February Is Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month

Rotary Peace Fellowships

After World War II Rotary, through the Rotary Foundation, wanted to do more to advance the cause of world peace through education. At various times, Rotary members had proposed creating a university to promote peace, but the concept never seemed feasible. In the 1990s, Rotary leaders were inspired by the 50th anniversary of Paul Harris' death to consider an alternate approach.

The idea was simple, but the impact would be tremendous: Rotary would encourage people already engaged in peacebuilding as a career to apply for graduate-level study in the field, and The Rotary Foundation would provide scholarships to peace fellows that would allow them to enroll in established peace programs at existing universities.

Rotary approved the creation of Rotary Peace Centers program in 1999, and the inaugural class of Rotary Peace Fellows began their studies in 2002. Rotary Peace Centers, located at universities around the world, develop leaders who become catalysts for peace in local communities and on the global stage. They study the causes of conflict and build practical skills exploring innovative solutions to real-world problems in areas such as human rights, international relations, and global health and development. The fully funded Rotary Peace Fellowship increases the capacity of existing leaders to prevent and resolve conflict by offering academic training, field experience, and professional networking.

Up to 130 fellows are selected every year in a globally competitive process based on personal, academic, and professional achievements. Fellows earn either a master's degree or a post doctorate diploma in peace and development studies at one of the seven Rotary Peace

Centers, located at leading universities around the world. Today, over 1,500 program alumni are working in more than 115 countries as leaders in national governments, nongovernmental organizations, education and research, law enforcement, media and the arts, and international organizations such as the United Nations.

Master's Degree

- _15-24 month program, small-group classroom learning, in fields related to peace and development
- _Intended for leaders near the start of their careers
- _50 fellows selected annually to study at one of five Rotary Peace Centers at partner universities, which offer interdisciplinary curricula with research-informed teaching
- _2-3 month field study experience to develop practical skills
- _Fellows connect with an international cohort of fellows, thought leaders, and a global network of Rotarians

Professional development certificate

- _Yearlong program for working professionals that blends online learning, in-person classes, and an independent project, based at a Rotary Peace Center in Thailand or Uganda
- _Intended for social change leaders with extensive experience working in peace-related fields
- _80 fellows selected annually to earn a post-graduate diploma in peace and development studies
- _Interdisciplinary program includes a two-week online preliminary course, 10 weeks of on-site courses with field studies, a nine-month period during which fellows implement a social change initiative (with interactive online sessions), and an on-site capstone seminar

If you know anyone who deals professionally with conflict and might benefit from one of these fellowships please contact the Rotary District 5190 Peace Fellowship Chair, Oliver Grosz, for more information: ogrosz39@gmail.com