

Peace Pieces

Welcome Class XV!

Every year the Uppsala Rotary Peace Center, hosted by the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, welcomes talented and committed professionals as students in the Peace and Conflict Master Program.

This year we are excited to know that professionals from the Americas, Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Oceania will be sharing their professional experiences on conflict prevention, youth and women empowerment, human rights, immigration, refugee crisis, and natural resources management, among other topics.

The Uppsala Rotary Peace Center gives them a warm welcome and wishes them a fruitful path in enhancing their academic background and enjoying the student life at Uppsala University!

"It was lunch-time, I was at work just staring at my computer when the e-mail from Tyler came in. I read the e-mail 3 times before it sunk in that I had been selected. I held on tightly to my desk, should I scream, should I jump, should I laugh or cry? What should I do? I had been selected from among thousands of applicants as a rotary peace fellow. It was an indescribable feeling!" (Maria Osula, Kenya, Fellow Class XV)



From left to right: Richard Bell (Australia), Takashi Ujikawa (Japan), Michelle Maxon (India), William Underwood (Australia), Pierre Thompson (USA), Francisco Magliano (Argentina), Maria Osula (Kenya), Carolyn Williams (USA), Jennifer Bradshaw (USA), Kalina McCaul (Canada)

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SERVICE ABOVE SELF

APPLIED FIELD EXPERIENCE (AFE)

SUPPORTING LOCAL GHANAIAAN ACTORS, JÚLIA LANDERS (CLASS XIV)

Julia supported the Ghana Community Radio Network. She trained radios personnel on how to interview political figures and the use of radio programs to support social movements' agendas. In addition, Julia worked with Ada Songor Salt Women Association (ASSWA)

where she was responsible for editing, promoting, and launching the book "The Struggle of the Songor Salt People". The book discusses the struggles of Songor Salt people and the conflict surrounding the privatization of the Songor Lagoon salt.

Julia also supported the organization by taking photos of women empowerment workshops, mobilization and awareness campaigns, and regional festivals.



ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS, PETER DIEN (CLASS XIV)

Peter supported the US Embassy, Office of Foreign Commercial and Economic Affairs (Trade & Development) in Beijing, China.

Among his main responsibilities was to research future implications of bilateral trade agreement between U.S.A and China. He focused on cyber-security, advanced technology, China's developments in specific markets, and intellectual property. He also collaborated in drafting policy initiatives, business advocacy, and providing technical assistance to Chinese companies and U.S companies on China's trade system. Finally, Peter also worked on business analysis and generally assisted U.S government, state or industry official delegations.





RESEARCHING ON POSSIBLE RECONCILIATION PATHS, ANA PAULA PEÑALVA TORRES (CLASS XIV)

Without doubts 2016 was a historical year for the Colombian society. Ana Paula was fortunated to celebrate the Colombian ceasefire agreement next to thousands of Colombians and witness the referendum process in which Colombians were asked whether the government should or should not sign the peace agreements with the FARC guerrilla.

For her Applied Field Experience (AFE) Ana Paula has been working with the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). She has been involved in researching Truth Commission Reports from Guatemala, Peru, Kenya, Sierra Leone, and South Africa to develop comprehensive recommendations for the organization and the nature of tasks that should be implemented by the Colombian Truth Commission.

Also, Ana Paula has been engaged in several discussions regarding the actual implementation of the Peace Agreement and the policies that would be needed to ensure its success.

Up front with our activities

ROTARY'S CENTENARY ANNIVERSARY

To mark 100 years of the Rotary Foundation, through which Rotary Peace Fellowships are funded, Uppsala University hosted a celebratory conference and dinner on 8 October.

Rotarians from across the world, Uppsala scholars and former and current Peace Fellows heard from His Excellency Mr Kai Eide, Ambassador of Norway to Sweden, on the topic of 'Lessons of a peacemaker: Examples from Afghanistan and the Balkans'. Ambassador Eide, who has previously served as head of UN missions in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina, emphasised the importance of dialogue for peacemaking, including talking with parties considered sometimes to be objectionable.

2013-15 Uppsala Peace Fellow, Zodiac Maslin-Hahn also spoke of her fieldwork in Uganda during her Applied Field Experience (AFE) and her current work in Afghanistan with AfghanAid.

The event was opened by Uppsala University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Eva Åkesson, together with Rotary Foundation Trustee, Ken Schuppert.

By, William Underwood, Fellow Class XV

Tusen Tack Host Families!



Maria Osila (Class XV) with
Kajsa Wejryd, host-mum

If there is something other than the fellowship that the peace fellows are grateful for, it would be having a host family. Imagine arriving at the airport in a new country with three large suitcases with no one to pick you up. Taxi service is expensive and then there is the dragging of suitcases all over Sweden if you take a bus or train. Fortunately for the peace fellows, we did not have to experience this “hardship”.

It was such a wonderful moment arriving after long hour flights and having someone to meet you at the airport and take you home. Our hosts waited patiently for us to arrive, drove us up to our apartments while some even accommodated us on the first few nights and made us feel at home. They prepared meals for us and helped us do some preliminary shopping of what we would need. How else would we have survived our first day in Sweden had we not had someone to help us out? We would have just ended up struggling to find Uppsala, slept without having eaten any meals and probably hated the city within the first few days.

In the past three months, our host families have made us part of their families, they dine with us, we exchange information on world issues, we tell jokes, they check on our progress in school and any general challenges that we have. They have helped us learn about Swedish society, history and culture. Adjusting to a new environment would have taken much longer and been much more difficult. They have made us feel welcome!

By, Maria Osula, Fellow Class XV

William Underwood (Class XV)
with Christina (host-mum) and
Emma (host-sister) Grzech-
nik-Mörk

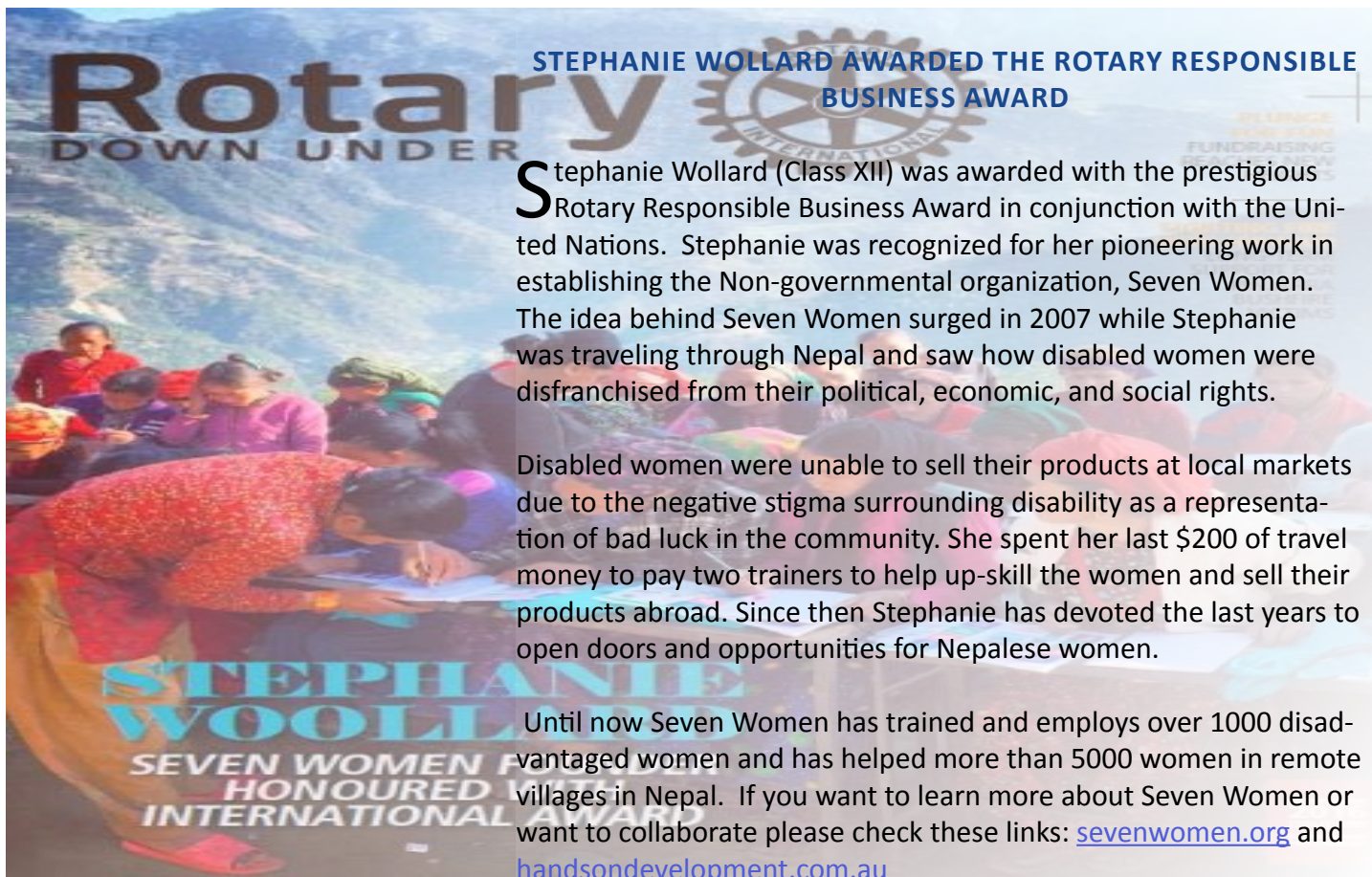


My host family in Sweden has been an absolute blessing. They are very supportive of my studies, Mr. Ström and I often exchange views on global affairs over fika: the refugee crisis, NATO, Russia, and American politics (he even helped me obtain my mail-in ballot for the USA elections). We are bonded above all by our shared Christian faith despite representing different traditions”,

Pierre Thompson (USA)



Carolyn Williams (Class XV) with Dahlsten
host family



Alumni News



KATE LONERGAN AWARDED THE MATS HAMMARSTRÖM PRIZE

Every year the Department of Peace and Conflict Research award the Mats Hammarström Prize for outstanding student essay in peace and conflict studies. This year the Rotary Fellow Kate Lonergan (Class XIII) was awarded the prize for her thesis entitled "Atrocity Prevention through Reconciliation? Testing the Impact of Interpersonal Reconciliation in Sri Lanka".

The selecting committee's motivation for choosing Kate's thesis was *"For an original and ambitious essay which marries two important research fields with a mixed methods design, employing both a randomized field experiment and purposive interviews"*.

News from the Host Area Coordinator

Being the HAC I serve as the primary contact between the host area Rotarians, the Rotary Peace Fellows and Uppsala University. A HAC is appointed by the chairman of the Trustees and it is a three-year assignment. Among my responsibilities are to assign a host family for each Peace Fellow, provide appropriate Rotary orientation to new fellows, arranging speaking opportunities and assisting in evaluating the program on a regular basis.

Bearing in mind that every Rotary Peace Center and Host Area run their program differently I would like to point out some of the activities that characterize the on-going work among the eight members of the HAC-committee in Uppsala, all dedicated Rotarians prepared to help the Fellows with a variety of issues. A grand task for the committee is selecting new host families and securing relevant information to all the involved parties. Since the start in 2012 sixty or so Rotarian families have introduced fellows to the day-to-day-life in Uppsala.

A considerable amount of time is also set aside for activities raising awareness among local Rotarians about the Peace Center Program and the Center in Uppsala. For example in September the new Fellows took part in a talk at the district conference staged around the theme Peace and what Rotary can do for Peace.

While the first-year Fellows have been busy adapting themselves to Uppsala's vibrant student life, the second-year Fellows have been out of town this semester. After the New Year holidays, when all are back, there will be a big get-together for all Fellows and host families to inform about forthcoming activities. At the same time the HAC-committee will start working to prepare a new group of Rotarians for the experience of being a host family for the next inbound Peace Fellows arriving in August.

Yours

Magnus Elfwendahl
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Happy Rotary Peace Fellows in Uppsala (Sweden) 2016. From left Ahmad Mohibbi (USA), Kate Lonergan (USA), Sireh Jabang (Gambia), Nicole Ella (Australia), Clair Maisonnier (Australia/France), Meena Pillai (Australia), Krystal Renschler (Canada).

Missing on photo Takuya Koimaru (Japan), Ahmed Abdi Wais (Somalia)



Keep tuned!

UPPSALA ROTARY FELLOWS BLOG IS COMING

Fellows have a great surprise to share, next year fellows will release a blog that shares their experiences during the Master, Applied Field Experience (AFE), internships, and more.

You need to keep tuned to know the exact date its release and get ready to enjoy reading all the experiences!

ABOUT UPPSALA ROTARY PEACE CENTER

Uppsala Rotary Peace Center educates current and emerging leaders. Admitted Peace Fellows earn a Master degree at Uppsala University.

Uppsala Rotary Peace Center is hosted by the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, established in 1971 to conduct research and offer courses in peace and conflict studies.

Both research and teaching at the department focus on the origin, dynamics and resolution of armed conflicts on a scientific basis. Students will acquire knowledge and skills that provide the capacity to solve problems independently and the ability to monitor and critically evaluate the development of knowledge within peace and conflict research.

CONTACT DETAILS

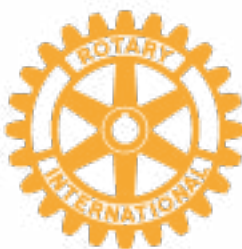
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