

# HUMPHREY CONNECTIONS

FALL 2019

Boston University's Humphrey Fellowship Program Newsletter



# ABOUT THE PROGRAM



Cohorts of Fellows specializing in designated fields are hosted by universities chosen for their academic excellence in those fields and for other support they offer. Fellows pursue an intensive, semi-structured program focused on:



Professional  
Advancement



Collaboration with  
U.S. Counterparts



Leadership  
Development



Intercultural  
Exchange

Established in 1978 in honor of the late Senator and Vice President who pioneered landmark initiatives in support of human rights and global cooperation such as the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Peace Corps, the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program invites experienced professionals from designated countries undergoing development or political transition to spend a year in the U.S. preparing to address several of the most compelling development issues in the world today. It is a Fulbright activity, primarily funded by Congress and administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the Department of State, with administrative assistance provided by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

Humphrey Fellows are selected based on their potential for leadership and their commitment to public service in either the public or the private sector. Today's Humphrey Fellow alumni network comprises over 6,000 influential leaders worldwide. As of 2019, the BU-Humphrey alumni network includes over 500 Fellows from more than 120 countries.

The Questrom School of Business serves as the Humphrey Program's home at BU. This year, we are honored to host our 41st cohort, comprised of thirteen Fellows specializing in banking and finance.



# 2019 - 2020 HUMPHREY FELLOWS WORLD MAP



**EMAN ALSHARIFI**  
YEMEN

Ms. Eman Alsharifi is a Senior Compliance Officer at Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank. In her role, she assists her employer and the government to combat money laundering, financing of terrorism, and other financial crimes. During her Fellowship year, she wishes to pursue academic and professional training focused in project management, within banking and finance. In the future, Ms. Alsharifi wants to move into a senior management or director role at the bank and has a certification of CAMS and CFCS. As a Humphrey fellow, she will research the effect of money laundering and terrorism financing on non-profit organizations.



**SANDIP KUMAR GHOSH**  
BANGLADESH

Mr. Sandip Kumar Ghosh works as a Relationship Manager in SME Division at The City Bank Limited in Bangladesh. His work includes providing a high level of financial services directly to a number of small and medium entrepreneurs and he serves as the trusted business advisor to the potential young impresarios. During his Fellowship year, he would like to take courses related to microfinance and development and innovation and entrepreneurship, to further improve the business development capacity of young and small entrepreneurs. In the future, Mr. Ghosh aims to implement strategies to improve efficiency in the SME loan process as well as incorporating a social business initiative for the development of small entrepreneurs.



**PATRICIA IDROBO**  
ECUADOR

Ms. Patricia Idrobo was the National Currency Director in the Central Bank of Ecuador. Her position has functions related to cash and national treasury management, specifically to the supply of cash from the US Federal Reserve Banks, where she focuses on guaranteeing the operation of the dollarization system in Ecuador. During her Fellowship year, she would like to strengthen her professional training with an emphasis on monetary policy and financial inclusion. In the future, she wants to help build affordable means of electronic payment in Ecuador, a country that is currently highly dependent on circulating cash.



**MARIE TANYA RECALDE**  
PHILIPPINES

Ms. Marie Tanya Recalde is a lawyer and economist from the Central Bank of the Philippines. As a Senior Policy Officer in the Financial Supervision Sector, Tanya is in charge of negotiating bilateral agreements between the central bank and other financial regulators, as well as formulating policies applicable to banks and other supervised financial institutions. During her Fellowship year, she aims to learn more about Fintech innovations on payment systems and how they are regulated. She hopes to be professionally affiliated with the US Federal Reserve and the International Monetary Fund to further hone her research, international cooperation, and policymaking skills.



**GARIBSULTON SULTONMAMADOVA**  
TAJIKISTAN

Ms. Garibsulton Sultonmamadova is a Market and Liquidity Risk Specialist in CJSC The First Micro Finance Bank, where she works closely with the Front and Back Office, along with other stakeholders to ensure the accuracy of risk measurement. During her Fellowship year, she aims to study the difference in policy requirements of her country and other Fellows' countries; with the intention to conduct comparative research on forecasting volatility and its analysis. In the future, she plans to attain a position in the Central Bank of Tajikistan, which would allow her to contribute to the local policies for Financial Inclusion in rural areas, and poverty alleviation solutions.



**MARWANE EL ALAOUI**  
MOROCCO

Dr. Marwane El Alaoui serves as a Magistrate in the Court of Auditors that is the Supreme Audit Institution in his country. His responsibilities are performing audit of government bodies, judging accounts, and controlling tax returns released by public officials. During his Fellowship year, he would like to learn more about banking structure and regulations, financial crisis, compliance programs, etc. He hopes to develop his leadership skills and gain expertise in the field of finance, auditing and banking in the next five years. Furthermore, he wants to use his skills and knowledge to serve his country and contribute to the development for the next generations.



**MYRIAM SANCHEZ**  
NICARAGUA

Ms. Myriam Sanchez is an Investment Officer for Oikocredit Central America and the Caribbean. Her main responsibilities include analyzing companies for loan funding, client monitoring, promotion of financial inclusion, and elaboration of capacity building proposals for the clients. During her Fellowship year, she wants to strengthen her knowledge in finance and economic development. Ms. Sanchez wants to create her own company and create employment and work as an advisor for SMEs. She is also interested in becoming a professor at a public university after she goes back to Nicaragua.



**STELLA MACHEL**  
MOZAMBIQUE

Ms. Stella Machel, Head of Vehicle and Asset Finance at Standard Bank Mozambique, oversees provision of mobility and asset finance solutions to households and businesses across Mozambique. She is a member and Business Analyst for Standard Bank's Personal and Business Banking Division Executive Committee. Her role is to advise the Head of the Division on all strategic business matters ranging from initial planning with departments and shareholders to performance monitoring. During her Fellowship year, Ms. Machel's goal is to acquire knowledge and to deepen her leadership's skills to enable her to successfully lead and support the economic and social relevance of the Banking Sector for the needs of the people back home.



**NOOR-UL-AIN SARWAR**  
PAKISTAN

Ms. Noor-ul-ain Sarwar is the Unit-Head Credit Factory of Bank Alfalah Ltd. She is responsible for credit initiation for SMEs for the North Region, providing support to SME businesses in identifying potential solutions to their financing needs, and risk analysis and management of SMEs. During her Fellowship year, she is going to take a blend of technical courses relevant to her profession and general management courses to refine her knowledge in the field and polish her leadership skills. In the future, she hopes to get the position of Head-SME Credit Management by applying her advanced skills and experiences.



**RUSTAM TAHIROV**  
AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Rustam Tahirov is a financial sector specialist with more than 15 years of experience in Central Bank and Financial Market Supervisory Authority in Azerbaijan. He engaged in 2 FSAPs, led the development of financial sectors and regulatory policies, and supervised market intermediaries. During his Fellowship year, he intends to focus on professional affiliations with US regulatory institutions, financial firms, and research centers. In the future, Mr. Tahirov aims to take greater career and leadership responsibilities towards achieving effective and resilient financial services in Azerbaijan and other developing countries.



**JAWAD FARYAD**  
AFGHANISTAN

Mr. Jawad Faryad is an Economic Researcher at Da Afghanistan Bank. His work includes conducting analytical and empirical research on monetary, analyzing the probable impacts of research projects, and reviewing research undertaken by central banks and researchers related to the financial sector. During his Fellowship year, he would like to learn quantitative and analytical tools related to business and economics. Upon his return to Afghanistan, he hopes to work for international organizations to improve organizational operations on researched-based policy implementations. He aims to establish a business research institute in Afghanistan or strives to be in a decision making position of public sector in his country.



**DORA PERJESI**  
HUNGARY

Ms. Dora Perjesi is the Chief International Advisor of the Central Bank of Hungary. She has 15 years of experience in coordinating relations with EU and international financial institutions. During her Fellowship year, she plans to benefit as much as possible from the unique character of the program by combining academic and professional enrichment. She would like to widen her scope in international economics and deepen her knowledge and understanding of US economic and financial developments. She is interested in issues related to financial inclusion, the specificities of the Fintech sector, and would like to build up an international network with relevant experts in these fields.



**CHERNET AYALEW YIMER**  
ETHIOPIA

Mr. Chernet Ayalew Yimer is the Manager for SWIFT & Correspondent Banking Relations within the Development Bank of Ethiopia, and has over 14 years of professional experience in the financial sector and commodity exchange. During his Fellowship year, he hopes to gain more knowledge on several topics ranging from compliance and risk management, to project finance and public-private partnerships. In the next five years, Mr. Chernet aspires to put his positive mark in the changing sphere of his country's financial sector using knowledge and skills garnered from the Fellowship.

PRESS OUR FELLOWS' PHOTOS TO LEARN MORE

# ORIENTATION



In mid-August 2019, we welcomed the 2019-2020 cohort of BU Humphrey Fellows! The first week of orientation focused on familiarizing the fellows with the BU Charles River Campus, health and safety services, and housing options. In the second week, fellows learned about academic study, research, and opportunities for engagement at BU and in the surrounding community. A highlight of the orientation was a team-building exercise with Dr. Paul Hutchinson at the Museum of Fine Arts!



On September 2, fellows and host families gathered for a Labor Day welcome event! Phyllis Doig, one of our host families, invited fellows to her home for an afternoon of good food and fun activities! Fellows enjoyed a tour of Hopkinton, MA and traveled to a nearby lake. We are very grateful for Phyllis' hospitality and the wonderful support of all our host families!

On September 11, fellows participated in a Humphrey Seminar on entrepreneurial leadership with Dr. Ian Mashiter. The session started with a tour of the BUild Lab, a coworking space on campus that teaches innovation, communication, and collaboration skills through experiential learning programs. Fellows then heard from current students and BU alumni on how they utilized BU resources to start their own businesses, both in the U.S. and abroad.



On September 16, fellows enjoyed a team-building retreat at the Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center, led by Ellen Harris, Director and Facilitator at Thompson Island. Facilitators took the fellows (and staff!) through a series of challenges, including problem-solving initiatives, ropes courses, and reflection tools. Each task stimulated creativity, fostered innovation, and developed the cohort as a team through active learning. Fellows especially enjoyed the challenge of climbing the 62-foot tall "Alpine Tower" aerial obstacle course!

On September 19, fellows attended the first annual “Questrom Social”, a meet-and-greet that allowed them to introduce themselves to the larger Questrom School of Business community. Questrom staff and faculty members stopped in to meet the fellows, ask about their fellowship goals, and learn more about the Humphrey program at BU.



On October 6, the Lowry family again opened their home to fellows and host families for what has become an annual tradition for the Humphrey Fellowship Program at BU—the annual chili party! This was a wonderful opportunity for the fellows to get to know their host families over a delicious meal.



On October 7, fellows met with the BU Engineers without Borders, a group of students that collaborate with communities around the world to develop sustainable solutions that identify and address crucial human needs. Teams of fellows competed to create the best solution to a problem that had very few directions or dedicated resources. Team “Current Leaders”, comprised of Patricia Idrobo, Noor u Iain Sarwar, and Jawad Faryad, won first place!



# BUNKER HILL

OCTOBER 9

Fellows traveled to Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC), the BU Humphrey Program's Associate Campus Partner. Bunker Hill is a two-year community college that provides higher education and job training services to more than 19,000 students in the Boston area. The student population is one of the most diverse of any college in Massachusetts, and includes nearly 1000 international students who come from 105 countries and speak more than 75 languages.



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There, they spoke with Dr. Kathleen O'Neal, the Director of Single Stop USA at BHCC, to learn about how the program has helped shape the Boston community by helping students move toward economic mobility to end cycles of poverty. The fellows and coordinators then joined Professor Wissal Nouchrif and her finance and business students to discuss topics regarding financial literacy, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship.

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**NOVEMBER 12 - 14**

Fellows returned to BHCC to offer insight to students who had questions on how to succeed as students and professionals, explore the functions of financial institutions in their home countries, and give an international perspective on navigating the United States. Fellows enjoyed engaging with the students at BHCC, extending the international perspectives of the Humphrey Program to a broader range of U.S. higher educational institutions and local communities.



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Chernet Ayalew Yimer is seen presenting to Professor Jean-Gilles Hilaire's Intro to Business class about the Financial Sector Development in Ethiopia. The students were very engaged and asked thoughtful questions!

## DEAN'S WELCOME RECEPTION



On October 10, Dr. Susan Fournier, Dean of the Questrom School of Business, welcomed the 2019-2020 cohort at a reception with over forty members of the BU community. In attendance were fellows' professors, advisors, BU staff, MIT Humphrey Fellows, orientation speakers, Humphrey Seminar speakers, and host families. Fellows introduced themselves to the audience using the elevator pitches they developed during their Humphrey Seminars.



On October 11, fellows participated in a networking event with the BU School of Law LLM Leadership Scholars, international students early in their legal careers who are at BU pursuing their full-time graduate study in law-related fields.



## Meet & Greet the LLM Leadership Scholars at the BU Law School

This year, there are 30 LLM Leadership Scholars from 16 different countries. This was a great opportunity for fellows to engage with other graduate-level international students at the university!

# MEET WITH HUMPHREY ALUMNI

On October 18, the Global Development Policy Center at Boston University hosted a private meet and greet with the fellows and Jin Liqun, President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and 1987 - 1988 BU Humphrey alumnus from China.

He shared his perspective on what he took away from the program, including that it provided him the opportunity to learn how to collaborate with individuals from all around the world. Fellows then attended his public lecture on multilateral approaches to development as part of the Global China Research Colloquium.



On October 23, Frank Obeng, Senior Manager of Advisory Services for the Ghana Export-Import Bank, and BU Humphrey alumnus from 2018 - 2019, met with the current cohort of fellows. He shared his own experiences at the Global Leadership Forum, including how fellows could best prepare for the networking opportunities. He also talked about his professional affiliation process and shared his strategies for making the most of the fellowship year. We were so excited to have him back on campus!



## FELLOWS' HIGHLIGHTS



Marwane El Alaoui attended the Boston Red Sox vs New York Yankees game in Fenway! This was a great opportunity to experience an American activity and be immersed in the spirit of baseball! Although it was a great game, the Red Sox unfortunately lost that day.

## HUMPHREY HALLOWEEN PARTY

On October 25, the BU Humphrey Fellowship Program hosted our first Halloween Potluck! Attendees were encouraged to cook or bring food from their home countries to share with other fellows and host families.

Instead of trick-or-treating, fellows created goody bags filled with candy that were donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Boston.

Marwane El Alaoui won first place in the costume contest with his very elaborate Beast costume from Disney's Beauty and the Beast!





# GLOBAL LEADERSHIP FORUM

From October 27 – 31, fellows attended the Global Leadership Forum in Washington, DC. Fellows participated in a number of sessions around the shared theme of Humphrey Voices: Leadership for Our Shared Future.



## RECEPTION

Participants were invited to the Department of State Reception during GLF. Speakers at the reception included Marie Royce, Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs and Allen E. Goodman, President of the Institute of International Education.



## POSTER FAIR

Rustam Tahirov, Sandip Ghosh, Marwane El Alaoui, and Stella Machel produced posters for the poster fair at the U.S. Department of State. It was a great opportunity to learn from 34 different poster presenters that day!



## REGIONAL BREAK OUT SESSION

Tanya Recalde, Sandip Ghosh, and Stella Machel presented on their current work and Humphrey experience thus far to State Regional Bureau staff members at networking breakout sessions.



# Humphrey Fellowship

A Fulbright Exchange Program



2019 - 2020 Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program



Sponsored by the United States Department of State,  
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

## FELLOW VISITS...



WORLD BANK

On October 31, fellows attended a site visit at the World Bank in Washington, DC. Mahesh Uttamchandani, Practice Manager for Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation Global Practice, spoke with the fellows on his expertise in financial inclusion infrastructure. He then answered fellows' questions about his work and the work of the World Bank in general. We are very grateful for Mahesh's time and continued support of the program!



QUESTROM OB460

On November 7, the Fellows joined BU Professor Sandra Deacon's undergraduate seminar, The Leadership Challenge, as surprise guests and examples of emerging global leaders. Sandip Ghosh, Stella Machel, and Myriam Sanchez prepared case studies on real-world challenges their countries are facing, and worked with teams of students to address possible solutions. This visit has become an integrated element of both the BU Humphrey Program Seminar and Professor Deacon's curriculum on the global dimensions of leadership in the modern world.



ACCION GLOBAL

On November 20, fellows attended a site visit at Accion, a global nonprofit committed to creating a financially inclusive world, with a pioneering legacy in microfinance and fintech impact investing. Libby Morley, Program Coordinator of Accion Global Investments, and Lynne Curran, Senior Vice President of Human Resources, spoke with the fellows about the work Accion supports around the world. Fellows then participated in a meet and greet with Accion staff to learn about specific projects across different departments. Accion has been a PA host for a number of BU fellows in the past, and we are very grateful for their continued support of the program!

## FELLOWS' HIGHLIGHTS



Tanya Recalde had an exciting time at the Leaf Peeping Tour back in September! She was able to experience a true New England Autumn by visiting a pumpkin farm and drinking her first taste of delicious apple cider!



## FELLOWS' HIGHLIGHTS



Patricia Idrobo spent her free time taking recreational classes such as kayaking and cooking with her host family, Kari Thostenson!



A few of the Fellows attended Boston University's Art of Light in Asia: Diwali Celebration. They were able to enjoy delicious food and amazing performances!



Jawad Faryad and host family Darrell Hartwick hiked through Mount Monadnock in Jaffrey, New Hampshire!



## HUMPHREY HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 2, the BU Humphrey Fellowship Program hosted the 2019 Holiday Party! Fellows enjoyed a buffet lunch at the BU Castle, an extraordinary Tudor Revival mansion on campus. Following lunch, fellows and coordinators participated in a white elephant gift exchange. The gifts stolen most often were a smoothie blender, scarf/mitten set, and a Ghirardelli chocolate basket!



# FELLOWS' HOLIDAY BREAK



Rustam Tahirov enjoyed Christmas in Boston with his family and host family, Phylis Doig. They prepared an elaborate plan as elves to surprise his children with gifts from Santa!



Patricia Idrobo was able to spend the holiday season in Massachusetts with her family and friends!



Marwane El Alaoui visited his old high school friend from Morocco, who currently resides in San Francisco! It had been over 15 years since he last saw him during graduation!



Chernet Ayalew Yimer and Sandip Ghosh had a great time in Miami Florida! During their stay, they visited the Viscaya Museum where they were able to see American arts and culture.

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