

Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution

September 2005

Dear Amigos,

You only have to pick up a newspaper to realize how vitally important it is for our world leaders to be skilled in the arts of conflict resolution and peaceful negotiation. Everything we do through our Rotary clubs – from fighting poverty to eradicating polio – is intended ultimately to promote world peace. What better way to contribute to that effort than by helping to develop future world leaders committed to achieving peace and understanding?

This is the goal of the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution. Launched in 2002, these innovative master's degree programs are designed to develop the skills necessary to reduce the threat of war and violence in the next generation of government officials, diplomats, and humanitarian leaders.

The Rotary World Peace Fellows are selected each year in a globally competitive selection process based on professional and academic achievements to attend one of the seven Rotary Centers located around the world. The Rotary Centers are located on the campuses of Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C.; International Christian University, Tokyo; Sciences Po, Paris; Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina; University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England; University of California-Berkeley, California; and the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

Like the members of the three previous classes, the 60 students in the 2005-07 class are a diverse group, representing 28 countries and a wide array of academic and professional backgrounds. Their interests and areas of expertise include public health, sustainable agriculture, international law, public policy, economic development, journalism, and social justice. For example:

- Cherine Badawi, of Oakland, California, has an undergraduate degree in cultural studies and experience leading conflict resolution workshops for young people. She will attend the Rotary Center at International Christian University.
- Christina Bischoff, of Asheville, North Carolina, holds an undergraduate degree in elementary education and has volunteered as a peace activist in Palestine. She will attend the Rotary Center at the University of Bradford.
- Amanda Rader, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and Spanish and was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic. She will attend the Rotary Center at Universidad del Salvador.

The program is already showing results. Members of the inaugural class of Rotary World Peace Fellows completed their studies last year and many are already using their skills to make a difference. For example:

- Bautista Logioco, of Argentina, who earned a master's degree at the Rotary Center for International Studies shared by Duke University and University of North Carolina, is now a conflict resolution program officer with the Organization of American States.
- Arnoldas Pranckevicius, a native Lithuanian who earned a master's degree at the Rotary Center for International Studies at Sciences Po, advises the president of Lithuania on domestic policy issues.
- Anna Pehrsson, who received her master's degree at the Rotary Center for International Studies at Universidad del Salvador, works as a project officer at the

Conflict Prevention in Practice Project at Folke Bernadotte Academy in her native Sweden.

Funds are needed to support this important program. Districts that are able to commit US\$25,000 per year are recognized as Peacebuilder Districts. Individuals can contribute through named or endowed fellowships. We encourage any Rotarian interested in naming or endowing a Rotary World Peace Fellow to contact [Judy Gibson](#).

Finally, I urge you to consider inviting a Rotary World Peace Fellow or an alumnus to your club, district, or zone conference. If you do, you will see that Rotary's investment in training future peacemakers is already reaping benefits.

Please Continue to Create Awareness and Take Action by Encouraging the Family of Rotary to Give Needed Personal Increased Donations to OUR ROTARY FOUNDATION.

Your Amigo in Mexico City,

Frank Devlyn

The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, 2005-06

Past Rotary International President, 2000-01