

# ROTARY PEACE FELLOWS'

Annual Seminar



## REFLECTIONS OF PEACE

March 28, 2015



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation



# WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

## DR. MELISSA CURLEY

The University of Queensland Rotary  
Centre for International Studies in  
Peace and Conflict Resolution



As Director of the UQ Rotary Peace Centre, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 12th annual Peace Fellows' Seminar. We are delighted that you can join us on this occasion, which is always a highly anticipated one within the School of Political Science and International Studies. It is an occasion that allows our Class XII Peace Fellows to present their research to Rotarians, academics, and the general public. We also introduce to you Class XIII Peace Fellows today, who play an important support role in activities, and gain insights from their class mates – as it will be their turn next year to host!

The UQ Rotary Peace Centre was established at The University of Queensland in 1999, after an extensive world-wide search by Rotary International. Rotary wished to initiate a new program that would make a practical contribution to the quest for a more peaceful world.

Annually up to 110 Peace Fellows attend one of the Rotary Centres around the world to undertake a Master's Degree or Professional Development Certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies. This reflects Rotary's commitment to education and learning as an important tool in the goal to advance peace and justice internationally. To date, the UQ Rotary Peace Centre has graduated 112 Peace Fellows from the School's Masters in International Studies (Peace and Conflict) – representing citizens from 39 countries! We look forward to continuing our partnership with Rotary International, now into its second decade.

The Class XII Fellows that are presenting today are approaching the completion of their degrees. It is an exciting opportunity for all of us within the School and University community to recognise their outstanding commitment, and to wish them well as they move on to their chosen fields within peace building and conflict resolution. Many of the presentations today draw not only from their studies, but also from the Applied Fieldwork Experience undertaken over the summer break, which allows our Peace Fellows to expand and extend their professional and practical skills. The Peace Fellows and staff alike put much time into organising the AFE experience, and it is a source of satisfaction to see their hard work and enthusiasm for both scholarly and fieldwork pursuits showcased today.

In this way, the Peace Fellows' Seminar is a vital component of the Fellows' activities in the Rotary Centre – as it facilitates the building and maintenance of links between the UQ Rotary Peace Centre and Rotarians. It is also the University's way of thanking Rotary for its contributions, support and funding to the program and indeed for its enlightened decision some time ago to work towards world peace, justice and understanding. These values are jointly shared by The University of Queensland, and are reflected in our substantial commitment to the School's teaching and research program in peace and conflict and international relations.

Indeed this year's Seminar theme –What does Peace mean to you? – Reflections of Peace- embodies the Fellows' own journey within the area of peace and conflict studies. Please join with me today in wishing them the very best as they prepare to undertake new and exciting challenges in their field.

# WELCOME FROM ROTARY HOST AREA COORDINATOR

## NICHOLAS CURRY

Peace Fellow Program, Queensland



Welcome to this twelfth Peace Fellow seminar held at The University of Queensland. It has been an honour to have served as the Host Area Coordinator this past year.

So much has happened in the time that we have hosted Class XII in Brisbane. One of the highlights has been the Focus on Peace visit to the University by major Rotary Peace Centre donors. The visit emphasised the importance that Rotary International places upon this programme and also the very high regard that the Rotary Foundation has for the Peace Fellows and for The University of Queensland's Rotary Centre for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution.

The investment in the Peace Fellow programme is both huge and extremely long term. I believe, however, that when we look at what our Peace Fellow Alumni are now doing - and there are now 882 of them (576 having completed a Masters Degree course and 311 having finished the Professional Development Certificate course at Chulalongkorn University) - that Rotary is now seeing wide-ranging benefits and will continue to reap dividends from this programme in the years, if not decades, to come. I stand in awe of some of the things currently being achieved by Fellows who have graduated from The Univ-

ersity of Queensland during the baker's dozen of years that the program has been run here.

The theme of this year's seminar is 'Reflections of Peace'. The Fellows of Class XII have asked the question about what peace means to us and, indeed, what does it even look like or feel like. Living in a country like Australia where our security and safety is more or less assured and taken for granted, I am not sure that many of us have considered this issue very deeply. The fact that it has to be asked at all is a measure of the uncertainty and unrest that so many across so much of the world have to live with on a daily basis. I look forward to hearing more and, more especially, learning more at this seminar.

An important facet of the program is the diversity of the Fellows; whether it be geographic or occupational. Over the years, Peace Fellows have demonstrated to us that the way to Peace has many different routes. Peace comes in many very different forms and has many very different visages. All are important and contribute to the well-being of all us. As we have seen so often at many Peace Fellow seminars over the years, the different ways in which so many of our graduates make a difference adds enormously to peace in so many parts of the world. The work of our Fellows makes it more possible for people across all nations to live richer, fuller and more rewarding lives. The diversity of our Fellows is, therefore refreshing and exciting. All of them bring an amazing variety of talent and experience to the program which can only enhance the program and ensure even greater success.

This year we have welcomed Jos Nolle at the University. Jos has just conducted a site evaluation visit, the aim of which is to ensure that this university continues to meet the high standards demanded by Rotary International. At the time of writing, we will not have seen the results but I have no doubt that The University of Queensland will continue to play a leading role in this program for many years to come.

We are also privileged to host a Relationship Visit from Evanston this weekend and I welcome Mark Maloney, Vice-Chair of the Rotary Peace Centre Program, and Kat O'Brien, Peace Centres Relationship Manager to both this seminar and to Brisbane. Please make time to introduce yourselves to them and talk to them.

# WELCOME TO THE XII ANNUAL ROTARY PEACE SEMINAR

2015 PEACE SEMINAR OPENING REMARKS- Devin Biviano, Class XII Representative



G'Day, Rotary Peace Seminar Attendees!

First and foremost, a warm welcome to this year's annual Peace Seminar, sponsored by the Rotary Peace Centre at The University of Queensland, and presented this year by the Class XII Rotary Peace Fellows.

On behalf of the entire cohort of Peace Fellows here at UQ, let us share our gratitude that you have taken time out of what we know are busy schedules to join us today. We are so pleased that this day that we have spent so much time anticipating, debating, planning and preparing for has finally arrived, and we hope that you will enjoy the program that we have put together for you.

With the theme that we have chosen for the day—"Reflections of Peace"—we hope to encourage you to revisit and explore your own unique relationship with the topic of "peace". As we present our experiences as fellows, we hope you will engage with the presentations and discussions from a personal perspective, asking such questions as "Where does one's concept of 'peace' come from? How does my idea of what it is differ from that of others? How could so many different perspectives possibly be encompassed by a single word?" We look forward to the opportunity to embark on this exploration of peace together with you, and to have some fun along the way!

It would not be an overstatement to say that the Peace Fellowship has been a life-changing experience for each and every one of us in Class XII. For this, we are forever

thankful to Rotary International, the Rotary Foundation, our sponsor clubs, and the Rotary clubs, Host Counsellors, and Rotarians of Districts 9600 and 9630 for making this remarkable opportunity a reality. It is an honour and privilege to be a Rotary Peace Fellow—may the relationship between the Peace Fellows and Rotary be a long and fruitful one!

Additionally, we would like to thank our academic lecturers, tutors and colleagues that have guided and supported our journey of intellectual development; the administrative staff that has done so much to ensure that our program is completed successfully; and the numerous people who have helped to make the Seminar possible, especially the newly-arrived Class XIII Fellows. Last but not least, we would like to thank the Director of the Peace Centre here at UQ, Dr. Melissa Curley, who has done an immense amount to not only sustain and grow the program at all levels, but has also offered tireless support and advocacy for each and every Peace Fellow along the way.

Now, sit back, relax, and Bob's your uncle!

With best, kindest, warmest, heartfelt regards and profound gratitude,  
The Class XII Peace Fellows at The University of Queensland



PROGRAMME		
9:00 - 9:30am	Arrival & Registration	
9:30 - 10:20am	<b>Opening Remarks &amp; Introduction</b> Aunty Flo Watson -- Acknowledgement of Country Aunty Jeanette Fabila -- Ochre Acknowledgement Dance Dr. Melissa Curley – Director, Rotary Centre UQ Nick Curry – Rotary Host Area Coordinator Devin Biviano – UQ Peace Fellow Representative	1:30 - 2:00pm
10:20 - 10:50am	<b>Presentations</b>  <b>What is the Cost of Radical Peace?</b> Christopher Zambakari <b>Oklahoma: My home of Conflict, Resilience &amp; Reconciliation</b> Bobbie Bigby <b>Unconditional Peace to Live</b> Sai Won Latt	2:00 - 2:30
10:50 - 11:20am	Morning Tea	
11:20 - 12:30pm	<b>Presentations</b>  <b>So Many Peaces</b> Melanie Lindayen <b>Making Sense of UN-Led Police Reform in Post-Conflict Societies</b> Nelson Vieira <b>What is Solidarity? Reflections on Human Rights Work in Latin America</b> Katharina Dechert <b>Bringing Peace to New Heights: A Peruvian Experience</b> Carlo Salter <b>Reflections Between the Past and Now</b> Yoko Takazawa <b>The Power of Eclecticism in a Chaotically Interconnected World</b> Devin Biviano	2:30 - 2:45pm
12:30 - 1:30pm	Lunch	2:45 - 3:00 pm
		3:00 - 3:30
		3:30 - 4:00pm
		4:00 - 4:15pm
		<b>Panel 1: Dialogue on Dialogue</b> Participants: Yoko Takazawa, Melanie Lindayen, Sai Won Latt Facilitator: David Burgener  In this session, panellists explore the role of dialogue and awareness in the process of peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Each participant will share their insights about the value of these tools in negotiating differences. Panellists will reflect on their own experiences in diverse workplaces, cultural communities, classrooms and conflict settings, and the ways in which dialogue and awareness served them as tools. The panel concludes by engaging audience members in a breathing exercise where the practice of awareness is guided and put into action.
		<b>Panel 2: Exploring the Intersection of Peace &amp; Rights Discourses</b> Participants: Bobbie Bigby, Katharina Dechert, Nelson Vieira Facilitators: Dr. Nicole George  This panel focuses on the intersection between peace and various discourses on rights and the rule of law, including the rights of refugees, Indigenous peoples, and gender groups, among others. Panellists examine whether there is a contradiction between ideas of peace and rights by drawing on their own professional and academic experiences as well as personal values. Do rights guarantee peace? Do rights guarantee justice? For whom? If a tension does exist, then how can it be addressed most effectively?
		Audience Reflections
		Break
		<b>Panel 3: Closing Conversations</b>  Participants: Class 12 Fellows Facilitator: Erica R. Jeffrey, Casey Crocket & Class 12 Fellows  The final panel of the afternoon serves as a forum in which Class XII Peace Fellows can offer their concluding reflections on peace while engaging the audience in dialogue about their own views towards peace. This concluding segment draws on the format of a Community Cafe Dialogue by encouraging open conversations based on the theme of reflections on peace. The dialogue prompted by these questions helps participants in understanding and sharing their own attitudes, beliefs and values with others. At the same time, this exchange attempts to build communities and explore differences in a meaningful way.
		Closing
		Recognition

# REFLECTIONS OF P E A C E



## PANEL DESCRIPTIONS

### Panel 01

In this session, panellists explore the role of dialogue and awareness in the process of peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Each participant will share their insights about the value of these tools in negotiating differences. Panellists will reflect on their own experiences in diverse workplaces, cultural communities, classrooms and conflict settings, and the ways in which dialogue and awareness served them as tools. The panel concludes by engaging audience members in a breathing exercise where the practice of awareness is guided and put into action.

### Panel 02

This panel focuses on the intersection between peace and various discourses on rights and the rule of law, including the rights of refugees, Indigenous peoples, and gender groups, among others. Panellists examine whether there is a contradiction between ideas of peace and rights by drawing on their own professional and academic experiences as well as personal values. Do rights guarantee peace? Do rights guarantee justice? For whom? If a tension does exist, then how can it be addressed most effectively?

### Panel 03

The final panel of the afternoon serves as a forum in which Class XII Peace Fellows can offer their concluding reflections on peace while engaging the audience in dialogue about their own views towards peace. This concluding segment draws on the format of a Community Cafe Dialogue by encouraging open conversations based on the theme of reflections on peace. The dialogue prompted by these questions helps participants in understanding and sharing their own attitudes, beliefs and values with others. At the same time, this exchange attempts to build communities and explore differences in a meaningful way.



# CLASS XII (2014-2015)

## BOBBIE CHEW BIGBY



**Sponsor Club:**

Rotary Club of Southeast Tulsa,  
Oklahoma, USA District 6110

**Host Club:**

Brisbane Planetarium Club, Bris-  
bane, Australia, District 9600

Bobbie Chew Bigby is a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, United States and is a committed advocate for the potential of culture, education and arts to transform lives among post-conflict, indigenous and refugee populations. Bobbie is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation and her diverse Asian, Native and Caucasian heritages have been strong influences in shaping her life trajectory. Bobbie graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with BA degrees in Chinese Language and Literature, as well as Anthropology. During her time at Washington University in St. Louis, Bobbie pursued research as a Mellon Mays Fellow investigating the revival of ethnic traditions and cultural tourism among Southwestern China's ethnic Naxi community. In 2009, Bobbie received a Fulbright Fellowship through the US Department of State and was sent to Cambodia to pursue research into cultural revival and its impact on Cambodia's post-conflict rebuilding and economic empowerment. Following her Fellowship period, Bobbie consulted with the local non-profit organization, Cambodian Living Arts, on several arts education programming initiatives and also served as an education intern with

UNHCR in Phnom Penh, the UN agency for refugees. After returning to Tulsa in 2011, Bobbie continued her work in educational programming and social work for refugees through employment at both the YWCA and Catholic Charities. Through these agencies, Bobbie engaged closely and advocated for Tulsa's growing Chin and Kachin refugee communities coming from Myanmar/Burma. At the same time, Bobbie completed the majority of the coursework for an MS degree in Arts and Culture Administration through Drexel University. In February 2014, Bobbie began her studies as a Rotary Peace Fellow in UQ's Peace and Conflict Resolution program. As part of her Applied Field Experience, Bobbie returned to Myanmar where she worked with NEED, a rural grassroots organization dedicated to educating students from Myanmar's diverse indigenous communities on the importance of social justice, organic agriculture and environmental sustainability. Bobbie is thrilled to be based at UQ in Australia where she can stay connected with her interests of peacebuilding within the contexts of both Indigenous and Asian communities.



# DEVIN BIVIANO



**Sponsor Club:**  
Spokane South, Spokane, WA,  
District 5080,  
**Host Club:**  
Pine Rivers Daybreak, Queensland,  
Australia, District 9600

Devin Biviano is a multi-disciplinary peace and conflict resolution professional from Spokane, Washington, USA. Coming into the Rotary Peace Fellowship, he struggled with uncertainty about the best way to translate his diverse passions for language, food, journalism, humour, yoga, economic development, and travel into a sustainable and meaningful career. Now, as the Fellowship draws to a close, he is, admittedly, still pretty confused, but has been heartened to learn that he would not be the first to “specialize” in “not specializing”—while some may call this being a “Generalist”, he prefers the more fancy-sounding term “Eclecticist” (thanks Dr. Weber!). The fellowship has given Devin a solid foundation upon which he plans to build a professional career in Mediation, Conflict Resolution and “Peace Marketing”. Beyond this, his time as a Peace Fellow has encouraged a significant amount of personal exploration and growth, further strengthening his commitment to being actively engaged in the most pressing issues facing our planet to-

day, from youth engagement and education to mass atrocity prevention; from environmental sustainability to mental health awareness and advocacy. Academically, Devin is grateful to have had the opportunity to study these urgently important topics in one of the best departments of its kind in the world, gaining along the way not only theories, but real-world experience to support it. As an intern with the UQ-based Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (APR2P), Devin was able to complement his research on genocide and mass-atrocity prevention through his attendance at last month’s international conference in Phnom Penh marking the 10-year anniversary of the United Nations’ unanimous adoption of the “Responsibility to Protect” principle, where he engaged with leading intellectuals, policy-makers, and even Cambodian heads of state and members of the Royal family. He is deeply grateful for the opportunity to be a Rotary Peace Fellow, and thanks everyone who works to make this remarkable program a reality.



# KATHARINA DECHERT



**Sponsor Club:**  
Rotary Club of Laramie, Laramie,  
Wyoming, USASponsor District 5440  
**Host Club:**  
Rotary Club of Kenmore, Kenmore,  
Brisbane, QldSponsor District 9600

Katharina is from Laramie, Wyoming in the United States. She received her undergraduate degree in Peace and Justice Studies from Wellesley College in 2010. Between 2010 and 2012, she worked as a human rights accompanier in Guatemala, supporting the work of Guatemalan human rights activists within a solidarity model. Her work took a wide perspective of what constitutes human rights, ranging from direct violence and oppression to rights to land and indigenous identity and culture. She believes strongly in the importance of ally-ship, solidarity and horizontal movement-building in creating a world that is just and fair for everybody. From 2012 to 2013, she interned at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands. Working in the Office of the Secretariat of the Trust Fund for Victims, she aided in the drafting of legal filings and supported the operational responsibilities of the team, including event planning and network building. Most recent ly, she spent four months in Ecuador sup-

porting the political advocacy of an international non-profit dedicated to providing legal aid to refugees and asylum seekers in their first country of arrival. She came back to Australia with a newfound interest in refugee rights, particularly in the Central American region which has been close to her heart and which experiences ever-more complicated forms of violence. She will focus her master’s research on unaccompanied migrant children from Central America, seeking to contribute to the search for durable solutions in the United States and Mexico to the increasing number of people fleeing violence and seeking international protection. Her interests continue to lie in human rights in the Americas and North-South relations, focusing on solidarity relationships and non-violent support for human rights movements. She hopes to continue this journey after finishing her degree at UQ with greater knowledge and a growing network of allies and friends.



# SAI WON LATT



**Sponsor Club:**  
The Rotary Club of Medina Sunrise  
Ohio, District 6630  
**Host Club:**  
Brisbane Centenary Rotary Club,  
Mt Ommaney, District 4067

Sai was born in Eastern Shan State, Myanmar and has experienced the effect of war since he was small. He was left to stay with his grandparents

when he was around 3 years old when his father who is a soldier went to frontline has gone missing and while his mother left to work in Thailand to earn for family living.

After his high school he worked in construction sites to earn for his further study and partially volunteered as a teacher, teaching Shan Language to children. Later in 2011, he was selected to attend Basic English and Computer training in Thailand. Afterward, he joint with local NGOs and work on different issues while seeking for opportunity for further study as he believed that he will be able to devote more for the communities if he has experience and knowledge.

He got a scholarship on 2006 and studied BA in Art of Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Rangsit University in Thailand. Upon his graduation, he worked with Youth Empowerment Program and provided empowerment trainings to

young people around Myanmar while partially volunteered as a Regional Strategic Team for Me kong Peace Journey: a peace program for youth in Mekong Region. Later in 2013, he worked as a peace project manager and deeply involved in peace issues especially providing peace knowledge, proposing peace initiatives and peace related activities.

In 2014, he started his MA degree as a Rotary Peace Fellow Program in Peace and Conflict Resolution at the University of Queensland and during his internship; he worked with Peace and Human Rights Institute of Mahidol University in Thailand which actively engaged in dialogue for reconciling different faiths' groups in Southern Thailand. Currently he is recommencing his study in UQ with the expectation of gaining more knowledge to combine with the experience gained from field work to apply in peace process in his country in the near future.



# MELANIE LINDAYEN



**Sponsor Club:**  
Rotary Club of Alliston,  
Ontario, Canada, District 7070  
**Host Club:**  
Sunnybank Hills, District 9630

Melanie is a Canadian-Filipin@ artist, community development practitioner and Big Dreamer, with a colourful background in program management and education. While learning International Studies in the classroom, Melanie supported rights-based education programs with sex-workers in Thailand and developed creative curricula for women's education programs in Bangladesh. In her adventures with faith-based organizations like Canadian-Jewish NGO, Ve'ahavta, she has mobilized a community arts and sports project with Guyanese youth, facilitated dental health programs with internally displaced communities in Kenya, and supported a network of multi-faith partnerships for health, education, disaster response and interfaith cooperation.

Meditating on her experiences in community and faith-based models of humanitarian action, Melanie is excited about gender-aware and interfaith approaches to collaborative development as pathways to Peace! She is accompanied in this journey by her practical Lover, John, who travels

with her all over as she engages with women's groups, youth and faith communities, leveraging social justice, interfaith cooperation and the arts as platforms for peace-building. The latest learnings come from her fieldwork with the UN Development Programme's Regional Hub for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Istanbul. There Melanie worked in capacity development, gathering best practices throughout a new cycle of UN Development Assistance Frameworks, across government/partner relations with UN Country Teams, and for aligning regional country programming with the next generation of sustainable development goals. Set loose in the Balkans, she collected narratives of peace, layered with recent conflict, ethnicity, faith, as well as hope about the processes and rituals, the dialogue and dances which disrupt the way we see our Selves - and our Others.

Melanie is also energized by large rooms of people painting messy pictures of peace (and other shapes of change) together. Welcome!



# NELSON ROSA VIEIRA



**Sponsor Club:**  
Campo Limpo, Sao Paulo, Brazil,  
District 4610  
**Host Club:**  
Wishart, AUS, District 9630

Nelson is a Peace Fellow from Sao Paulo, Brazil. Before coming to UQ he worked in Haiti for one year as a United Nations Police Officer, engaged in the efforts to stabilize the country and develop the capacities of the Haitian National Police. From 2010 to 2011 he worked in East Timor, with the United Nations Integrated Mission, also in the initiative to build the capacity of the Timor National Police, helping transforming it in a professional and democratic institution. In order to acquire more knowledge and experience, Nelson went to The Hague, joining a one month training program in Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction, with International Peace and Security Institute. He also took Security Sector Reform training in Sweden, with the Folke Bernadotte Academy, to deepen his understanding of the principles and dynamics of informing institutional change in the area of democratic security. Before joining UN missions, he had worked for 14 years as a Police Manager in Sao Paulo, involved in community policing

and human rights education for law enforcement agents. In the future, Nelson intends to apply the knowledge and experience acquired and refined through the Rotary Peace Fellowship in international security sector and police reform programs. He is interested in exploring the role of democratic and professional rule of law and security institutions in peace-building processes and impacts on nurturing peaceful communities. Also, for his Applied Field Experience, Nelson worked at the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. There he was involved in the preparations to the conference "R2P at 10: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities in the Asia-Pacific" aimed at deepen knowledge and advance policy on the Responsibility to Protect principle and mass atrocities prevention and response in the Asia Pacific region.

Nelson has been married to Andreia for nine years now. Their son's name is Lucas.



# CARLO SALTER



**Sponsor Club:**  
Southern Pines, USA, District 7690  
**Host Club:**  
Loganholme, AUS, District 9630

Carlo was born in Italy to a bicultural family, having a father from the United States and an Italian mother. His childhood and teen years were spent in Italy, being exposed to multiple European cultures. He then enrolled in college to study International Studies at Niagara University and his keen interest in international affairs and foreign languages landed him opportunities to study abroad in Spain and Mexico.

While studying for his Bachelor's degree, he also earned a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army in the specialty of Field Artillery. For the past 8 years, Carlo has served in the US Army filling in all typical roles young officers have. He has deployed to two conflict areas in the Middle East and Southwest Asia (Iraq & Afghanistan). In both capacities, he worked as a Combat Advisor to local forces, requiring not only extensive professional training, but also training in the culture, language and customs of each country. He relied on the cultural training and his experiences

abroad to foster enduring relationships with his Iraqi and Afghan Army counterparts, being able to successfully complete his mission. Carlo's interests are in civil-military cooperation and the resolution of conflict related to the extractive industries. These interests allowed him to conduct his Applied Field Experience in the South American nation of Peru, where he worked with the Office for National Dialogue and Sustainability (ONDS)

Thanks to his language skills and UQ studies, he was able to immerse himself into the social and political landscape of Peru, and gain a better understanding of the successful work the ONDS is conducting in preventing, managing and resolving conflict in Peru.

He is very much looking forward to sharing experiences with other Rotary Peace Fellows and acquiring new tools to improve his expertise in conflict mediation, cross-cultural communication/understanding and corporate social responsibility.



# YOKO TAKAZAWA



**Sponsor Club:**  
Tokyo Shinagawa Chuo, Japan  
District 2750

**Host Club:**  
Ashgrove/The Gap, District 9600

Originally from Tokyo, Japan, Yoko graduated from Sophia University in Tokyo with a BA degree in Sociology. Yoko first worked at an International NGO in Japan and was dispatched to Aceh, Indonesia, where she was influenced by the independence movement, to implement an emergency correspondence project for the Sumatra Earthquake and Tsunami victims in 2005. She then moved to East Timor in order to work for an income generation project for vulnerable coffee farmers until she was forced to evacuate due to the internal conflict in 2006. This incident was the trigger for her interest in the field of peace and conflict resolution. She started her work as a development consultant in 2009. Her first work in consultancy was participating in a project to dismantle retired nuclear submarines in the Russian Federation funded by the Government of Japan aiming to prevent proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). Subsequently, she was assigned to a community mediation project in Nepal to build a peaceful and harmonious society through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

mechanisms. This project was developed in cooperation with the Government of Nepal and funded by the Government of Japan.

Yoko conducted her AFE at The Partnerships Group/Japan Unit, The Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York, USA from December 2014 to February 2015. This experience equipped her with new perspectives from the upstream of multi-lateral aid towards international cooperation, an aspect which she had not had previous exposure to in her previous career.

With the newly acquired academic knowledge and experiences lived in this program, Yoko wishes to become a highly skilled peace-building/conflict resolution specialist. She intends to maximize her impact by utilizing available resources in order to respond to the specific needs of the localities and beneficiaries in a fragile local context thanks to her ability to analyze complex and interrelated factors.



# CHRISTOPHER ZAMBAKARI



**Sponsor Club:**  
Club of Sun City West, Arizona,  
USA, District 5490

**Host Club:**  
Rotary Club of Redland Sunrise,  
Queensland, Australia, District 9630

Dr. Christopher Zambakari is a South Sudanese-American, who emigrated to the United States in 2001 as a refugee. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Arizona State University (USA), MBA in International Finance from University of Buckingham (UK), and a Doctorate in Law and Policy (LP.D) from Northeastern University (USA). Christopher served as the National Student Representative for the 27th Division of the American Psychological Association (2007-2009), Organizing Team Leader during Arizona State University's Annual Summer Institute on Community (2006-2007), and Director of Career and Student Services at the European School of Economics New York (2008-2010). He is one of the Board Members for the Sudan Studies Association (SSA) and the University-Community Partnership for Social Action Research (UCP-SARnet). In 2007, he helped organize events and lobbied U.S. Congress to support the UN Peacekeep-

ing Mission in Sudan. He is currently teaching as a Faculty in the Executive Global MBA and PhD Programs at Minhaj University Lahore (MUL) in Pakistan and at Cambridge Graduate University (CGU) in the United States. From October 2014 to February 2015, he worked with the Berghof Foundation in Germany on the National Dialogue Support in the Middle East and North Africa. At Berghof he conducted thematic research, contributed input papers, produced actor and position mappings, analyses on sequencing of democratic transitions, and conflicts in the Middle East (i.e. Yemen, Lebanon, Jordan) and North Africa (i.e. Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia). His research is in policy studies, political reform and socio-economic development, modern political and legal thought, governance and democracy, postcolonial violence, and nation-building projects in Africa and in the Middle East. His work has been published in law, economic, and public policy journals.



# CLASS XIII (2015-2016)

## MARIA CARUSO



**Sponsor Club:** Newburg, Oregon USA, District 5100  
**Host Club:** Pine Rivers, AUS, District 9600

Maria Caruso is from Portland, Oregon. She attended the University of San Francisco where she received her BA in Politics and Middle Eastern studies with a focus on Public Service. While in school she spent time studying Contemporary Islam in Washington, D.C., Jordan, and Egypt. While in Egypt, she became fascinated with the complexities of international affairs and the influence of religiosity in politics - particularly in the Middle East. Shortly after graduating, she moved to Cairo, Egypt to study Arabic and to immerse herself in the cultural experiences and daily life of the Arab world. After leaving the Middle East, she relocated to Syracuse in upstate New York, with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. During her year of service she worked for Catholic Charities as an Outreach Worker in their Emergency Services Program, working primarily with families being evicted from their homes and gaining a new understanding of the struggles of domestic urban poverty.

Most recently she has been living in Boston, Massachusetts, and working at Crittenton Women's Union, a family homeless shelter that provides a safety net for those most in need and also innovative solutions to help women and their families attain economic independence. Additionally, she interned for a start-up non-profit called Prosperity Catalyst, which serves women in impoverished countries and seeks to equip them with the tools and training to become independent entrepreneurs as well as leaders and catalysts for social change in their communities. There she worked in development and communications, helping to raise money and awareness for the work of the organization.

She is passionate about women's rights and hopes to translate her experience working with families in crisis to a more international scope, focusing specifically on crisis zones in the Middle East.

## GINA FU



**Sponsor Club:** San José Silicon Valley, District 5170  
**Host Club:** Toowong, AUS, District 9600

Gina is an American of Chinese descent who was born and raised in California. She completed her undergraduate degree at San José State University (SJSU) where she double majored in Global Studies and Japanese language. While at SJSU, Gina studied abroad for an academic year at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. After graduating, she worked at a local non-profit organization and supported the educational and developmental needs of underprivileged children (ages 1-14) from immigrant families. Gina then lived and worked independently as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ukraine for the next two years. She taught English as the primary assignment and developed new learning resources for the classroom in addition to implementing civic initiatives to respond to community needs and interests as her secondary assignments. Upon returning to the states, Gina joined an online educational

platform with the goal of bridging the achievement gap in education back home by building Common Core State Standards aligned curricula from the ground up for over 1.8 million student users in grades K-8 in over 36,000 schools. Gina is excited to have been selected as a Rotary Peace Fellow at the University of Queensland in Australia and hopes to increase her knowledge and skills in order to be more deeply involved with youth development and community empowerment in underrepresented regions.

Gina enjoys interacting with her community and was a food pantry volunteer. With her two dogs, she also volunteered at a senior citizen home and was part of a reading buddies program. Her other interests include traveling and learning languages. Gina speaks Japanese, Russian, and Cantonese and is currently learning Korean, Spanish, and Mandarin.



## RACHEL HALL BEECROFT



**Sponsor Club:**  
Minneapolis University Rotary Club,  
USA District 5950  
**Host Club:**  
Rotary club of Cleveland, AUS, district  
9630

Rachel Hall Beecroft grew up in Lansing, Michigan and attended college at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She completed high school and college combined in a total of six years, and created an undergraduate major to study Political Science, Management, and Human Rights & Genocide Studies. Shortly after college, she travelled and worked for ten months through the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, the Balkans, India, China, Southeast Asia, and Central America. She spent two months working at a small medical clinic in northern Haiti and another two months in central India working on rural water management. She travelled to Germany, Poland, Slovakia, and Austria, which bear the visible scars of World War II and the Holocaust; to Croatia, Serbia, and Bosnia, which still bore the scars of war and genocide in the former Yugoslavia during the 1990s; to Thailand and Laos, where the people still suffer casualties from lingering undetonated bombs from the Vietnam War; and to Guatemala to learn about a deadly civil war and geno-

cide that didn't officially end until 1995. Rachel then returned to Minneapolis where she worked full-time at World Without Genocide, an anti-genocide organization that achieves its goals through education and political advocacy at local, state, and national levels. At World, Rachel created and implemented a three day, intensive Summer Institute for high school students, where students learn about genocide and the tools to stand up for human rights, both locally and globally. She is passionate about educating and training today's youth to create world change tomorrow. Following her time at World, Rachel picked up her backpack again and travelled in Southeast Asia and Australia for a year and a half before moving to Brisbane to begin her studies. Following this program, Rachel hopes to work as an unarmed civilian peacekeeper, creating peace in conflict zones. She dreams of working at the World Bank someday, playing a role in genocide and atrocity prevention through finance.

## SAILA HUUSKO



**Sponsor Club:**  
Luoteis-Helsingin Rotaryklubi, Helsinki,  
Finland, District 1420  
**Host Club:**  
Rotary club of Logan, AUS, District  
9630

Saira Huusko is a 2014.5 graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism Master of Science documentary program, and a recent fellow at Al Jazeera America and the GroundTruth Project at GlobalPost. Originally from Finland, she previously worked for three years as a videographer and multimedia producer for Crisis Management Initiative, a conflict resolution NGO founded by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Martti Ahtisaari. While there, she covered stories and led participatory media and video mediation workshops in South Sudan, Afghanistan, Liberia, and the Middle East - among

other places. Currently, she's working on a feature documentary titled Remember My Name. Remember My Name, co-directed with Jasper Rischen, follows the story of the presidential elections in the Navajo Nation, the largest Native American tribe in the United States. She graduated magna cum laude from Middlebury College with a BA in Political Science and Film and Media Culture. She completed high school at the Mahindra United World College of India, and has also worked and studied in Chile and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## NADIA MAHMOOD



**Sponsor Club:** Charleswood, Winnipeg  
MB, Canada, District 5550  
**Host Club:** Brisbane Planetarium Club,  
AUS, District 9600

Nadia Mahmood is a first generation Canadian, raised in an interfaith and intercultural home. Nadia has travelled, volunteered and worked in more than 30 countries. During her dual Bachelor's degree in Inter na-

tional Development and Political Science, Nadia interned in Pakistan with two NGOs, one providing education for child labourers and the other advocating for the rights of landless and stateless communities. After graduating in 2003, Nadia taught English in Nepal and Taiwan, and volunteered with the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata, India. She then worked in the field of women's rights and community development in Afghanistan with the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED). Next, she spent several years as a Program Coordinator for Medical Emergency Relief International (MERLIN), implementing emergency health, water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS and sexual and gender-based violence prevention programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo, followed by coordinating disaster relief operations for flood victims Pakistan's Baluchistan province. Since returning to Canada, Nadia has been working as the Manager of Diversity and Intercultural

Services at Red River College in Winnipeg, designing and implementing programs to support refugee, immigrant and international students, create inclusive learning environments and build intercultural understanding. She has also been an active member grassroots organisations analysing the impacts of immigration and settlement policy and advocating for the fair treatment of newcomers in Canada. She has also served as a board member for Humankind International, a group including former University of Queensland Peace Fellows, implementing a peacebuilding Early Childhood Education program in Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya. Nadia is extremely grateful to Rotary and the University of Queensland to have this opportunity to process and unpack her experiences, learn together about how to more effectively address root causes of conflict and oppression and continue working towards creating a more just and equitable world.

## JENICA MOORE



**Sponsor Club:**  
Comstock Park, USA, District 6290  
**Host Club:**  
Brisbane Inner West, AUS  
District 6900

Jenica Marie hails from District 6290, representing clubs from north-west Michigan and Canada. As an Ambassadorial Scholar to Jordan in 2007, she worked with children at the Madaba Youth Center. While there, she created a youth program on economic development and sustainability. Since then, she has worked to create social justice organizations on Western Michigan University's campus for undergraduate and graduate students, providing participants with educational, leadership, and internship opportunities. Jenica is most interested in studying conflict and security in the Middle East. Particularly, she is interested in aspects of ethnic conflict such as

determining the predictability of violent outbreaks, measuring the influence of groups during times of tensions, and assessing the international implications of seemingly localized violence. She is also eager to explore the insights of conflict prevention that game theory may offer. Political economy is also an important aspect of her studies.

Dancing, sports, and musical theater are among her favorite activities. She is thankful for the support that her district has given her over the years, and she is looking forward to her studies at the University of Queensland.



## KATIE ROUGVIE



**Sponsor Club:** Yorkshire, UK, district 1040  
**Host Club:** Mount Gravatt, AUS, district 9630

Katie is from the United Kingdom, and is coming to UQ thanks to the support of local Rotary International District 1040 of Yorkshire, England. She has spent the past five years bu-

ilding a career in humanitarian assistance in conflict-affected countries. She specialises in the area of prevention and response to Gender-based Violence (GBV) and is passionate about the promotion of women's rights.

In 2010 she graduated with a degree in Interpreting and Translating (French and Spanish with a smattering of Arabic) from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland. Having already spent time in India working on education projects, she decided to change direction from languages towards humanitarian assistance, peace and security issues, and took up an internship with the UN Department of Peace-keeping Operations (DPKO) in New York. Here, she was exposed to issues around military and civilian response to conflict-related sexual violence and worked on policy concerning the operationalization of Protection of Civilians within UN DPKO mandates. This sparked her passion for the Women,

Peace and Security agenda. Following this she moved to Jordan to work with a UN agency on security and protection issues across the Middle-East, focusing on Palestine refugees. She then moved to DR Congo where she worked with an international NGO on election issues and was inspired by the work of women's political empowerment groups. Her following mission was to Liberia, where she worked on emergency Child Protection programmes for an INGO, supporting Ivorian refugee children and Liberian host communities. She then moved to South Sudan where she implemented GBV prevention and response programmes for an INGO.

Her most recent mission was to the Central African Republic, where she spent 15 months overseeing an INGO's GBV and Protection department, and led the national coordination of humanitarian response to GBV during and following the transition to L3 emergency.

## NABI SAHAK



**Sponsor Club:** Great Falls, USA, district 7610  
**Host Club:** Brisbane High Rise, AUS, district 9600

Nabi was born in Kabul Afghanistan. Before migrating to the United States, he lived in Afghanistan for nearly 30 years, and witnessed five regime changes: the Soviet war from 1979 to 1989, the post-communist government from 1989 to 1992, the civil war from 1992 to 1996, the Taliban government from 1996 to 2001, and finally the Karzai government. He speaks four South Asian languages fluently: Pash-tu/Pukhtu, Dari, Farsi, and Urdu. Pash-tu and Dari are the formal languages of Afghanistan, Farsi is the formal language of Iran, and Urdu is the formal language of Pakistan. From 1997 until 2002 he worked as a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reporter. In his capacity as a BBC reporter, he travelled to 27 provinces of Afghanistan (out of 34) when the Taliban ruled the country. He also travelled extensively among numerous refugee camps throughout Pakistan.

As a BBC reporter, his primary task was to conduct focus groups, interviews, and surveys to collect and analyze data for the BBC's Afghan Educational Project (BBC-AEP). Throughout those five years, he learned about the governments, cultures, master narratives, societal norms, philosophical and anthropological makeup of the societies in South Asia, specifically those in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He immigrated to the U.S. in 2002. In the U.S., he worked with the U.S. military as a civilian contractor in multiple roles. Upon obtaining his U.S. citizenship in 2006, he began the immigration process of his immediate family members to the U.S. From 2006 to 2013, he successfully migrated 27 members of his family from Afghanistan to the United States as refugees. Nabi Sahak is magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University, United States.

## MEGAN SMITH



**Sponsor Club:** Eugene Metro Club, Oregon, USA, district 5110  
**Host Club:** Balmoral club and Brisbane Centenary, AUS, district 9600

Megan Smith is an English-American human rights activist who has a background in leading exchange and development programs within Central and South Asia, the Middle East, Northern Africa and South America. Megan has a early background working within primary schools in Costa Rica and Peru to improve the inclusion of children with developmental disabilities in mainstream education. Her passion for education transferred to her work in Nepal where she taught primary school to young monks and to children living within orphanages outside of Pokhara. For the past four years, she has worked with the disability rights organization Mobility International USA as an expert in cross-disability inclusion and has led U.S. Department of State-sponsored exchange programs for professionals, youth, and women with disabilities inbound to the U.S and outbound to the Middle East and Europe. In addition, she has also coordinated international

leadership programs, which brought together grassroots women leaders with disabilities from Africa, Asia/Pacific, Latin America, and the Middle East. With a passion for implementing inclusive development practices, Megan has recently worked to make health care clinics and programs accessible to women with disabilities in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Working with local advocacy organizations in Pakistan and with local women with disabilities, Megan conducted workshops training healthcare providers and humanitarian aid workers in creating inclusive reproductive health, vocational training and disaster risk reduction programs. While in Afghanistan, Megan worked with landmine survivors in rural Ghazni and Mazar-e-Sharif, focusing on improving access to family planning and psychosocial support programs. A wheelchair user herself, Megan is an avid traveller and adores discovering new street foods

## PEM WANGDI



**Sponsor Club:** Rotary Club of Thimphu  
**Host Club:** Rotary Club of Kenmore, AUS, district 9600

Pem is from Bhutan and a mother of two. She recently worked with the United Nations Development Programme in Bhutan where she headed the Management Support Unit overseeing its programme and programme financial management and providing quality assurance support.

Pem has an undergraduate degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from the Rangsit University, Thailand, and a Masters' in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University in the US. Her Masters' paper focused on the Impact of Integrated Community Development Projects on Gender Relations.

Prior to working with the United Nations Development Programme, Pem worked with the National Commission for Women and Children, (NCWC), Bhutan's first and only human rights organization looking after the rights of both women and children, an area of focus she wants to return to after being in management

for the past 5 years. Pem's work at the NCWC included working with the judiciary and the police in reviewing existing legal and police processes and advocating for their reform to make them more women and children friendly, and a local NGO (RE-NEW) to expand its outreach and rehabilitation programmes. Her work also included meeting victims of violence (mostly domestic violence) the youngest being only 6 months, in order to document their stories to support future policy development (Bhutan now as a Domestic Violence Prevention Act.)

Pem firmly believes that the Fellowship and the degree in international relations (peace and conflict resolution) will expand her capacity and working opportunities. She is positive that the opportunity provided by this fellowship will give her more grounding and more substantive knowledge and skills to work on issues of peace and conflict resolution in cultural settings very different from her own.



## AUNTY FLO WATSON



Acknowledgement of Country

Aunt Flo Watson is a traditional owner and Elder of the Ghunghanghi People of Yarrabah, North Queensland and also affiliates with the Kuku-yelan-gi People of Laura/Maytown, Palmer River area and the Wulguru Kaba People of Magnetic Island near Townsville. Over the course of her career, Aunt Flo has worked in numerous capacities in both the public and private sectors with the aim of cultivating awareness and education around Indigenous Australian issues and cultures. She has been the Principal Director of the Jinnaddiran Training and Consultancy Services to develop and deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Cross Cultural Awareness Training. In addition to her consultancy work with a wide variety of public and private sector clients, Aunt Flo has also served as a part-time lecturer at The University of Queensland and Bond University and has also dedicated herself to numerous boards, including her current board leadership position with the Teralba Park Stolen Generations Support Group. Most recently this year during Australia Day, Aunt Flo received an Order of Australia award for her services to the Indigenous communities of Queensland.

## AUNTY JEANETTE FABILA



Ochre Acknowledgement Dance

Jeanette Fabila is a teacher, choreographer, cultural consultant and performing artist, specialising in Indigenous Contemporary dance as well as a wife and mother of four children. Jeanette work to promote and maintain her cultural heritage of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Papua New Guinean and South East Asian, through a unique and innovative style of contemporary performance. She also serves as an instructor at the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts and gives guest lectures at both The University of Queensland and Queensland University of Technology.

## DAVID BURGNER



Facilitator - Panel 1

David Burgener is a Class IX Rotary World Peace Fellow from Calgary, Canada. His master's thesis investigated the prospect of group meditation as an approach to de-escalating conflict. Since graduating, David is enrolled in the PhD program with the School of Political Science & International Studies. His current research is on dialogue as an approach to conflict resolution; using a dialogue processed modeled on the work of physicist David Bohm. David is particularly interested in the potential of creativity through dialogue, as well as dialogue a means for building relations within the community.

## DR. NICOLE GEORGE



Facilitator - Panel 2

Nicole George received her PhD from the Department of International Relations in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University in December 2006. Her doctoral research focused on the local, regional and international political agency of Fijibased activists from the period of Pacific decolonization until the present day. In 2007 she was awarded a two-year John Vincent Post-doctoral Fellowship at the ANU. In this period she completed a book manuscript derived from this research entitled *Situating Women: Gender Politics and Circumstance in Fiji*. In 2009 she was awarded a UQ Post-Doctoral Fellowship for Women which has allowed her to pursue a new project on women's collaborative peace-building efforts in the Pacific region. In January 2011, Nicole took up a lecturing post in Peace and Conflict studies with the school. Nicole's research interests are broadly focused on the politics of gender, conflict, violence, peacebuilding and resilience. To date her research has been conducted in the Pacific Region and is theoretically informed by feminist work on questions of political agency and participation. Her recently published book examines the history of women's organizing in post-colonial Fiji against a backdrop of global and local political change. She is writing a new book on gender and peacebuilding in the region which focusses on the ways socio-political factors - faith and culture shape women's peace activism. In 2013 she was awarded a DECRA from the ARC to begin a new project which examines if and how women's political participation provides a platform for resisting gender violence. This project will involve comparative study conducted in New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Fiji. Her direct experience of inundation during the SEQ Floods in 2011, has also prompted her involvement in collaborative work with a team of sociologists from UQ who received Queensland state government funding in 2012 to investigate aspects of disaster resilience. Nicole's work for this project examines the impact of formal and informal community disaster management.

## CASEY CROCKET



Facilitator - Panel 3

Casey Crocket is originally from Michigan, district 6290. For the first six years of her career Casey worked as a teacher of English for non-English speaking youths in Japan, Spain and Texas. Casey came to Australia as part of the Class X Rotary Peace fellows to study Peace and Conflict Resolution at The University of Queensland. Since finishing her masters in July 2013, Casey has been pursuing a career in mediation and has been working for the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney General at the Dispute Resolution Branch. She is a dynamic dispute resolution practitioner trained in facilitation, restorative justice practices and is a nationally accredited mediator. In her spare time Casey works with UQ Development as a development assistant welcoming people from other countries to Australia for academic exchange and helping to foster better relations between countries. Casey also remains active volunteering with the Community Café project bringing together all types of people for dialogue and engaging conversations about important topics. Casey draws on her peace fellow background and mediation skills to build a more peaceful world every day.

## ERICA ROSE JEFFREY



Facilitator - Panel 3

Erica Rose Jeffrey believes in the power of movement connected to positive social change. Involved in multiple communities, she has worked internationally as a performer, choreographer, educator, arts leader and facilitator. The first dancer to be selected as a Rotary World Peace Fellow, she completed a Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies at The University of Queensland. Erica Rose continues to investigate the connections of dance, empathy and peace as a PhD candidate at Queensland University of Technology. She is also currently the Program Coordinator for Dance for Parkinson's Australia and was instrumental in bringing the program to Australia.

## DR. MELISSA CURLEY

**Director**

The University of Queensland  
Rotary Centre for International Studies in Peace and Conflict

Dr. Melissa Curley is Senior Lecturer in International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Studies at The University of Queensland. Prior to her appointment at UQ in 2006, she was a Research Officer at the Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong from 1999-2005. During her time in Hong Kong, she also consulted to the Hong Kong government's Central Policy Unit on Southeast Asian affairs and international relations. Her research and teaching interests include East and Southeast Asian politics and international relations, Cambodian politics, and non-traditional security in East Asia (including trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, health & pandemic disease and child protection issues). Dr. Curley also co-facilitates the UQ Working Group on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling in the T.C. Bernie School of Law. She has published in various international journals including Review of International Studies, Law and Society, and Australian Journal of International Affairs, and has spoken at many regional security forums. Her most recent book is Migration and Security in Asia (Routledge 2008) with S.L. Wong. She is currently working on a book on civil society in post-conflict reconstruction and democratisation in Cambodia. Dr Curley holds a BA (Hons) in Government from UQ, and a PhD in International Relations from Nottingham Trent University (UK).

## MARIAN OPHOF

**Administrative Officer**

The University of Queensland  
Rotary Centre for International Studies in Peace and Conflict

Marian Ophof commenced as the Student Enquiries Officer at the School of Political Science and International Studies in April 2011. As part of this role Marian provides administrative support to the Rotary Peace Centre at The University of Queensland. Marian supports the Director, by administering the Applied Fieldwork Experience program, organising orientation, induction and welcome events for commencing peace fellows, answering queries and advising peace fellows of application processes and admission procedures, assisting with the coordination of site visits and acting as the contact person for queries from past, current and future fellows. Marian has been with The University of Queensland for nearly six years now, with most of her experience gained in the areas of Client Service and Student Enquiries across three Faculties. Prior to this, Marian's experience was mostly within the private sector in office/financial management.

## NICHOLAS CURRY


**Rotary International Host  
Area Coordinator**  
Peace Fellow Program,  
Queensland

Born in the UK, Nick met Jan, a Queenslander, and married her in 1973. Six years later they migrated to Brisbane. Their only child, Alexis, was born in Brisbane in December that year. In 1987, Nick joined Rotary as the charter secretary of the Rotary Club of Brisbane Centenary. He has held numerous positions within the club including President, Secretary, Treasurer, and director of most committees during the 27 years of the club's existence. In 2009-10 Nick was the District Governor of District 9630 - a highlight in his Rotary career and one of his most rewarding periods in Rotary. Previously at district level he was involved on committees for Rotary Foundation, Youth Exchange, RYLA and as District Chairman of the Public Relations Committee. In addition, he served as District Treasurer for two terms of three years and as Assistant Governor. Currently, Nick is the Host Area Coordinator for the Peace Fellow Programme in Queensland but is also the Rotary District Probus Chair, the Polio Plus chair and sits on the Australian Rotary Health district committee. He is part of the Rotary Leadership Institute team to mentor potential Rotary leaders in the district. He has been an active supporter of the Peace Fellow program in Brisbane over several years, encouraging his club's involvement, and has also recently been a Peace Fellow counsellor. Nick was honoured by his club in 1997 with a Paul Harris Fellow and has twice been awarded 'clubman of the year'. In 2005, Nick was awarded an Australia Day Achievement Medallion in recognition for outstanding service to the Tax Office Community. Nick and Jan are members of the Paul Harris Society and are major donors to and Bequest Society members of the Rotary Foundation. Professionally, Nick joined the Australian Taxation Office in 1980. He completed a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Queensland in June 1986. He is a Fellow of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants and also a JP (Qual). Following his retirement from the ATO, he worked for more than five years as a consultant to several Queensland Government departments.

## EMILY RUF


**Rotary Peace Centers  
Specialist**

Emily Ruf is the Rotary Peace Centers Specialist for The University of Queensland and works collaboratively with the RPC Team. She is dedicated to increasing access to international educational opportunities and brings to this position her experience in cross-cultural study, college access, and higher education administration. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages and Literature from Kenyon College, a liberal arts institution in Gambier, OH. Her focus on Spanish and Japanese languages led her to spend a year studying and living in Lima, Peru. While in Lima, she volunteered with the APJ (la Asociación Peruano Japonesa), a nonprofit organization that aims to ensure the general welfare of the Japanese Peruvian community.

Emily is currently working to receive a Master of Science in Higher Education Administration and Policy from Northwestern University. She lives in the city of Chicago and enjoys reading, honing her ukulele skills, and knitting sweaters in her free time.



# THANK YOU

Rotary Peace Fellows Class XII would like to thank UQ and Rotary Peace Centre staff and faculty for their help and support our tenure at The University of Queensland.

**Melissa Curley**  
Director, UQ Rotary Peace Centre

**Nick Curry**  
Host Area Coordinator for the Rotary Peace Fellows Program

**Marian Ophof**  
Administrative Assistant, UQ Rotary Peace Centre

**Our Rotary Host Counselors**

**Debra McKenzie**  
Senior Administrative Officer, UQ School of Political Science and International Studies

**Shaughn Forbes**  
Rotary District rep. Rotary Advisory Board

**Anne Brand**  
Rotary District rep. Rotary Advisory Board

**Jake Diefenbach**  
For providing musical entertainment during Morning Tea

**Natalia Meira & Yesenia Leon**  
For providing logo & layout assistance

**Our "Groupies"**  
Cassey, Ri, Joe, Sultan, Rachel, Fiona, Jake, Erick, Sherry & all the former Peace Fellows that have not escaped (!)

**Anyone we may have forgotten!**

# 2002 - 2014

## Class I

Matthew Bright (USA, District 6440)  
Francesca Del Mese (UK, District 1260)  
Carolyn Fanelli (USA, District 7710)  
Path Heang (Cambodia, District 3350)  
Ryan Hendy (Canada, District 6400)  
Amy Kay (USA, District 7600)  
Sophia Knöchel Ledberg (Sweden, District 2350)  
Rebecca Milligan (USA, District 6310)  
Christian Oakes (USA, District 6970)

## Class II

Brian Adams (USA, District 6360)  
Yoshio Chikamatsu (Japan, District 2580)  
Noëlle DePape (Canada, District 5550)  
Mariano Griva (Argentina, District 4880)  
Sanjana Hattotuwa (Sri Lanka, District 3220)  
Josephine Manuel (Philippines, District 3790)  
Colin Spurway (UK, District 1010)

## Class III

Larissa Bruun (Finland, District 1380)  
Alessandro de Carvalho Souza (Brazil, District 4480)  
Karla Castellanos (USA, District 6990)  
Jude Sebastian Ewing (UK, District 1180)  
Arik Gultar-Ofir (Israel, District 2490)  
Santosh Mehra (India, District 3150)  
Godfrey Mukalazi (Uganda, District 9200)  
Maria Fernanda Salina (Argentina, District 4880)  
Maiko Shimizu (Japan, District 2590)  
Sukthawee Suwannachairop (Thailand, District 3340)

## Class IV

Leah Aylward (USA, District 5440)  
Mayumi Futamura (Canada, District 5360)  
John Foster (USA, District 6780)  
Mneesha Gellman (USA, District 5130)  
Mohamad Taib Hampden (Malaysia, District 3300)  
Sallie Lacy (USA, District 7690)  
Ólöf Magnúsdóttir (Iceland, District 1630)  
Akiko Okudaira (Japan, District 2750)  
Robert Opira (Uganda, District 9200)  
Vadim L. Ostrovsky (Ukraine, District 7570)  
Amanda Rader (USA, District 7390)  
Perth Rosen (USA, District 5340)  
Etsuko Teranishi (Japan, District 2660)  
Mandi Anne Vuinovich (USA, District 5650)  
Sukthawee)

## Class V

Peter Emberson (Fiji, District 9920)  
Andrea Fanta (USA, District 6760)  
Cássio Furtado (Brazil, District 4680)  
Rita Gonzales (USA, District 6910)  
Vikas Gora (India, District 3020)  
Sheunesu Hove (Zimbabwe, District 9210)  
Christopher Moore (USA, District 5340)  
Cecilia Lwiindi Nedziwe (South Africa, District 9250)  
Ville-Veikko Pitkänen (Finland, District 1430)  
Kristin Post (USA, District 7710)

## Class VI

Lydia Blumer (UK, District 1250)  
Kathryn Clark (USA, District 6540)  
Virorth Doung (Cambodia, District 3350)  
Veronica Hynes (Argentina, District 4860)  
Kevin Melton (USA, District 7610)  
Ryan Moore (Northern Ireland, District 1160)  
Matias Omar (Tanzania, District 9200)  
Emily Todd (USA, District 6560)  
Tamara Turcan (Netherlands, District 1600)  
Janelle Weissman (USA, District 5450)  
Marcos Zunino (Argentina, District 4820)

## Class VII

Teddy Foday-Musa (Sierra Leone, District 1550)  
Rose Foley (Scotland, District 1230)  
Joseph Hongoh (Kenya, District 9200)  
Fanneý Karlsdóttir (Iceland, District 1360)  
David Kozar (USA, District 5710)  
David LaMotte (USA, District 7670)  
Jeneice Olsen (USA, District 5950)  
Pamela Padilla (Phillippines, District 3800)  
Zuzana Petovska (Slovak Republic, District 2240)

## Class VIII

Giorgio Algeri (Italy, District 2110)  
Bryn Cain (USA, District 5750)  
Joseph DeVoir (USA, District 6360)  
Yuka Kaneko (Japan, District 2750)  
Matti Karvanen (Finland, District 1420)  
Jake Kurtzer (USA, District 7620)  
Humaira Shafi (Pakistan, District 3270)  
Sanaz Shahrokni (Iran, District 1780)

## Class IX

James Abraham (USA, District 7490)  
Abdikheir Ahmed (Kenya, District 5550)  
Luladay Aragaw Truneh (Ethiopia, District 9200)  
Pantea Beigi (USA, District 5450)  
Dave Burgener (Canada, District 9600)  
Lucindia Garrido (District 9780)  
Cody Griggers (Ireland, District 5790)  
Summer Lewis (USA, District 5710)  
Melanie Moore (District 7570)  
Maki Mizono-Shaw (Japan, District 2760)  
Erla Sigurdardottir (Iceland, District 1360)

## Class X

Paul Conroy (USA, District 5950)  
Casey Crocket (USA, District 6290)  
Chantelle Doerksen (USA, District 5300)  
Erica Rose Jeffrey (USA, District 5150)  
Naing Ko Ko (Myanmar, District 9920)  
Nissa Rhee (USA, District 3650)  
Ana Maria Rodriguez Contreras (Colombia, District 4290)  
Richard Roeder (Germany, District 1840)  
Rabi Shah (Nepal, District 3292)  
Mohsen Solhdoost (Iran, District 9630)  
Solveig Björk Sveinbjörnsdóttir (Iceland, District 1360)

## Class XI

Marion Akiteng (Uganda, District 1570)  
Diego Casagrande (Italy, District 1130)  
Zsofia Anna Daboczy (Hungary, District 1911)  
Bremen de Haan (USA, District 7640)  
Christel Greiner Butchart (USA, District 7710)  
Marius Koestler (Norway, District 2310)  
Athili Anthony Sapriina (India, District 7410)  
Ioannis Marios Sarikas (Greece, District 2481)  
Omayma Sawaed (Israel, District 9600)  
Christophe Stiernon (Belgium, District 2170)  
Shruti Upadhyay (India, District 3050)





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