

Humphrey

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2024

The 2023-2024 Syracuse Humphrey Fellows



The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by the Institute of International Education

Meet the Fellows



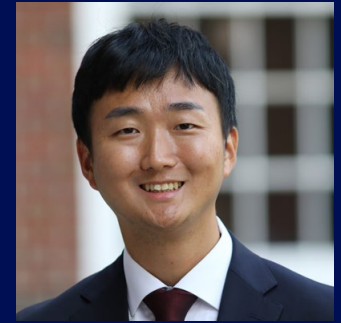
Zaur Allahverdiyev, Azerbaijan: Innovative development policy, cybersecurity policy and strategy, law and regulation



Trim Berisha, Kosovo: Public policy analysis, public administration, strategic planning and economic development



Marcelo Funes, Argentina: Public policy, artificial intelligence, data analysis and decision-making, blockchain management



Minseok Kang, South Korea: Government innovation, government trust, local governments, democracy



Ghulam Jan Naseer, Pakistan: E-governance, ICT project management, policy management, data protection



Maria Alejandra Pozo, Ecuador: Economics for public decisions, tax innovation



Sanam Rasool, Pakistan: Tax exemption regime for developing countries and other tax policy studies



Emahatsion Tekle, Eritrea: Internet, block-chain, big data, AI, cybersecurity



Grecia Vasquez, Guatemala: Public policies, leadership, community development, prevention of money laundering



Ana Villarreal Garcia, Costa Rica: Service design, public policies in innovation, public policies in human talent



Cristina Virlan, Moldova: Leadership in the public sector, evidence-based public policy development, policy analysis

Syracuse Humphrey Fellows are in the midst of their program year with focus on the second half of their fellowship. This year's cohort of 11 are among the 148 fellows from 91 campuses.



Global Leadership Forum Convenes in Washington, DC

The annual Global Leadership Forum was held in October, where fellows engaged with their peers, U.S. Department of State representatives and public sector professionals. Session topics included professional affiliations, regional discussions, crisis communications and Humphrey perspectives on sustainable environments, human rights and societal and institutional capacity. Syracuse Humphrey program director Margaret Lane served on the organizing committee and moderated the discussion on professional affiliations.

There was a familiar face in the speaker line-up, as Michael Meath, former Newhouse School of Public Communications professor and Principal, Fallingbrook Associates, LLC, was invited to present to all fellows. This also included an afternoon break-out session where fellows could put to practice his morning presentation. His dynamic session on crisis communications was a perennial favorite during the *Leadership and Governance During Times of Crisis Syracuse Enhancement Workshop*.

Onondaga County Executive Meets Fellows

Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon and members of his senior leadership team met with fellows to discuss how the county manages the priorities, projects, people and budgets to serve its almost 480,000 community members.

The County Executive spent time talking about the process of winning the Micron megafab, a transformative investment by Micron of up to \$100 billion over 20 years. Fellows learned how local, state and federal leaders worked to land the project, which could add up to 50,000 total jobs both at Micron and in the community at large.



Local Site Visit, Regional Zoo and a Global Mission



Onondaga County's Rosamond Gifford Zoo was the backdrop for a discussion on conservation, nonprofits, collaboration and how the zoo works locally, nationally and internationally to carry out their mission. Zoo executive director Ted Fox and Friends of the Zoo executive director Carrie Large discussed the role of this regional zoo in global conservation, explored the intersection of a county park and a nonprofit "friends" organization and its role in development and volunteers. Fellows also got a behind-the-scenes walk-through of the Asian elephant barn, where rare twin elephants were born last year.



Humphrey Family & Friends Celebrate the Seasons with Fellows

Humphrey Family & Friends provide instrumental connections for fellows during their program year, including many time-honored group activities. On a rainy evening fellows met this year's Humphrey Family & Friends at a welcome picnic by the shores of Onondaga Lake. It was also an opportunity to showcase the variable Syracuse weather and the "rain or shine (or snow)" spirit of folks from Central New York.

Syracuse Humphrey fellows spent an early autumn day in the country with Humphrey Family & Friends at the home of Swiat Kaczmar and Nancy Freeborough. The fellows enjoyed the views of Lake Ontario, one of the great lakes that also borders Ontario, Canada, walking along the cobbled beach and eating a scrumptious feast prepared by Swiat and Nancy. It was a chance to connect with host families to celebrate the harvest

season. On the way home, they stopped by an Amish farm stand for local ornamental corn (another fall tradition), honey, maple syrup, baked goods and vegetables.

In November, International Education Week, hosted by Associate Campus SUNY Oswego, enabled Oswego students and host families and friends alike to learn more about fellows' countries and cultures.

To round out the seasons, host family Melanie and Tom Carroll hosted fellows, families and friends for the annual international potluck on a cold winter afternoon. This was the perfect time to celebrate tradition and getting back together after break. Global and U.S. favorites were on the menu, with descriptions and traditions- warming hearts and souls alike!



Partnering with SUNY Oswego

During the fall semester, fellows spent the day at SUNY Oswego, our associate campus to learn more about this public university and engage with students. Undergraduates met fellows during a series of speed meetings and a class of international business students paired off to interview fellows about their respective countries for a research paper- fellows were one of the sources cited. They also met faculty, including a professor whose area of focus is ChatGPT, of particular interest to the fellows in IT policy. Grecia Vasquez (Guatemala) followed up with a talk with students in the Living and Learning Center about her country and also offering tips for budgeting and personal finance for these undergraduates.



Syracuse and Cornell Cohorts Meet During Cross-Campus Collaboration



Cornell and Syracuse Humphrey fellows gathered in the Adirondack Mountains to learn about this six-million acre park that balances the need for environmental sustainability with economic development. Cornell Humphrey director Ed Mabaya led a discussion, posing the question, “what is the value of nature?” seeking fellows’ perspectives on whether nature can be priced, or is priceless. Later, Adirondack Park Agency’s Public Information Officer Keith McKeever talked about the role of the NYS agency in the planning and preservation of the park, which is a unique combination of private and public lands, some of which are constitutionally-protected as forever wild. It was a soggy weekend, but it didn’t slow the fellows down as they took a gondola up Whiteface Mountain to view the High Peaks region. Conversations continued into the evening about ways to continue the connection throughout the program year. On the return trip, Syracuse fellows spent a day at Minnowbrook, Syracuse University’s conference center for team-building and brainstorming.



Fellows Participate in Inaugural Community Open Data Day



Syracuse Humphrey fellows participated in the first-ever Open Data Day, sponsored by the City of Syracuse Office of Analytics, Performance & Innovation. Meant for beginners and experts alike, participants could discover datasets available to the community, learn tools like Python and take part in a hack-a-thon.

Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh took time for a photo with Humphrey fellows and Maxwell students, including 2022-2023 Humphrey alum Margarita Musante, and the chair of Public Administration and International Affairs, Colleen Heflin.

Carmen Pantoja, a Boston University Humphrey fellow alum and recent Maxwell School graduate, helped coordinate the event as part of Syracuse Surge and the City of Syracuse.

Fellow Reflections



Sanam Rasool

PAKISTAN

My Humphrey journey commenced in Fall 2023 with 10 other fellows from 9 different countries. Ever since, there's never been a dull moment in this exciting journey. From hectic academic schedules, demanding fellowship commitments, enriching cross-cultural interactions and rewarding interpersonal experiences, I've found my learning curve pointing north, each day.

In the academic sphere, I had the opportunity to study courses including Managerial Leadership, Follow the Money: Key issues in Illicit Finance and Social Welfare Policy in which I learned about latest trends in leadership, digital financial intelligence and public policy analysis from top-notch faculty at the Maxwell School. Of particular interest to me were unique teaching and assessment methodologies coupled with emphasis on class participation from which I learned about professional experiences of my culturally-diverse peers.

Through the well-rounded approach of the fellowship, I was introduced to the ideas and experience of community service, environmental conservation, cultural exchange and professional development. In this brief time period,

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Grecia Vásquez

GUATEMALA

Being a Humphrey fellow at Syracuse has surpassed my expectations, offering a rich and comprehensive experience that spans academic, professional, and personal dimensions. The journey commenced with an enlightening orientation period alongside professors, staff, and Humphrey Fellows, delving into American culture, university life, and establishing connections with our host families. This initial phase cultivated a profound sense of belonging, transforming us from colleagues into a cohesive part of the Humphrey Family.

During last semester, I had the privilege of being a guest speaker in classes at SUNY Oswego. I shared insights on personal finance for students and engaged in discussions on cultural topics. Additionally, I presented to the Syracuse Sunshine Rotary Club, exploring three pivotal moments in Guatemalan history. Looking forward, I am eagerly anticipating the opportunity to share my knowledge of Guatemalan culture and economics at the Whitman School of Management this semester.

Syracuse University, with its commitment to global issues and vibrant student engagement, has catalyzed this transformative journey. I immersed

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Ghulam Jan Nasser

PAKISTAN

Reflecting on my journey as a Humphrey fellow, I've had the privilege of engaging in the prestigious Fulbright fellowship dedicated to nurturing future leaders. Throughout this experience, I successfully completed graduate-level courses in leadership management, data-driven decision making, and public technology management and development. My participation extended beyond the classroom, encompassing workshops on conflict management, technology, and leadership. Serving as a volunteer during various occasions and contributing to the Global Leadership Forum highlighted the diverse and enriching aspects of the Humphrey fellowship. As I plan for my upcoming professional affiliation, I carry with me the knowledge and network acquired during this transformative period.

As Director of IT, I am committed to applying the acquired skills and knowledge from the Humphrey fellowship to contribute meaningfully upon my return home. My goal is to leverage this expertise in leadership management, data-driven decision making, and public technology management to foster prosperity and drive socio-economic change in my

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Fellow Reflections:

Sanam Rasool, Pakistan (continued)

I had the unrivalled opportunity to engage in community service activities at the Samaritan Center and on-campus with the Bridge Community and the Muslim Student Association. I visited the Rosamond Gifford Zoo and Adirondack Park where I learned about their ecosystems and realized my duty towards the environment. The whirlwind of professional development activities aided me in honing my public speaking, networking and time management skills. Some of the highlights include 2023 ICMA Annual Conference in Texas, Global Leadership Forum and meeting with U.S. Department of State officials in Washington D.C., speed networking and participation in International Student Week at the SUNY Oswego and serving as a panelist to Paul Babiarz's class at the Whitman School of Management. Cross-cultural exchange of ideas and experiences on campus and with host family and friends further added to the overall beauty of this journey.

“Cross-cultural exchange of ideas and experiences on campus and with host family and friends further added to the overall beauty of this journey”

I'm greatly thankful to the Humphrey Fellowship, courtesy of which I'm finding opportunities every single day to be a better person and to strive to make the world a better place for others.

Grecia Vásquez, Guatemala (continued)

myself in courses aligned with my professional interests, such as leadership, illicit finance, public management of technology development and conflict studies. The diverse teaching methods and unwavering support of my classmates and professors has made the learning process both immersive and captivating.

“Syracuse University, with its commitment to global issues and vibrant student engagement, has catalyzed this transformative journey”

While the journey has been filled with positive moments, it has not been without challenges associated with adapting to this new context. However, Syracuse has proven to be a haven of support, with a campus community that includes student institutions like Bridge and InterVarsity, where I actively participate. These groups foster friendship, promote Christian values and organize various volunteer activities dedicated to assisting students.

I'm grateful to be a Humphrey fellow and privileged to partake in this journey of transformative experiences. Reflecting on the Humphrey Fellowship, it's evident that this experience is synonymous with continuous growth. It extends beyond professional development, leaving a lasting impact on my personal growth and providing me with broader perspectives that will undoubtedly shape my future. Each component of this journey contributes to creating a professional, human, and enriching academic experience.

Ghulam Jan Nasser, Pakistan (continued)

country. The Humphrey fellowship has not only equipped me with the necessary tools but also instilled a sense of responsibility to make a positive impact on the community and beyond.

“The Humphrey fellowship has not only equipped me with the necessary tools but also instilled a sense of responsibility to make a positive impact on the community and beyond.”

Furthermore, my time as a Humphrey fellow allowed me to absorb valuable lessons from the people and culture of the United States. Interacting with diverse perspectives and immersing myself in the rich tapestry of American culture has been an enlightening experience. These insights, coupled with the academic and professional learnings, have broadened my worldview. I am eager to integrate this comprehensive understanding into my role as Director of IT, fostering a global approach to contribute to the prosperity and socio-economic transformation of my home country.

Alumni Updates

Alumni from Brazil

2000's

Syracuse's three fellows from Brazil met for the first time in August during the 45th Anniversary celebration in Brasília for the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship program.

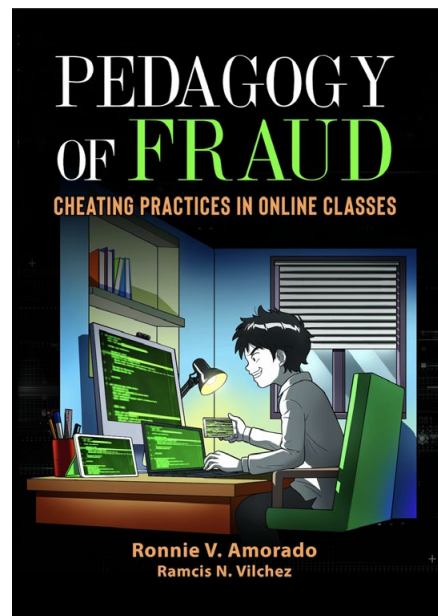
Gabriel Ferreira Menezes (2018-2019), Débora Targino Teixeira (2020-2021) and Marco Konopacki (2019-2020)

had a chance to reminisce about their respective fellowship years at Maxwell and their shared (and unique) experiences while here.



Ronnie Amorado

2009-2010



Ronnie Amorado (Philippines)

is launching his latest book, *Pedagogy of Fraud: Cheating Practices in Online Classes*, in a series of university lecture tours this year. It's a product of three years of research from the pandemic to 2023 and started as a scholarly journal published in Scopus-indexed *Migration Letters*, with regional

survey data covering about 29,000 student respondents. The project expanded to include a national survey of another 11,000 student respondents randomly selected from across the country, whose findings became part of the book publication. The study's major findings as published in the book is that academic fraud and cheating in online classes have become more prevalent and sophisticated using technology. Cheaters cheat more during the pandemic, while honest students are effectively seduced to cheat. The book connects the dangers of students who are products of academic fraud and who will perpetuate fraud in professional practice. The book has a dedicated chapter on Ronnie's conversations with chatGPT AI. As part of critical analysis and commentaries, the book proffers comprehensive recommendations on how to detect and prevent academic fraud.



Baloko Makala

2010-2011

Baloko Makala (Rwanda) served as moderator and host for [Artificial Intelligence: A Global Landscape](#) that touched on public policy, technology and law. It was hosted by Pyrethra and included panelists who provided overviews of AI regulation in the [U.S.](#), [China](#), [developing countries](#) and the [EU AI Act](#).

Kristīne Jaunzeme

2011-2012

Kristīne Jaunzeme (Latvia) audited the civil protection system and crisis preparedness of Latvia and shared the audit results with the EUROSAI Resilience and Preparedness Project Group in Prague, Czech Republic, this past January. Since 2020, she's been a member of the Council of the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia and Director of the Audit Department, responsible for audits in the

areas of home affairs, defense and justice. Under Kristīne's leadership and in the context of strengthening national security, audits on human resources development and procurement in the National Armed Forces have also been carried out. After her fellowship year, Kristīne served as a legal adviser to the President of Latvia (2015-2019) and worked in the Legal Office of the Latvian Parliament and the Office of the President of Latvia (2013-2015). She emphasizes that the experience and knowledge gained during the Humphrey Fellowship year and at Maxwell have opened new horizons in her professional career and have enabled her to contribute even more to the work and development of Latvian public administration. In addition to her work at the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia, Kristīne is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Psychology at the University of Latvia.



Gina Chacon Fregoso

2012-2013

Gina Chacon Fregoso (Mexico)

is now Director of Public Policy Mexico Program at Wildlands Network.



Dee Moskoff

2013-2014



The internship program **Dee Moskoff (South Africa)** established and is currently running continues to expand connections. She attended the [Global Startup Awards Africa Summit](#) where Newhouse professor Sean Branagan was keynote speaker. They also were able to have a mini-Syracuse meetup. This arrangement between the Newhouse School and GIIG Africa was made possible through the [internship program she runs in South Africa](#).

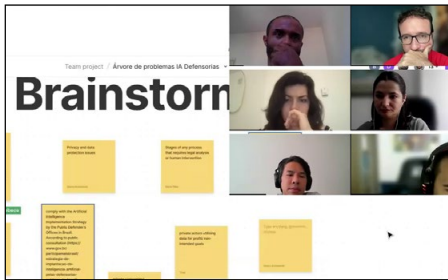
Roldolphe Bance

2019-2020

Roldolphe Bance (Burkina Faso) is now in Nairobi, Kenya at the African Capacity Building Foundation as the Head of Economic and Social Governance where he is currently coordinating a leadership development program for ministries of finance of five African countries.

Marco Konopacki

2019-2020



Marco Konopacki (Brazil) is spearheading a partnership between ITS Rio Institute and Stanford University with the aim to establish a public governance framework for developing a comprehensive ecosystem within Public Defenders Offices in Brazil. The focus is on sharing data and technologies related to AI to amplify access to justice for marginalized and economically disadvantaged individuals. By establishing a public governance structure, the project aims to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among Public Defenders offices, ultimately ensuring more efficient and accessible legal assistance for

those in need. Marco has been appointed to lead the efforts to conceptualize, implement, and oversee the development of this groundbreaking public governance initiative.

Burhan Rasool

2021-2022

Burhan Rasool (Pakistan) recently presented at a workshop in Islamabad, [Digital Transformation - Envisioning the Pakistan Digital Stack](#)



Aleksei Karnaukhov

2021-2022

Aleksei Karnaukhov (Russia) is a Chevening Scholar, studying for a master's in Corruption and Governance at the Centre for the Study of Corruption, at University of Sussex in England.



Yuliia Fediv

2022-2023



Yuliia Fediv (Ukraine)

participated as representative of the NGO sector from Ukraine at the 2024 Winter Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), held from January 22-26 in Strasbourg, France.

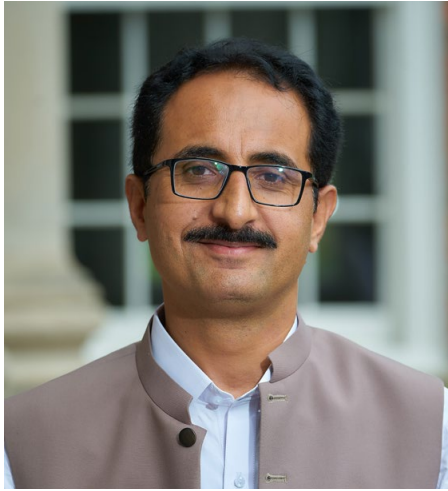
She presented “Countering the Erasure of Cultural Identity in War and Peace” to support the rapporteur Yevhenis Kravchuk, Ukraine, ALDE.

The discussion was held with three experts including Yuliia to cover infringements on culture, history, language, education and heritage sites that form a basis for gradual cultural erasure and denial of cultural identity in Belarus, Ukraine and the Caucasus region. It was a roundtable with 3-4 rounds of questions from three committees on culture, politics and monitoring to cover different themes, identify problems and propose possible measures for future.

Sultan Nasir

2022-2023

Sultan Nasir (Pakistan) has been named [Director General, Pakistan Academy of Letters \(PAL\)](#) part of the National Heritage and Culture Division. The PAL is responsible for



promoting Pakistani literature (written in national and local languages) nationally and internationally. Sultan states, “The Academy also looks after the welfare of literary persons, nomination of national awards, conducting national/international literary seminars and allied matters. It advises public policy with respect to literary activities in the country.”

Ananya Sinha

2022-2023

Ananya Sinha (India) was featured in a [profile on Executive Education's website](#), highlighting Maxwell's

longstanding ties with India. During their Humphrey year, **Ananya** and **Sultan** also engaged with programs at the South Asia Center. They were featured in the Center's [Summer 2023 newsletter](#). Their story is on page 17 of the publication.



2023-2024 Humphrey Fellows Program Year

[Humphrey Fellowship Program of Syracuse University](#)

For continual updates on this year's cohort and alumni, follow the [Syracuse Humphrey program on Facebook](#).

