize during the third Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture March 16, 2015, in Montpellier, France. The Olam Prize provides $50,000 to support further SRI research. One of the first people to learn about and forward the news of the award was Titilope Ojo, a Humphrey Fellow associated with the Abuja Enterprise Agency in Nigeria (…More about the award.)

Like the Humphrey program, SRI International Network and Resources Center (SRI-Rice) is housed at International Programs of Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. SRI-Rice was established at Cornell University in 2010 in response to the increasing importance of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), which is now being utilized by more than 10 million smallholder farmers in over 55 countries. SRI began spreading globally after 2000, in large part due to Norman Uphoff’s initiatives and efforts, as the Olam Prize recognizes SRI-Rice’s mission is to advance and share knowledge about the SRI, to improve the technical implementation of the SRI methodology, and to support networking among interested organizations agencies, and individuals around the globe. Consistent with this vision, over the past years Norman and Erika Styger, SRI-Rice Director of Programs, have provided the Humphrey Fellows at Cornell with information about SRI and the SRI-Rice Center through formal seminars, literature and informal meetings. This may have been an inspiration a number of Humphrey Fellows have returned home and become SRI supporters in their own countries. Among them are: Dr. Rita Sharma, HHH '83-'84 (India), Jean Njiru, HHH '05-'06 (Kenya), Devi Sunita Rajkumar, HHH '08-'09 (India), Ohnmar Khaing, HHH '08-'09 (Myanmar), Bikash Rai, HHH '09-'10 (Nepal), and Jean-Marie Bukuru, HHH ’14-15 (Burundi).

To learn more about SRI, please visit http://sri.cals.cornell.edu/
Humphrey Fellows for 2015-16

Halima Abdul Hossain, Afghanistan
Anwone Biraguitcha, Togo
Mirian Bueno, Honduras
Bethzaida Carranza Chavez, Panama
Oscar Diaz Forero, Colombia
Nosheen Fazal from Pakistan
Ngben Wipor Kabitshwa, D.R, Congo
Viktor Kmytko from Ukraine
Gereltuya Puntsagdash from Mongolia
Andrea Reyes from Chile
Abdul Waheed Shaikh from Pakistan

The next group of Humphrey Fellows will have an opportunity to interact with the Alliance for Science Global Leaders Fellows in seminars such as “How to...” There will be 25 Alliance for Science Fellows from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda and the U.S.

The Cornell Alliance for Science is a new communications initiative with the overarching mission of promoting access to scientific innovation as a means of enhancing food security, improving environmental sustainability and raising the quality of life globally.

The Alliance for Science was funded in 2014 with a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and has global partners on six continents.

The Alliance’s core program, the Global Leadership Fellows Program, is a Cornell certificate program designed to equip and empower emerging leaders who will advance our shared mission by promoting evidence-based decision making and advancing science-based communications.

More information [Http://allianceforscience.cornell.edu/leadershiptraining]
Contributors
Dr. Peter Gregory, Director
Francine Wilson Jasper, Associate Director and Editor
Michelangelo Lieberman, Graduate Student
Lucy Fisher, SRI staff
Tanya Popovicki, Humphrey Fellow alumna
Dr. Ahmed Slimene, Humphrey Fellow alumnus
Titilope Ojo, Humphrey Fellow alumna

Note our new address: Cornell University, IP-CALS, B75 Mann Library, 237 Mann Drive
Ithaca, NY 14853

Have you moved, or changed your position? Please send us an update to mlieberman1989@gmail.com