

PEACE IN OUR TIME

FOR TEN YEARS
ROTARY HAS RECRUITED
SOLDIERS FOR A NEW
KIND OF WAR, GIVING
THEM THE WEAPONS
TO WAGE PEACE

ONE YEAR AFTER the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the first class of Rotary Peace Fellows began their studies. Since then, more than 590 fellows have gone on to build peace in their communities and nations, as well as across international lines. They include graduates of a two-year master's degree program and a three-month professional certificate program at Rotary's partner universities.

Today, these alumni are settling border conflicts in West Africa, analyzing development aid at the World Bank, briefing U.S. generals on peace-building in Afghanistan, crafting legislation to protect exploited children in Brazil, and mediating neighborhood disputes in New York City, among many other career paths devoted to peace.

On the 10th anniversary of The Rotary Foundation's Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution, we bring you the stories of 10 fellows and a Rotarian donor, Al Jubitz, who are creating change locally and globally.

Author and film producer Alex Kotlowitz also describes the importance of the grassroots approach to peace and how it is working on the inner-city streets of Chicago, where former gang members are mediating conflicts and preventing bloodshed. And Anne-Marie Slaughter, an *Atlantic* contributor and Princeton University professor, writes about how technology has transformed international relations, granting individuals and small groups unprecedented power to connect to one another and influence global events. Here is a collection of dispatches from the front lines.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY LOUISA BERTMAN

The elections monitor

RICHELIEU ALLISON

Rotary Peace Fellow Richelieu Allison grew up in Monrovia, Liberia, during a brutal civil war. Many of his friends became child soldiers, some on their own, but others after being grabbed off the street. "My mother said, 'I am not going to allow any of my children to walk out of the house to join the rebel movement,'" he recalls. "I have been opposed to violence all my life because of my mom."

To avoid the kidnappers, he stayed indoors, passing the time by learning to cook. He ventured out to accompany his mother on peace marches, which bore risks of their own. "We were in a march on our way to the president's mansion," he explains. "Suddenly bombs were firing all over the city. We had to run. I looked down and saw blood on my shirt and realized it was someone else's."

When the rebels invaded the area, his family fled to a refugee center. There, he formed his first advocacy group. Today, Allison, 40, is cofounder and regional director of the West African Youth Network in Freetown, Sierra Leone, which mobilizes and trains young people to help restore peace and human rights in West Africa. In late November 2010, he led a peace caravan – two buses with about 40 Rotarians and members of his youth network – to border towns in four West African countries, where they held workshops to teach conflict resolution. Allison returned to Liberia to help monitor the successful 2011 presidential elections. "I grew up in a country that was peaceful, but all of a sudden one of the most gruesome conflicts ever seen in Africa erupted," he says. "Look how far we've come." – KATE NOLAN

Certificate class: 2006

Rotary Peace Center: Chulalongkorn University

Sponsor: Rotary Club of Freetown, Sierra Leone

Master's class: 2012-14

Rotary Peace Center: University of Bradford

Sponsor: Rotary Club of Folsom, Calif., USA

Citizenship: Liberia

Defusing violence

by Alex Kotlowitz

IN THE IMPOVERISHED neighborhoods on Chicago's South and West sides, violence has come to define the landscape. At the end of the last school year, a marquee at Manley High School read: *Have a Peaceful Summer*. Signs for neighborhood block clubs, ordinarily a mark of celebration, detail all that's prohibited. One warns: *No Drug Selling*. Another cautions: *No Gambling*. A city sign declares: *Safe School Zone – Increased penalties for gang activities and the use, sale or possession of drugs or weapons in this area*. On street corners and on stoops, in front of stores and in gangways, makeshift shrines appear – candles, empty liquor bottles, stuffed animals, poster board with scrawled remembrances – monuments to the fallen, victims of the epidemic of shootings in our central cities. Politicians have called for the National Guard. Chicago's police superintendent conceded that his officers can't respond to every call of a gun fired because there are so many gunshots. So many children have been murdered that a few years back, the *Chicago Tribune* began to keep a tally of public school students killed.

Chicago is not alone. Thirteen cities have higher murder rates, including four – New Orleans, Baltimore, St. Louis, and Detroit – where the rate is more than twice that of Chicago. For the past 10 years, homicide has been the leading cause of death for African American men between the ages of 15 and 24. The response traditionally has been more rigorous policing and longer prison sentences, the notion being that the threat of getting locked up for a

long stretch would be a deterrent to anyone even thinking about picking up a gun. But with over 1.5 million people in America's prisons, that feels like a lost argument. Moreover, lock people up, and most come back to their communities one day. (In Chicago alone, an estimated 20,000 to 27,000 men return from prison each year, and most of them to seven neighborhoods.) It's enough to make even the most committed and persistent among us throw up our hands.

Yet time and again I have met people in these communities who haven't given up, who see promise where others see despair.

Consider Cobe Williams. Now 37, Cobe grew up on Chicago's South Side, in a neighborhood marked by abandoned homes and struggling families. His father was in prison for much of Cobe's youth and, shortly after getting released, when Cobe was 12, was beaten to death by a group of men. Despite his dad's shortcomings, Cobe looked up to him, so he spent many of his teen years trying to emulate his father's life: running with a gang, selling drugs, shooting at others and getting shot at. Cobe served three stints in prison for a total of 12 years. In his last appearance in court, he had an epiphany of sorts. His four-year-old son ran up to him in tears, and at that moment, Cobe realized he wanted to do better than

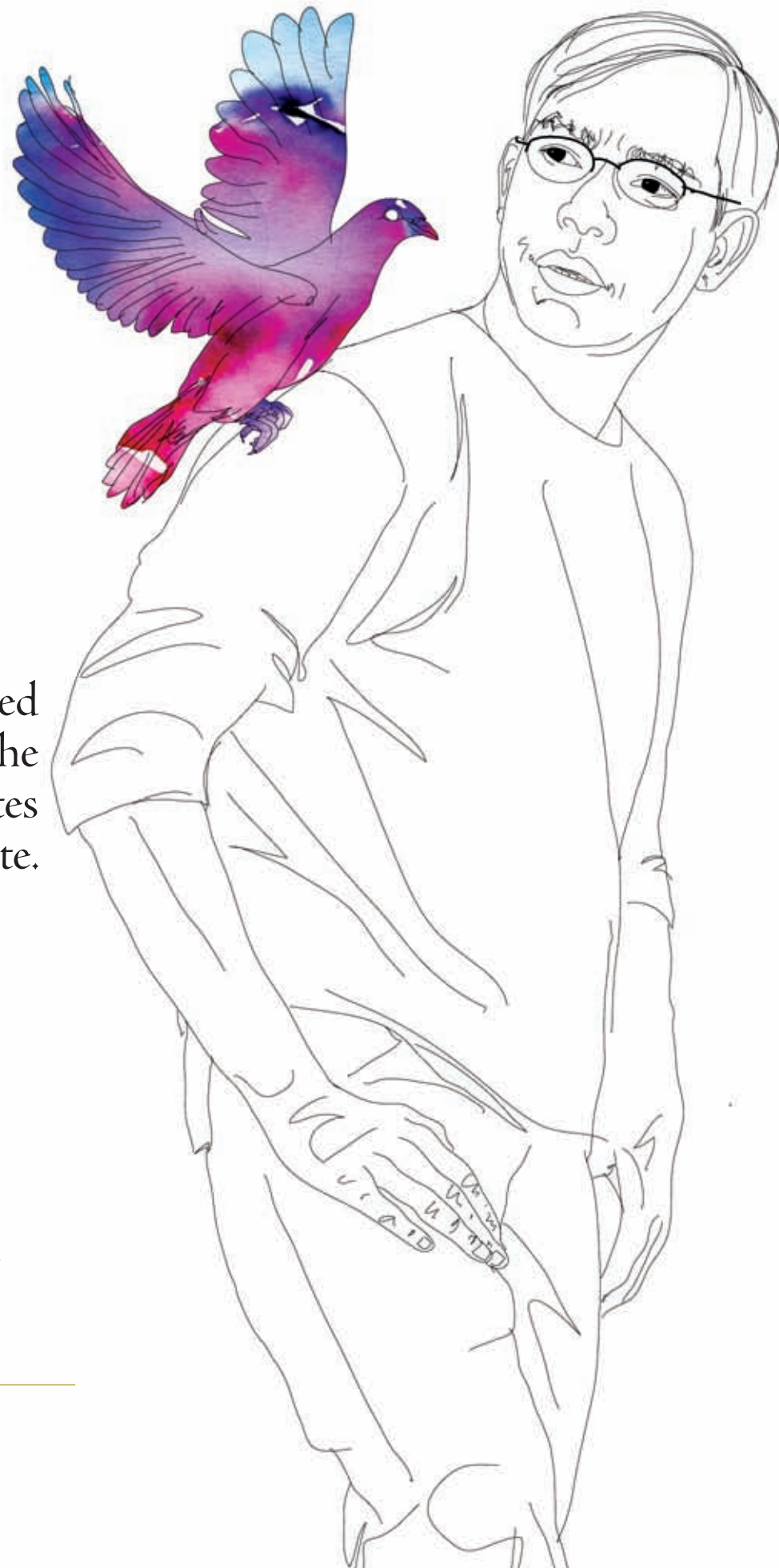
his dad. He wanted to be a real father to his son. It would perhaps be too glib to suggest that he's changed. Rather, he's figured out who he always was – and who he wants to be.

Cobe is trying to return what he has taken from his community. He works for CeaseFire, a violence prevention program that views shootings through a public health lens. Organizers believe the spread of violence mimics the spread of an infectious

Organizers have hired men and women formerly of the street to intervene in disputes before they escalate.

disease, so they have hired individuals like Cobe, men and women formerly of the street, to intervene in disputes before they escalate – to interrupt the next shooting. Hence the job title: violence interrupter. Given their pasts, these people have credibility on the streets. And because they've been there themselves, they can empathize with someone intent on revenge. For a year, the film director Steve James and I followed Cobe and two of his colleagues, recording them as they went about their work for our documentary, *The Interrupters*.

One day, Cobe received a call from a young man, Flamo, whom he'd met in the county jail some years earlier and who has



The Killing Fields survivor

PATH HEANG

When his Rotary Peace Fellowship in Brisbane, Australia, ended, Path Heang headed home to Cambodia, an impoverished nation where the Khmer Rouge killed more than two million citizens between 1975 and 1979. Heang, now chief of a UNICEF field office, works to improve the lives of women and children in his country's poorest households. He manages six programs that help millions in need.

"In Cambodia, privileges traditionally are for men and older people. Women and children are not a priority. They need access to education, health care, and training for employment," Heang explains. "In the future, I will work in other countries. Because Cambodia needs people like me, I felt obliged to come back."

Heang, 43, meshes his peace studies with his prior experience in a weapons eradication program and his native understanding of Cambodia. "I am in a senior position because of the analytical skills and tools I learned as a peace fellow," he says. "Now I can influence national policy for the poor in Cambodia. [This work] is not about perception. It is about evidence."

Reflecting on his peace fellowship, Heang says, "It changed me." His studies explored the Khmer Rouge tribunal in Cambodia and security issues in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. At the same time, he says, he had to learn the basics of life in a wealthier nation, such as how to use an ATM. – K.N.

Class: 2002-04
Rotary Peace Center:
University of Queensland
Sponsor: Rotary Club of
Bathurst, Australia
Endowment: Hartley B. and
Ruth B. Barker Endowed
Rotary Peace Fellowship
Citizenship: Cambodia

PEACE SIGNS War-related violence has caused an average of 55,000 deaths per year this century, compared with 100,000 a year in the 1990s and 180,000 a year from 1950 to 1989.

a reputation on the streets for, as Cobe says, “taking care of business.” Someone had called the police on Flamo, reporting that he had guns in his house. When the police came, Flamo wasn’t home, but they found some guns and arrested his brother, who was in a wheelchair as a result of having been shot, and handcuffed his mother. By the time Cobe got to Flamo’s house – with us in tow – Flamo had been downing vodka, was packing a pistol, and was waiting for a friend to bring him a stolen car so he could “take care of business.” He knew who had called the police and was looking for payback. Boiling with rage, at one point he violently kicked a wall in his house: “You ain’t just crossed me, you crossed my mama. For my mama ... I come in your crib and kill every ... body.”

Cobe told us later he had thought this was a lost cause, a failed interruption. But about 10 minutes into his rant, Flamo turned to Cobe and asked, “How can you help me? Right now. How can you help me?”

It was a plea, really. If Cobe were the police, he might have arrested Flamo at that point, but instead, Cobe did something so simple it seems almost laughable: He asked Flamo to lunch. They headed to a nearby chicken shack, where Flamo, still agitated, called a friend to get some bullets. But Cobe asked Flamo who would take care of his kids if he got locked up. He reminded Flamo that his mother needed him. He bought some time. Cobe then lured Flamo down to CeaseFire’s office and invited him to attend the weekly meeting of the Interrupters – men and women with résumés similar to Cobe’s whose job, like his, is to suss out simmering disputes in their neighborhoods and try to defuse them. By the time the meeting was over, Flamo had calmed down enough that he

no longer was intent – at least at the moment – on exacting revenge.

I suppose the story could end here, but what’s so striking is how Cobe stayed with Flamo, calling him, taking him out for meals, cajoling him to get a job. In the end, I came to realize that all Flamo had needed was someone to listen, someone to acknowledge his grievance, someone to believe in him. Cobe knew this instinctively. In his own life, Cobe had a grandmother who refused to give up on him. Despite all the trouble he had gotten into, Cobe told me, “She never turned her back on me.”

Over the course of the 14 months of filming, it became apparent that the one constant for those like Cobe and Flamo, for those who were able to emerge from the wreckage of their lives and their neighborhoods, for those who were able to walk away from a potentially violent encounter, was to have someone in their lives with high expectations for them, someone who treated them with a sense of dignity and decency, someone who wasn’t afraid to slap them across the head when they did something wrong (when Cobe was a teenager, his grandmother had refused to bond him out of jail) but who never viewed them as inherently bad. Someone who saw something in them that others didn’t.

Cobe and the others around the CeaseFire Interrupters table practice old-fashioned conflict mediation, which is used by a handful of community organizations across the United States, including some that have directly replicated CeaseFire’s public health approach. But what Cobe and his colleagues have come to realize is that keeping someone from shooting someone one day is no

guarantee that person won’t shoot someone the next week – so they stay with that person. They don’t let go.

This is not to discount all the forces working against those who are growing up in the profound poverty of our cities. If we are serious about addressing violence, people – especially young people – must believe in their own futures. And believe they have a future. These are neighborhoods where the schools are still lousy, where blocks are littered with foreclosed homes, where jobs are hard to come by. These are neighborhoods physically and spiritually isolated from the rest of us. These are neighborhoods where young people can look at the city’s glittering skyline and realize their place in the world. These are neighborhoods where the American dream is a fiction.

Cobe and his colleagues know that, but they plow ahead, trying to intercept the

And because they’ve been there themselves, they can empathize with someone intent on revenge.

next potential shooting, trying to pull people off the ledge. But mediating conflicts is more than just persuading people to go their separate ways. The Interrupters look to give people a way to walk away while maintaining their self-respect. At one point while we were filming, Ameena Matthews, another of the Interrupters, persuaded a young man who’d just been hit in the mouth with a rock not to retaliate. “I saw that you was walking away, to defend you

and your family,” Ameena told him. “Man, I thank you. I mean for real. For real, that’s what gangster is about right there.” She was telling him that it was really “gangster” of him to walk away, that that was the best way he could defend his family. Now that’s turning things on their head.

It may seem self-evident, but it’s worth contemplating nonetheless: Once people stop believing in you, you stop believing in yourself. The Interrupters recognize that. It’s not enough simply to step between two people and push them apart. You need to persist, to listen, and to give them something to hold on to, something that gives them a sense of possibility, whether it’s a job, a decent place to live, an education, or just a helping hand.

At one point, Flamo told Cobe: “I was really plottin’ on how to get them. But you was just in my ear. ... You constantly in my ear. You buggin’ me for a minute. ... You know how that be – like I’m sleepin’, the fly keep landin’ on you, you know what I’m sayin’? You’s buggin’ me till eventually I had to get up and attend to that fly.”

At a screening of the film in Chicago, a teenage girl from the South Side got up to ask a question. She was near tears. She talked about how hard her life was, how she was getting into fights, how she was doing all she could not to give up. She turned to Flamo, who was in attendance, and asked him: “What do I do? What do I do, *now*?” Flamo pointed to Cobe and told her: “Take my fly.” ■

The community mediator

ROCHELLE ARMS

Just as border incursions can explode into wars, rifts between inner-city neighbors can blow up into jail time and criminal records. Rochelle Arms, 33, helps individuals resolve conflicts – which might involve road rage, a love triangle, or a family issue – without violence. As the restorative justice coordinator for the New York Peace Institute, Arms works with people arrested on minor assault charges who are referred to her for mediation by the Manhattan and Brooklyn criminal courts.

Whether the problem is an international dispute or a fistfight, the principles for mediating conflict are similar, Arms says. She looks for the underlying cause of the anger and recognizes that self-determination is key. A good mediator provides a safe space that allows the parties to speak the truth rather than what they believe they “should” say, she says.

The lesson comes from her Rotary Peace Fellowship training, which included an applied field experience in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where she saw that ending violence alone won’t sustain peace. “Peace is something you build, and it requires maintenance,” she says.

– K.N.



Class: 2002-04
Rotary Peace Center:
Universidad del Salvador
Sponsor: Rotary Club of
Lexington, Ky., USA
Citizenship: Panama/United States

PEACE SIGNS High-intensity wars – those that kill at least 1,000 people a year – have declined by 78 percent since 1988, according to the *Human Security Report 2009/2010*.

Do-it-yourself democracy.

by Anne-Marie Slaughter

I OWE MY EXISTENCE to Rotary. In 1956, my father went to Brussels for a year as an Ambassadorial Scholar. One enchanted evening, as he would put it, he looked across the room at a beautiful young Belgian woman and fell in love. They were engaged three months later and married in the summer of 1957. I arrived in September 1958. And every Tuesday night throughout my childhood, my father went to his Rotary club.

My family is a direct testament to how Rotary builds bridges of international exchange and understanding. Today technology is multiplying those bridges exponentially, across every country, region, continent, and ocean. It is theoretically possible to connect every human being on the planet to one other and to vast stores of knowledge and sources of assistance. All it would take is seven billion smartphones, a relatively small order in a multitrillion-dollar world economy.

Connections are wonderful in many ways. According to Steve Jobs, "Creativity is just connecting things." The great novelist E.M. Forster wrote, "Only connect." I have argued that in a networked world, connectedness is a measure of power. "Power over" assumes that the power-wielder is at the top of a ladder and exercises power over those below. "Power with" assumes that the power-wielder is at the center of a web of relationships and can mobilize all her direct and indirect connec-

tions to solve a problem with the combined resources, energy, and talent across the web. More traditionally, connections have long been presumed to be the preserve of the powerful – connections to get a job, an audition, an interview, an opportunity. Less conspiratorially, think about how Rotary clubs empower their members by bringing diverse individuals from across a community together.

That's the rosy side. But Al Qaeda is equally powered by global connections; that is part of what makes it so hard to

The lightning connections and communication enabled by social media have allowed the technology of liberation to stay ahead of the technology of oppression.

fight. Defeat it in one country and it moves to another. Global criminal networks that traffic in drugs, arms, money, and people take advantage of the same technology that human rights networks do. Governments determined to crush popular opposition can track connections in ways that give them a dangerously precise map of political and social activity. Thus, the question of whether technology helps or hurts the cause of global

peace and conflict resolution will inevitably have a mixed answer. But in the Rotarian spirit of optimism, let me offer five ways in which technology is advancing peace and prosperity, at least over the longer term.

First, as the revolutions that have swept across the Middle East and North Africa over the past year continue to demonstrate, the lightning connections and communication enabled by social media have allowed the technology of liberation to stay ahead of the technology of oppres-

sion. Revolutions occurred long before the era of Twitter and Facebook, but in recent decades, surveillance technology has steadily strengthened the power of the state to lock up activists and snuff out dissent almost before it starts. The speed and decentralization of social media gave the protesters in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, Syria, and Yemen a fighting chance by enabling them to stay one step ahead of state security forces. Technology alone



The reality teacher

CAMERON CHISHOLM

In Ethiopia, Cameron Chisholm, 31, worked to prevent cross-border clashes and cattle raids as part of his Rotary Peace Fellowship fieldwork. He quickly observed that the peacekeeping strategies in place were geared more toward a culture of spears than the reality of AK-47s. "I realized there was a huge gap in the field. There was no place for practical skills training in a holistic way. In Addis Ababa, I started scribbling a plan," Chisholm says.

After his fellowship, he accepted a job with the World Bank, where his team delivered daily security briefings to the bank's president, and where he met experts sympathetic to his vision of establishing an institute that would bridge the gap. Among them was Rotarian and former Ambassadorial Scholar Peter Kyle, then a World Bank lead counsel.

A year later, in 2009, Chisholm founded the International Peace and Security Institute, based in Washington, D.C. (He is now also an adjunct professor at George Washington University.) Kyle – winner of the 2009-10 Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award – serves on the institute's board of advisers.

The organization hosted monthlong symposiums in Bologna, Italy, in 2010 and 2011, which some described as a "peace version" of the famed World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The gatherings brought together world leaders, academic experts, and seasoned peace workers to develop and deliver hands-on training based on their personal experiences. The institute will host similar events this summer in Bologna and The Hague.

"The annual training institute is a clear outgrowth of the peace fellowship," Kyle says. "This is the next stage of peace and conflict resolution training." – K.N.

Class: 2006-08

Rotary Peace Center:

University of Bradford

Sponsor: Rotary Club

of Corpus Christi, Texas, USA

Citizenship: United States

PEACE SIGNS Over the past two decades, the proportion of cease-fires that have failed has dropped from 50 percent to 12 percent, writes Joshua S. Goldstein, author of *Winning the War on War*. He attributes the success rate to UN peacekeepers.

is no match for a government's willingness to use obliterating force, but even today in Syria, one of the ways the protesters maintain determination and cohesion is by persistently bearing witness to the government's atrocities and exposing them to the world at large.

A second way in which technology is changing the face of conflict is through the individualization of both war and international law. War traditionally has been army to army, or army to insurgent force. Today the technology of drones, smart bombs, and precision-guided missiles, and soon the miniaturization of countless deadly weapons, makes it possible to fight an enemy one human target at a time. As frightening as the perpetual threat of assassination may seem, and as desperately as we need to adapt the traditional rules of war to govern new technologies and tactics, the individualization of war could save millions of civilian lives – the women, the old, and the young, who were the collateral damage of clashing armies. The individualization of international law similarly holds the promise of holding individual leaders accountable for their crimes against other countries and their own people, rather than punishing their populations through sanctions and even invasion. Technology plays a critical role in making international criminal cases possible, because any bystander or even victim can photograph evidence of a government's crimes both as they are happening and as they are covered up. It is that evidence that

allows international and domestic criminal prosecutors to build their cases.

In a third and very different direction, technology reduces global conflict by saving lives directly, particularly the lives of women, who can then care for their children, educate their families, and anchor their communities. Cell phones are lifelines to better maternity care, allowing pregnant women to monitor the course of their pregnancies by receiving general information about what to expect and how to care for themselves and their fetus week by week, and by providing information about what they are feeling and experiencing well before labor begins.

Fourth, technology and globalization together enable do-it-yourself foreign policy through public-private partnerships and bottom-up coalitions of social actors. Where once development was the province of government ministries and international organizations, today actors such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, nongovernmental organizations such as Oxfam and CARE, and countless smaller organizations, universities, research institutes, and corporations are all actively engaged. Where once the United States gave through USAID, hundreds of thousands of Americans now contribute hundreds of millions of dollars through Kiva, an online lending platform that allows individuals to fund development projects they wish to support directly. Where government-funded foundations such as the National Democratic

Technology reduces global conflict by saving lives directly, particularly the lives of women, who can then anchor their communities.

Institute and the International Republican Institute specialize in monitoring elections in countries around the world, now citizens can send in real-time information about what they see happening at their local polls through Ushahidi, a software mapping platform developed by four entrepreneurial Africans. Created to allow Kenyans to share information about disputed national elections that were descending into violence, Ushahidi has been used to share and map crisis information in many different situations around the world; U.S. State Department officials helped adapt it for disaster relief efforts after the Haiti earthquake. The State Department, USAID, and the White House are all opening and expanding offices dedicated to orchestrating and welcoming public-private partnerships of many shapes and sizes.

Finally, perhaps most elusively but most optimistically, scholars such as



The recruiter

WILLIAM DANIEL STURGEON

William Daniel Sturgeon's research focused on U.S.-East Asian relations, with an emphasis on reconciliation. As a Rotary Peace Fellow, he analyzed the Yasukuni Shrine, believed to house the spirits of Japan's military dead and a flash point for East Asian relations. Since graduating, he has worked as a journalist and is now a political analyst and speechwriter for the consul general of Japan in Atlanta.

He also is busy recruiting candidates to apply for Rotary Peace Fellowships, and encouraging alumni to join Rotary clubs. He envisions former peace fellows building partnerships between Rotary and the NGOs, foundations, governments, corporations, and other entities they represent.

Sturgeon, 34, joined the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill (Washington, D.C.) just shy of his 30th birthday, after attending a meeting for Rotary Foundation alumni. "When I was accepted as a peace fellow, the letter from Rotary International said, *We look forward to a lifelong relationship with you.* That always stuck with me," he says.

So far, Sturgeon has recruited six people to apply for a fellowship – and all six were accepted. When he moved to Atlanta, he couldn't find a Rotary club that fit his schedule, but he found a way to continue his membership: the Rotary E-Club of the Southwest, with 99 members in 11 countries on six continents. – K.N.

Class: 2004-06

Rotary Peace Center: International Christian University

Sponsor: Rotary Club of Prospect/Goshen, Ky., USA

Citizenship: United States

Member: Rotary E-Club of the Southwest, Ariz., USA

PEACE SIGNS About 6,000 U.S. military service members were killed in the last decade, compared with 58,000 in Vietnam and 300,000 in World War II.

The child defender

KATIA DE MELLO DANTAS

Katia de Mello Dantas, 34, helps stop sexual abuse against children, including pornography, human trafficking, and abduction. In recent months, she has begun to focus on protecting children from sexual predators on the Internet.

Based in Brasília, Brazil, Dantas – policy director for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children – travels the region, helping to draft uniform laws and train law enforcement officers on how to collect evidence and file effective charges. The center, based in Virginia, USA, became an international organization in 1999, spurred by the “Dutroux affair” – public outrage in Belgium over the botched handling of a serial killer case involving children.

Before taking on her current job, Dantas worked for USAID in Brazil and completed fieldwork as a peace fellow with the International Organization for Migration, where she researched the impact of cross-border movement on HIV/AIDS and other public health concerns.

She recalls that she once envisioned living in Asia, expecting that she would need to cross an ocean or two to become an international peace worker. But after working for the center near Washington, D.C., she realized she missed her home in Brazil. “My path changed, but not my goal. Peace fellows are all like Miss America, because we all want world peace,” she says.

Last year, Dantas was named one of the Top 99 Under 33 Foreign Policy Leaders by Young Professionals in Foreign Policy. – K.N.

Class: 2007-09
Rotary Peace Center: Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Sponsor: Rotary Club of Brasília, Brazil
Endowment: Paul F. and Carolyn C. Rizza
Endowed Rotary Peace Fellowship
Citizenship: Brazil

Do-it-yourself democracy | Slaughter from page 46

Yochai Benkler argue that the Internet has enabled cooperative human activity, which has helped us survive as a species for millennia, to take its rightful place alongside the egoistic self-interested behavior that drives our markets, our conflicts, and our current assumptions about human nature. The Internet thrives on a culture of generosity, with

people willing to share everything from recipes to medical information to technical assistance on almost anything. Benkler draws on psychology, neurobiology, sociology, behavioral economics, computer simulations, and his own multidisciplinary experiments to demonstrate the deeply rational roots of cooperation and the ways in which technology and transparency can now empower cooperators as much as egoists. If in fact technology can make the two-thirds of people who are more likely to participate in positive-sum than zero-sum activity aware of one another’s preferences, thereby diminishing the fear of becoming a sucker in a ruthlessly selfish world, the prospects for genuinely improving the human condition just may be brighter than ever before.

Certainly the spirit of Rotary is the spirit of cooperation. When I spoke at the Rotary Club of Princeton, N.J., last spring, I was also struck by how effectively Rotary strengthens global connections at the local level, bringing together business and civic leaders who have ties to countries all over the world. Those local clubs engage in many different projects that are generated by their members, in addition to Rotary’s formal programs. They are animated by a spirit of collective human potential, powered by coming together and working together. Spreading that philosophy and acting on it, citizen to citizen, is the best long-term antidote to conflict and prescription for peace. ■



The general’s adviser

KEVIN MELTON

Unlike many Rotary Peace Fellows, Kevin Melton grew up far from a conflict zone. “But he’s put himself there,” says Craig Zelizer, a Georgetown University professor who first met Melton when he was in high school and Zelizer was assisting with a peer mediation program. The two have kept in touch while peace projects have taken Melton to hotspots such as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan.

Melton, 29, is now back in Afghanistan, his second stint since 2007. During his first, as a manager for Chemonics (a development firm contracted by USAID), he helped farmers find viable alternatives to growing poppies for opium.

In September 2009, he returned to work for USAID in Arghandab, where he helped warring tribes and ethnic groups join together in rebuilding the nation. A year later, he became a policy analyst for NATO security forces in Afghanistan. Melton advised U.S. General David Petraeus, commander of NATO’s international forces in the country, and now works with his replacement, General John R. Allen, on peace-building and counter-insurgency efforts in the face of imminent troop withdrawals and uncertain sources of future humanitarian aid. Melton says his job in Afghanistan relates closely to his peace studies, which focused on grassroots strategies. His fieldwork, an assignment on Afghanistan at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, also proved a valuable antecedent, he says.

“In this field,” Melton says, “people have almost instant respect for you as a Rotary Peace Fellow, and they trust you are working on something for the long term.” – K.N.

Class: 2007-09
Rotary Peace Center: University of Queensland
Sponsor: Rotary Club of Rosslyn-Fort Myer, Va., USA
Endowment: Hartley B. and Ruth B. Barker Endowed Rotary Peace Fellowship
Citizenship: United States

Peace force

by David Sarasohn

“MY BIG IDEA,” says Al Jubitz, “is to have Rotary set a goal to end war. As with polio, I believe that if Rotary set the example, it could happen.” He has a plan to get people to invest in peace and to highlight Rotary’s role in building a peaceful world. He has made a considerable financial commitment to the Rotary Peace Centers program and is helping to organize a peace conference in Portland, Ore., USA, in June. He also travels to dozens of Rotary clubs, highlighting Cyprus as a model for a Rotary world peace process.

Jubitz looks like anything but an antiwar firebrand. A friendly, easygo-

peace. He’s a major philanthropic force in Portland and beyond. With his wife, Nancy, he’s the latest winner of United Way Worldwide’s Tocqueville Society Award for outstanding volunteer service on the national level; past recipients include the Gates family, Bob Hope, and Jimmy Carter. The couple are also members of The Rotary Foundation’s Arch C. Klumph Society, which honors people who donate at least \$250,000.

A third-generation Rotarian, Jubitz remembers joining the Rotary Club of Portland 34 years ago: “Seven hundred members, and I was the guy who worked

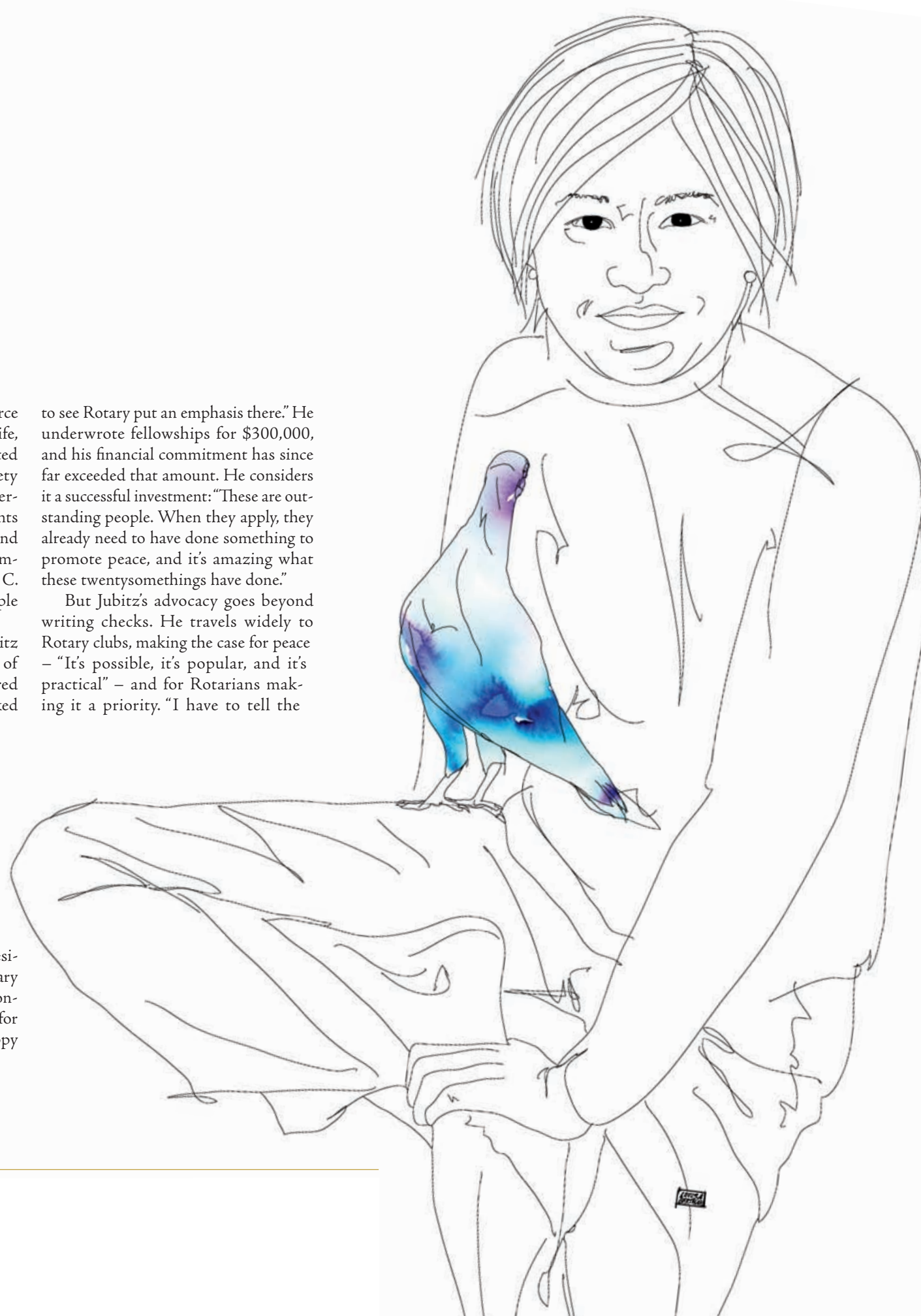
to see Rotary put an emphasis there.” He underwrote fellowships for \$300,000, and his financial commitment has since far exceeded that amount. He considers it a successful investment: “These are outstanding people. When they apply, they already need to have done something to promote peace, and it’s amazing what these twentysomethings have done.”

But Jubitz’s advocacy goes beyond writing checks. He travels widely to Rotary clubs, making the case for peace – “It’s possible, it’s popular, and it’s practical” – and for Rotarians making it a priority. “I have to tell the

“I’d been a peace guy for 30 years,” Al Jubitz recalls, “so I was happy to see Rotary put an emphasis there.”

ing 66-year-old, he retired in 2003 as president of his family’s trucking and truck-stop business, and now helps run the family charitable foundation, dedicated to the environment, children, and

at a truck stop.” He became club president in 2002. That year, the first Rotary Peace Fellows began their studies in conflict resolution. “I’d been a peace guy for 30 years,” Jubitz recalls, “so I was happy



The consultant

ZUMRAT SALMORBKOVA

In mid-June 2010, ethnic violence erupted in southern Kyrgyzstan, killing hundreds of people. As part of a UN rapid assessment team, Zumrat Salmorbekova, who had recently graduated from the Rotary Peace Centers program, traveled there after the four-day outbreak had ended. After interviewing local residents and collecting and analyzing data, she concluded that women and children remained in grave danger.

“One day the people started to kill each other, but afterward they still lived on the same street,” says Salmorbekova, 38. She recalls a woman asking her neighbor, who was from a different ethnic group, “Why did you leave the night before the violence and not tell me anything?” Her report proved crucial in preventing further bloodshed.

Salmorbekova has an understanding of Central Asia that comes from growing up there and working directly with local people. “You can’t get it any other way,” says one of her professors, Robert M. Jenkins, director of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A native of Kyrgyzstan, Salmorbekova also works with the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) as an expert on the Ferghana Valley.

Before becoming a peace fellow, she focused on peace-building efforts in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Frustrated by the failure to prevent violence in the region, she applied for the fellowship to search for solutions, she says.

The decision was difficult, Salmorbekova recalls. It meant moving her husband, Syrgak, a social scientist, and their two sons to the United States. In North Carolina, her Rotarian hosts provided key support, finding schools for her children and an apartment and furnishings for the family. She remains in Chapel Hill as a consultant on international peace and development, and her eldest son was recently admitted to the University of North Carolina. – K.N.

PEACE
SIGNS



MULTIMEDIA | Rotary Peace Fellow Louisa Dow

Class: 2007-09

Rotary Peace Center: Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Sponsor: Rotary Club of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Citizenship: Kyrgyzstan

story that there is an alternative to war. My son killing your son is unacceptable," he explains. It's not always an easy sale. Often, Jubitz runs into Rotarian military veterans, many of whom have a different view of the issue. "I don't confront them," he says. "I thank them for their service." And then he repeats his case at the next Rotary club.

Jubitz, whose presentation is titled "Advancing World Peace Through Rotary," emphasizes his belief in Rotary as a force for peace and the vital role of Rotary Peace Fellows. "Rotary has such

"My son killing your son is unacceptable."

cachet around the world," he says. "The pedigree of the Rotary Peace Fellows is strong. When you have a big goal, you need access, and Rotary has access. We can go to a country and say, 'We will invest in you.' Rotary can also call on 10 years of Rotary Peace Fellows, trained to promote conflict resolution."

Jubitz also talks about Cyprus, a small island in the eastern Mediterranean, divided for decades between Turkish Cypriots in the north and

Greek Cypriots in the south. The Jubitz Family Foundation has supported Portland State University's Peace Initiatives Project on Cyprus, led by faculty members – and Rotarians – from both the Turkish and Greek sides of the divide. The effort has brought six young Greek Cypriots and six young Turkish Cypriots to Portland to live together and study possibilities for peace. "Cyprus has just about all the ingredients of the Middle East," Jubitz says, sounding exhilarated by a situation that most people would find discouraging. "UN troops, a small

population, people on both sides of the line displaced." And Rotary clubs on both sides that could help in the peace process.

As a step toward his goal of an international Rotarian commitment to ending war, Jubitz is helping to put together a peace conference sponsored by District 5100 (parts of Oregon and Washington), to be held 23-24 June. The first day will include several sessions, each featuring a Rotary Peace Fellow, and will be open to the public; the second day's program

will offer training to Rotarians. The event also will involve sending fellows to various clubs to demonstrate the value of the investment in peace. Jubitz hopes to attract at least 100 people to the gathering.

Erin Thomas, a member of the first class of Rotary Peace Fellows, is coordinating the conference and has been working with Jubitz. "When I moved to Portland, the first person who invited me to breakfast was Al Jubitz," she says. "When you first hear Al talking about world peace, it sounds a bit far-fetched," she concedes. "But his plan to achieve it ought to be heard."

Supporting the Rotary Peace Centers program, underwriting his foundation and the conference, and presenting his ideas at one Rotary club after another, Jubitz speaks for his cause. "This," he explains, "is what gets me excited."

As for his listeners, he says, "One-third say, 'That's crazy.' One-third say, 'How are you going to do that?' And one-third say, 'How can I help?'" ■



The human rights lawyer

FRANCESCA DEL MESE

How much does an international human rights barrister resemble Colin Firth's character in the film *Bridget Jones's Diary*? "Look at the house he's got in London!" exclaims Francesca Del Mese, 37. The job doesn't pay as well as Hollywood might think, she observes, but that wasn't her goal.

An established London barrister, Del Mese sought a Rotary Peace Fellowship to transition to international work. For her applied field experience, she worked in the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone. Later, she prosecuted war criminals of the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. As a consultant there, she also trained judges from Jordan on international criminal law and helped former child soldiers and other young abductees return to school in Gulu, Uganda.

Last year, she became the legal adviser, based in Geneva, for the UN Commission of Inquiry into atrocities committed in Syria. She has since moved back to the London area, but some dark memories have been difficult to escape, such as reviewing multiple torture cases. "Now I bank well-being," Del Mese says, explaining why she spends much of her free time walking her dog, Sadie, in the quiet woods near her home. — K.N.

THE ROTARY PEACE CENTERS

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (certificate program)

Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C., USA

International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan

University of Bradford, England

University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Uppsala Universitet, Sweden (September 2012)

Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina (ending 30 June 2012)

Class: 2002-04

Rotary Peace Center:

University of Queensland

Sponsor: Rotary Club of

Watford, England

Citizenship: United Kingdom

The company we keep

	Rotary Peace Fellowship	Gates Cambridge Scholarship	Churchill Scholarship	Marshall Scholarship	Fulbright Scholarship	Rhodes Scholarship
YEAR STARTED	2002	2001	1963	1954	1948	1904
MISSION	Develop experts in conflict prevention and resolution to build peace and international cooperation	Build a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others	Enable Americans to study at Churchill College	Strengthen relationship between Americans and the British	Increase understanding between Americans and citizens of other countries	Promote international understanding and peace
DEGREE AWARDED/ LENGTH OF PROGRAM	Master's, 2 years; certificate, 3 months	Postgraduate or bachelor's, 1-3 years	Master's, 1 year	Postgraduate and some bachelor's, 1-3 years	Postgraduate and some bachelor's, usually 1 year	Postgraduate or bachelor's, 1-3 years
GRANT DETAILS	Tuition, room and board, round-trip airfare, internship, conference funding	Tuition, room and board, round-trip airfare, stipend	Tuition, room and board, travel award, stipend	Tuition, room and board, round-trip airfare	Vary by program	Tuition, room and board, round-trip airfare, stipend
SOURCE OF FUNDING	The Rotary Foundation	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Winston Churchill Foundation of the United States	British government	U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs	Rhodes Trust
NUMBER AWARDED ANNUALLY	Up to 60 for master's; up to 50 for certificate	90 (almost half from U.S.)	At least 14	Up to 40	8,000 total to U.S. and foreign recipients	More than 80 (32 from U.S.)
LOCATION OF STUDY	Seven universities in six countries	University of Cambridge	Churchill College at University of Cambridge	Any UK institution	Many institutions in U.S. and abroad; 155 countries	University of Oxford
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	College graduate with 3 years' relevant work experience, proficiency in a foreign language*	Citizen of any country outside the UK	U.S. citizen age 19-26, graduate of about 100 participating universities	U.S. citizen, college graduate with 3.7 GPA	Vary by program	Citizen of a specified nation or region, college graduate age 18-28 (18-24 for U.S.)
NAMESAKE	Rotary International	Philanthropists Melinda and Bill Gates (Microsoft cofounder)	Sir Winston Churchill, British prime minister	U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall	U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright	Cecil J. Rhodes, statesman, Oxford graduate
OF SPECIAL NOTE	Offers applied field experience, a work opportunity	Almost 1,000 scholars from 90 countries in first 10 years	College was built as a memorial to Churchill	Founded by an act of Parliament to express gratitude for the Marshall Plan	Flagship international exchange program of the U.S. government	Oldest international scholarships program

*Certificate program has separate requirements

— PAUL ENGLEMAN



The Sudan peacemaker

JOSEPHUS TENGA

In 1999, former banker Josephus Tenga was working for a Canadian NGO in Freetown, Sierra Leone, during the prolonged civil war, when political thugs attacked his house. He and his family fled, finding safety as refugees in Canada. "In Sierra Leone, I know what life was like before the conflicts started," reflects Tenga, 56. "I know what I went through, and I know others can get through this."

The journey led to Tenga's introduction to the Rotary Peace Centers program, after a Canadian Rotarian heard him speak about the crisis in Sierra Leone and urged him to apply.

Through the Canadian government, Tenga has served as technical adviser to Sudan's Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Commission, which helped pave the way for establishing the Republic of South Sudan and, it is hoped, averting further war. He also has worked to prevent the spread of conflict in Darfur and organized workshops there to promote the surrender of weapons. In eastern Sudan, he assisted with a Kuwaiti-funded project to restore infrastructure and provide economic opportunities.

Now back home in the Canadian Rockies, Tenga is organizing a peace conference involving Sudan and the seven bordering countries, focused on the flow of arms in the region.

"Violence never ends. It's an industry," Tenga says. "People are making money off of it, and we cannot ignore it." — K.N.

Class: 2004-06

Rotary Peace Center:

Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Sponsor: Rotary Club

of Calgary, Alta., Canada

Citizenship: Sierra Leone