



HUMPHREY SCHOOL NEWS

HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS



September 2011

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

Humphrey Fellow creates a new division to fight human trafficking in Sri Lanka

First case prosecuted; State Department upgrades country's status



"We're going to have to change the color for Sri Lanka," says Prabath Aluthge. Sri Lanka was just upgraded from an "orange" country to a "yellow" country based on its improved status on human trafficking prosecutions. Aluthge was a Humphrey Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs in 2007-08.

► **Although thousands of Sri** Lankans have fallen victim to human trafficking, their government has consistently earned dismal marks for failure to take any action against traffickers.

That record has changed, thanks largely due to the innovations put into place by Humphrey Fellow alumnus **Prabath Aluthge**. On June 28, 2011, the U.S. State Department upgraded Sri Lanka's human trafficking enforcement rating. The upgrade was based on the country's first successful prosecution of three traffickers who had recruited Uzbek women to work in restaurants, but instead pressed them into brothel work.

The prosecution was a direct result of a new government anti-trafficking unit Aluthge created that led to rejuvenation of a joint task force that marshaled the case through law enforcement agencies and the courts.

Aluthge, 43, of the Sri Lanka Department of Immigration and Emigration, spent the 2007-08 academic year studying U.S. human trafficking policy and law at the Humphrey School. "I realized that there was a very large gap between those [policies] and the Sri Lankan situation. We had laws, but they weren't really active," he says.

On his return to Sri Lanka, Aluthge submitted a proposal to create the

"Human trafficking," continued on page 4

SCHOOL EVENTS

September 16, 12 p.m. | Wilkins Room (215 Humphrey School)
Civil War and the Challenge of Political Order

The Department of Political Science and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs will host a discussion with Barbara Walter of the University of California-San Diego on "Civil War and the Challenge of Political Order." The event will take place on Friday, September 16, from 12 to 1:30 p.m. in the Wilkins Room (215 Humphrey School). The discussion is part of a seminar series featuring guest speakers whose work informs debate about important international policy issues.

September 29, 1 p.m. | Wilkins Room (215 Humphrey School)
Slovenia and the EU in the Global World, 20 Years Later

The **State and Local Policy Program** will present a discussion with Ambassador Roman Kirn of Slovenia on Thursday, September 29, at 1 p.m. in the Wilkins Room (215 Humphrey School). Ambassador Kirn will discuss Slovenia after 20 years of independence and how it has shaped its role in the European Union and the global economy. The event is free but registration is required at <http://slovenia.eventbrite.com/>.

October 5, 5 p.m. | Cowles Auditorium
Book signing and discussion with Peter Heegaard

The **Center for Integrative Leadership** will host a book signing and discussion with Peter Heegaard, author of *More Bang for Your Buck: Good News for Taxpayers, Public Officials, Philanthropists,*

"Events," continued on page 5

CHANCE

STRENGTHENS STUDENT, COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS



Merrie Benasutti

► **This fall marks the fifth anniversary** of CHANCE, the Cedar-Humphrey Action for Neighborhood Collaborative Engagement. Begun by Humphrey School students wishing to apply their classroom experience in the community, the initiative has grown into a true partnership among students, the University at large, and local residents and business owners.

“Our work is deepening,” says **Merrie Benasutti**, associate director for student initiatives with the University’s **Center for Integrative Leadership** who oversees CHANCE. “There is greater cultural awareness of neighboring Muslim community partners. We are much more successful today than when we first launched the initiative.”

Students have completed 18 community-based research projects to date, including working with community organizations to encourage participation in the 2010 Census, creating economic development strategies for the Cedar-Riverside Business Association, conducting a feasibility study in

support of a special services district in the neighborhood, and research that helped a local community center secure funding for youth initiatives.

“Cedar Riverside is a diverse neighborhood where new immigrants and students share sidewalks, parks, and eateries. Historically, there was tension, but that is less true today, thanks, in part, to CHANCE,” says Benasutti. *“Certainly there is more progress to be made, but each year I see students and community leaders working together to overcome challenges.”*

Recent Humphrey School graduate **Christian Larson** (MPP ’09) was one of four students who worked with the Somali Justice Advocacy Center (SJAC) to create the Somali Data Center, an online, interactive database for and about Somali residents in Minnesota. The data center includes information on school enrollment, general population statistics, and economic indicators.

“Community engagement is hard to teach in a classroom, but quickly

absorbed as you get out in the community,” Larson says. “Face-to-face communication is very important. As we worked to compile the information for the data center, feedback sessions with community members gave us great insight into what we needed to do to make the project valuable to the Somali population.”

Katie Peacock (MPP ’06), a founding student member, describes her work with CHANCE as a “relevant, meaningful learning experience.”

“We learned to be intentional in community engagement,” she says. “There is an art to building relationships in a neighborhood. Sustainable relationships build trust. As an example, random food drives are ‘one-offs.’ Creating a lasting impact with results is transformational for students and the community.” ■

The Humphrey School of Public Affairs inspires, educates, and supports innovative leaders to advance the common good in a diverse world. The School pursues its mission by using its resources and those of the University to integrate:

- Preparation of students for leadership in public affairs;
- The bridging of disciplines across the University and larger community to advance public affairs scholarship; and
- Public engagement and scholarship to address important issues and to solve problems facing Minnesota, the nation, and the world in a non-partisan setting.

The School offers five graduate degree programs and is home to several research/outreach centers and programs. While hospitable to a wide range of viewpoints, the Humphrey School does not take positions on issues. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Humphrey School News is published periodically by the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota
301-19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Interim Dean: Greg Lindsey
Editor: Julie C. Lund (612-624-1190)

Website: www.hhh.umn.edu

Using technology to provide access to safe food and water

► *Mobile phone use permeates*

American culture. Mobile devices are the main source of news and information for a growing number of Americans of all ages. But this trend isn't unique to the United States or the developed world.

In southwest Delhi, India, in an area called Kooli Camp, most people's incomes are below the poverty line; residents make an average of Rs6,400 (rupees) per month, or about \$130. Yet 80 percent of these individuals choose to use what little discretionary income they have on prepaid mobile phones. And the number of Indians using mobile phones is growing exponentially. In February 2011 alone, India added 20 million new customers.

Humphrey School alumni **Julie Warner** (MPA '06) and **Duane Johnson** (MPP '10) are part of a team that identified an opportunity to target this emerging segment of mobile subscribers—prepaid phone users with limited incomes—with information they desperately need: where to find clean and safe food and drinking water.

Research shows that impoverished citizens would rather search for free or subsidized water than pay for it, but, for those in camps like Kooli, this often means traveling long distances on foot or bicycle only to find a resource unavailable.

Warner and Johnson's team, TextRA, which included students from TERI University in Delhi, as well as from the University of Minnesota, developed a system to alert subscribers to the availability of food or water sources via text message. The team came up with the idea in response to the 2011 Acara Challenge, a competition sponsored by the Acara Institute and the University's Institute on the Environment. The challenge invites

international student teams to learn about and create social businesses, this year to develop business ideas to tackle global challenges of food and water security.

The TextRA team's idea turned out to be a winner. TextRA was one of four projects chosen from a field of 21 proposals involving some 175 students from 12 participating universities in the United States, India, and Mexico.


As winners, Warner, Johnson, and their colleagues received a cash prize and were invited to attend the Acara Summer Institute, held June 27 to July 15 in Bangalore, India. The summer institute is an intensive, hands-on program to help budding social entrepreneurs refine their business plans and prepare to take their ideas to market.

After the summer institute, Warner spent three weeks in Delhi gathering more data about the team's target community.

"We had limited time and resources to conduct our research but our preliminary findings are that there is merit in our idea," Warner says. "We want to collect more information in the Kooli Camp and in additional slum communities in Delhi to further clarify the value that our service can offer to slum dwellers."

The TextRA team hopes to return to Delhi soon to conduct additional ethnographic research.

Reflecting on her time in India, Warner says that the experience "has cemented my interest in and desire to pursue development of small sustainable business opportunities for those at the bottom of the pyramid in developing countries."

For more information on the Acara Challenge, visit www.environment.umn.edu/acara. 

Policy Fellows program welcomes new class

Now in its 22nd year, the Policy Fellows program is a nine-month leadership and professional development experience that equips participants with core leadership competencies to inspire, organize, and work effectively with others to advance the public good.

Fellows meet once a month between September and early June, and travel to Washington, D.C., for a multi-day study trip with elected officials and national leaders in public affairs. Fellows also engage in a group project of their own design, working with community partners to address a public policy issue.

2011–12 POLICY FELLOWS

- Mr. Jamal Adam, counselor and instructor, Minneapolis Community and Technical College
- Mr. David Asp, associate, Lockridge, Grindal, Nauen, PLLP
- Ms. Karly Baraga Werner, associate, Dorsey & Whitney LLP
- Mr. Chad Bell, senior director, Best Buy Co., Inc.
- Lt. Col. Sandy Best, director of government relations, Minnesota National Guard
- Ms. Jessica Beyer, public information director, Blue Earth County
- Mr. Nathan Burkett, county administrator, Todd County
- Mr. Mike Buttry, vice president for corporate communications, Capella Education Company
- Mr. Sunny Chanthanouvong, executive director, Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota
- Ms. Elise Diedrich, manager, government affairs, SUPERVALU Inc.
- Ms. Valerie Dosland, director of government affairs, Ewald Consulting
- Mr. Jeremy Drucker, director of public affairs, Minnesota Department of Human Services
- Ms. Carly Eichhorst, associate director of financial aid, Augsburg College
- Ms. Huda Farah, executive director, HEAL Institute
- Mr. Cuthbert (Curt) Fernandez, manager, environmental health, City of Minneapolis
- Mr. Richard Fischer, global communications manager, Medtronic Foundation and Community Affairs
- Ms. Ankur Garg, program manager, St. Jude Medical, Atrial Fibrillation Division
- Ms. Anika Hagenson, senior group manager, government affairs, Target Corporation
- Ms. Kate Johansen, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- Ms. Emy Johnson, corporate responsibility manager, Target Corporation
- Ms. Mariah Levison, program director, The Conflict Resolution Center
- Ms. Danna MacKenzie, director of information systems, Cook County
- Ms. Sona Mehring, CEO, CaringBridge
- Ms. Erika Mork, fundraising and development manager, Three Rivers Park District
- Ms. Kathleen Houlihan Motzenbecker, director of membership, Minneapolis Downtown Council
- Ms. Sandy'Ci Moua, strategic community organizer, Community Action Against Racism
- Mr. Kavon W. Nikrad, Assurant Health, Inc.
- Ms. Pham Thi Hoa, executive director, CAPI
- Ms. Kenna Poppler, community relations manager, U.S. Bancorp Foundation
- Mr. Jim Porter, chief financial officer, Apogee Enterprises, Inc.
- MAJ Kent Porter, training and administrative officer, Minnesota Army National Guard
- Mr. Laurence Reszetar, associate, litigation practice group, Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand, LLP
- Mr. Christopher Voss, CEO, RightSource Compliance
- Mr. David Wilsey, assistant extension professor / regional educator, University of Minnesota Extension
- Ms. Katrina Zabinski, supervising attorney/project manager, Minnesota 4th Judicial District 

IN MEMORIAM *Elmer B. Staats, Former Comptroller General of the United States*

Elmer B. Staats, who headed the Government Accountability Office (GAO) from 1966 to 1981, died July 23 in Washington, D.C., at the age of 97. Staats was one of the first graduates of the University's public administration program, which was folded into what is now the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Staats' career in the federal government began in 1939 when he joined the Bureau of the Budget, now the Office of Management and Budget. He served in high-level positions at the bureau under Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson.

In 1966, President Johnson appointed Staats to a 15-year term as Comptroller General of the United States. Staats held that post through the administrations of Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter and into the early months of the Reagan Administration.

After leaving GAO, Staats became the president and later chair of the board of trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. He was a member of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board from 1984 to 1990. During the 1990s, he served as the first chair of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board.

National Counter Human Trafficking Resource Center within the Immigration and Emigration Department. The center was opened in June 2009, with Aluthge as its head.

Aluthge quickly earned a reputation for his ability to effect change within the government bureaucracy, as well as to build bridges between the government and the NGO community. "He is one of our strongest partners," says Anuradhi Navaratnam, senior project coordinator at the International Organization for Migration office in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Among his many achievements in less than two years, Aluthge established an office at the Sri Lankan international airport, launched a public awareness campaign, including authoring the first book on the subject of human trafficking published in the Sinhalese language, and arranged training for 100 immigration officers on identifying trafficking victims.

As a result of their training, when officers arrested two Uzbek women in June 2009 for not having visas, the officers recognized them as possible trafficking victims. The women, ages 25 and 26, revealed that they had been promised work in Sri Lankan restaurants, but instead were forced to work for six months in a traveling brothel. Because of their cooperation, another Uzbek woman and two Sri Lanka men were indicted, convicted, and sent to prison for nine years of hard labor.

The Humphrey Fellowship Program, part of the Fulbright Exchanges funded

by the U.S. State Department, offers professionals from the developing world a year at an American university for academic and professional pursuits.

When asked to name the most important thing he learned as a Humphrey Fellow, Aluthge replies, "Networking."

And the second most important? He pauses, then repeats, "Networking."

He credits the leadership guidance provided by **International Fellowship Programs** director **Sudha Shetty**. "Before attending this program I was a little bit backward due to our cultural background and language difficulties," he says. "Thanks to the program, I am now confident delivering lectures, attending high-level meetings, and giving presentations to any audience."

Shetty remembers that as soon as Aluthge arrived on campus, "trafficking and forced migration were all that he was interested in... He connected with every official or agency here in Minneapolis that had done any work on the issue."

To understand the full spectrum of the problem, Aluthge examined police enforcement, but also met with community service providers that work with victims. He spoke extensively in classes and in the community to raise awareness of global trafficking issues and indentured servitude.

"He was just phenomenal in leveraging everything in the community to learn and teach others about this issue," says Shetty.

Sri Lanka primarily is a source country for trafficking, as many women go to Middle Eastern countries for domestic work. Women and children also are brought in from rural areas to cities, where they often are exploited or pressed into the sex industry.

In its recently released annual report on trafficking in persons that grades 180 countries, the U.S. State Department upgraded Sri Lanka's status, noting more aggressive efforts by the government to protect trafficking victims.

Countries are classified into four categories: Tier 1; Tier 2; Tier 2 "watch list;" and Tier 3. Sri Lanka had been classified a Tier 2 "watch list" country, but was elevated in June to Tier 2, a category of 75 countries that includes Japan, Iceland, and Switzerland, which are making "significant efforts" to comply with international trafficking-in-persons standards.

The State Department report also notes that Sri Lanka still has many improvements to make.

"I'm studying all the recommendations carefully," Aluthge says. But he didn't wait long to respond. Just a few weeks after the State Department issued its report, he made a site inspection of a proposed new shelter for trafficking victims. ■

—Lucinda Fleeson is the director of the Humphrey Fellowship Program at the Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland. Fleeson was on a Fulbright Scholar Fellowship in Sri Lanka when she met Prabath Aluthge.

James Ron joins Humphrey School as Stassen Chair

James Ron has been chosen as the new Stassen Chair of International Affairs. He will spend the 2011–12 academic year as a visiting professor at CIDE, one of Mexico's most important centers of teaching and research in the social sciences, before coming to the University of Minnesota next fall.

Ron joins the Humphrey School from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs in Ottawa, where he has been an

associate professor since 2006. He also has served as a Canada research chair at McGill University's Department of Sociology (2001–06) and as an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University's Department of Sociology (1999–2001), as well as holding pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships.

Ron was born in the United States, and then spent 16 years in Israel between the ages of 10 and 26. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Stanford University and master's and doctoral degrees in political sociology from UC–Berkeley. Outside

of academia, Ron has worked for the Associated Press in Jerusalem and for Human Rights Watch in Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Nigeria, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, and Albania.

Ron's book on state violence appeared in 2003. He now is working on a book dealing with rights-based organizations in the global South. With colleagues, Ron also is completing a series of statistical analyses of human rights reporting by Amnesty International and the Western media. ■

PERSONAL + PROFESSIONAL NOTES

In August, **Laura Bloomberg**, director of the **Center for Integrative Leadership**, delivered a workshop on cross-sector leadership to support students most at risk of not completing high school for officials at the U.S. Department of Education. Her workshop was titled "Youth Engagement and Success: Lessons Learned in Sustaining Cross-sector Partnerships."

Professor and president emeritus **Bob Bruininks** and his wife, Susan Hagstrum, recently were recognized for their lifelong commitment to youth education and development throughout the state of Minnesota. On August 14, the University's former president and first lady received the 2011 Special Tribute from the Federated Challenge for Kids of Minnesota at a black-tie gala sponsored by Federated Insurance and Al and Cathy Annexstad to support youth development needs, especially mentoring for the state's at-risk children. In his remarks, Bruininks highlighted the success of recent University of Minnesota graduate **Courtney Bell**, who, with support from Big Brothers Big Sisters and an Annexstad Family Foundation Scholarship, overcame a difficult childhood in North Minneapolis to become the first in her family to earn a college education. She now is enrolled in the Master of Public Policy program at the Humphrey School.

In July, Professor **John Bryson** taught two-day classes on "Strategy Mapping" and "Working with Evaluation Stakeholders" as part of The Evaluators' Institute at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Assistant Professor **Dara Kay Cohen** is the recipient of the American Political Science Association's (APSA) Women and Politics Section's award for the best dissertation of 2010. The award will be presented at the annual APSA meeting in Seattle this month. Cohen's dissertation, "Explaining Sexual Violence During Civil War," examines why some combatant groups rape noncombatants, while others do not. Drawing from literatures in economics, sociology, and criminology, she argues that sexual violence—particularly gang rape—enables armed groups with forcibly recruited fighters to create bonds of loyalty and friendship from these initial circumstances of fear and mistrust. Cohen's paper is based on fieldwork in three-post conflict countries (Sierra Leone, East Timor, and El Salvador), where she inter-

viewed ex-combatants and non-combatants about their experiences with wartime rape.

Assistant Professor **Yingling Fan** has received a \$100,000 grant from the Metropolitan Council for a research project titled "How to Achieve System-level, Transit-oriented Jobs-Housing Balance." The project is intended to create a set of policy solutions that will promote affordable housing and entry-level wage job creation near transit corridors in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The research will include focus groups and interviews to explore opportunities for public-private partnerships and incentive programs to increase transit-oriented development.

Professor **Katherine Fennelly** and Humphrey School alumni **Ramon Hough** (MPP '09) and **Alli Shurilla** (MPP '08) and School of Public Health graduate **Deka Ahmad** have produced an educational video called "The Clothes I Wear." The video addresses the ways in which clothing choices influence perceptions of "otherness." The 30-minute documentary, which will be screened at the Sikh Film Festival in Los Angeles later this year, can be viewed on YouTube. Part one is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3Gx6k7m388; part two can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ua-8yIlzGQ.

Professor **Lawrence Jacobs** has received a \$360,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to evaluate implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act. The research will analyze the foundation's success in helping 10 pilot states to achieve 95 percent health insurance coverage by 2020 under the foundation's States' Health Reform Assistance Network.

Senior Fellow **Steve Kelley**, director of the **Center on Science, Technology, and Public Policy**, has received a grant from Hennepin County to lead a collaboration that will help to design a new surface water governance system. Currently, four watershed districts and seven joint powers boards manage surface water in the county, with the state, county, and Metropolitan Council also having responsibility over policies affecting lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, and wetlands. The research will use a design thinking process and system modeling to engage a variety of stakeholders in developing the new water governance framework.

On July 13, Professor **Deborah Swackhamer** testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation and the Subcommit-

tee on Water Resources and Environment at a hearing on "Reducing Regulatory Burdens. Ensuring the Flow of Commerce, and Protecting Jobs: A Common Sense Approach to Ballast Water Regulation."

Master of Public Policy student **Ami Wazalawik** has been selected for the 2011 Sharon L. Doherty Award by the University Women's Center. Given each year since 1993, this award is presented to a University of Minnesota-Twin Cities student who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer service concerning women's issues on campus or in the broader community. Wazalawik's many volunteer commitments include working for the Aurora Center for Education and Advocacy, an organization that serves victims and survivors of sexual and relationship violence at the University, and serving as a member of the Action Committee of the League of Women Voters, monitoring and educating members about domestic/sexual violence legislation. In his nomination letter, Interim Dean **Greg Lindsey** noted Wazalawik's "steadfast commitment to directly improving the lives of women on campus and in the community."

Assistant Professor **Zhirong "Jerry" Zhao** presented a lecture on how local government financial planning and budgeting processes work in the United States for QQ, China's largest online community, which combines social media with Skype-like functions, chat, and instant messaging. The event was sponsored by Unirule Institute of Economics in Beijing, an independent think tank focused on market reform in China. ■



BOB BRUININKS



ZHIRONG ZHAO



DARA KAY COHEN

SCHOOL EVENTS

continued from page 1

and Nonprofit Managers, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, in Cowles Auditorium. Heegaard is a former trust banker who has championed the connection of business people to the community through such initiatives as Urban Adventure and the One Percent Club, an organization that enlists people to contribute one percent or more of their net worth annually to tax-deductible causes. The event is free but registration is requested at <http://heegaard.eventbrite.com/>.

300 Humphrey Center
301-19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

www.hhh.umn.edu

TEXT MESSAGING WITH A MISSION



The birthday party of the century!



May 27, 2011, marked the 100th anniversary of Hubert H. Humphrey's birth. To celebrate, the Humphrey School threw a party on the plaza across from City Hall, where young Mayor Humphrey once worked. The celebration featured cake, balloons, and all the trimmings.



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1 Members of the Twin Cities Gospel Choir entertained guests with songs from the Civil Rights movement and, of course, a rousing rendition of "Happy birthday."

2 Judge John R. Tunheim, chair of the Humphrey School Advisory Council, commented on Humphrey's enduring legacy as part of the program.

3 Jerome Bokelmann and other members of the Twin Cities Model A Ford Club showed off their vintage vehicles at the party. Hubert and Muriel Humphrey owned several Model As, and Humphrey was an honorary member of the club.

4 Minneapolis mayor R.T. Rybak showed off a portrait of Humphrey. Rybak told the crowd that, although he grew up in a Republican household, his mother treasured Humphrey's photograph.

5 Interim Dean Greg Lindsey (left) helped Humphrey's son Skip to serve cake to eager party-goers.