Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program brings accomplished professionals to the United States from designated countries in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Eurasia for a year of study and professional experiences. Fellows are selected based on their potential for national leadership. The program provides these future leaders with a shared experience of American society and culture. It exposes Fellows to current approaches in their fields to encourage ties between them and their professional counterparts in the United States. This is the twelfth year the University of Maryland Merrill College of Journalism has welcomed a group of Humphrey Fellows.

The College is home of the Knight Center for Specialized Journalism, the Casey Journalism Center for Children and Families, and the Journalism Fellowships in Child and Family Policy. It also publishes the American Journalism Review, a national bi-monthly magazine on print and broadcast news performance. College faculty represent an outstanding cross-section of research and professional experience. The university’s prime location enables Fellows to draw on the rich resources of the Washington-Baltimore area.

The Humphrey Program at Maryland is led by award-winning journalist and media consultant Lucinda Fleeson, formerly with the Philadelphia Inquirer. She is assisted by Kalyani Chadha who holds a Ph.D in mass communication from the Merrill College. With guidance from the Humphrey staff, each Fellow undertakes an individualized, nondegree program of academic coursework, professional affiliations, field trips, and consultations with experts in their field.

The Humphrey Fellows in Journalism are a valuable resource for the College Park community. The Merrill College of Journalism is proud to have hosted 152 Fellows from over 74 countries in the last twelve years.

The Class of 2004-2005 Humphrey Fellows
2004-05 Maryland Humphrey Fellows

Natalia Abramova
is a senior editor and presenter with the National Broadcasting Company in Saratov. Her television and radio programs focus on contemporary problems of civil society in Russia. As a Humphrey Fellow, she hopes to study communication theory and gain exposure to global journalism issues as well as documentary production techniques.

Michee Boko
Benin
micheeboko@yahoo.fr
Michee Boko is a correspondent for the Inter Press Service, an international news agency based in Rome. A journalist since 1991, he is also a senior reporter for the national daily, La Nouvelle Tribune. Professionally, his aim is to gain skills in the area of investigative reporting in order to bring greater transparency and accountability into the public realm in Benin.

Milena Djurdic
Serbia and Montenegro
m_djurdic@yahoo.com
Milena Djurdic serves as the news editor and anchor for the top-rated evening news program, aired by TV Montenegro, the country’s public broadcasting service. Prior to joining the station in 1999, she worked for Radio Montenegro. As a Humphrey Fellow, she hopes to gain insight into the workings of PBS and also learn about American broadcast journalism techniques, particularly in the area of investigative reporting and live coverage of events.

Abdul Ghafoor Lwal
Afghanistan
ghafoorlewal@yahoo.com
Abdul Ghafoor Lwal was most recently the spokesperson for the Constitutional Commission of Afghanistan, where he was involved in the development and implementation of the body’s public information policies. A widely-published poet and novelist, Lwal has also reported for the BBC and has written articles about Afghan civilization. He is interested in studying how the media can promote democracy and human rights.

Mohammed Matrane
Morocco
matrannet@yahoo.co.uk
Mohammed Matrane is a press attache in the province of Chefchaouen, where he also coordinates development activities. He received a UNICEF award in recognition of his work related to children’s welfare. As a Fellow, he plans to focus on learning about the effective use of communication in development and public administration.

Ilma Ajanovic
Bosnia and Herzegovina
ilmainz@yahoo.com
Ilma Ajanovic is the chief editor of Ptnma, her country’s first financial magazine. Her goal is to use her Fellowship year to improve her editorial skills and enhance her understanding of magazine production techniques, through a combination of academic activities and professional experiences.

Mohamed Basheer
India
kpmbash@gmail.com
Mohamed Basheer is an award-winning reporter with The Hindu, one of India’s leading English dailies. He writes on development, human rights and environmental issues. As a Humphrey Fellow, he would like to further develop his journalistic skills, while gaining exposure to new areas such as newsroom management, design and photography.

Ana Luiza Farias
Brazil
lalaf@uai.com.br
Ana Luiza Farias started her journalistic career as a reporter at the Jornal Estado de Minas in Belo Horizonte, one of Brazil’s largest cities. In 2001, she joined the City Hall administration where she heads the Newsroom and Publications department. She hopes to learn to use journalism more effectively as a tool to promote civic engagement and democracy in her country.

Rajendra Sharma
Nepal
sharma_robin@hotmail.com
Rajendra Sharma is the deputy executive director of Radio Nepal. A celebrated singer, he held several positions in the news and program production divisions before being appointed to his current position. As a Humphrey Fellow, he hopes to gain insight into the management practices of radio stations in the United States, in order to improve the operations and quality of his own station in Nepal.

Ashna Kibibi
Kenya
biashina@yahoo.com
Ashna Kibibi is a well-known actress, director and writer of widely-viewed soap operas that explore social issues. Her media production company is the first Kenyan private organization to market its products abroad. She plans to spend this year gaining exposure to American techniques in television drama production, with a view to elevating local production standards.

Reyhana Masters-Smith
Zimbabwe
zimmamasala@yahoo.com
Reyhana Masters-Smith is a researcher and media activist. Until recently, she was the chairperson of the Zimbabwe chapter of the Media Institute of South Africa, a body monitoring press freedom. She has been involved in lobbying against repressive media legislation. She hopes to spend her year exploring new strategies to combat governmental attacks on the media.