Looking Back, Moving Forward:

A Call to Action

ROTARY PEACE FELLOWS

CLASS XIV

ANNUAL SEMINAR 8 APRIL 2017

Acknowledgement of Country

As Rotary Peace Fellows from around the world, we acknowledge the Turrbal and Jagera people, the Traditional Owners of the land on which The University of Queensland is situated. We wish to pay respect to ancestors and Elders, past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

As Peace Fellows, we are committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique relationships to the land, waters and seas and rich contribution to society.

As such, we acknowledge the First Australians as the traditional custodians of the continent, whose cultures are among the oldest living cultures in human history, and we are very grateful for the relationships and teachings we have experienced on your land.

PROGRAM

10:30 - 11:00 am Arrival & Registration
Tea & coffee available upon arrival

11:00 - 12:15 pm Opening Remarks & Introduction

Welcome to Country - Songwoman Maroochy Senior UQ Representative - Professor Cindy Shannon Senior Rotary Representative - PRIP Glen Kinross Director, Rotary Peace Centre UQ - Dr Morgan Brigg Rotary Host Area Coordinator - Anne Brand OAM UQ Peace Fellow Representative - Catrina Ziesman

12:15 - 1:15 pm Presentations and Panel Q & A

Tony Zhang Han Alexandra Sajben Folashade Samuel Catrina Ziesman Panel Q & A

1:15 - 2:15 pm Lunch

2:15 - 3:15 pm Presentations and Panel Q & A

Laurie Smolenski Mong Marma Daniel Castanheira Johannes Dehler Panel Q & A

3:15 - 3:30 pm Break

3:30 - 4:15 pm Presentations and Panel Q & A

Nadia Mahmood Kristina Sintia Dewi Leanne Simon Panel Q & A

4:15 - 4:30 pm Collective Call to Action

4:30 - 4:45 pm Closing Remarks & Recognitions

4:45 - 6:00 pm Social Evening

Welcome from the Director

Dr Morgan Brigg

Director (2017), The University of Queensland Rotary Peace Centre

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



As Director of The University of Queensland (UQ) Rotary Peace Centre for 2017, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the fourteenth annual Peace Fellows Seminar, especially so in the centennial year of the Rotary Foundation. The centennial is an important

opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable foresight that led to the establishment of the foundation, and the ongoing leadership and generosity that sustains Rotary's global impacts. I want to pay particular tribute to individual Rotarians for upholding and living the value of service above self, for this value is surely a foundational underpinning for the pursuit of sustainable peace.

The Rotary Peace Fellows seminar is always a highly anticipated one within the School of Political Science and International Studies. It is an occasion that allows our Class XIV Peace Fellows to present their experiences and learning to a wider audience of Rotarians, academics, and the general public. We will also introduce to you the Class XV Peace Fellows, who play an important support role in today's activities.

The UQ Rotary Peace Centre was established at The University of Queensland in 2002, after an extensive worldwide 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.

The Class XIV Peace Fellows have chosen 'Looking Back, Moving Forward' as the theme for this year's seminar, no doubt in partial reference to the Rotary Foundation Centennial. As we in the School of Political Science and International Studies look back over the 15 year history of the Rotary Peace Centre at UQ, we are proud of our longstanding association with Rotary. Our centre has now graduated 130 individuals from the Master's program in Peace and Conflict Studies. In July of this year, we expect that figure to rise to 141. Additionally, this program has drawn citizens from over forty countries.

Alongside this record of achievement we are continually evolving and developing our program. Recent developments include the revamping of curriculum to re-interpret the peace and conflict studies field, and linking the Rotary Peace Centre with our other graduate programs within the Graduate Centre in Governance and International Affairs. The Applied Field Experience, which allows our Peace Fellows to extend their professional and practical skills, has also evolved to enable a richer and more flexible experience by reducing administrative burdens while ensuring that our Peace Fellows retain access to academic staff.

The changes to our program in part reflect the overall evolution and achievements of the Rotary Peace Fellowships. Fellows now come to us with greater levels of professional experience, and increasingly tap into a global alumni network in pursuing their professional activities, including the Applied Field Experience. Rotary's broad and ambitious peace agenda is bearing fruit.

The Class XIV Fellows that are presenting today are nearing the completion of their degrees. Many of the presentations today draw not only from the Peace Fellows' studies, but also from the Applied Field Experience undertaken over the summer break.

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. The Peace Fellows Seminar is a vital component of the Fellow's activities in the Rotary Centre. It facilitates the building and maintenance of links between the Rotary Centre and Rotarians. The Seminar is a platform for our Fellows to share their experiences with Rotarians first hand, to hear about how their learning has progressed, and the journey they have embarked on both as scholars and practitioners. It is also the University's way of thanking Rotary for its contributions, support and funding of the program and indeed for its enlightened decision 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 resolution.

Please join with me today in wishing them the very best as they approach the completion of their studies and undertake new challenges in their field.

Statement from the Rotary Host coordinators

Shaughn Forbes

Host Area Coordinator, Peace Fellow Program, Queensland



I joined Rotary in 2003, as many of the tenants of Rotary are part of my personal belief system including "Service above Self." With their commitment to peace, I found it a great organisation, as peace is my passion. I joined the Rotary Club of Ashgrove The Gap. I was very lucky to be working in the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences where Rotary established one of the Peace Centres in 2002 in the School of Politics and International Studies. In this way, two important aspects of my life were joined: my passion for Rotary and the love of my role at the university. I have come to know a large number of the young people who have been selected as Peace Fellows to study at the University over the past 15 years. Also in my role for Rotary I chaired the Scholarships committee for seven years selecting the Australian students to study as Peace Fellows in one of the other five Rotary Centres in other countries of the world.

In my time in Rotary I have held numerous roles including Club President, Group Study Exchange Team Leader to Taiwan, Assistant Governor for three years, and as a District Trainer.

In 2015 I was invited by the Rotary Foundation to become a Reader for their Peace Fellows Program. Along with a group of Rotarians I receive applications for the Peace Fellowship from around the world. Each application is read and graded by two Rotarians on three criteria: commitment to peace and conflict resolution, leadership potential, and compatibility with the ideals of Rotary. I am astounded at the quality of most of the 500+ applicants that we received this year (and in previous years). I believe that with so many exceptionally committed young people I have had the opportunity to meet and support there is real hope for the future of peace on our planet.

There are limited places for the Rotary Peace Fellowship, so those who are successful are truly outstanding.

Anne Brand OAM

Host Area Coordinator, Peace Fellow Program, Queensland



I am an active member of the Rotary Club of Sunnybank Hills and have served in various roles of the Club and District over a number of years, including as President.

A very special Rotary experience for me was serving as District Governor in 2010-11 in District 9630. There was devastating flooding in western Queensland in late 2010, and many Rotarians and members of the public worked hard to raise funds to assist people affected by this disaster and in many other ways.

I completed a Bachelor of Community Welfare at James Cook University. My working career has always been involved in communities. The major area of my career was being appointed the founding Manager/ Coordinator of a community service organization assisting older people,

their carers and people suffering disabilities to remain living in their community. I have been involved with the Rotary Peace Fellow Program for many years commencing as a Counsellor with Class IV and have been a member of the Rotary Advisory Board for a number of years. My husband Ray & I were privileged to attend a graduation day at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Itwas interesting to tour the Peace Centre and meet with Peace Fellows who had completed the three month Professional Development Certificate.

Ray & I are both members of the Bequest Society and Major Donors of the Rotary Foundation. I am also a member of the District Rotary Foundation Committee.

In 2016 I was recognised with a Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service and in the same year recognised as an Order of Australia Member for continuous work in the community through Governance and Leadership.

Welcome from the Peace fellows Class XIV

Catrina Ziesman

Class XIV Representative



We would like to start by communicating an enormous thank you to each and every one of you for sharing in this day with us.

My name is Catrina Ziesman, and I am from Toronto, Canada. It has been an honour to be the Class Representative for Cohort XIV since its inception in February 2016. This has been an outstanding opportunity to facilitate a bright and passionate group of professionals who share common goals and interests, while also working to respect and honour the autonomy and distinctive qualities that brought us here.

Eleven of us Rotary Peace Fellows arrived in Brisbane just over one year ago, eager to undertake our Masters in the University of Queensland's Peace and Conflict Studies program. We were welcomed warmly by past alumni, Rotarians and UQ staff who all assisted in transitioning us from our past journeys, to this big and beautiful island, full of promise.

Our cohort is comprised of Fellows representative of the diversity of our global community. From Nigeria to Germany and Indonesia to Brazil, we are each committed to addressing some of our world's greatest injustices. This passion has carried us through three semesters at UQ, which has included countless essays, Rotary club meetings, engaging classes and most recently, our Applied Field Experiences that saw us travelling, yet again, across the globe.

Over the past year, this cohort has worked diligently to create for you today, a seminar that is representative of individual voices, global stewardship and action-oriented outcomes. It is our hope today to inspire you, in some small way, towards building peace as you continue to move forward in your own journey.

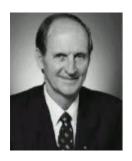
There is no doubt that we are influenced by those closest to us, by our communities and the environment we inhabit. As such, I would personally like to thank Melissa Curley and Anne Brand for their support throughout my personal Peace Fellow journey, assisting where and when they could to ensure a sound experience as Class Representative and as a weary Master's student! Finally, I thank my colleagues in Cohort XIV. It has been both fascinating and dynamic sharing this time together. I am appreciative of your active participation, patience and friendship. It will be a great joy to complete this journey altogether in these next few months.

On behalf of Cohort XIV, we hope very much that you enjoy today's seminar and we thank you again for spending your Saturday with us!

Guests of Honour and Facilitators

Glen Kinross PRIP

Past President of Rotary International



Member, International Polio Plus Committee 2000-2003

Trustee-designate, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, 1999-2003

President, Rotary International, 1997-98

Director, Rotary International, 1982-84, 1996-98

Vice-President, Rotary International 1983-84 On 22nd August 1960, at the age of 29, Glen was inducted as a member of the Rotary Club of Hamilton. In 1965-66, Glen became the president of Hamilton Club. His year as club president was followed by several district appointments. Glen was elected to serve as Governor of District 260 (now 9600) in 1973-74.

In 1975-76, for his outstanding club service, Glen was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow. In addition to receiving the highest recognition obtainable in Rotary, in 1998 he was awarded the Order of Australia for his community service and international relations.

Glen was appointed as a director of Rotary International in 1982. At the international level of Rotary, Glen has served tirelessly in numerous senior roles. The pinnacle of his Rotary service was reached when, on 12 September 1995, he was unanimously selected for the office of International President for 1997-98 as leader of 29,000 Rotary clubs and 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide.

His Rotary International presidency was a source of great pride to all Australian Rotarians. His list of accomplishments is far too many to detail. One project that Glen will always be remembered and recognised for is his work with the low-cost shelter scheme that continues today, and has provided thousands of people from the poorest of regions a home.

In 2015, Glen was admitted into the Rotary Heritage and History Hall of Fame.

Professor Cindy Shannon

Pro-Vice Chancellor, The University of Queensland



Cindy Shannon is a descendent of the Ngugi people from Moreton Island. In 2011 she was appointed as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) at The University of Queensland. She was previously the Director of the Centre for Indigenous Health at The University of Queensland and guided the development and implementation of Australia's first degree level program that specifically targeted Aboriginal health workers. Cindy also has an ongoing affiliation with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health in South East Queensland, having played a key role in its establishment. Cindy has played a key role nationally in Indigenous health policy development and implementation and has undertaken a number of independent primary health care service reviews, including a major report for the 2003

interdepartmental review of primary health care service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Cindy was a member of the National Health and Medical Research Council, and chaired its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Advisory Committee from 2005-2012. She also chaired the National Indigenous Australians' Sexual Health Committee for the period 2001-2008. In 2008, Cindy was appointed chair of the Queensland Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis. She also participated in the 2020 Summit as a member of the group advising on a long term national health strategy.

Class XIV Peace Fellows 2016 - 2017

Daniel Castanheira Brazil





Daniel Castanheira was born in João Pessoa, the capital of Paraiba, a small state in the northeast of Brazil. While being a region rich in natural resources and with breathtaking landscape, it is also a place where social and income inequalities are stark, and communities are consistently affected by droughts. Growing

under this background, he developed a great commitment to social justice.

Daniel graduated in Law in 2008 and soon after started to practice law. Intending to contribute more to his community, a few years later Daniel started to volunteer at a local NGO providing free legal counselling and assisting in organizing capacity-building courses to officers of the Guardianship Councils, which are responsible for providing child protection services in Brazil. In 2015, Daniel was appointed Treasurer of the NGO and a member of the NGO's Board.

After four years of private practice, he left his career as a lawyer and undertook a Masters in International Relations, graduating in 2015. The research he conducted within the program developed his interest in the protection of conflict displaced populations. After completing the Master's program, Daniel did an internship

with the Protection Unit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Brasília, Brazil. Before coming to Australia, he was working as a Protection Assistant at the Institute of Migration and Human Rights.

There, he worked with Refugee Status Determination procedures, specifically by conducting interviews with asylum-seekers, preparing advisory opinions on their eligibility for Asylum and presenting their cases to the Brazilian National Refugee Committee.

During his Applied Field Work experience, Daniel went to Mexico City to work in the asylum unit of the NGO Sin Fronteras. During his internship, Daniel was providing support to legal procedures in asylum cases and assisting with the legal protection of asylum seekers and refugees. Daniel is profoundly grateful to Rotary for the opportunities provided to him throughout the Fellowship, where he has been having the opportunity to develop new skills and broaden his knowledge in relevant areas for the promotion of peace and for the protection of forced displaced populations. He hopes to repay these opportunities by upholding Rotary principles and contributing to a more peaceful and just world.

Johannes Dehler Germany





Johannes is from Fulda in Germany, a town that was of strategic importance during the Cold War, because the 'Fulda Gap' was seen as a key entry route for a Warsaw Pact advance to Western Europe. The events of 1989/90 and their implications for the lives of people in the highly militarized border area inspired him to focus

on International Relations and Conflict Resolution.

After his studies in Political Science, Geography and Development Studies, he worked with a wide range of NGOs active in the fields of development cooperation and peace-building in conflict-affected areas of Southeast Asia. In Myanmar, Thailand and Mindanao in the Southern Philippines the focus of his work has been on the protection of civilians, ceasefire monitoring and the prevention and transformation of armed conflict.

Before his fellowship at the University of Queensland, Johannes worked as Project Manager with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Myanmar. Prior to that he coordinated a child protection project with a focus on the provision of medical, legal and psychosocial responses to grave child rights violations as part of the UN-led Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism in Mindanao (Philippines). He also worked as researcher on land governance, development and economic reforms in Myanmar, and as consultant on programme

development and capacity building related to organisational development, conflict transformation, democratisation and political education.

During his Applied Fieldwork Experience (AFE) in Myanmar and Thailand, Johannes conducted field research for his thesis project 'The Politics of Protection and Return at the Thailand-Myanmar Border', and he contributed to the Governance and Rights programming of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in both countries.

Johannes would like to thank the Rotary Club of Cleveland (Ohio, USA) and District 6630 for their generous support, as well as the Rotary Club of Logan for hosting him during the fellowship.

Sponsor Club:

Rotary Club of Cleveland, Ohio, USA, District 6630

Host Club:

Rotary Club of Logan, Logan, AUS, District 9630

Kristina Sintia Dewi Indonesia





In 2002, Kristina began as a researcher and trainer in the Center for Security and Peace Studies in Jogjakarta, Indonesia.

She focused on peacebuilding issues and worked with a wide range of civil society organizations, government agencies, international

organizations and academics in conflict and post-conflict zones of Aceh, Ambon, Poso and West Papua. While committing to this research center, she then became a consultant for the American Friends Service Committee, which focuses on peace values and nonviolence. As a consultant on youth and development, Kristina designed a peacebuilding program for youth in the post-conflict areas of Aceh and Ambon. She then worked with disaster victims following the tsunami and also with conflict victims in Aceh during 2004 and 2005.

Afterwards, she decided to expand her comfort zone by working in Mindanao in the Philippines. Her latest working experience in Mindanao was with Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP), where she was able to fully apply her desire and training in peace and conflict studies. Her career with NP started as an International Civilian Protection Monitor where she monitored, verified and reported on compliance and non-compliance by conflict actors in the Mindanao conflict. After four years, she returned to Indonesia to work with the UN Migration Agency called the International

Organization for Migration (IOM) where she worked as a Project Coordinator handling a Disaster Risk Reduction project in West Java province.

After the project finished in 2014, she continued working with IOM Indonesia on a community policing project in two provinces: Papua and West Papua, where she managed project implementation. That was her last working experience prior to this fellowship.

She accomplished her Applied Field Experience (AFE) with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Timor-Leste where she worked under the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) program. Kristina contributed to the management of a pilot project on community radio and DRR, facilitated the formation of village Disaster Risk Management Structure in Viqueque and Maliana District, and provided a Monitoring and Evaluation training for the IOM - DRR program as part of the capacity building for the National staff.

Sponsor Club:

Rotary Club of Roseville, Minnesota, USA, District 5960

Host Club:

Rotary Club of Brisbane Rocks Riverside, Brisbane, AUS District 9630

Kyasingmong Marma Bangladesh





Kyasingmong Marma (Mong) is from the remote village of 'Dongnala' in Rangamati district of Chittaong Hill Tracts region in Bangladesh. He belongs to the 'Marma' indigenous community, one of the indigenous peoples collectively known as 'Jummas' who have been struggling for their rights and identities against the

majority Bengali government.

While studying at the University of Dhaka, he was involved in indigenous students' movement to protect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples and protest against military atrocities. In 2007, he received an AusAID scholarship for his bachelor's degree in Legal and Justice Studies at Southern Cross University of Australia.

After graduating, he began working with Peace Brigades International in Nepal as a Human Rights Field Officer, providing protective accompaniment to at-risk human rights lawyers and defenders, and conducting risk assessment workshops for human rights defenders. Later, he joined the Nonviolent Peaceforce in Mindanao, Philippines, reporting on ceasefire-related violence and protecting civilians during violent conflicts. Mong then joined the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, focusing on indigenous peoples' lives and livelihoods at various forums including ASEAN and the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva, Switzerland.

Mong's AFE was with International Development Law Organization in Yangon, Myanmar. IDLO is exclusively devoted to promoting rule of Law all around the world. Mong designed curricula materials using the International Human Rights Framework, and delivered a training for staff members on human rights, equality and non-discrimination, and updated existing course curriculum. Mong is interested to developing research skills in the field of conflict resolution in order to apply them to future work on issues related to indigenous peoples' rights.

He is grateful to Rotary Foundation for the fellowship opportunity, and would like to thank his sponsor and host clubs for their contributions towards the fellowship.

Sponsor Club:

Rotary Club of Akron Ohio, USA, District 6630

Host Club:

Rotary Club of Aspley Aspley, AUS, District 9600

Nadia Mahmood Canada





Nadia Mahmood is a firstgeneration Canadian from Winnipeg and was raised in an interfaith and intercultural home. Nadia has travelled, volunteered and worked in more than 31 countries. During her Bachelors degree in International Development and Political Science,

Nadia interned in Pakistan with local NGOs providing education for child labourers and advocating for the rights of landless and stateless communities. She then taught English in Nepal and Taiwan, and volunteered with the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata, India.

After gaining enough international experience to work in the humanitarian aid and development sector, she worked in Afghanistan in the field of women's rights and community development with the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development. She then spent two years in the Democratic Republic of Congo as a Program Coordinator with Medical Emergency Relief International, implementing emergency health, water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS and genderbased violence prevention programs. Next, she was deployed with the same organization as Emergency Program Manager in Pakistan's Baluchistan province, coordinating disaster relief operations in cyclone-affected communities.

Back home in Canada, Nadia has worked extensively in the fields of youth programming, refugee settlement and intercultural training and mediation. She also served as a board member for Humankind International, and along with former University of Queensland Peace Fellows, launched a community-driven early childhood education peacebuilding program in Dadaab Refugee Camp, Kenya.

During her AFE, Nadia undertook a three-month internship in the Solomon Islands supporting the peacebuilding, restorative justice and reconciliation work of local NGO Prison Fellowship Solomon Islands. Nadia is extremely grateful to Rotary and the University of Queensland for this opportunity to unpack her experiences, learn how to effectively address oppression and conflict and develop skills in working towards sustainable peace just and equitable world.

Sponsor Club:

Rotary Club of Charleswood, Winnipeg, Canada, District 5550

Host Club:

Brisbane Planetarium Club, Brisbane, AUS, District 9600

Alexandra Sajben USA





Alexandra Sajben is a Rotary Peace Fellow, sponsored by District 7255 in New York City, USA and hosted by District 9630 in Brisbane. Most recently, she conducted her Applied Field Experience with the Countertrafficking Unit of the International Organization for Migration in Timor Leste. During this time, she worked to support

the unit through research, data analysis, and developing proposals for future programs, while working with partner organizations, government officials, and police.

Before coming to the University of Queensland as a Rotary Peace Fellow, Alexandra worked as the Regional Programs Liaison with the Coalition for the International Criminal Court - a network of over 2500 civil society organizations working towards accountability for atrocity crimes.

Previously, Alexandra consulted for an anti-trafficking campaign with a focus on facilitating dialogues about controversial issues in the anti-trafficking community. She also worked as a UN Advocacy Associate for a small faith-based NGO, monitoring social development, human trafficking, and women's and girls' issues in the 2nd and 3rd Committees of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations.

Alexandra graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in French Literature and a

supplementary major in Peace Studies. Before graduating, Alexandra interned at Asylum Access, a refugee rights organization, as well as a small non-profit organization focused on education efforts for girls in western Kenya.

She is eternally grateful for all of the opportunities Rotary has given her through this Peace Fellowship. Alexandra hopes to pay these gifts forward through continued commitment to peace and conflict resolution.

Sponsor Club:

New York, USA District 7255

Host Club:

Rotaract Club of South Brisbane, South Brisbane, AUS District 9630

Folashade Samuel Nigeria





Fola is from Lagos, Nigeria. She attended the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, where she received a BA in Communication and Language Arts. After having spent over two years volunteering as a youth counsellor, Folashade discovered her passion for women and community development and started working as a Development

and Policy Advocacy Officer with local NGOs working to empower girls and women with skills to enhance and further education, gender equality, protection and women's right in Nigeria. Prior to receiving the Rotary Peace Fellowship Award, Folashade and her husband established the Initiative for Sustainable Peace, Gender Equality and Development, a non-profit organization focused on youth and women development through organizing workshops, education, and one-on-one counselling. They mentored 20 underprivileged youth and supported them in accessing and completing basic school education.

Fola recently completed her Applied Field Experience at the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Manila, Philippines. There, she assisted the Migrant Assistance and Protection Programs Department by providing both administrative and operational support in caseload reception and post-reception modalities for victims of trafficking, refugees and voluntary returnees. Fola also represented IOM on various high profile meetings with the Philippine government agencies and other

intergovernmental organisations such as the World Bank, UNICEF and foreign high commissions in the Philippines.

Fola also took the opportunity to visit the less privileged and homeless around Manila on her AFE. She enjoys giving hope and helping the disadvantaged. In her free time, Fola enjoys traveling, cooking and singing.

Fola is very grateful for the Rotary Peace Fellowship and optimistic that the knowledge, skills and opportunities the fellowship has opened her up to, will remain a foundation to further her goals towards advancing education, youth development and human dignity in times of conflict and in peace.

Sponsor Club:

Rotary Club of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria, District 9125

Host Club:

Rotary Club of South Brisbane, Brisbane, AUS, District 9630

Leanne Simon USA





Leanne has had the honour of working with children, families, and

communities across the world. She has engaged in peace education with children in poverty-stricken and gang-affiliated areas in the US; documenting the experiences of migrant farmworkers, human trafficking, and child labour issues

in US agriculture; the roots of migration in Mexico; barriers to education and literacy in rural Costa Rica; filmmaking, accompaniment, and protectionism with communities in Colombia that are

under direct paramilitary death threat; on food access and the blurry borderline between traditional and internet cultures on a remote island of Fiji; and with families incrisis in the greater Brisbane area.

Through all of this, the connecting fibre has been the power of storytelling and narrative to transform conflicts and promote new ways of understanding the "other." Using oral history, mediation/reconciliation techniques, documentary filmmaking, participatory media, and other storysharing devices, Leanne has brought together individuals and communities that had otherwise been at-odds with one another.

Her future work includes a PhD project that incorporates participatory video in building shared political understandings in communities of Bougainville, an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea, as they lead up to a referendum to determine sovereignty status in 2019, as well as looking at how other media-based facilitated dialogues can alleviate tensions between marginalised youth and legal decision-makers in the US, Australia, and the Solomon Islands.

More than anything, she would like to thank Brian, Oskar, and Xabien for being patient, understanding, and willing to share her attention with the world. To you, she is unerringly grateful and adoring.

Sponsor Club:

Durham Sunrise Rotary Club, North Carolina, USA District 7710

Host Club:

Rotary Club of Loganholme, Loganholme, AUS, District 9630

Laurie Smolenski usa





Laurie's main areas of interest are human rights with a focus on immigration and gender, as well as democracy, civil society and independent media. For her Applied Fieldwork Experience, she interned at the MacArthur Foundation's Mexico City office within their human rights portfolio. She documented achievements by MacArthur

grantees on Mexico's human rights framework from 2012-2016, and produced a report for internal and external stakeholders.

Before becoming a Peace Fellow, Laurie worked as the Development Manager at the New York Immigration Coalition, the United States' largest and most diverse immigration policy and advocacy coalition. As the sole development staff member, she nearly doubled the organizational budget in just over two years, permitting the Coalition to significantly transform its scope, expertise and capacity.

Laurie has a Master's degree in international relations from the Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain through a Rotary Global Grant.

Her international experience includes working with female human trafficking survivors in Spain and indigenous women in the Solomon Islands. She has collaborated with Democracy Now!, Amnesty International and the U.S. State Department around immigration and human trafficking. An avid writer, Laurie has been a regular contributor to Waging Nonviolence, a publication with international readership that examines nonviolence and global struggles for justice through peace. She speaks Spanish and Italian. She first connected with Rotary as a child through her family's hosting of Rotary exchange students, who have come to number seventeen.

As part of the Peace Fellow program, Laurie has been learning statistics, and is interested in further exploring how quantitative methods can advance social change. She hopes to pursue employment in human rights philanthropy after the program ends.

Sponsor Club:

Grosse Pointe Rotary Club, Michigan, USA District 6400

Host Club:

Rotary Club of Bribie Island, Bribie Island, AUS District 9600

Tony Zhang Han China





Tony was born in Kunming and most recently lived in Chengdu, China. Since 2010, he worked for Heifer International-China as the Communication & Networking Officer, School Program Manager and Development & Communication Manager. His major responsibilities included domestic fundraising,

communication, poverty education, and donor care. Heifer International works to lift impoverished farmers in rural China out of poverty and strengthen community cohesion to improve their dignity.

In 2008, an 8.0 magnitude earthquake struck Sichuan Province causing approximately 100,000 people to perish. Tony feels that destiny brought him to Rotary when he answered a call for service following this earthquake. He began volunteering for ShelterBox, a Rotary International partner, to deliver 800 boxes and thousands of tents to internally displaced people in the remote mountainous countryside. Tony became the first certified ShelterBox Response Team member from China and completed two more deployments in 2009 and 2010, helping to send hundreds of tents to typhoon and earthquake affected victims in China's Anhui and Qinghai Provinces.

For his AFE, Tony interned at International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Timor-Leste for Phase III of Disaster Risk Reduction through the Building Community

Resilience Project. He worked with DRR teams to establish village-level disaster management committees in 5 villages in Baucau and Manatuto municipalities.

Tony assisted in organizing the 1st Rotary District 0052 Conference in Chengdu in 2013 and other Rotary fundraising events. Tony co-founded the Chengdu chapter of Toastmasters International out of a desire to improve his leadership and communication skills. He was awarded the "Division Governor of the Year" and "Area Governor of the Year" of District 0089 in the past two years due to his excellent service for fast development of Toastmasters in Southwest China. He obtained his MA in Applied Linguistics and BA in English Education (Teaching English as a Second Language) at Southwest University in Chongqing.

Sponsor Club:

Rotary Club of Chengdu Chengdu, China, District 0052

Host Club:

Brisbane Planetarium Rotary Club, Brisbane, AUS District 9600

Catrina Ziesman Canada





Catrina was born in Toronto, Ontario. Growing up in a multiethnic household with immigrant parents, her mother being from Trinidad and Tobago and her father from Germany, Catrina was instilled with a strong appreciation for multiculturalism and an understanding of the challenges

associated with cultural coalescence. This understanding has inspired her passion to work in the international development sector, specializing in programmes working to strengthen and integrate healthcare systems in Latin America, Africa and Central Asia.

Before undertaking her Rotary Peace Fellowship, Catrina consulted for three years on a maternal, newborn and child health program between the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) and local institutions both in Canada and Kenya. The ultimate goal of this project has been the reduction of maternal and infant mortality in rural regions of Kenya.

As a Community Development Facilitator, she has created strategies affiliated with the Kenyan National Health Sector's Strategic Plan to increase women's access to primary healthcare.

In addition to her time in Kenya, she worked as a Program Manager with a grassroots NGO in Southwestern Ontario addressing the effects of the AIDS pandemic on families in Lesotho, Africa. In addressing the social determinants of health in her local and global community, Catrina strives to create linkages between the mental, spiritual and physical dimensions of health and peace.

Her involvement with Rotary began in 2010 with a sixmonth Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) internship in Guayaquil, Ecuador, where Catrina worked as a Health Education Assistant. Her local Rotary club has been an inspirational force throughout her career in international service and development. She feels incredibly blessed with the opportunity to be a Rotary Peace Fellow.

Sponsor Club:

Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar, Ontario, Canada, District 7080

Host Club:

Rotary Club of Windsor, Windsor, AUS, District 9600

Welcome from the Peace fellows Class XIV

Ashuien Alor South Sudan/Canada



Ashuien left his home country, South Sudan in 1983 when civil war broke out, and his village was destroyed. He fled to Khartoum as an internal refugee, and worked odd jobs to support himself while attending school in the evenings until he graduated from high school. Against all the odds, he qualified to apply for University admission at the Cairo University in Khartoum.

In 1989, he was forced again to flee as a refugee to Egypt in 1993. There, he returned to university and graduated in 1996 with a law degree. While in Egypt, he received protection from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and was granted asylum in Canada in 1999 as a landed immigrant.

He volunteered with his Sudanese community in Winnipeg and joined the University of Manitoba to study Social Work. After graduation, he worked with New Directions for

Children, Youth, Adults and Families, an organization that provides social programs and employment for youth involved with the justice system as a Case Manager for youth and families from war-torn countries.

He supported the African Communities of Manitoba to coordinate a research project funded by the government of Manitoba. This project was aimed at helping with the integration of African newcomers in Winnipeg. He is also a leader in his community and is past President of the Federation of Aweil Communities in Canada.

He is committed to contributing to peace and conflict resolution through the use of the ideas and energies of young people, and has extensive experience working with immigrant groups from war-torn backgrounds.

Marie-Paule Attema Rwanda/Canada



As a Rwandan-born first generation immigrant in Canada, Marie-Paule Attema is passionate about promoting peace locally as well as globally. In the last 10 years, Marie-Paule has worked with the most marginalized and isolated populations in South Africa, Guatemala, and Canada.

Marie-Paule is currently working with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), a non-profit organization that focuses on relief, development and peace. Within MCC Marie-Paule has held various positions including working with male sexual offenders as they reintegrate into the community after being incarcerated. In her current position, Marie-Paule works to eliminate persistent homelessness in the Canadian context by supporting men and women as they transition from homelessness to stable housing.

In 2012, Marie-Paule joined the board of directors for Peaceworks, a non-profit organization that specializes in peace education for youth. Marie-Paule is humbled and grateful for being selected as a Peace Fellow to pursue a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland and looks forward to expanding her knowledge and experience in the field.

Katsa Brenneman USA



Katsa was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Over a span of six years, in between backpacking trips throughout southern Africa and language integration programs in France, she graduated summa cum laude with degrees in sociology, philosophy, and global economics.

Her entire life she has been actualizing the dream to travel worldwide, widen her perspectives, and to seek challenges outside of her comfort zone. She recently returned from service with the Peace Corps in a little country in West Africa called Togo. There, she lived in a remote village called Kalanga working in areas of gender equality and education quality.

Rotary caught her attention when they authorized a boat shipment of thousands of indestructible soccer balls that she and her fellow volunteers were able to use in

order to promote girls' soccer teams throughout West Africa. Her local Rotary Club has been undeniably generous and tenacious in their commitment to international dialogue and development, and Katsa feels honoured to participate in this endeavour. She believes that significant and benevolent action is almost always the product of a well-informed mind, and hopes that she can continue to hone her knowledge of international peace and conflict resolution through her future education at the University of Queensland

Casey Dilg USA



Over the last ten years, Casey has worked in human resources at the United Nations Population Fund, had two children and rebuilt a unique piece of maritime history destroyed by a hurricane.

A native of New York, he grew up on the shores of Long Island, attended a Quaker primary school and earned a BA in English literature from Hobart & William Smith colleges where he met his wife at a comedy improv audition.

Casey stumbled into an operational career in the multilateral sector through keen editorial and drafting skills, a capacity to communicate between disparate professional disciplines and a love for listening to people tell their personal histories.

As a student here in Brisbane, he hopes to broaden his international exposure to the Pacific region while deepening his understanding of how we engineer peace in a conflicted world.

Driven by an interest in the arts, natural history, political life and policy, he does his best to make the world a friendlier, more humane place.

If you want to learn more about him, just buy him a drink and he will not shut up.

Nicholas Drushella USA



Nicholas Drushella was born in the USA and graduated from the University of Oregon in 2012 with a Bachelors degree in International Studies and a concentration in Journalism. His minors included Spanish and Business Administration. His multidisciplinary education and volunteer work led him to pursue a career in conflict prevention through expanding educational opportunity in vulnerable communities.

Since 2013, Nicholas has worked as the International Development Manager for Imagine Scholar, a youth leadership program in Nkomazi, South Africa. In this role, he has served as a mentor and fundraiser. Additionally, he has placed an emphasis on connecting students with experiential learning opportunities and advocating for more equitable resource dispersion in rural communities. He became heavily involved with Rotary and spoke at over 50 clubs about engaging youth in proactive peace processes.

He is passionate about social justice and intercultural cooperation and communication. He plans to utilize the Rotary Peace Fellowship and the worldwide Rotary network to more effectively empower local agents and create change at the community level.

Guled Ibrahim Somalia/USA



Guled Ibrahim is a Somali-American who came to the US as a teenager about a decade ago. He is an energetic and self-motivated young man who has distinguished himself as an exemplary leader among his peers. In just seven years, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and political science from the University of Minnesota; a Juris Doctor (JD) from Mitchell Hamline Law School; and an International MBA from BPP Business School in London. He also earned a Conflict Resolution Certificate along with his JD.

Prior to receiving the Rotary Peace Fellowship, Guled was a Benjamin B. Ferencz Fellow in Human Rights and Law with World Without Genocide.

He also sat on the board of directors for the United Nations Associations of Minnesota. In 2015, he was selected to participate in the International Criminal Court's Assembly of States Conference in The Hague as a delegate. In 2016, he was chosen to participate in the

One Young World Summit in Ottawa, Canada as a delegate to represent Somalia and USA.

Guled's dream is to help others through public service and to be involved in global conflict resolution. He hopes to combine his legal education and Rotary Peace Fellowship to get involved with peace and conflict resolution efforts in Africa and become a mediator without a border. The need for passionate peace builders has never been greater. Diplomacy, peacebuilding, and respect for the rule of law are three areas in which he wants to be involved in the coming years.

Guled is an avid reader of international affairs, passionate advocate for world peace and humanitarian causes, and travel aficionado who has travelled to over twenty countries in Africa, Europe, and North America. He says "if the human mind can conceive and believe, human ingenuity can achieve."

Shen Huang USA



Shen Huang is an engineer who works to protect public health and solve envi ronmental and energy chal lenges in low- income communities. A first generation Chinese-American, Shen grew up in the most impoverished county in Washington State and experienced firsthand the socioeconomic inequities of health care access. Shen holds a Bachelor of Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Mechanical Engineering. She was an MIT Public Service Center Fellow and worked in international development with communities in China, Nicaragua, and Zambia to implement appropriate technologies and teach creative design workshops.

Since 2012, Shen has focused on addressing the lack of adequate water and sanitation infrastructure, widespread drinking water contamination, and increasing water scarcity.

While implementing the Human Right to Water, Shen acted in various capacities at the federal US Environmental Protection Agency, California State Water Resources Control Board, and local non-profit Community Water Center.

She has regulated over 40 public water systems and helped communities navigate public funding processes. In addition, Shen has been a project manager for both emergency interim and permanent drinking water solutions, including managing 15 multi-million dollar capital improvement projects in planning and construction, such as new wells, treatment plants, and distribution systems.

Shen speaks Chinese, Spanish, and French and enjoys tending to her succulents, dancing, volunteering, and cycling in her spare time.

Sok Heng Ly Cambodia



Sok Heng was born and raised in the post civil-war society of Cambodia in the 1990s. During his undergraduate studies, Sok Heng was selected to be a research assistant for the Peace Education Research Project. This opportunity allowed him to work with grassroots and international NGOs, government officials, a team of academics and local people in some of the least privileged and remotest parts of Cambodia. The research study focused on constructing an effective education model (formal and non-formal) and practices that aim to promote peace, encourage pacific conflict settlement, and support reconciliation in local village, among youth at school, and at the national level. This working experience enabled Sok Heng to strongly believe that education, particularly peace education, is critically important to build a stable and inclusive society in a war-torn country.

In 2013, he became a faculty member at the Department of International Studies of the Royal University of Phnom Penh. In addition, he was selected to be a junior member of a

research team at the Cambodia Development Institute (CDI).

In 2016, he began his postgraduate studies in International Relations. During this time, he was also selected and trained as an International Student Ambassador at the Victoria University of Wellington. Sok Heng's work and interests cover regional and global governance, security, peace education, conflict transformation, and marginalised social groups.

Perla Padilla Honduras



Perla Padilla was born and raised in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. At the age of 20, she immigrated to the United States.

She graduated from the University of California San Diego with majors in Psychology and Latin American Studies. She has done research in motivation, learning, political conflict and health through different academic fellowships such as McNair and Mental Health International Research Training and honours programs.

Her field of work is advocacy and direct care of youth at risk. She has work with unaccompanied undocumented immigrant children, low income youth, and homeless pregnant and parenting young women. While working with unaccompanied children, she reunified more than one hundred children with their families in the U.S. She was able to motivate changes in documentation processes within the Honduran consulates to

accelerate reunification of minors with their families.

Working with low income and homeless pregnant and parenting youth, she has helped to reduce the obstacles facing youth who seek education and self-sufficiency. Perla's goal is to continue advocating for at-risk youth to access education and work opportunities.

Nadir Shah Pakistan



Nadir is from Peshawar, Pakistan, an ancient city and gateway to Central Asia via famous Khyber Pass. For the last five thousand years, his city has seen armies coming in and going out to conquer South and Central Asia.

Owing to this fact, Peshawar for the last five thousand years has been under wars waged by foreign powers against each other. The strategic significance of the area he lives in drove him to seek understanding of policies and the interests of powerful countries in the region.

Nadir did his BSc (H) in rural development in 2007. As an integral part of his degree, he interned with the National Commission for Human Development for six months. During the internship, he worked extensively in the field against corporal punishment of children in schools. Along with his studies, he also worked as a campaign leader to

promote awareness about basic democracy- then a novel idea- in his province.

In 2009, Nadir completed his MA degree in English Linguistics and Literature and got an appointment as a lecturer in the English in Higher Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During his six year tenure as a lecturer, he conducted many basic education sessions at different refugee camps in Peshawar and adjoining areas. In 2014, he got the opportunity to visit the USA on a Fulbright scholarship. His main responsibility was to spread awareness about his culture and instil goodwill among Americans and Pakistanis. In that capacity, he conducted many seminars and dialogue session at the University of Georgia.

Given his zeal for peace and harmony in the world, his supervisor recommended him to Rotary District 6910, Georgia. He is thankful to be selected as a Rotary Peace Fellow to study Peace & Conflict Studies at the University of Queensland.

Staff and Support

Diana McClusky



I started with the Graduate Centre in its introduction year of 2016, and have thoroughly enjoyed working with all the student cohorts across the various post graduate programs we run.

Prior to working at UQ, I coordinated mentor programs for QUT (matching final year students with industry mentors to assist with launching their careers) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (the John Flynn Placement program – a mentor program matching medical students with GP mentors in regional, rural and remote Australia). My career before working in the tertiary education space was in program management of disability employment programs.

My husbands previous membership of the Bardon Rotary Club gives me insight into the wonderful work Rotarians do – and I view working with the Rotary Peace Fellows a great privilege here at the UQ Rotary Peace centre.

Dr Melissa Curley



Dr Curley is a Senior Lecturer in International Relations and Director, UQ Rotary Peace Centre. Her research and teaching interests include Southeast Asian politics and international relations, Cambodian politics and postconflict reconstruction, and non-traditional security in East Asia (including trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, 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 internationally peer reviewed journals and her most recent book is Migration and Security in Asia. Before joining the School in January 2006, Dr. Curley was a researcher in the China-ASEAN project at the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong, where she also coordinated a consultancy project on Southeast Asian affairs for the Hong Kong Government's Central Policy Unit. She holds a Ph.D in International Relations from Nottingham Trent University in the UK, and BA(Hons) in Government from UQ.

In 2015, Dr Curley joined the Executive Advisory Board of Bravehearts, an Australian not-for profit organisation that aims to educate, empower and protect Australian children from sexual assault. Bravehearts operates in four states in Australia with headquarters in Queensland and offices in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

Additional Thanks

We deeply appreciate all the hard work that has gone into the success of this seminar and the whole of the Rotary Peace Fellowship.

To all of those who helped make this seminar shine, and to the countless others who have helped us on our many paths to success - we thank you.

Bronwyn Crook

Marian Ophof

Shannon Zimmerman

Susan Moule

Nicole George

Phil Orchard

Leslie Smith

Rotary Host Counsellors

District Governor Alan Stephens, and

members of District 9600

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members of District 9630

Songwoman Maroochy

Additional Thanks

Without your love and support, we would not be able to do the things that we do.

Thank you all so much for your flexibility, understanding and willingness to pull up roots and join us on this magnificent journey.

Olabode Samuel

Brian Highfill

Doli Prue Marma

Oskar Blox

Jessie Yi

Xabien Blox

Baby Zhang Han

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Carolyn Fanelli USA, District 7710
Path Heang Cambodia, District 3350
Ryan Hendy Canada, District 6400
Amy Kay USA, District 7600
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It is easier to interest men in war than in peace: it therefore requires more moral courage to talk peace than war.

- Paul Harris
Rotary Just at the Threshold
February 1917







