CU Humphrey Fellows Newsletter

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY **April 26, 2013**



Greetings from the Coordinator

Dr. Peter Gregory

As the new Coordinator of Cornell's Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program I greet you all. I am making my best efforts to continue our tradition at Cornell, evolved over 34 years, of working with leaders from developing countries and emerging democracies to realize their full potential through professional development, advanced learning, and extended networking. This new challenge would be overwhelming for me except for the magnificent efforts of Ms. Francine Jasper, our Program's Associate Coordinator, who is my invaluable colleague and mentor. Her more than 19 years of experience and success in this Program are vital to sustaining our progress. My challenge is to complement her contributions by drawing upon the relevant experience and skills I have accumulated over the past 40 years of my professional life.

Allow me to tell you a little about myself. My primary focus has been on addressing strategic agricultural research and development issues in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Much of the work has been at the interface of conventional agriculture and modern biotechnology and involved extensive national and regional capacity building. I was a tenured faculty member and research administrator at Cornell, an Advisor in Rural Development at the World Bank, a Deputy Director General at the International Potato Center (CIP), Lima, Peru, and a senior member of two major Washington, DC-based consulting firms. I have engaged in extensive individual consulting assignments and clients have included the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group), and the U.S. Department of State. I am originally from England and my university education was at King's College, University of London (Ph.D, Plant Biochemistry; B.Sc (Honors), Botany).

To quote Hubert Humphrey, "I believe that each of us can make a difference. That what is wrong can be made right." Indeed, in this first year of my Humphrey Program experience I see in each of the Fellows the ability to make a difference and to catalyze positive change in their countries and beyond. I feel honored to be in a position to help them shape their program activities in a manner that will build even greater leadership capacity while increasing their technical knowledge. Last, but certainly not least, I emphasize the need for enhanced cooperation and networking among themselves, with Humphrey Fellows past and present, with the Cornell community, and the public and private sectors in Upstate New York, the USA and the world. I do strongly believe that Hubert Humphrey was correct in saying that each of us can make a difference. But I also believe that the difference can be dramatically magnified through joining forces with others who share the same inspiring values of the Humphrey Fellowship Program.

We are approaching the year-end of the program on Cornell University's campus. In the next few pages you can see an overview of their year's achievements. On August 3, 2013 we welcome the next group of Humphrey Fellows to Cornell. They are from Armenia, Botswana, Ecuador, Laos, Indonesia, Pakistan, Mozambique, Morocco, Mongolia, Senegal and Tajikistan.

CU Congratulates 2012-2013 Humphrey Fellows!



From left to right: Eddie Mothibi, Ajay Raghava, Maina Dhital, Joel Houango, Dina Ranarifidy, Djibril Sarr, Nadica Jovanovska, Demelash Ayana, Henri Desormes, Lucilene Danciguer, Olayinka Omotosho

Fellows and Professional Affiliations

Lucilene Danciguer, Brazil
Inter-American Development Bank
Herve-Joel Houango, Ivory Coast
Alternatives Federal Credit Union
Demelash Ayana, Ethiopia
EcoAgriculture Partners
Henri Desormes, Haiti
Early Morning Farm
Ajay Raghava, India
World Bank
Nadica Jovanovska, Macedonia
World Bank
Eddie Mothibi, Lesotho
Pleasant Valley Farm
Dina Ranarifidy, Madagascar
World Bank
Maina Dhital, Nepal
IP-CALS Communications/Outreach
Djibril Sarr, Senegal
Episcopal Relief & Dev. Agency
Olayinka Omotosho
NYC Dep of Environ Conservation

A Significant Year for the Fellows

This group of 11 Fellows leave a distinctive record for service on campus and in the community. Eddie Mothibi helped a Cornell student practice his native language before she left for a study abroad experience in Lesotho. Djibril Sarr, Joel Houango and Henri Desormes gave lectures in French classes on campus and at the high school. One Fellow remarked that it felt good to be in a position for once when others were listening very closely to comprehend him rather than the other way around. Maina Dhital has provided invaluable outreach service on behalf of IP-CALS Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat program as a writer and coordinator for a workshop in Nepal. Lucilene Danciguer and the Fellows organized a series of seminars for the campus and community to encourage dialogue about actions the local community may take to adapt and mitigate climate change. Everyone has volunteered. Dina Ranarifidy and Nadica Jovanovska educated the public about their countries geography and current events, so that everyone who has had to pleasure to listen to them now can locate Madagascar and Macedonia on a map, know something about the people of those countries. Olayinka Omotosho and Demelash Ayana rolled up their sleeves to volunteer at the Recycle and Reuse Center and the Cornell Plantations for the first semester. Ajay Raghava has delivered many public lectures about the important work he is doing on the Ganges River clearnup in India.

Fellows met visiting dignitaries including Michelle Bachelet, head of the newly created body UN Women, Gordon Conway former President of the Rockefeller Foundation and Scientific Adviser to the Department of International Development, and Vijayendra Rao from the Poverty and Inequality Team, Development Research Group of

the World Bank, and Dr. Moses Musaazi, a Ugandan social entrepreneur and innovator.

We recently visited Boston to meet with the Humphrey Fellows campuses at MIT and Boston University to join them for a seminar on "South to South" collaboration and tour the archival collections of Martin Luther King and congressional leaders. We met with the Humphrey Fellows group from Syracuse University for a beautiful fall trip to the Adirondack Mountains, visited Alfred State College several times to exchange ideas about culture and education with faculty and students.

Fellows enjoy the range of opportunities for learning as well. This year the majority of Fellows take courses through eCornell online and earn a Cornell certificate in areas such as Marketing Strategies, Project Leadership, Human Resource Management and Financial Management.



Humphrey Fellows Climate Change Seminar Series Opens Public Dialogue

"Local Development for Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change: Strategies and Experiences"

As we move further into the 21st century, nations throughout the world face a wide array of challenges including rapid urbanization, gender and intergenerational relations, food security, and HIV/AIDS. There is one challenge, however, that everyone on the planet must face: climate change. Rapid increase in temperature over the past hundred years, frequent occurrence of extreme weather events, and sea level rise are among the many troubling climate change indicators that scientists and citizens from all nations are observing. According to Cornell University professor and climate change expert David Wolfe, there will be a 4-8 degree rise in temperature by 2080 if we continue down the environmentally destructive path that we are currently on. Such a prediction carries potentially devastating implications for all beings on Earth.

In an effort to open a thought-provoking dialogue concerning this global issue, current Humphrey Fellow, Lucilene Danciguer, organized a seminar series at Cornell University titled, "Local Development for Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change: Strategies and Experiences." This seminar series, sponsored by the Humphrey Fellowship Program, featured an eclectic group of speakers that lectured on topics ranging from urban climate change mitigation measures in Madagascar to local mitigation initiatives here in Ithaca. Among the distinguished guests that presented lectures during the series, were seven current Humphrey Fellows: Nadica Jovanovska Boshkovska (Macedonia), Maina Dhital (Nepal), Dina Ranarifidy (Madagascar), Demelash Ayana (Ethiopia), Ajay Raghava (India), Olayinka Omotosho (Nigeria), and seminar series organizer Lucilene Danciguer (Brazil). Although the participating Fellows are not necessarily experts on climate change, they shared thoughts, experiences, and information with the Cornell community about the particular challenges and initiatives taking place in their respective countries. If you are interested in watching any of the seminars, you can find the links to the videos on both the IP CALS webpage (http://ip.cals.cornell.edu/prof-dev/hhh/video.cfm) and our Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program at Cornell University Facebook page.

Reflections on the Presidential Election

The 2012 American elections for president, Congress, and Senate were a wonderful opportunity for our Fellows to learn about two party politics in a media saturated environment. Most of the Fellows watched some or all of the presidential and vice-presidential debates, and saw television ads and newspaper articles about issues (to a small extent) and the horse race (to an overwhelming extent). The analysis of polling numbers and rises and falls in popularity amongst differing segments of the population were an interesting media show that is not present in most Fellows' home countries. Most Fellows also participated in election night activities that kept abreast of the election returns and celebrated victories late into the evening. Below are some insights and comments from the Fellows on their experiences.

Olayinka Omotosho was fascinated by how Americans expect their candidates to clarify their views on just about all topics. These views must be delivered with great oratorical skill or the candidate suffers for it. This is a definite advantage to the best actors, not necessarily to the best policy makers. He also found the American electorate's need to know about candidates' stances on all moral and social issues interesting since these were not the issues of most importance like the economy and health care. Olayinka was also very impressed by the speed, efficiency, and credibility of the poll returns. The losers showed grace and acceptance in their concession speeches.

Nadica Jovanovska felt that the campaigns showed great communication and ethics, and should be a model for countries like her own Macedonia. She felt that President Obama was rewarded for his work on the economic crisis, his pursuit of Osama Bin Laden, his scaling down of war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and his calm and caution during the Arab Spring. Nadica is also impressed by how stable and predictable US foreign policy is no matter which party wins the White House or the majority in Congress.

Dina Ranarifidy found election night quite thrilling at the headquarters of the Democratic Party in downtown Ithaca. She finds great hope and faith in democracy and hopes that her home country of Madagascar can rekindle its democratic practices. Dina was interviewed by a Malagasy newspaper and asked to give her impressions of American democracy. She believes that candidates have great respect for the system and even each other and quickly remind their supporters to stand behind the elected president. Dina also felt that the system of American democracy is constantly analyzed and debated and this keeps the system alive.

Maina Dhital watched the campaign and election through her lens as a journalist. She found the American election relatively quiet since she is used to people handing out pamphlets, writing graffiti on walls, and harassment at the polls. Maina was impressed by the American ability to vote days and weeks in advance and that all the votes were tallied so quickly. She has experienced delays in election results leading to violence and charges of vote tampering. The quiet and normal way people returned to regular life the day after the election also impressed her.



Lucilene Danciguer also noticed that television and radio media dominated the election and there was very little in the streets and public spaces compared to Brazil. She was also impressed by the use of the internet and how this can be a good grassroots tool to mobilize from the bottom up. Lucilene felt that the Republican campaign represented itself as the party of "traditional America" and white voters, and the Democratic Party was much more inclusive of minorities and immigrants. She also felt that both parties are similar in their foreign policies.

Cornell team visits Pratim Roy, Humphrey Fellow Alum

January 5-9, 2013

By Lesley Yorke



Pratim Roy and Lesley Yorke

(Family Friendship partner), hiking into Kilkoupe, the first village that Keystone Foundation worked with.

Pratim Roy, from the Keystone Foundation in Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu, was a Humphrey Fellow at Cornell in 2011-2012. During his time at Cornell, Pratim developed the idea of a field learning center, a collaboration between Cornell, Keystone, and community members in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR). The partnership will be built on collaborative, multidisciplinary topics related to sustainable environments and livelihoods. The field learning center will also provide transformative educational experiences for students, faculty, professionals, and members of *adivasi* (indigenous) communities in the NBR.

Five faculty members, a staff member, and a undergraduate student made a site visit to Keystone from January 5-9. The team included Neema Kudva, City and Regional Planning (team leader); Anurag Agrawal, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; Mohit Nair ('12); Rebecca Stoltzfus, Nutrition/Provost's Fellow; Andrew Willford, Anthropology; Steven Wolf, Natural Resources; and Lesley Yorke, University Communications.



The Cornell team and Keystone staff members having an al fresco picnic, with a curious cow.

An ambitious program of exploration and conversation was planned. In the first day and a half, the Cornell team met with program coordinators to learn more about their specialty areas, including conservation, environmental governance, livelihoods, training and information, and people and culture. The team visited three villages where Keystone is working; the goal was to understand how we might develop research projects of mutual interest. In addition, Mohit Nair traveled with Keystone staff to review housing for students and faculty from Cornell.

The Cornell team met with the Keystone Board of Trustees to address the nitty-gritty issues around collaborative research, engaged learning, and capacity building at Keystone and in the communities. Both Cornell and Keystone report that a promising start was made, and additional discussions will take place at Cornell and at Keystone in the coming weeks and months.

Pratim Roy's time at Cornell was well spent, and the seed of an idea that developed during his Humphrey Fellowship has taken root and is beginning to grow. The Keystone and Cornell teams both look forward to reporting on the further growth and progress of the Nilgiri Field Learning Center.

Cornell Alumni News

Dr. Olena Myronycheva, '11-12" Ukraine has an invitation to go to China this year. Investors interested in funding a modern mushroom farm in the Ukraine. She had a beautiful baby girl last August. Congratulations!

Mustafa Amzough, '11-'12 Morocco writes that his affiliation with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 2012 was very successful and he organized business trips for the NOAA counterparts to Morocco following the affiliation

Yongsong Chen, '10-11, China "China changes every day so does Green Education Center (GEC). GEC was certified as Yunnan Provincial education base for popular sciences dissemination and environment protection at the end of 2011. It provides students from domestic and abroad with community service and internship opportunity in the world cultural and natural heritage center of Lijiang in the northwest of Yunnan Province, China. I expect that one day I could host students from Cornell University in GEC. "

Erika Diaz Pascacio '10-11, Mexico is now Professor at Centro maya de Estudio Agropecuarios UNACH. She also is the planning coordinator in Mexico for Cornell University's field course "Experience Latin America: Chiapas Edition.

Regina Junio , '09-10 Philippines , is volunteer Climate Change Advisor for VSO-Malawi. She is working to help integrate climate smart initiatives for Malawians education, and to help HIV-AIDS affected people secure livelihoods and health programs. "For many questions we may learn that we already have the answers, at least if we listen carefully to our own hearts." Facebook

Bui Duc Kinh, '09-10 Vietnam passed Aug. 11, 2012. in Ho Chi Minh City. He was pursuing a Ph.D. in Sociology at the Australia National Uniersity in Canberra.

Dr. Rajkumari Sunita Devi '08-'09, India, G.I.S. expert in Manipur and Regional Coordinator, received a Humphrey Fellows award for innovation along with Dr. Vandana Tyagi and other Fellows. She organized a workshop in September 2012 on " Capacity Development of Indian Mid-Level Professionals from Environmental Non-governmental Organizations (ENGOs) as Master Trainers through Management Workshops." She invited Dr. Ohnmar Khaing from Myanmar as a speaker. They were both housemates during their Humphrey Fellowship year. She completed her Ph.D. in 2012 . Congratulations!

Ohnmar Khaing '08-'09 Myanmar is the National Food Security Advisor. Visit our Facebook page to see a photo of her shaking President Obama's hand during his visit to Myanmar in Nov. 2012

Carlos Orozco '98-99 Guatemala, is Director of Postgraduate Studies, Faculty of Agriculture, University of San Carolos. In 2012 the University offered the first Ph.D. program in the country. The University is working to implement a Rural Development program this year.

Dickxie Kampani, '94-95 Malawi is the National Project Coordinator for the Irrigation Rural Livehood and Agriculture Development Program. He is currently managing a World Bank and IFAD financed large irrigation and agriculture program since 2006.

EcoAgriculture Partners in Washington D.C., has hosted several Cornell University Humphrey Fellows for professional affiliations. The following is an excerpt from an article coauthored by Milan Ivankovic, ' Cornell Fellow 2010-11, Serbia in 2012 for EcoAgriculture Partners blog "Landscapes for People, Food and Nature" April 2012. You can read the full article here

http://blog.ecoagriculture.org/2012/04/23/zasavica/

Protecting the Pigs

By Srdjan Stojanovic & Milan Ivankovic, Advisors Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management, Department for Rural Development, Republic of Serbia

If you were to fly over Serbia, you would see two types of animal production systems: a highly specialized, high-input production system and an extensive low-input production system based on combined crop/animal farming.



The first system is characterized by highly productive and specialized livestock breeds housed indoors. In order to meet the nutritional needs for high production, this system requires the use of concentrated feed. The potential for overloading fields with nutrients from farm manure becomes a problem in these more intensive industrial farming systems.

In contrast, the extensive, low-input system involves keeping indigenous livestock breeds on grasslands throughout the major part of the year. Mixed livestock and crop farming takes on a different form, where crop and livestock operations are integrated into a local system where waste from each operation is processed and transported to become a cheap input for the other.

Traditional systems of livestock keeping are highly relevant to the sustainable agricultural production in nature protected areas. There are six categories of nature protected areas as the figure below shows. Three zones of protection could be delineated within the nature protected areas. Agricultural activities are allowed in zones II and III. There are several nature protected areas in the Republic of Serbia where agricultural activities are closely integrated with nature conservation and the protection of indigenous animal breeds and agricultural crop varieties.

Alumni photos



Khalida Jaafar, invited to speak at year end retreat in 2012

Rajkumari Sunita Devi organized a workshop in Manipur, India 2012 and invited former housemate, Ohnmar Khaing, Myanmar (aright)





Sian Cuffy-Young and husband Keyv



Rachel Guimbatan, ' CU Fellow from Philippines marriage to Gabor Fadgyas, Hungarian, Humphrey alumnus from U. Md.





Beautiful Babies

Olena Myonycheva's baby born in Aug. 2012 (top)

and Eddy Bongwele's baby born in July 2012 (right)

Cornell is offering a free eCornell course to the public for Hospitality from the Hotel School.

Also a free nutrition training course http://www.nutritionworks.cornell.edu/unicef/about/

Cornell University's International Outreach

Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO)

http://www.itswild.org/

COMACO is a novel, emerging company in Zambia that is pioneering an innovative way for making markets and conservation work together. It produces IT'S WILD!, a special brand of organic, value-added processed products that come from the farmers who live with wildlife. Urban consumers buy these products and in doing so, pay for the cost of rewarding small-scale farmers for supporting conservation. The idea that a company can work to improve the lives of poor farmers by supporting conservation may seem too good to be true. Far from it, it is happening and on a scale that is beginning to impress even the most skeptical!

COMACO partners with Cornell University faculty and students in several College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Departrments for technical expertise, research and development and marketing.

Student Teams Go Global to Help Businesses

By Stacey Shackford

The citrus fruit calamansi looks like a lime, tastes like a lemony mandarin and is believed to have medicinal benefits. But few people outside of the Philippines know about it. A group of Cornell students was challenged to change that.

As part of a project within the Student Multidisciplinary Applied Research Teams (SMART) program, eight teams, each with three to five students enrolled in the course Research and Strategy in Emerging Markets, spent two weeks in various countries in Africa and Asia in January for two-week consultations.

Run by the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development, SMART pairs students with businesses around the world, with the goal of applying classroom knowledge to solve real-life problems identified by the clients.

In South Africa, the SMART team worked with students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal to support smallholder horticultural producers. KwaZulu-Natal professor Joyce Chitja said the students helped illuminate a problem – different from the one the farmers initially thought they were facing – and invigorated a community. Although their visit was short, their impact will be long-lasting, she said.

Just as important for Chitja was the cross-cultural dialogue the visit created and the confidence it engendered within her own students.

"Learning should be intentional," Chitja said at the symposium. "I believe that classroom lessons should mirror the outside world, and that knowledge acquired in the classroom should be applied to real-life problems."

Narayan Sundararajan, chief technology officer of the Grameen Intel Social Business, which hosted SMART students in Bangladesh, said he appreciated the fresh outlook the students provided, as well as their knowledge about cutting-edge research, methodology and design, and academic rigor.

Other teams worked in Uganda, Zambia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Excerpted from Cornell Chronicle http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/2013/04/student-teams-go-global-help-businesses

Cornell University Alumni News Spring 2013

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Many of your Friends are on Facebook!
We also have a geographic map of our alumni on http://ip.cals.cornell.edu/maps/map.cfm?type=ip-hhh

Have you moved, or changed your position, please send us an update to gradassist@cornell.edu

IP CALS NEWS AND EVENTS

Cornell receives $25.2M in funding for Next Generation Cassava Breeding

Read current news about IP CALS here http://ip.cals.cornell.edu/news/index.cfm