

Humphrey

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM NEWSLETTER | FALL 2024

Saying Farewell to the 2023-2024 Cohort...



Bittersweet is often the term we use when it comes to saying farewell to outgoing Humphrey Fellows at the annual Year-End Celebration. This past year Grecia Vasquez (Guatemala) and Zaur Allahverdiyev (Azerbaijan) were selected by their peers to deliver remarks on behalf of the cohort and Ghulam Jan Naseer (Pakistan) compiled images of the year as

seen through the eyes of the fellows themselves. Humphrey seminar faculty lead Catherine Gerard offered thoughts framed around quotes from Hubert H. Humphrey. We also recognized our fantastic Humphrey Family & Friends, many of whom have been host families for more than 10 years. You all know the drill: always farewell, never goodbye!



Maxwell School

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

...Saying Hello to the 2024-2025 Cohort

In August, the 16th cohort of Humphrey Fellows arrived to begin their 10-month odyssey. Twelve fellows spent a couple weeks settling in and getting acquainted with the program, campus and region before delving into the fall semester.

[Biographies of the fellows](#) are on the Humphrey website and [a story announcing their arrival](#) and mini-profiles of two fellows is also posted.



Bidding Adieu to Catherine Gerard

So many Humphrey Fellow alumni responded to the call for reflections on the Humphrey Seminar, led by Catherine Gerard, on the occasion of her retirement. These were collected and, along with reflections of Executive Education students, gathered in a book that's being presented to Catherine. Here are some excerpts from Syracuse Humphrey alums:

2009-2010

"She was also a source of encouragement and inspiration - for me and my cohort - to pursue new initiatives, work to make the world a better place, and advance conflict resolution and peace-making."

Nimrod Goren (Israel)

"I am using the approaches in my daily work with my peers, team members and governmental clients and I am always mindful of the organizational complexities and capacities when offering solutions in my work."

Alexei Ionascu (Moldova)

2010-2011

"She definitely broadened my horizon and her leadership class was a major highlight of my Humphrey journey."

Nampoina Rabenasolo (Madagascar)

2011-2012

"Catherine's outstanding command over subject, her vast knowledge and utmost devotion left a lasting impression in my mind."

Rezwana Siddiqui (Pakistan)



2012-2013

"Professor Gerard definitely impacted my thinking about leadership, teaching me to see crises as opportunities to become a leader who collaborates and empowers team members."

Gina Chacon (Mexico)

2013-2014

"I cannot and will not forget to use four frames of leadership and change management techniques we learnt from Catherine. I believe I was much better performer and leader after accomplishment of the HH fellowship program at the school."

Sanallah Abro (Pakistan)

2015-2016

"The materials from your lectures, always interesting and providing a lot of useful both theoretical and practical information, are still relevant today and serve as the basis for further professional development."

Uran Esengeldiev (Kyrgyzstan)

"She has often elaborated on concept of 'leading from behind'. During my time in Maxwell, I thought it was an interesting perspective and not more than that. But ever since, working to support local NGOs or governments in different regions I was working in, that phrase resonated louder and louder in my professional efforts, raising almost to a level of personal creed."

Filip Mitrovic (Serbia)

"I remembered my love for human resources management and team management that I learned with Catherine without forgetting the notions of negotiation, compromise, and conflict management."

André Ndjallè (Cameroon)

2017-2018

"I particularly appreciated the studies cases you gave to us, in the sense to put us in the statute of a leader."

Mireille Laurentine Tchakounte Tchatat (Cameroon)

2018-2019

"Through her course, she has very much impacted my leadership journey for the five years. I am indebted to her service in my life, and I will forever be grateful."

Francis Wau (Papua New Guinea)

"Her investment into getting to know her students and then building rapport upon that knowledge was, for me during my Humphrey year, noticeable and remarkable."

Anton Shevchenko (Ukraine)

"She made me understand leadership is a complex attribute that shows up after the inner balance of different elements, which can change the play of power dynamics."

Magda Monteza (Panama)

Bidding Adieu to Catherine Gerard (continued)



April 2024: 2023-2024 fellows with Catherine for one last session

2019-2020

“Your dedication, passion, and ability to impart knowledge have left an indelible mark on my approach to this crucial subject.”

Barbara Barrios (Panama)

“I have no iota of doubt that your lessons transformed me from erstwhile mid-career manager to a professional “managerial leader.””

Imran Hamid (Pakistan)

“During the activities I could know better my professional skills and your guidance brought me self-confidence to face greater challenges that have served me well in my career/life.”

Marco Konopacki (Brazil)

2021-2022

“Many of her lessons are so useful to me these days, I have been working advising the authorities of the current government, a couple of ministers and vice minister I think she help me to understand the importance of power, leadership and service!”

Marien Alvarado Franco (Guatemala)

“Catherine inspired me each week, provoking reflection and action. She has a global perspective of problems, she combines theory and practice, and she is eager to give the best of her to help us to be better persons and professionals.”

Juan Gowland (Argentina)

“Forever indebted to her for the value addition in my personal and professional life.”

Burhan Rasool (Pakistan)

“Your lectures and insights on leadership left a lasting impression on me. You showed me how important emotional intelligence is for a great leader.”

Khalisa Shahverdiyeva (Azerbaijan)

2022-2023

“For me, it was an honor and a wonderful discovery into an unknown world, as I had never before delved into the different approaches to leadership and its evolution over time.”

Maria Margarita Musante (Argentina)

Cross-Campus Collaboration Reflects on the 2023-2024 Fellowship Year

The Cornell Humphrey Fellowship program hosted the Penn State and Syracuse campuses for a re-entry cross-campus collaboration in April. Fellows were able to re-connect, reflect on their year and envision what the process of returning to their home countries may be like. Activities included a 2-minute re-enactment of their program year, small group breakout case study discussions and an opportunity for fellows to share their thoughts on one of four areas: highlights, challenges, what they're looking forward to on return and what they'll miss about the fellowship year. Cornell fellows then led fellows on a walk around campus including to nearby Beebe Lake.



Tour of WAER Preview Potential Future Opportunities



Humphrey Fellows toured WAER, a public radio station on the Syracuse University campus, whose storied history includes notable journalists, musicians and sportscasters such as Ted Koppel, Lou Reed, and Mike Tirico, among others.

Fellows learned about the station's mission, how it's funded, and how public radio differs from commercial radio, enabling it to serve diverse audiences during a wide-ranging discussion with the station's general manager, Chris Bolt (pictured on right). The fellows look forward to future opportunities to engage with the station.

From the Field: Slovakia to Ukraine

Laura Dittel was a 2014-2015 Humphrey Fellow and sent this dispatch from earlier in 2024

My name is Laura Dittel, and I have just returned from a humanitarian mission in Ukraine. For five days, along with 16 other volunteers, I delivered humanitarian aid to forgotten villages and towns in the far north of the country - in the Chernihiv region, very close to the Belarusian border. This area was directly occupied by Russian troops from February 28, 2022, to April 1, 2022. Although the soldiers did not ravage the area as they did in Bucha, they left devastation in their wake. They stripped the local people of everything, including bedding, dishes, and basic electronics. This occurred after more than two months of terrorizing and depriving them of their meager food supplies.



Our stop included the district hospital in Ripky. Its chief doctor and director, Mr. Oleksandr Oleksiyovych Frolov, is doing everything he can to keep the hospital running while also treating patients.



Due to the war, Oleksandr and his hospital are struggling with a lack of disinfectants, surgical gloves and other medical supplies, supplemental nutrition, as well as food, clothing, and linens for staff and patients. The most powerful moment for me was when Oleksandr showed us the laundry room and the washing machine that local women use to wash linens not only for the hospital but also for schools and other institutions in the area.

The hospital in Ripky is a district hospital serving the entire region. As a result, a significant amount of bed and other linens get soiled. However, the only large-capacity washing machine is in a dire state, and standard washing machines can't handle the load and break down after just a few weeks.



The large, completely rusted drum of the washing machine is without a cover, and the sight of the machine is heartbreaking. In any other country, such a washing machine would have long been in the landfill. In Ripky, it continues to wash, but the question remains for how long...



I must admit, I have never seen anything like this. Since the beginning of the war, I have witnessed many desperate situations in Ukraine, but this sight was particularly painful. I promised Oleksandr that I would help him - after what I saw, I simply must.



I launched an online fundraising campaign. We needed 20,000 EUR to purchase an industrial barrier washing machine. The appeal on the Donio Slovensko portal, which I announced just before Christmas 2023, opened the hearts of 480 donors, who together raised 21,523 EUR.

OPERAČNÁ DRUŽINA:

Pomôžeme získať práčku pre nemocnicu v Ripkách na Ukrajine

Získaných 41 523 € z 20 000 € 17 523 € od 480 darcov 20 000 € od Poľskej občianskej spoločnosti a fondov Poľska ako: Nadácia reprezentatívnej kancelárie na Slovensku

480 darcov Celkom sa zapojilo Právnym výkladom daru

2 500 € Najvyšší dar 26 dní Zbierané do

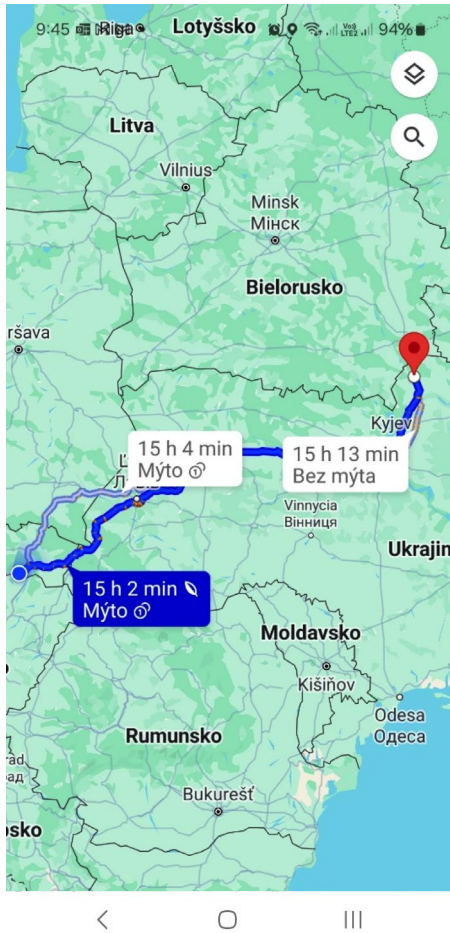
VIAZ O TESTO VÝŠE



The Open Society Foundation and the Pontis Foundation “added” another EUR 20,000 to this sum from the amount sent to Slovakia by Taiwan through the Taipei Representative Office in Slovakia.

From the Field: Slovakia to Ukraine (continued)

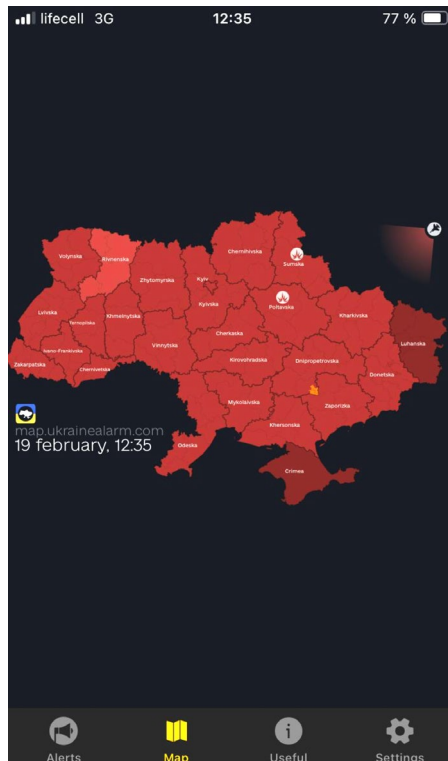
Not only did we buy the washing machine, whose story is told in this video, but thanks to the total amount of 41,523 EUR we also bought a new industrial tumble dryer and a refurbished mangle. With this we have completely equipped the hospital laundry, and we believe that the equipment will serve



them for at least the next 25 years. In the cargo hold of the vans that made the journey to the far Chernihiv region — to Ripki — in February, we of course added more generators, food, medicine, and even whole packages of donated bed linen. The dryer traveled later because it took longer to purchase. We transported it to Poljana, Ukraine, and from there it was taken to Chernihiv by father Vasil and son Vasja Rajchinets—our rock-helpers. A video showing the dryer was subsequently sent to us after its installation by the hospital's chief physician, Dr. Olexander Frolov, whom you will also meet in the video.

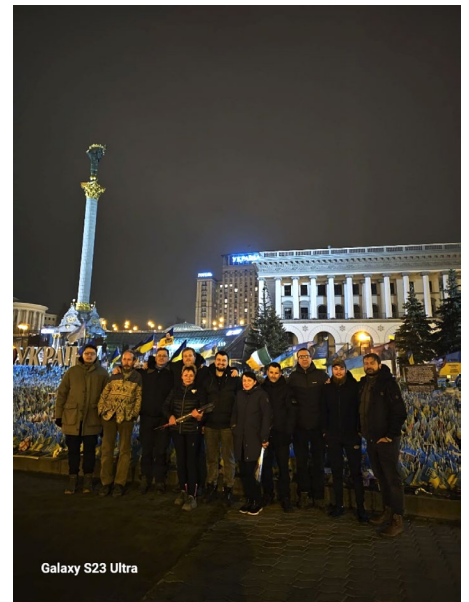


As we were installing the washing machine, a message popped up on our WhatsApp from a friend in Western Ukraine asking if we were on our way home yet because the Russians had just fired missiles directly at Chernihiv. The whole of Ukraine was under threat, as the map from the app shows, which rarely looks like this. Fortunately, the Ukrainian air defenses shot down all the missiles before they would have flown over the region.



I invite you on a journey to Ripki with a washing machine that won't take nearly as long as it took us, and won't be nearly as tiring: what can one washing machine change in a war? ([Čo môže zmeniť jedna práčka vo vojne? \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...))

None of this would have happened if I didn't have amazing people, friends, volunteers around me who helped me with planning, shopping, logistics and accompanied me on the journey almost to the border with Belarus.



Alums Visit Maxwell During Trips to the U.S.

We've been so fortunate this year to have Humphrey alums stop by for a visit!



Sometimes graduation weekend brings Humphrey alums back to campus. 2022-2023 Humphrey alums **Niño Raymond B. Alvina** (Philippines, left) and **Maria Margarita Musante** (Argentina, center right) re-connected during Convocation weekend in May. Niño was also able to meet 2023-2024 Humphrey fellow **Ghulam Jan Naseer** (Pakistan, right) who conducted his professional affiliation in Syracuse.



Yuliya Aliyeva (Azerbaijan, 2016-2017, first row, third from right) visited Maxwell in September to present at the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) Fall conference. In advance of the conference, she met this year's fellows (pictured above) to talk about her experience as a Humphrey at Maxwell and life post-Humphrey. She also caught up with her host family, Kim and Mike Armani. Her talk at CESS was entitled, "Language Policies and Linguistic Diversity in Baku's 8 km District". Current fellows volunteered at the conference, which was organized in part by Mirjakhon Turdiyev (Uzbekistan, 2015-2016).



Umar Kiyimba (Uganda, 2016-2017) stopped by Maxwell during a visit to New York City for his work as Head of the Election Management Department of the Uganda Electoral Commission. He also visited with his host family Frank and Sandy. Umar was one of 60 members of the African Union Election Observer Mission to South Africa for its elections at the end of May. While at Maxwell he also had the opportunity to meet fellow Ugandan Pearl Natamba, who was a Mandela Washington Fellow at the Maxwell School.



Nampoinaina Rabenasolo (Madagascar, 2010-2011, left) visited campus while in the U.S. in late September to attend a conference, where he connected with this year's cohort, including fellow Malagasy **Tokiana Rakotonirainy** (right). In addition, Nampoina met with Executive Education Director Steve Lux and former assistant coordinator Tammy Salisbury. He chatted with the fellows about his experience as a fellow, including the importance of volunteering, networking with previous fellows and the many soft skills he cultivated while here.

One Fellowship. Two Campuses. Three Decades.



Dr. Chrissie Nancy Mwiyeriwa (Malawi, front row, 2nd from left) was a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow at Fulbright Humphrey Fellowship at Cornell University in 1993-1994, when Cornell's field of study was Public Health Management and Policy.

Thirty-one years later, her daughter, **Lonia Steve Mwiyeriwa** (front row, center), followed in her footsteps as a Humphrey fellow at Maxwell, dedicated to public service in Malawi. Lonia travelled to Cornell to see the photo of her mother's cohort in person. She became aware of this connection from her aunt only recently.



Leadership Lessons at Minnowbrook



Fellows travelled to the Adirondacks to experience a little bit of New York State's 6-million acre park during leaf-peeping season. It offered time for continued cohort-building in the midst of a busy semester.

Professor Catherine Gerard, who previously taught the Humphrey Seminar before her retirement this summer, led a session on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the workplace. Fellows also tackled a case study and considered ways of leadership that include an awareness of unconscious bias.

Fellows also took time to enjoy the beauty of the area with a hike to Castle Rock and kayaking Blue Mountain Lake. A couple intrepid swimmers even took to the 63-degree (F) waters!

Global Leadership Forum Convenes

As final touches were being put on the newsletter, Fellows traveled to the Global Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. They were among the 142 fellows from 94 countries being hosted at 13 universities attending this annual gathering. Among the highlights was the diplomatic reception, which returned to the Benjamin Franklin Room at the U.S. Department of State.

Current Humphrey fellows were also selected to participate in panel discussions. Hamzah AlKmal (Yemen) was part of the Humphrey Perspectives: Promoting Human Rights and Freedoms session. It's always a rewarding week for all and returning to campus with a renewed sense of the Humphrey Fellowship Program.



Lana D. Omar Surchy (right) and Margaret with a representative from the Embassy of Iraq.



Hamzah Al-Kmal (left) and Margaret with a representative from the Embassy of Yemen.



Hamzah was also a panelist for a Humphrey Perspectives discussion.

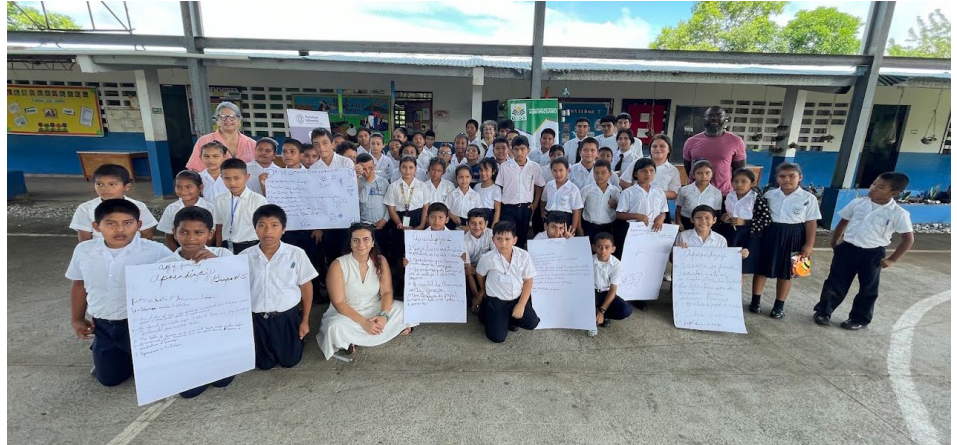
Alumni Updates



Anton Shevchenko briefing the leadership of the Republic of Slovenia's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs on explosive hazard challenges in Ukraine

2018-2019

Over the last year, **Anton Shevchenko** (Ukraine) was involved in two major initiatives aimed at linking humanitarian and recovery priorities in Ukraine. He led the launch and development of in-country programming for the International Trust Fund Enhancing Human Security of the Republic of Slovenia (ITF) supporting armed violence victims alongside the national demining and rehabilitation institutions in Ukraine. Subsequently, Anton officiated as Deputy Head of Sub-Delegation in the north of Ukraine for the International Committee of the Red Cross where he was responsible for outreach with humanitarian response and relief assistance to the country's northern and northeastern border areas suffering from Russian cross-border attacks. Currently, Anton Shevchenko is also working on an information support to Ukraine's explosive ordnance victim community grant provided by American Councils for International Education.



Panama



Suriname

2018-2019

Mavrick Boejoekoe (Suriname) and Magda Monteza (Panama), along with Irina Mkrtychyan from Armenia (UC Davis), were awarded the Collaborative Alumni Project (CAP) by the U.S. Department of State and the Institute of International Education.

They launched the "Building the Basis for Introducing Sustainable Governance Practices in Waste Management and Sustainable Mining" project in August. The project was implemented in Armenia, Panama, and Suriname to raise awareness of the amount of garbage generated and strengthening the capacity to generate solutions to improve waste management.

Magda commented that the experience represented interesting learning spaces about caring for the environment, waste management, and coexistence with technical professionals, students, and relevant community actors. "It was an experience that represented overcoming several challenges, but that left great learning and the motivation to continue collaborating to overcome the many problems we face in common around the globe," she said.

CAP is a pilot launched for all eligible Humphrey alumni interested in projects to further collaboration to address global challenges, share expertise and best practices in their fields, and strengthen partnerships within the Humphrey network.

Alumni Updates (continued)



2019-2020

Barbara Barrios Dumanoir (Panama) was invited to be a member of the International Scientific Committee of the Scientific Journal “Estudios e Investigaciones”, published by Universidad Iberoamericana of Paraguay, and to collaborate as a reviewer evaluating articles. The journal is interdisciplinary, covering the areas of social sciences, humanities, health, legal, economic-business, natural, communication and science and technology. It’s published biannually in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

In June, Barbara was a moderator representing her country at the Latin American and Caribbean Forum during the annual conference of NAFSA: Association of International Educators that took place in New Orleans, Louisiana. Along the way she met Margaret, who was attending the conference!

She was also recognized by the Ministry of Social Development for her collaboration and commitment to the elderly in Panama. She’s been working with the National Technical Commission for the Promotion of Healthy Aging along with the group that prepared the Pact for the Rights of the Elderly that was signed by all the presidential candidates of Panama. She was also invited, as part of the Academy, to participate in the 2021-2025 final evaluation of the United Nations Cooperation System.



2019-2020

Sreeparvathy S.L.’s (India) book, ‘nikitikalude lokam’ (World of Taxes) was released by the Hon’ble Governor of Kerala, Mr. Arif Muhammed Khan in early May at Raj Bhawan (Governor’s official residence and workplace) in Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala.

The book is written in her mother tongue Malayalam and is a compendium of 42 stories on taxes and the taxation system in India. The stories unfold through the medium of Vikram-Vetal stories.

Parvathy explains, “Vikram- Vetal stories are very popular folktales across India. Vetal, which is a spirit, will narrate a story and will ask a question to Emperor Vikramaditya who was carrying him. He breaks free after hearing the answer and the emperor catches him again. The cycle gets repeated until a story to which the emperor cannot answer is narrated.”

She used this medium as it is familiar to almost everyone in India. No such attempt has ever been made in India, to explain taxation concepts through stories. She’s also unaware of any such initiatives internationally.

The book starts with an explanation of what tax is and proceeds with stories of taxation in: ancient and medieval India, American Revolutionary War, French Revolution, the Indian Independence Struggle (as there were protests against many imperial taxes like a tax on salt and Gandhiji’s protest against

it is historical), Ideas of Adam Smith and his canons of taxation, concept of public debt vs taxation, difference between direct and indirect taxes, specifics of Goods and Services Tax in India, customs, smuggling, black money, money laundering, Panama Papers and more. Each story is set in the backdrop of an Indian State.

Parvathy also mentions her song “Together we fight against drug abuse” was released on June 26th, International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, by the Chief Commissioner of Indirect Taxes, Mr. M.K. Arora at St. Therasas’ Higher Secondary School, Kochi, Kerala.



2021-2022

Burhan Rasool (Pakistan) has provided updates on a book he authored, Technology in Policing, that was published by the National Book Foundation in Islamabad. It was originally intended as a training manual but went through an evolution and now focuses on critical aspects of technology adoption and cultural change within Pakistan’s policing system. It was recently made available in digital format on Kindle via Amazon.

He incorporated some theories and case studies from the Humphrey Seminar and tapped into insights he gained as Project Director for the Computerization of Police Stations in Punjab.

He presented a copy to the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Donald Blome, at a dinner hosted by the Consul General in Lahore.

2024-2025 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship

[Humphrey Fellowship Program of Syracuse University](#)

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



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