



**2023 USA-FRANCE  
INTERCOUNTRY COMMITTEE  
POSITIVE PEACE  
&  
LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE SEMINAR  
WHITE PAPER**

**October 18-21, 2023 Chapel Hill, NC USA**

A summary of Presenters, Directors and Participants Remarks and Reflections  
for the 4th Biennial USA-France ICC Seminar.

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**2023 Presenters & Participants**

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## **USA-FRANCE ICC MEMBER DISTRICTS**

### **AMERICAN SECTION**

5010, 5495, 5550, 5890, 5910, 6190, 6200, 6800, 6840, 7610, 7670, 7690,  
7710, 7720, 7750

### **FRENCH SECTION**

2203, 1510 1650, 1660, 1690, 1720, 1760, 1770

## **CECIL HUDGINS PHOTOGRAPHY**



**Positive Peace & Leadership Dialogue Seminar**  
**October 18-21, 2023**  
**FedEx Global Education Center, Chapel Hill, NC USA**

The **Rotary USA-France Intercountry Committee** held its fourth biennial Positive Peace and Leadership Dialogue Seminar in Chapel Hill, NC at the FedEx Global Education Center on October 18-21, 2023. Twelve French and eighteen American Students or Post-Graduate young professionals participated in the 4 day event. District 7710 is a charter member District of the USA-France Intercountry Committee and hosted the event. The previous three seminars were held in Paris, France, New Orleans, USA and Rennes, France.

The French participants arrived early and were hosted by Rotarians from the Durham, Hillsborough, East Chapel Hill and Oxford Rotary Clubs. On the Monday and Tuesday prior to the seminar, they were shown sites in Raleigh, including a tour of the State Legislature Building, the Museum of History, N.C. State Farmers Market Restaurant and the N.C. State Fair. On Tuesday, they visited the Duke Homestead Museum, the Campus of Duke University, Duke Chapel, Nasher Museum, Duke Gardens, Hayti Heritage Center, NCCU Campus and attended the Michael Jackson Live show at the Durham Performing Arts Center. Many thanks to the Rotarian host families for the warm southern hospitality extended to all the delegates.

On Wednesday a reception was held for the French and American participants to meet everyone, including the presenters. Bart CLEARY, American Section President of the USA-France ICC and member of the Rotary Club of Oxford opened the reception held in the Atrium of the Global FedEx Education Center. Marie-Claire RIBEILL, the Honorary French Consul to North Carolina welcomed the French delegates to the United States and Rotary District 7710 Governor Veronica BENT welcomed everyone to North Carolina and District 7710. American participants came from Texas, Alabama, New York, South Carolina and North Carolina. Many participants were past members of Interact and present members of Rotaract. Jean-Marie POINSARD, French Section President of the USA-France ICC highlighted some of the events of the past seminars, as well as outlining the agenda for this year. Hors d'oeuveres and beverages followed.

Past RI Director of Zones 33-34, Peter KYLE, started the morning session on Thursday talking about Rotary's long history with peace building and a new initiative started in Zones 33-34. Both he and Patricia SHAFFER have been promoting a new and exciting initiative known as **Youth and Peace in Action**. According to Rotary, this program is the largest local community-based peacebuilding initiative in Rotary's history. Following Peter, Susan CARROLL, Managing Director of the Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center, shared with participants the history of the Duke-UNC Peace Center. Thanks to Susan CARROLL and Thomas LASATER for giving us the opportunity to host the event at the FedEx Global Education Center.

For the balance of Thursday morning, Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, Michal COLLINS, Executive Director, The Americas-Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) and Patricia SHAFFER, Global Ambassador for IEP, Executive Director of NewGen Peacebuilders (NGP) and Queensland Rotary Peace Center Alumnus, explored with the American and French young professionals and students, the concepts of Positive Peace and Negative Peace, the Pillars of Positive Peace, and systems-thinking. They combined theory with dynamic activities and discussions to expand their perspective on the implementation of peace, develop the values of peacebuilders and adopt a systems-thinking approach. Most importantly, they helped shift their focus on peace from an 'utopic idealist concept' to one that is positive and achievable.

On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, Linda LOW, Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center Alumnus and Director of APCO Worldwide and Laurie SMOLENSKI, Queensland Rotary Peace Center Alumnus and Director of Development at ideas42, facilitated the Leadership Dialogue section of the seminar. The crowdsourced three topics included "Identity, communication and polarization," "Poverty, wealth, economic development and inclusion" and "Peace and Conflict." After an introduction to leadership dialogue, both Linda and Laurie took them through 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> person narrative sessions, plate and circle sessions and ended with Agree/Disagree sessions on the topic of Peace and Conflict. The morning ended with reflections about the seminar. Many said they have come away changed in how they view themselves, others, and peace itself as they learn "positive peace" skills they can apply

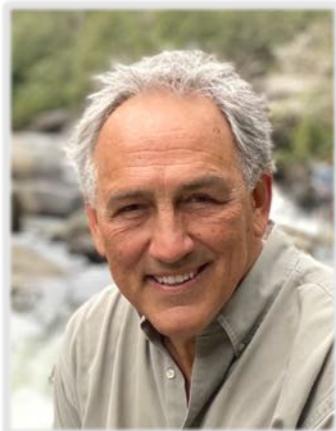
in their personal and professional lives. And the experience continues, as the participants hope to communicate with each other in the months and years following.

On Friday evening, the American and French participants headed downtown Chapel Hill to Franklin Street. The French participants were shown the local sites, had dinner and visited a few bars.

The culmination of the seminar was the Gala Dinner held at the Sheraton Chapel Hill Hotel. The participants, speakers, host families and invited guests were served a Pacific Rim Dinner Buffet accompanied with red and white wines and an assortment of desserts. Section Presidents Bart Cleary and Jean-Marie Poinsard gave opening remarks. Next, each French participant was awarded their certificate by Honorary Consul Marie-Claire RIBEILL and each American participant was awarded their certificate by Past RI Director Peter Kyle. The keynote speaker was Patricia Shafer, Global Ambassador for IEP, Executive Director of NewGen Peacebuilders (NGP) and Queensland Rotary Peace Center Alumnus. She enlightened us on topics surrounding culture and peace while tying America, France, Rotary and the younger generation together. She highlighted a new term she garnered from the seminar, that being “Pockets of Peace.” After a standing ovation for Patricia, the Seminar was adjourned. Many participants, host families and new-found friends stayed to take photos and continue conversation. Their newly created bonds would not let them leave.

Löic Bosland, 2021 seminar participant summed it up this way: "Making peace between wars has been the way humanity has proceeded for centuries. Making peace sustainable is now possible thanks to the positive peace concept."

## **Presenters, Opening Remarks & Facilitators**



## Bart CLEARY

### **American Section President, USA-France ICC**

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As the American Section President of the USA-France Intercountry Committee, I bring you greetings from the United States of America. I would like to welcome you to the fourth biennial seminar hosted by the Comité Inter-Pays France-USA and the USA-France Intercountry Committee.

We appreciate the commitment the 12 French and 18 American participants have made to attend and help promote one of Rotary's seven areas of focus, Peace and Conflict Resolution. I am certain you have questions about what the next three days will bring. We hope you walk away with a better understanding of Positive Peace and will be able to utilize it in your daily lives, as well promoting it in future endeavors.

We had a brief introduction into Positive Peace when Laurie Smolenski, who was working with the Institute for Economics and Peace, presented at our second peace seminar in New Orleans. Two years ago, IEP Director Serge Stroobants took the understanding of Positive Peace to another level. This year, Michael Collins, with the Institute for Economics and Peace, Patricia Shafer, Rotarian, Senior Fellow for Peace Education at Washington, DC-based Alliance for Peacebuilding, Rotary Peace Fellow, Rotary Positive Peace Activator, and a global ambassador for Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) and also Executive Director of international nonprofit NewGen Peacebuilders and the Youth & Peace in Action will build on sharing more information regarding the 8 Pillars of Peace and ways to become more involved. Rotary Peace Center Alumni, Linda Low and Laurie Smolenski will share their methods of building peace through leadership dialogue.

One aspect of Peace is bringing people together and with us being here today, we have already begun this process. You will meet new people, make new friendships and explore new ideas. The French participants have already spent a few days with their host families and interacted with Rotarians. I can say from traveling and working in many third world countries that I have a totally different perspective of the people, after spending time with them. We may look a little different, talk a little different, dress a little different and eat a little different, but we all have one thing in common and that is to provide food and shelter for our families in a peaceful environment.

Something I learned while traveling in France at the last seminar came from an inscription on a memorial in Bayeux. It was by Simone de Beauvoir: “SE VOULOIR LIBRE, C’EST AUSSI VOULOIR LES AUTRES LIBRES.”

“ONE MAY ONLY TASTE FREEDOM WHEN OTHERS AROUND US ARE FREE.”

I would like to thank all Rotarians on both the American and French side who have helped with the organization of this event, as well as Susan Carroll and Tom Lasater with the Duke-UNC Rotary Center and the Institute for Economics and Peace. Without them, this event would not be impossible.

Finally, I would like to end by saying, “May the hinges of friendship never rust and the wings of love never lose a feather”. And in French, « Que les charnières de l’amitié ne rouillent jamais et que les ailes de l’amour ne perdent jamais une plume. »



## **Jean-Marie POINSARD**

### **French Section President, USA-France ICC**

"Rotary helps create the conditions for peace, opportunity, and a future worth living, by continuing what we do best, and by keeping our focus on building peace in the world and within ourselves, Rotary helps create a more peaceful world — a more hopeful world." I am quoting Gordon McInally president of Rotary International who was speaking at the international assembly last January.

Madame la consul honoraire de France, Past rotary International Director, District Governor and Governor-Elect, Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, dear participants to this 4<sup>th</sup> positive peace seminar organized by Inter Country Committee USA France.

It is my pleasure to welcome you in Chapel Hill, in this renowned Research Triangle Park triangle. Dear Bart we are thrilled to have discovered this triangle, one of the 10 most prestigious parks in the world. As part of my engineering culture, I knew that IBM is an important actor of this park. I used to spend a lot of time and pretty well know Silicon Valley and today I am delighted to have a better knowledge of RTP.

Durham and Chapel Hill are home to the Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center and it is my pleasure to acknowledge our peace fellows Patricia Shafer, Linda Low and Laurie Smolenski , who will be with us tomorrow, with a special mention to Susan Carroll who is heading this department at Duke-UNC and also to Tom Lasater and I will have special greetings for Peter Kyle who was in charge of this Worldwide program for RI and who has been a tireless supporter of our seminar, and also Patricia Schaffer a peace activator, among many other credentials.

I would like to pay tribute to Rebecca Crall and her group for her continued efforts in promoting the positive peace activator program in the world and thank her for her continuous support for our peace seminar, unfortunately she could not be with us today, she is at the moment somewhere in Nepal.

It is also my pleasure to welcome IEP and its NY representative Michael Collins. ICC Fr USA has a long story with IEP starting in September 2018 when I had the pleasure to meet IEP Founder Steve Killelea during the Rotary institute, in Nuremberg, and since this time our cooperation has been fruitful.

Dear participants, friendship between France and USA is immemorable and you know that both countries have never been at war. Le Marquis de Lafayette has been one precursor for this friendship between our two countries. And you probably know that from July 1824 to September 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette, made a tour of the 24 states in the United States and on 28 February 1825 he visited Raleigh and strolling in Raleigh last days you have seen these related historical markers.

Dear Participants to this 4<sup>th</sup> bi-annual Positive Peace Seminar. You are here to develop a better knowledge of Positive peace and develop a friendly cooperation during these next days with the participants of the seminar both American and French. Later on during your personal life, if you address personal relationship with this specific approach in mind, with friendly cooperation attitude, then we, the Intercountry Committee France-USA, we will have achieved our goal for this seminar.

Today, over 70 million people are displaced as a result of conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. Half of them are children.

Recently a past prime minister of France JP Raffarin said in a radio interview:

There are war colleges in every country but there are none for peace studies.

So we believe that Rotary is playing a major role in having peace as a major item since 1921 as Rotary refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts. Rotary creates environments of peace.

So, we believe that our seminar will be a small part of the Rotary effort.

From the bottom of my heart, I wish you a successful seminar and never forget Mother Teresa who said: "la paix commence par un sourire. Peace starts with a smile."

So, lets us have a smiling peace seminar.

Thank you

Jean-Marie Poinsard

Président de la section française du CIP France états Unis.



**Veronica BENT**

**District Governor 7710, 2023-2024**

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Good evening, Rotarians, it is my pleasure to welcome you to District 7710. My name is Veronica Bent and I am proud to serve as the District Governor for this year 2023-2024. This year we are Creating Hope in the World and Rotary is just the platform that will allow us to Change People's Lives Through Service.

We have 46 Rotary clubs and 5 Rotaract clubs who are following this year's district theme which includes the three C's (Connection, Collaboration, and Community.) We understand that we are stronger together and building partnerships allows us to serve more people needing assistance. We are indeed giving a hand up to those who need it most.

We are also proud to be home to one of the seven Rotary Peace Centers. District 7710 is growing with nearly 2000 members helping to serve others both locally and globally through our service projects. Our district is very excited about bringing awareness, promoting change, and taking action to make the world a better place for us all. We look forward to connecting, collaborating, and building a stronger Rotary community with all of you.

Please enjoy the seminar and continue to be people of action making a real difference in the world!



**Marie-Claire RIBEILL**

**Honorary Consul of France in North Carolina, USA**

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Dear Distinguished guests. Dear Bart, dear Triangle Rotarians, thank you for inviting me today. I am truly honored to have been invited to join you today! Dear French students, dear French Rotarians. Welcome to the USA. You will feel the tremendous welcome of the North Carolinians who are truly kind and generous. As you will see, Raleigh, Chapel Hill and Durham, NC are a GREAT place to live and work. I love living here. The Triangle is very attractive, there is a lot of growth, it is very dynamic. French people come here and do not leave.

Guess how many French people live in the Triangle? 3000

Guess how many French Companies in NC? 365

As you know the friendship between France and the USA dates back many years and is enduring. I have always loved showcasing that friendship so thank you for allowing me to do this today.

One of my favorite roles has been to give La Légion d'Honneur to WWII veterans. It has been my mission, in the last 25 years, to show the genuine gratitude of France to the Americans for the sacrifice of their young men during WWI and WWII. We will never forget their support and how they helped us and I am always deeply touched by the humility of those men who lost their youths to an ugly war.

But this friendship was sealed through wars. I am excited that you can continue this enduring tradition, not because of a war, but with PEACE as a goal! Lafayette embodied that Peace when he traveled through the country after the Revolutionary war, including Raleigh. (Lafayette plaque in Raleigh, near the Capitol).

I am excited to be able to give these opening remarks and in awe of your purpose! To my great shame, I must acknowledge that I did not know much about the Rotary International mission before this assignment. I had some image of groups of interesting people meeting for galas and parties, but I had no idea there was such a worthy mission attached to your founding statement.

I had no idea you were so involved and so instrumental to the creation of such important institutions or documents as the UN, UNESCO and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights! This is quite an impressive list!

I am truly in awe of these important accomplishments, and I am impressed by your

continued work towards global peace. There is nothing more important than that! As I was mentally preparing for tonight's remarks, and reflecting on our world, on your actions, and on what could be done; I wanted to share a few reflections that came to me in the last weeks.

I will start with a personal story: On Monday I was preparing a move of my belongings and once the movers were gone, I found a piece of paper on the floor. The French students will recognize it: It was a little piece written by my eldest son, 25 years ago, when we were still in France. In it, he recounted how we had been to the movies to see Aladdin, the Walt Disney cartoon, with his brother and how he had eaten a bucketful of candy, but mostly, when we came out of the theater, how we had realized I had left the car lights on, and the battery was dead. We had to call his aunt to the rescue, and when we got home, his dad, had been waiting in front of the door for 2 hours because he had forgotten his keys.

Apart from the fact that this was a sweet story from the past, the main thing that struck me was how far we have come in the world and how much it has changed in 25 years, which is probably more than your ages here?

It is normally not an appropriate question, at least not to a woman my age, but may I ask how old are you all?

Ask ages....So most of you have grown with cellphones and supposedly easy communication, with constant, minute, information about anything, anywhere in the world.

My son's little story highlighted how communication has changed. 25 years ago, we could get anguished for hours, days, weeks, months not knowing what had happened to our family and friends. Had this story taken place today I would have just called my husband to tell him we were stuck and we would be late.

Of course, in the past there were lots of misunderstandings and anger because we could not communicate fast enough or well enough.

90% of wars are a result of misunderstandings. Here are just a few examples: During the Spanish-American war the warship USS Maine blew up. American newspapers circulated the ideas that it was caused by the Spaniards, and this event sparked the war. But it turned out it was not the Spaniards, but probably a mistake.

The War of 1812 was called the war of poor communications. The Franco-Prussian war of 1870 was started by Bismark who forged the EMS telegram thought to be written by the French (France was going to put one of its puppets to put on the Spanish throne).

Grief and pain are caused by lack of communication or bad communication:

Famously King Aegeus threw himself to his death, in the now called Aegean sea, because he thought his son Theseus had been killed by the Minotaur. In fact, his crew had only forgotten to change the color of the sail from black to white, as agreed, to signal if Theseus was alive or not.

In 1925, the War of the Stray Dog, resulted when a Greek soldier crossed from Macedonia into Bulgaria to retrieve his dog. The soldier was shot and slain, and, three days later, Greece maneuvered against Bulgaria, as an act of retaliation.

The Ashanti War was caused by A British diplomat sitting on a sacred golden stool, 1900.

And of course, in 2001, Iraq was attacked because we were all told that they had secret weapons of mass destruction, when turns out they did not.

Today, with all the means we have, we should have no such excuses. We have all the tools to communicate well. Conveying meaning and communication accurately are the best tools to advance positive peace.

This is why such meetings, gatherings as yours, this week, are essential and this is why there is no relenting in the fight for peace.

Because in spite of all this communication...

2 years ago, European peace was shattered by the invasion of Ukraine. We all were all in shock as we all thought, like our ancestors after WWI, that there would NOT be another war in Europe in our lifetimes. We all smugly and arrogantly assumed that if there was a war, it would take place elsewhere.

And then, last week as I was preparing for tonight, came the horrific news and images of what was happening in Israel. So, the topic of peace has never been more current as today!

As Mahatma Gandhi famously quipped:  
“An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind.”

As disturbing as what happened in Israel was, I could not help but think about the why and the how. The roots of all this violence.

We are in a world where the worldwide evils such as famine and most diseases can be eradicated. We are at the cusp of being able to cultivate enough food for everyone, where vaccines can be produced in months to eradicate disease, where we can save people from illnesses or accidents that would have killed them or maimed them for life, in the not-so-distant past.

Our advances have become mind boggling and If I compare my childhood in the 1960s with the childhood of my grandson today, we can go faster, better, longer, we have the tools to create a wonderful, gentler, kinder world where PEACE is universal!

We constantly have a choice between good and evil.

BUT I firmly believe that we have all the tools to choose well and do good.

You are young, you are our hope in the future, I thank you for your involvement and trust that the expression world PEACE will not stay a UTOPIA, but turn into a reality.

I believe in you and your vision, your courage and your determination to make this happen! Please continue to work on this goal, tirelessly, and be our beacons of light for the future! Make sure our new AI toys and tools are used to advance the betterment of humankind, to protect the poor and the disadvantaged, to cure diseases, and our enhanced communication pathways are used to eradicate wars!

There is nothing more important, more crucial today than working towards global peace and you, young people, are our hope, our light towards a brighter future. We have managed to avoid a major catastrophe for 80 years since the atom bomb was created; please keep it that way!

In a world that seems again in turmoil, we need people like you. We continuously need leaders towards the light.

Please never cease to IMAGINE and SHARE your vision for this better future, and I will end with John Lennon's lyrics:

“You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us.  
And the world will live as one.”

— John Lennon





**Peter KYLE**

**Past Rotary International Director 2020-2022**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning. I am delighted to be with you today at the start of the Fourth Rotary USA-France Inter-Country Committee Seminar on Peace.

The focus for this year's Seminar is once again Positive Peace. It builds on the themes of previous seminars including – “Rotary Leadership Dialogue for Peace” and “Can the Preservation of Cultural Heritage Contribute to World Peace?” Why, you might ask, do we have such a focus on peace. Well, quite simply, with almost 1.4 million Rotarians and Rotaractors spread across over 200 countries and territorial jurisdictions, Rotary can rightly claim to be the largest community-based peacebuilding organization in the world.

Peace is in our DNA. We have a long and rich history of promoting peace that extends back over 100 years. Last year, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of a resolution calling on Rotarians to advance “international understanding, goodwill and peace”. These words are enshrined in the Object of Rotary. They form the basis of all the humanitarian work we do as part of the Rotary Foundation.

Let me share with you some other key milestones of Rotary's peacebuilding journey. In 1940, at the Rotary International Convention in Havana, Cuba, Rotarians adopted a resolution calling, amongst other things, for “respect for human rights”. That led, in 1948, to the signing of the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights – arguably one of the most significant agreements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1942, Rotarians meeting in London proposed the creation of an organization that would focus on education, scientific research, and cultural protections. This led to the establishment of UNESCO – based in Paris.

Two years later, in 1944 at the height of the Second World War, when President Truman and Prime Minister Churchill decided that the time had come to create an organization that would forever prohibit war, Rotary was one of a small number of organizations invited to send lawyers and other experts to work alongside officials from China, the Former Soviet Union, the United States and the United Kingdom, to begin the process of drafting what would become the Charter of the United Nations. And when the Charter was signed in San Francisco in June 1945, 49 out of the 800 delegates were Rotarians.

Rotary has since expanded its focus on peace in many different directions. Through the Rotary Representative Network, we have partnered with many of the key UN agencies and major international organizations with a view to highlighting the critically

important work which Rotarians perform in implementing their humanitarian agendas. In the late 1990's we partnered with several leading universities around the world to establish the Rotary Peace Centers program. To date over 1600 Rotary Peace Fellows have graduated from this highly competitive and prestigious program and are engaged in all manner of global peacebuilding initiatives. You will hear from some of them very shortly. Ten years ago, Rotary established 6 (now 7) Areas of Focus – one of which is Peace and Conflict Prevention and each year through the Global Grant program we make available millions of dollars to support peacebuilding projects. We have peace conferences, peace symposia, peace workshops and even a Peace Academy!

I have long believed that Rotary and Rotarians have not only the ability, but also the responsibility, to do what each of us in our respective communities can do, to overcome the conflict and partisan divide which surrounds us. And we must start with our youth. That is why in this Zone 33 and the adjacent Zone 34, Patricia Shafer and I have been promoting a new and exciting initiative known as **Youth and Peace in Action**. According to Rotary, this program is the largest local community-based peacebuilding initiative in Rotary's history!

And that is why, I am so delighted to be with you today and for the next few days as the USA – France ICC brings young people together from two different parts of the world to exchange views, share experiences and build friendships. This seminar will have a profound impact on each of you in ways that you may not be able to appreciate. I can say that because I attended the last ICC seminar in Rennes, France, and was able to see first-hand the impression the speakers and the dialog were having on the participants. I have also had an opportunity to read your bios – this is a very high-quality audience! I commend you for applying to participate and for being selected. And I congratulate the organizers – especially, Bart Cleary and Jean-Marie Poinsard – and all those who have been involved in the planning for this event. I look forward very much to engaging in the discussions with you over the next few days.



**Peter KYLE, Peggy DUHAMEL & Jean-Marie POINSARD**

## Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center Presenters

The USA-France Intercountry Committee would like to thank both Susan CARROLL and Thomas LASATER for their presentation on the Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center and arranging for the use of the FedEX Global Education Center on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC.



**Susan CARROLL**

### **Managing Director Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center**

"Susan Carroll, Managing Director of the Duke-UNC Rotary Center, joined the Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center as Coordinator in May 2005. She has more than 20 years of experience in the field of international humanitarian assistance, working for the Office of US

Foreign Disaster Assistance and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. For UNHCR, she worked on large-scale refugee operations in Sudan, Ethiopia, Malawi, Turkey, Hong Kong and Thailand. In 1991, Susan was the first UN Liaison Officer with allied forces in Incirlik, Turkey, working with military personnel on the protection and assistance of Kurdish refugees. She also coordinated two UNHCR training programs, one focusing on gender analysis of refugee populations, and the other on management of emergencies. She had a brief professional detour when she worked in residential real estate in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and in 2002 was part of the team that sold Julia Child's house. Susan received her bachelor's degree in geology from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut and has done graduate studies at the Institut Universitaire des Hautes Etudes Internationales in Geneva.

Susan is responsible for the Rotary Cornerstone seminar for first-year Rotary Peace Fellows which focuses on leadership and professional development. She is a member of Duke's Dispute Resolution Committee, is the Staff/Faculty Advisor to Duke University's student chapter of the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, and is on the advisory board of UNC's Conflict Management Initiative. For the Duke Center for International Development, she has contributed to the training of Ft. Bragg Army personnel on the topic of refugee humanitarian assistance."



## Thomas LASATER

### **Program Coordinator, Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center**

Thomas Lasater joined the Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center as Program Coordinator in August 2022. In this role, Thomas oversees the day-to-day functions of the Peace Center and works closely with Rotary Peace Fellows during their time at Duke and UNC. Thomas comes to UNC from Command Group, a national security and global intelligence consulting firm in Washington, D.C. There, he specialized in open-source intelligence analysis and supported multiple security advisory and business management projects for clients in the private sector. Prior to Command, Thomas interned at the U.S. Department of State, serving in the Political Section at U.S. Embassy Rome. During his time in Rome, he acted as a representative of the Embassy at meetings of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the NATO Defense College and worked on issues ranging from regional security to global migration.

Thomas is a graduate of UNC and holds an MA in Global Studies (2019) as well as a BA in Political Science and Religious Studies (2016). As a master's student in Global Studies, he studied alongside several Rotary Peace Fellows, which he considers to have been a uniquely enriching experience. He is an avid fan of Carolina basketball as well as his small cat, Pepper.



## THE INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS AND PEACE



The Institute for Economics and Peace aims to create a paradigm shift in the way the world thinks about peace. They do this by developing global and national indices, calculating the economic cost of violence, analyzing country level risk and fragility, and understanding Positive Peace.

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Their research is used extensively by governments, academic institutions, think tanks, non-governmental organizations and by intergovernmental institutions such as the OECD, The Commonwealth Secretariat, the World Bank and the United Nations. The Institute is headquartered in Sydney with offices in 6 countries, and their research achieves over 20 billion media impressions across 150 countries each year.

Founded by IT entrepreneur and philanthropist Steve Killelea in 2007, the Institute for Economics and Peace has had a profound impact on traditional thinking on matters of security, defense, terrorism and development over the last 13 years.

The USA-France Intercountry Committee has had the pleasure working with them to promote their concepts through our Positive Peace Seminars. This year, both **Michael COLLINS** and **Patricia SHAFER** provided presentations and workshops to the American and French participants. We thank both of them for their dedication to the education of the younger generation in the peacebuilding process. (photo and information taken from IEP website)



**Patricia SHAFER & Michael COLLINS, Co-Facilitators**

## Institute for Economics & Peace Facilitator's Bios & Program



**Michael COLLINS**

**Executive Director - Americas, Institute for Economics & Peace**

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Michael Collins is Executive Director - Americas of the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), the world's leading think tank dedicated to developing metrics to analyze peace and to quantify its economic value. IEP has pioneered the empirical study of peace, most

notably through the annual Global Peace Index, and its research is used extensively by governments, academic institutions, NGOs and multilateral agencies such as the OECD, The Commonwealth Secretariat, the World Bank and the United Nations. By impacting traditional thinking on matters of security, defense, terrorism and development IEP aims to create a paradigm shift in the way the world thinks about peace and was recently ranked in the top 15 most impactful think tanks in the world on the Global Go To Think Tank Index. In his role, Michael cultivates and develops new institutional and grass-roots partnerships and has been responsible for significantly expanding IEP's presence and impact in the Americas since 2019. Before joining IEP Michael oversaw educational, job creation and economic development programs in emerging nations affected by or prone to disaster, where, as a practitioner, he frequently worked with communities affected by poverty and gang violence. As an expert trainer he has partnered with governments to develop disaster-risk reduction curricula, opened training centers and supervised training courses for vulnerable youth and adults with low literacy levels. Michael grew up in Spain where he studied electro-mechanical engineering before founding a construction company dedicated to the restoration of historical buildings, many of which are over 300 years old. He speaks English, Spanish and French and lives in the New York area with his wife and two young children.



## **Patricia SHAFER**

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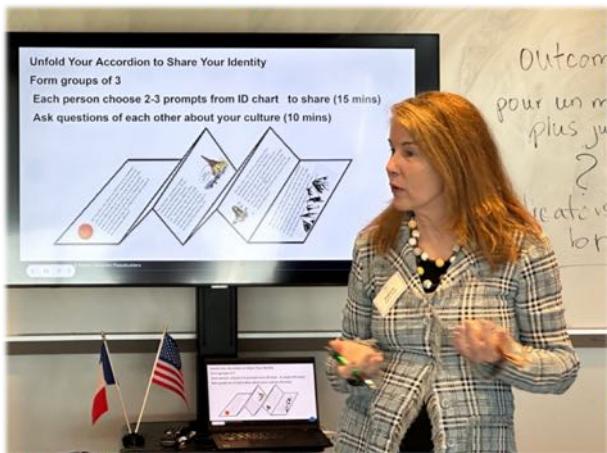
**PATRICIA SHAFER** is Senior Fellow for Peace Education at Washington, DC-based Alliance for Peacebuilding, Rotary Peace Fellow, Rotary Positive Peace Activator, and a global ambassador for Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP). Patricia is also Executive Director of international nonprofit NewGen Peacebuilders (NGP) and the Youth & Peace in Action (YPA) initiative, launched in Rotary International (RI) Zones 33 & 34 in 2021 as a community engagement peacebuilding model with young people at the center of the effort and a supporting online peace platform to accommodate up to 250,000 users.

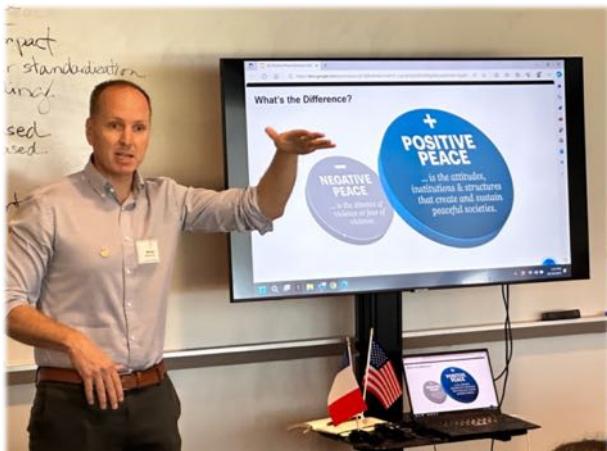
Under her leadership, 8,000+ young people age 14 to 29, community stakeholders, and civic leaders have received certified NGP and YPA peace education, training, and mentoring in 15 states in the US and 18 countries. Many of these experiences leveraged the IEP Eight Pillars of Positive Peace framework. In 2022, Patricia received the prestigious Melanie Greenberg Award for Excellence in US Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding. In 2023, she completed an analysis for RI on how to develop more strategic approaches to integrating peacebuilding training into RYE, RFE, and ICC exchanges. Prior to her nonprofit peacebuilding focus, Patricia held leadership positions in change management and strategic communications in two global Fortune 100 companies. She has an MSc in Consulting and Coaching for Change – a joint-venture of Oxford University, UK, and Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC) France; MBA, Northwestern University Kellogg Graduate School of Management; and MA, Journalism, The Ohio State University.

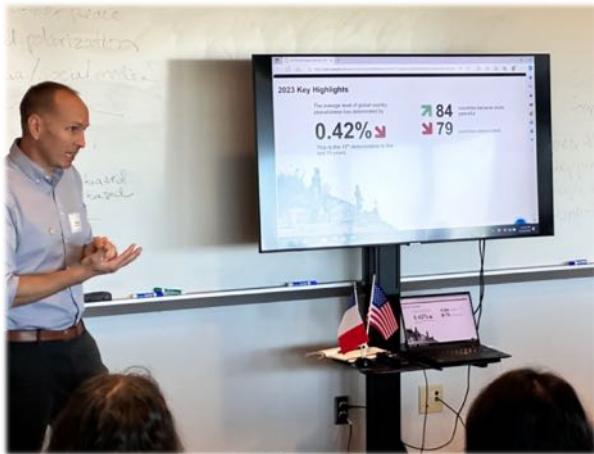
## **IEP PROGRAM**

The co-facilitating presenters for the first day-and-a-half of the Rotary USA-France ICC Positive Peace Seminar were Michael Collins, Executive Director for the Americas - Institute of Economics & Peace (IEP), and Patricia Shafer, Executive Director of NewGen Peacebuilders, Senior Fellow for Peace Education - Alliance for Peacebuilding, Rotary Peace Fellow, and Rotary Positive Peace Activator. This portion of the overall three-day seminar was a highly interactive experience that combined knowledge-based instruction on the Eight Pillars of Positive Peace framework with activities to imagine and articulate realistic community-focused peace project ideas. The experience was an all-day format on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, followed by a half-day on October 20th. **DAY ONE:** Activities began with a “red thread” exercise to quickly initiate conversation and find invisible connections between US and French

participants. The exercise ended with reflection on why cross-cultural bridgebuilding exchanges matter. With the initial bridge of understanding built, participants were asked to share individual views of whether the world has become more peaceful or violent in the past 10 years. This led to a discussion of the importance of “rebooting” our perceptions to understand that “negative peace” (reducing violence and the fear of it) is necessary but not sufficient for sustainable peace. Instead “positive peace” (creating conditions of well-being more broadly) is the foundation for peaceful, sustainable societies. To underline the distinctions, participants learned about the Global Peace Index and Positive Peace Index rankings from IEP, focusing on insights about the US and France. Then, participants worked in mixed US-France groups to consider rankings for several additional countries. A presentation on the fundamentals of a “Culture of Peace” followed, including the UNs original definition and other relevant frameworks including Maslow’s Hierarchy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). After, the groups interacted with large-scale printouts of the Eight Pillars framework to identify perceived strengths and weaknesses of each of the pillars in home countries and communities. The day ended with the writing of a six-word reflection on each person’s definition of peace and an overnight assignment to complete a personal mini-identity chart including perceptions of oneself related to peacebuilding. **DAY TWO:** After participants shared mini-identity charts with one another, facilitators Collins and Shafer presented examples of the Eight Pillars framework put into action in South Sudan and Colombia. They demonstrated that positive peace can be addressed in projects at the local level or on a country level, but stressed that in all cases of Eight Pillars operationalization, it’s important to see that peacebuilding is systemic and contextual. The tools apply in different settings, but the application and impact are dynamic and culture bound. To put this idea to the test, USA-specific and France-specific teams worked in groups in a challenge called “If I Were Mayor.” The assignment was to choose an issue/opportunity based on the previous day’s Eight Pillars exercise and imagine calling together diverse groups of stakeholders to create a peacebuilding initiative. The exercise was not to solve the problem; the goal was to use a physical “unity map” to attract identify and potentially attract stakeholders to the conversation. Groups presented unity maps for difficult conversations ranging from religious freedom and clothing styles to environmental issues related to climate change. Closing activities focused on how to do a validated self-assessment of one’s own peacebuilding capabilities including the ability to build bridges, as well as a written reflection on what each person learned from the workshop. Overall, the written feedback was highly positive and indicated a mental shift in how participants conceive of violence and peace, as well as a new sense of personal power and efficacy.







# Leadership Dialogue Facilitators Bios & Program



**Linda LOW**

**Director APCO Worldwide**

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Linda Low is a Director at APCO Worldwide. She specializes in global communications and advocacy, providing strategic counsel to corporate foundations and international non-governmental organizations. She is passionate about mobilizing across sectors and stakeholders for social impact and facilitates dialogues that convene diverse communities.

Previously, Linda led communications for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent in response to global health emergencies, natural and human-made disasters, and migration crises. She has also served government agencies across North America and was part of the Bid Corporation that won Canada the rights to host the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Linda is the founder of the Global Partners in Peace Virtual Rotary Club convening conflict resolution and development practitioners across 20 countries. She also co-chairs Build 2 Lead, a non-profit that partners with young people of color to achieve successful educational outcomes. Linda holds a Master of International Development Policy from Duke University and is a former Peace Fellow at the Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center.

## Post Seminar Reflections

When I was a Rotary Peace Fellow, I studied the impacts of food waste on climate change. But I was a Peace Fellow at a time when the world was very visibly dividing. Polarization was on the rise in countries around the world. I wanted to tackle the issue, so I started to learn facilitation skills during my time as a Peace Fellow. Surprisingly, facilitating dialogues, ensuring every voice is heard, focusing on listening instead of reacting, has become a major part of my work. In many ways, a lifestyle: I find that I use these skills in everything I do, when I'm at work, when I'm in community, even when I'm home with my family! I'm so pleased that everyone in the France-USA ICC Peace Seminar has experienced our Leadership Dialogue and hope that the techniques (3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> Person, Agree Disagree, Circle, Plates), as well as the ethos behind them (active and reflective listening) are experiences and skills that empower you as you go forth and lead in your communities.

People often ask me how I facilitate dialogues. I facilitate community dialogues in ways that enable people to connect as humans first, before diving into hard, sticky issues together. And when we dive into the hard issues, I am 100% committed to ensuring that everyone has equal voice at the table. We might not get to a solution, but we will create a space where we all feel heard, and likely, come to a common understanding of some of our shared values. From a place of shared values, we can start to move towards generating ideas together that address different needs. I've facilitated numerous dialogues and I know with certainty that the majority of people share in wanting a more peaceful world. So, let's keep at it. Incremental change, day by day, week by week, month, by month, year by year: that's going to get us to the world we all want to see.





**Laurie SMOLENSKI**

**Director of Development at ideas42**

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**Laurie Smolenski** is the Director of Development at ideas42, a nonprofit research and design organization that uses behavioral science to create a more equitable world. Drawing on a passion for using data and communications for progressive social change, Laurie mobilizes resources for conflict prevention, human rights, research, and advocacy

organizations. Before joining ideas42, Laurie was the Director of Development at the Global Center on Cooperative Security, a human rights and conflict prevention organization. She has also served as the Outreach and Development Officer at the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), a think tank that uses quantitative data to measure global levels of peace, violence, and the economic impact of conflict, and a formal partner of Rotary. She has an MA in Peace and Conflict Resolution from the University of Queensland in Australia where she was a Rotary Peace Fellow, and an MA in International Relations from the Autonomous University of Madrid in Spain where she was a Rotary Global Grant Recipient.



**Rotary USA-France-USA ICC  
Leadership Dialogue Agenda  
October 20 – 21, 2023**  
**PRESENTED BY LINDA LOW & LAURIE SMOLENSKI**  
*Facilitator Agenda & Prompts*

*30 participants*

### **Crowdsourced topics**

- Peace and conflict (circle)
- Poverty/wealth, economic development/inclusion (agree/disagree)
- Identity, communication and polarization (3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup>)

*Friday, October 20, 2023, 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

*Saturday, October 21, 2023, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

### **Afternoon**

*Day 1 afternoon*

#### **1:30 Introduction to the Leadership Dialogue. All participants seated in large circle.**

- Facilitator self-introduction
- Leadership Dialogues origin
- Overview of today's program and dialogue topics (document on poster)
  - 3 facilitation techniques: 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> Person, Circle, Agree/Disagree
  - 3 crowdsourced topics
    - Peace and conflict
    - Poverty/wealth, economic development/inclusion
    - Identity, communication and polarization
- Participant goals (document on poster or white board)

#### **1:45 3rd to 1st person narrative. Topic: Identity, communication and polarization (Linda overviews)**

*Prompt*

- Tell us about a time when you felt empowered – or afraid – to speak up about an issue related to your identity, or the identity of a community or people you love. For example, on social media, in an interpersonal relationship, in your workplace, your community, etc. How did that impact you?

### *Process*

- In large group facilitator:
  - Introduces dialogue topic and 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> process
  - Shares gun story exchange example
- 2 people model the technique using today's prompt
- Repeat prompt and process/answer questions in large group

*2:00 pm*

- Break into 2 groups / rooms (number off 1, 2).
- In small groups, facilitator repeats prompt in small groups, then asks people to move into pairs to exchange stories, ideally with someone they don't know as well. Give pairs 20 minutes to exchange their stories and tell them to be back by 2:30pm.

*2:30 pm – everyone back to their designated rooms*

- Come back to small groups to exchange stories – facilitator asks partners to sit beside each other in the circle. Facilitator invites each pair to share their partners' story in 1<sup>st</sup> person, reminds people to use "me" and "I" statements.

### **3:00 Coffee break (distribute plates on chairs)**

### **3:15 Reconvene as large group in circle**

*3:00 pm*

### **Debrief 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> person (Linda)**

- How did you feel about that exercise?
- Did it affect how you processed the information?
- What was it like hearing your own story told by someone else?
- What was it like owning someone else's story?
  - Reminder that stories have been shared in trust and confidentiality.

### **3:25 Plates and Circle (Laurie overviews)**

Facilitator explains/facilitates plates exercise:

- Think of a value that's important to you. Don't overthink it. Write it on a plate and put it down in the middle of our circle where everyone can see.
- Share your value and why it's important to you.

- After everyone has shared their value in circle, ask participants if these can be the values that guide our dialogue. If things get passionate or heated or loud, can we come back to these values to guide our conversation? (Name a few of the values)

Facilitator introduces Circle as the next dialogue technique and topic.  
Facilitator explains how Circle works:

- This is the talking object we will use today. Special to me because...
- Topic we will discuss today is: **Poverty & wealth, economic exclusion & inclusion**
- Facilitator poses a question, only the person holding the talking object responds to the question
- We pass the talking object, so everyone has a turn to respond to the question. Can't ask each other questions. Only listen. If you're not holding the talking object, you are listening.
- Makes space for all voices, not only dominant voices
- Circle means we are all equal, no top, no bottom

*3:45 pm*

### **Circle. Topic: Poverty & wealth, economic exclusion & inclusion**

**Break out into 2 groups / rooms.** Facilitator reviews dialogue topic with group and Circle process

#### *Prompts*

- Tell us about a job or volunteer activity that you loved. What did you love about it?
- **What was your first job? Informal or formal.**
- **Do you feel you have equal access to opportunity? What about others in your community?**
- **Is there an economic divide where you come from? How has this impacted you or someone you know?**
- Can you think of a program or policy that has enabled more equitable access to jobs? If not, what needs to change?
- **What is your community or country's most valuable or untapped resource? Is that resource monetized?**
- If you could do anything in the world for your job, what would it be?

*To close out circle: describe your experience in Circle in one word.*

## 4:45pm Reconvene as large group

### Debrief from circle

- How did you feel about that exercise?
  - Reminder that stories have been shared in trust and confidentiality.

**Stand and pass the ball close: Share one thing that surprised you today.**

## Morning

*Day 2 morning*

### 8:30am      Reconvene as large group

**Reflections from yesterday: in the round**

### Overview of listening primers **(Linda)**

Listening primers for active listening (LL)

- Listening for the why, not the what
- Position – what's underneath the position: values, unique experiences/circumstances, barriers, opportunities, other factors
- Revisit as a group the gun story shared in 3rd to 1st overview. Issue is gun control. What are the women's positions? What's underneath those positions?
- LL and LS model reflective listening
- LS invites a volunteer to respond to the question, then another volunteer to reflect

### 8:45 Agree/Disagree. Topic: Peace and Conflict **(Linda)**

*Process*

- Facilitator introduces Agree/Disagree, 2 facilitators model the technique. Remember the
- Facilitator calls out statement and participants demonstrate empathetic listening
  - 1 volunteer from 1 side shares their view and why
  - Someone on the other side reflects back what they heard using listening primers

- Participants are asked to stand on one-line (let's call this neutral Switzerland)
  - Facilitator explains which side to move to if participants “agree” with the statement being called out (and the other side if they “disagree”).
  - Facilitator notes people can change sides during the dialogue.

### ***Icebreaker prompts***

- Recycling should be mandatory, and people should be fined if they don't.
- There should be mandatory driving tests for adults over the age of 70.
- It should be illegal to talk on cell phones while driving.

### ***Prompts/Statements: Peace and Conflict***

- I feel safe in my community.
- I have felt excluded because of my identity.
- I have received better treatment because of my gender.
- I think a person's gender affects how I treat them.
- I think the government agencies in my community are accountable.
- If I have a concern, I can communicate about it openly.
- I know what it means to feel at peace.
- I am able to contribute to decision making in my community.
- I think a person's race, gender, religion or ideology affects how they are treated in my community.
- I think a person's place of origin affects how I treat them.
- People affected by war and conflict have the right to resettle in another country, including in my country.
- New members of a community should be expected to abide by local cultural norms.
- My country is a safe place.
- When I want to pursue justice, there are community groups or social institutions that I can partner with.
- Expressing yourself freely is dangerous.
- I can contribute to creating more transparent structures in my community or country.
- Economic opportunity contributes to stability.
- I am confident I will have a stable job.

- People should be able to work where they live regardless of their legal status.
- There is enough work for everyone.
- The world power structure is shifting for the better.
- Most world conflicts are because of unequal distribution of resources.
- Most world conflicts are because of identity or religion.
- Most world conflicts are because of land disputes.
- Governments in my region are effective at coordination and diplomacy.
- Private actors and humanitarian actors need to play a more active role in resolving conflicts.
- I have the coping skills I need in times of stress.
- When I watch a movie, I prefer an action film over a romantic comedy.
- I prefer pasta over pizza.

## 9:30 Coffee break

### 10:00 Reconvene as large group. Debrief from Agree/Disagree (Laurie)

Large group debrief on Agree/Disagree

10:20 am

Break out into 2 groups. Rerun 1,2 so people have a chance to be in different groups.

## Circle 2. Topic: Peace and Conflict

### *Prompts*

- What does peace mean? What does it look like or feel like?
- What makes you feel insecure? What keeps you up at night?
- What do you think is the main security challenge right now in your country or the world?
- Have you interacted with law enforcement before, and what happened that made you feel safe or unsafe?
- Is there a time when you've seen diverse groups or communities come together in a common purpose to make positive change? Tell us about it.
- **Tell us about a time when you felt you had a major breakthrough in serving your community: a moment that reminded you that the issues or causes you're committed to are meaningful.**

- Based on what you learned or heard this week, what do we need to do more of to enable the resolution of conflict, to move towards peace?
- If you could have a conversation with someone that you are not politically aligned with, what's the one thing you would want them to know about you?

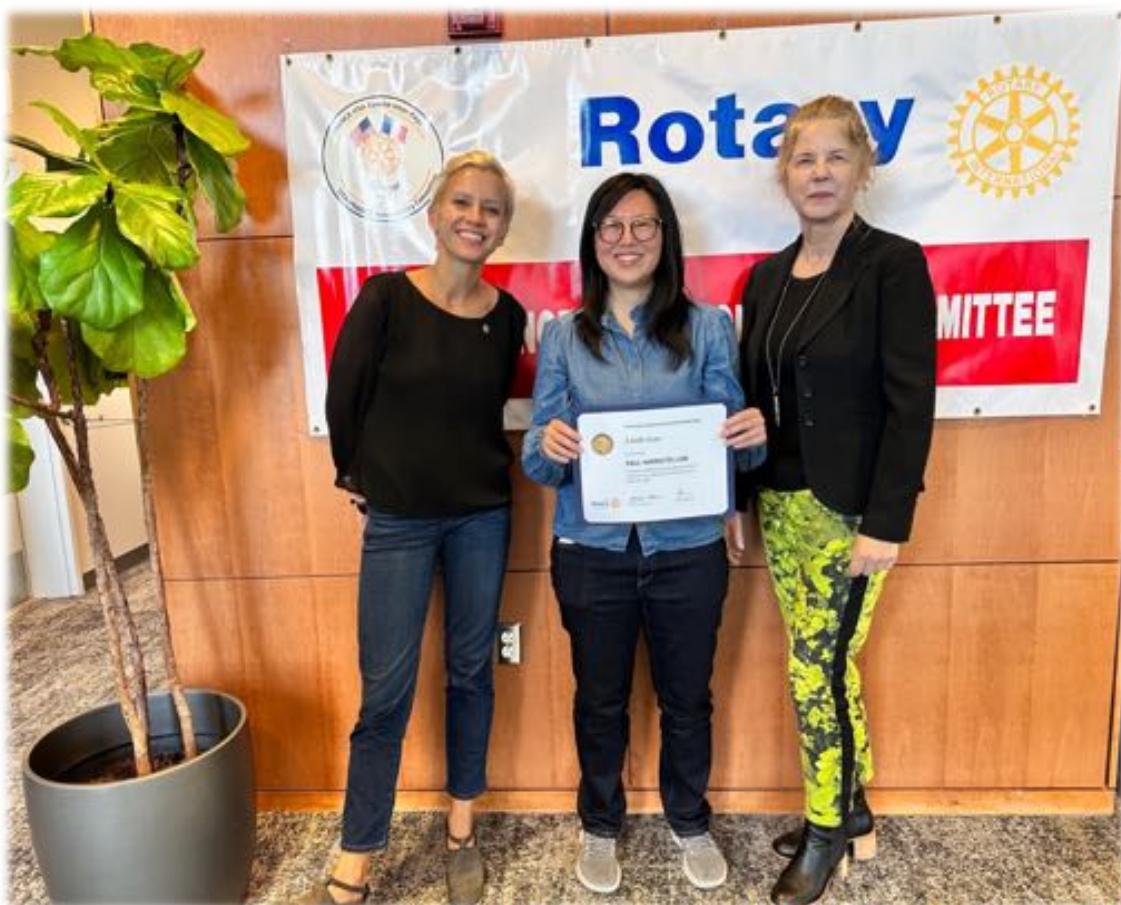
### 11:30 Reflections in the round

- In the round reflections (Laurie)
- Revisit stated goals (Linda)
- Collective goals moving forward (Laurie)
- Pass the ball: One word to describe your experience or how you're feeling (Linda)

### 12:00 Close of dialogue

#### PAUL HARRIS FELLOW PRESENTATIONS MADE 10-20-2023

**Laurie SMOLENSKI PHF+2, Linda LOW PHF, Patricia SHAFER PHF+3**





**Bart CLEARY, Michael COLLINS & Jean-Marie POINSARD**

## **Michael Collins PHF Presentation**

Today, the USA-France Intercountry Committee would like to honor Michael Collins with a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow award for his tireless efforts with the Rotary USA-France Intercountry Committee Positive Peace Seminar and his outstanding work with the Institute for Economics and Peace. Michael Collins' journey towards fostering peace and understanding among nations began long ago. His dedication to the ideals of Rotary, which include promoting goodwill and peace, has been exemplary. The Rotary Paul Harris Fellow is a prestigious recognition, and it is reserved for those who have made substantial contributions to society in the spirit of Rotary's mission.

Michael's involvement with the Rotary USA-France Intercountry Committee Positive Peace Seminar is a testament to his commitment to creating a more peaceful world. This seminar serves as a bridge between two nations, fostering cultural exchange and understanding, and promoting peaceful cooperation. Through his leadership and dedication, Michael has played a pivotal role in nurturing relationships between the United States and France and sowing the seeds of friendship and harmony. But Michael's contributions extend far beyond the confines of this committee. His work with the Institute for Economics and Peace has had a global impact. The Institute for Economics and Peace is dedicated to building a more peaceful and prosperous world by developing and promoting innovative solutions to global challenges. Michael's involvement with this organization has been instrumental in advancing their mission and bringing attention to the critical importance of positive peace as a foundation for societal well-being. Positive peace is not merely the absence of violence; it is the

presence of factors that create and sustain peace. Michael Collins understands this concept deeply, and his efforts have helped raise awareness about the need for fostering positive peace in our communities, our nations, and our world. His advocacy for measures that address the root causes of conflict and violence has inspired countless individuals and organizations to work towards a more peaceful future. Michael's dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to Rotary's mission and the cause of positive peace make him a deserving recipient of the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow award. This recognition is not just a token of our appreciation; it is a symbol of our faith in his ability to continue making a positive impact on the world.

As Rotarians, we are proud to have Michael Collins among our ranks, and we are grateful for his tireless efforts in promoting peace, understanding, and cooperation. Today, we honor his contributions, and we look forward to witnessing the continued positive change that he will undoubtedly bring to our world. Please join me in congratulating Michael Collins as we present him with the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow award, a well-deserved recognition of his outstanding work in the pursuit of peace and positive change. Thank you, Michael, for your dedication and service to humanity. Your legacy of peace will continue to inspire us all.



## FRENCH SECTION PHOTO GALLERY



### Positive Peace Seminar Participants



Marine  
ALLIONE



Anna  
BEJA



Lina  
DEMMOU



Manon  
GAROT



Laure  
GUIBERT



Salomé  
JARNOUEN



Mali  
JUWARA



Yasmine  
ORIF



Claire  
RABATÉ



Pablo  
RIBERA FERRER



Hugo  
RICHIR



Elodie  
VILLENEUVE

## French Section Reflections & Biographies



## Marine ALLIONE

### Reflections

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My name is Marine ALLIONE, from Grasse, France. I have completed my engineering degree from EBI and a master's degree in formulation of pharmaceutical products from Université Paris Cité. I took part in this seminar out of curiosity, but above all to meet new people.

When I told around me that I would take part in a seminar on positive peace, people around me didn't know what I was talking about and made fun about the fact that if there is a positive peace, a negative peace should exist too. And it's contradictory to link the idea of peace with the 'negative' adjective, but all of them were surprised when I explained that, yes, it does exist.

During those few days, we have been told that wars and conflicts are more frequently studied in class than peace, when these subjects should be tackled like 2 sides of the same coin.

Positive peace is based on 8 unique pillars: Well-functioning government, equitable distribution of resources, free flow of information, good relationship with neighbors, high levels of human capital, acceptance of others' rights, low level of corruption and sound business environment. All those pillars are closely linked to each other and are co-dependent.

By understanding the different pillars of positive peace, we were able to use it as a tool to identify the different strengths and weaknesses of a community or even a country. By knowing our weaknesses, we can face them, find improvement and enhance our system.

Thanks to the different presentations, I was able to understand that we need to improve little by little all the pillars at the same time, due to their co-dependence, hence why it's a slow process. As everything is improved a little, over the years, a trend of improvement can be observed. However, the same phenomenon can also be observed for a decline of the peace index.

Once the different strengths and weaknesses were identified, we could face inner conflicts inside the community, or between communities in touch. This is when the dialogue plays a key role in conflict resolution. More than just talking to each other, it's more about truly listening others and putting yourself in other people's shoes. Thanks to the various discussion groups, we have determined that conflict resolution should involve 3 points:

- Being educated: to be able to understand and not to make judgements based on beliefs that may be unjustified (Mistrust concept).

- Communicating to establish a dialogue: put yourself in someone else shoes and show empathy. This allows to build bridges between different communities.
- Learn to forgive.

Often, conflicts lead to improvements. To conclude, before this seminar, I didn't think that I was able to influence peace. Through the different presentations and exercises, I was able to understand that people can have a strong impact at a small scale. The objective is not to change everything in once, but more to always strive for improvement, even if it's slow, because this will allow us to observe a positive and durable improvement trend, and thus have an impact on a larger scale. However, it's important to make sure that the establishment of new project, initially used to reinforce positive peace, doesn't lead to formation of new conflicts.

I'm very grateful to have been able to take part in this seminar, and would like to thank the organizers, speakers, and participants for this experience. I will keep beautiful memories from this seminar, and I am enthusiastic to use all different tools in my daily and professional life

## BIOGRAPHY

### Work experience:

#### **End of study internship – MedinCell**

*January 2023 – August 2023 | Jacou, France*

Work on encapsulation of proteins before spray dry process to obtain a control sustained release using the technology BEPO® (Long Acting Injectable).

#### **Panel Leader Texture – EBI**

*January 2021 – June 2022 | Cergy, France*

Training and coaching of a panel of 32 panelists in pairs.

Characterization of emulsion and processing of study results for statistical analysis.

Protocol reports redaction and results analysis for companies.

#### **Abroad Internship – CHALOULOS General Partnership**

*June 2021 – August 2022 | Athens, Greece*

Assistance in reformulation and production of emulsions.

Production of legislative documents (SDS and PIF).

#### **Internship – Expressions Parfumées Givaudan Group%**

*June 2020 | Grasse, France*

Formulation of a sulfate-free hygiene product carrier.

### Education

**M2 Sciences du médicament et des produits de santé Parcours pharmacotechnie**  
– Université Paris Cité (2022-2023)

**Engineer Conception and development - Ecole de Biologie Industrielle (EBI)**  
(2018-2023)

## **Languages**

- French (Native)
- English (Professional)
- Spanish (Notions)

## **Interests**

Reading, Golf, Mosaic Craft, Travels





## Anna BÉJA

### Reflections

World peace is fragile. Peace is constantly being called into question, especially in today's society. In recent years, we've been confronted with so many brutal conflicts, closer and closer to home... Afghanistan, Israel, Ukraine...I'll never understand how humans can end up in such conflicts....

My name is Anna, I'm a French student, graduated in agro-development engineering. My studies haven't dealt with subjects related to world peace. However, as an agronomic student, I believe agriculture and peace are closely linked. Conflicts often disrupt agricultural production, leading to food insecurity. Peaceful societies provide the necessary conditions for sustainable agriculture, which in turn contributes to poverty reduction and economic growth. Peace is a fundamental human right and an essential condition for the well-being and progress of individuals and societies. My work experiences have always been related to the issue of food insecurity and working internationally to ensure this human right. I therefore often work with several cultures and this seminar helped me to understand how to communicate peace abroad.

So, these are not subjects that I am familiar with, and I feel very grateful to have been able to learn so much about them.

I never thought before this seminar that I would have the opportunity to meet so many influential people with such powerful stories. I appreciated the diversity of our group, in terms of ethnicity, gender, type of work etc... I loved listening to everyone's stories, whether they were French students, American students or host families. I was impressed by the extent to which everyone was able to confide in me about stories that were sometimes difficult to hear and emotional. I feel very grateful to have been able to be part of this adventure.

I'd like to thank Patricia Shafer and Michael Collins for giving me the keys to a concrete concept. Knowing the distinctions between positive and negative peace, the various indexes, and the theory behind them. Understanding a little more about the players involved, the means used to bring about resolution and how to move forward in a world where everyone makes a difference gave me a different vision of peace.

Then I thank Linda Low and Lauren Smolenski for teaching me how to listen. At the beginning of the second day, I hadn't understood why the testimonial exercises were so important. Being an active listener, being able to relay and embody someone was such an important experience that I finally be so thankful to have !

I thank Rotary for this unique experience, especially Bart Cleary, Jean-Marie Poinsard and Peggy Duhamel.

I would like to thank Anzor and Kim, our host family, for their kindness and love. We really felt welcomed as their daughters. They contributed so much to our stay. We felt like family.

I'd like to end with a peace quote from Gandhi that inspires me: "The person who is not at peace with himself will be at war with the whole world.



**Mary ABI-KARAM, Anna BÉJA, Elodie VILLENEUVE**



# Anna BÉJA

## EDUCATION

**Student in 5<sup>th</sup> year - L'Institut Agro Montpellier, France**  
09/2022-03/2023. Master 2 IDEAL (Innovation, Development and Entrepreneurship in tropical Agribusiness sector)

**Erasmus 3<sup>rd</sup> year - CZU, Prague**  
11/09/2020-05/02/2021. Tropical Agribusiness courses

**Student in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> et 4<sup>th</sup> year - ISTOM, Angers**  
09/2018-06/2022. Engineering school of International agricultural development

**Sciences Baccalauréat with honors - Lycée Assomption, Rennes**  
09/2017-06/2018. Scientific field

**Rotary Youth Exchange Program - Santa Cruz, Bolivia**  
21/08/2016-30/06/2017. One-year school exchange program abroad

## PROFESSIONNAL EXPERIENCES

**Formulation and Development of products - La Réunion, France**  
03/04/2023-30/06/2023

- Participating in the research project BAFALE to develop and bioanalyse ingredients and products from manioc, sweet potatoes, cassava and bread fruit flours to ensure food security.

**Junior Expert, AgriNetwork - Angers, France and Kedougou, Senegal**  
10/01/2021-14/07/2022

- Participation in setting up a Food Security mission by conducting interviews and agronomic surveys in Senegal.

**Drafting of Business Plan - Angers, France and Demnate, Morocco**  
10/10/2021-14/02/2022

- Participation in valorizing the carob flour in the biscuit and pastry sector for Demnate Cooperative (CDPF) in Morocco.

**Participation in Corab'Innov project - Angers, France**

05/11/2021-10/11/2021

- R&D and products formulation (cakes and spreads) with Corab flour

**Production manager R&D Algorapolis - Paris, France**

01/05/2021-13/09/2021

- Updating of input sources and establishment of a quantification method, drafting of experimental protocols and data measurement in an experimental spirulina crop.

**Project of Initiation to the Experimental Approach - Angers, France**

01/05/2021-13/09/2021

- Writing of a published Scientific paper (AGROSYM) on the physico-chemical characteristics of several plantain flours

## VOLUNTEERING AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

**Volunteering - Marathon Pepite, France**

18/11/2021

- Participation in the organization of the Student Entrepreneurship Marathon

**Workshop leader - MSA, Morocco**

01/07/2019-30/07/2019

- Teaching French and English to students aged 7 to 16
- Writing a guide to setting up a Community Library

**Vice-president - Rotex, France**

30/06/2017-10/06/2019

- Association to promote and support young people aged 15 to 18 during their exchange year abroad in partnership with Rotary

## PERSONAL PROFILE

Date of Birth : 11/18/1999  
Nationality : French

## CONTACT

- 25 street Alain Bouchard  
35000 Rennes France
- +33652310251
- bejaanna@gmail.com

## DIVERSES EXPERIENCES

- Assistant, Allianz, France
- Chef and Waiter, Woko, France
- Temporary staff (Babysitting, Inventory, Enveloping...)

## LANGUAGES

- French - Mother Tongue
- Spanish - C1 Advanced
- Anglais - B2 Upper-Intermediate
- Japanese - A1 Beginner

## COMPUTER SKILLS

- Advance in Microsoft Office™ tools (Excel, PowerQuery...)
- Movie, Canva

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Cooking / Pastry cooking
- Piano (3 years)
- Basket / Swimming



## Lina DEMMOU

### Reflections

Coming to North Carolina for the USA-France ICC Positive Peace Seminar was an incredible opportunity. I had the chance to explore the beautiful state of NC, delving into its history, culture, and most notably, meeting exceptional people who generously shared their time, knowledge and experiences.

The first part of the seminar presented by Michael Collins and Patricia Shafer, educated us about the role of the Positive Peace Index (PPI) as a bridge to unify society and people from different cultures. The PPI framework taught us to assess the stability of governmental institutions by considering various socio-economic indicators, rather than concentrating solely on the level of violence within communities. Examples from countries applying this index demonstrated its effectiveness, serving as a reminder that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but a proactive effort to respect human rights. Moreover, the workshops on the 8 pillars of peace were also profoundly interesting, benefiting from the diversity of our diverse nationalities, enriching the conversation and expanding our perspectives.

The second part of the seminar involved workshops led by Laurie Smolenski and Linda Low. The activities underscored the importance of listening and empathy to create dialogue between individuals with differing opinions. The open discussions allowed for vulnerability, expanding our thoughts on positive peace. It not only provided a space to discuss sensitive topics but also gave us tools to attempt these discussions in our communities. When I applied for this seminar, I knew it would be very interesting, but the people I met, discussions, and workshops made this experience far beyond my expectations, something I will remember for a lifetime.

This seminar provided me with the opportunity to reflect on how I could integrate peacebuilding with my scientific background, something I had not previously considered possible. It was during a discussion with Laurie Smolenski that I realized this potential, and she encouraged me to research how I could make it happen, and I thank her for that.

I will also now be involved in a Rotaract club in Paris to give back what has been given to me by the Rotary. This experience inspired in me hope, optimism, and determination. It created a pocket of peace that I can carry with me for the rest of my life. From the bottom of my heart, thank you Rotary International.

## BIOGRAPHY

I was born and raised near Paris, and as the granddaughter of Algerian immigrants. I embody a dual culture that has instilled in me a profound respect for others. Moreover, the history of my family and the chance of travelling around the world have made me realize the fortunate circumstances of my birth. These experiences have not only broadened my horizons but also deepened my commitment to human values. I realized that the essence of living in a peaceful country is more rooted in geographical and temporal contexts than in the identities of its inhabitants. This awareness reinforced my belief that achieving global peace requires a collective responsibility, emphasizing the need for a shared commitment from all.

Despite my scientific background as a biotechnology engineer, I remain deeply sensitive to issues of injustice and inequality. This is why beyond the confines of school and my professional role in innovation financing, I am committed to fostering diversity, community balance, and mindfulness.

I find joy in dancing, listening to music, and engaging in deep discussions. Whether with close friends or those I've just met, I cherish the opportunity to connect on a profound level. This holistic approach to life, blending my cultural roots, education, and personal values, forms the foundation of my journey.



**Bart CLEARY & Lina DEMMOU**



## LINA DEMMOU

With a strong scientific background acquired through experiences and trainings, I wish to contribute to projects with a positive impact on human health and society.

### INFORMATION

8 rue des Tours  
77124 Crègny-les-Meaux  
+33 6 59 31 65 57  
ludemou@enscbp.fr

### SKILLS

#### Technical skills

DNA/RNA/protein purification  
Recombinant protein - FACS  
TEM microscopy - Cell culture

#### Languages skills

French: mother tongue  
English: TOEIC score: 980/990  
German: oral: A2 / comprehension: B2

#### Soft skills

Team spirit - Empathy - Curiosity

### ASSOCIATIVES ACTIVITIES

#### Organiser

Careers Forum - ENSMAC (2021)  
Searching for profiles and making contact  
Management of seminar schedules  
Conducting seminars

#### French/Maths tutoring

Meaux (2019)  
Give courses to minor migrants from Africa

#### Volunteer

Festifl'Art - Meaux (since 2017)  
Eco-friendly festival  
Head of social media communication

#### Food drive & Toy fair

Lycée Molissan - Meaux (2016)  
Creation of a toy fair and a food drive  
Management of operations  
Partnership coordinator (e.g. Red Cross)

### INTERESTS

Piano and opera singing (12 years)  
Sustainability

### WORK EXPERIENCES

#### M2 innovation financing internship

III-financements - Paris - April/September 2023

Internship in an innovation financing consulting agency. My role as an engineer is to evaluate R&D projects in the biotech/healthtech sector.

#### M1 research internship

UCT/VSCHT - Prague - 5 months (2022)

Study of tick-borne encephalitis virus protein C as a key target for palliative treatment research.

#### Student health representative

Espace Santé Étudiant - Bordeaux (2021/2022)

Beneficence campaign project:

Creation of an awareness campaign on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), consent, and the SD method against street harassment.  
Display of posters in tram stops in Bordeaux, bars and distribution of flyers in student events (Gala, Integration week-end).

#### Lab technician

Hôpital Robert Debré - Paris - 3 months (2020)

Sequencing and NGS sequencing support

#### Lab technician internship

Queen Mary University - London - 5 months (2020)

Studied the Whi2 protein involved in cellular memory of *S.cerevisiae*.

### EDUCATION

#### ENSMAC

Engineering School - Bordeaux (2020/2023)

Biological engineering / food science

Specialisation in Chemistry and Bioengineering with ENSTBB

Green/polymer chemistry - Pharmaceutical biotechnology

Academic project: Development of an innovative and sustainable food: an insect-based spread.

#### Erasmus program

UCT - Prague - 6 months (2022)

Intercultural communication

Food chemical safety

Waste treatment management

Financial markets and risk management

#### Two-year course in biological engineering

Université Sorbonne Paris Nord - Bobigny (2016/2020)

Academic project: study of the effects of diesel particles (NOx) and their carcinogenic properties on lung cells.

#### Medical School

Université Sorbonne Paris Nord - Bobigny (2016/2017)



## Manon GAROT

### Reflections

My name is Manon, I'm 20, and I'm from Laval, in the west of France. I'm in my final year of a Spanish degree in La Roche-sur-Yon, France. The seminar was my first experience with the Rotary Club and what an experience

it was! I learned so much about the world around me and about myself in just a few days, even though at first, I didn't understand the meaning of the topic about a "positive" peace seminar. In fact, I had never heard the term "positive" peace before, let alone "negative" peace but thanks to the seminar and the amazing speakers I can now identify and differentiate between these subjects. Also, before I came to the seminar, for me, peace was like an unattainable ideal, the ultimate dream that remains only a dream. However, thanks to Michael Collins and Patricia Shafer during the first part of the seminar, now I see peace as an achievable, tangible ideal that we can dream about and that will revolutionize the society in which we live.

The second part of the seminar focused on how to resolve conflict, and here again, I learned a lot, thanks to Linda Low and Laurie Smolenski. This part was less theoretical, but just as interesting, because the learning came from ourselves, from others peace fellows. Everyone shared their personal experiences, and I realized that listening and empathy were, for me, the basis of peace, both on a global level and with oneself. Before coming here, it was very important to me that we also talk about inner peace, because I'm someone who follows her heart more than her head, and neglecting their emotions only leads to indifference and chaos. But during the seminar, emotions were not ignored; we were happy, sad, sometimes frightened, or even surprised because as Mahatma Gandhi said, "*Outer peace is useless without inner peace.*" To sum up, the seminar was an amazing opportunity, professionally and humanly and I would like to thank Bart Cleary and Jean-Marie Poinsard, who let me be part of this great adventure!



# Manon GAROT

Spanish degree student (second year)

I would like to attend to the Positive Peace and Leadership Dialogue Seminar in Chapel Hill, North Carolina which will take place from October 18 to 21, 2023.

## Contacts:

Address : 39 lotissement du paradis  
Saint Denis du Maine - France  
Phone : + 33 6 35 16 52 63  
E-mail: garotmanon@gmail.com  
Born on 05 August 2003  
With a driver licence

## Languages spoken:

French : mother-tongue language  
English : C1 level  
Spanish : B2 level

## Skills:

- Writing texts in different languages
- Translation of documents
- Mastery of software (Canva, Quickbooks and Pack Office)
- Event communication (La Roche-sur-Yon International Film Festival)

## Interests:

- Visual arts (drawing, painting)
- Drama
- Discovery of new cultures
- Series in VO (English, Spanish, Japanese)

## Work experience:

**Gamm Vert (Terrena) 2022**  
Cashier during the July-August period  
Meslay-du-Maine - France

**Château Beaumont 2022**  
One month internship as an activity leader  
and in administration for English language  
stays  
Chailland - France

**France Terre d'Asile 2020**  
One-week observation internship with a  
lawyer helping migrants  
Laval - France

## Scholarships:

**Institut Catholique de Vendée - ICES**  
Spanish degree student (second year)  
La Roche-sur-Yon - France

**Universidad Sagrado Corazón**  
6-month university exchange abroad  
San Juan - Puerto Rico

**Lycée Privé d'Avesnières**  
Baccalaureate (European section) in English  
With English and Political Science Specialties  
Laval - France



## Laure GUIBERT

### Reflections

Mother Teresa once said,

**« Peace Begins with a Smile ».**

I will always remember the smiles on our faces as we all met at the airport. People from all over France and the US (+Pablo from Spain), joining each other to work on Positive Peace, Leadership Dialogue and Conflict Resolution.

Participating in this Seminar in Chapel Hill, North Carolina was an honor and a wonderful opportunity. It was touching, moving and unforgettable.

**"Whenever you share love with others, you'll notice the peace that comes to you and to them »** (Mother Teresa)

This week, we chose not to put people in boxes but rather to see the person in front of us for who he or she really is. Not only that, we had the chance to meet in person and to take time to get to know each other with open-mindedness, compassion and love.

**"Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming away better and happier." (Mother Teresa)**

As we all exchanged, we entrusted ourselves to others, learned to be active listeners, to retell one's story and to put ourselves in the other persons shoe. This brought me much peace and happiness. I realized how important it is to take the time to get to know people deeply. Often times, we ask 3 things: what is your name, what is your age and what do you do for a living. This seminar showed me the uniqueness in each individual as I learned 4 new questions: what are the values of this person? What are the unique experiences that this person has been through? What are the unique opportunities that this person has seized? What are the barriers that they faced? I was touched by each person's story and I discovered a real sense of peace with people I barely knew. Because after all, **« if we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other »** (Mother Teresa).

**"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." (Mother Teresa)**

This experience was rich as all the participants were quite different. Students or workers in different fields, workers in businesses, non-profit organizations... We each had our own expertise and together, we became peace-builders. One thing that I discovered was the peace index for each country. We worked on the 8 different areas of focus when building peace. I found this very enriching and interesting. It was a pleasure to listen to our speakers, to ask questions and to better understand how peace is calculated in a country.

**“Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you.” (Mother Teresa)**

My biggest takeaway from this seminar is that we « don't have do great things », we have to do « small things with great love » (Mother Teresa). It is in being open minded, kind and patient that we make the world a better place. Putting people in boxes, judging before knowing a person pulls us away from peace.

This week, I found that we all got out of our comfort zone, we all took care of each other and made strong friendships in such little time. As one speaker said: Building positive peace takes TIME: it is slow moving. Positive peace is contextual and self-reinforcing, what a privilege it was to be in a small group and to grow so much together in the span of 3 days.

**“Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is beauty, admire it. Life is a dream, realize it.” (Mother Teresa)**

Life is an opportunity, I will never forget this opportunity, the people I met, the things I learned and the way this seminar shaped me into a better person.

Life is beauty, what a chance it was to discover a new part of America and to meet such amazing people: friends, host families, speakers and more.

Life is a dream, this week made me want to work more on peace, to become a better leader, to resolve conflicts the best I can and to continue learning and working with my peers.

As Mother Teresa would say **“We do not need guns and bombs to bring peace, we need love and compassion.”**

I want to thank from the bottom of my heart each person involved in this peace seminar. This is an experience I will never forget.

## Laure GUIBERT Biography

### Work Experiences

#### **SMILE association (Services et Missions Intergénérationnels en Lien avec l'Etudiant)**

*Touraine, Anjou / October 2021 - to today*

Past president and soon to be « Déléguée Générale » of the non-profit organization whose objective is to connect students with seniors in order to fight against loneliness, strengthen human bonds and promote intergenerational relations.

#### **Intergenerational project**

*Korian, Touraine / March 2020 - October 2021*

Creation of pairs (1 student, 1 elderly person) to help each other through phone calls during the first lockdown.

*Skills learned : mutual support, identification of needs, problem solving*

#### **Bilingual Executive Secretary**

*Hôpital Sainte-Marie Paris - Follow-up and rehabilitation care - Groupe VYV Paris  
14/ June 2019*

Management of administrative documents, translation of communication tools, collection of outstanding payments from foreign patients.

*Skills acquired : determination, respect of objectives, ability to be on several actions simultaneously*

#### **Creation of a company**

*Les Crêpes Françaises (LCF Catering) Simsbury, Connecticut USA (2014-2018)*

Complete creation of a catering company, with the creation of the graphic charter, the development of the communication, the website, the management, the control of the budget...

*Skills acquired : Pragmatism, leadership and putting into action.*

#### **Education and distinctions**

#### **« SERVIR » Price (Rotary distinction)**

Award to recognize SMILE volunteers for their commitment to seniors. Awarded by the Rotary Tours Val de Loire and the district (May 2022)

### **Licence LLCER (Languages, literatures and foreign civilizations)**

*Catholic University of the West in Angers / Septembre 2018 - May 2021*

Graduated with honors

*Acquired skills: deepening of English, Spanish and the culture of English speaking and Spanish-speaking countries. Disciplinary, linguistic and transversal skills*

### **SAT**

*Simsbury High School, Connecticut / June 2018*

### **National Honor Society**

*Simsbury High School Simsbury, Connecticut / 2016-2018*

Awarded by the Federal American Organization established for high school students on the following criteria : leadership, service and academic achievement.

### **Personal Statement**

Sensitive to projects that make social and human sense, and endowed with an entrepreneurial spirit, Laure likes to get involved in projects that enable her to put her skills at the service of others. After 7 years living in the United States, where she opened her first business at the age of 14, she chose to take up entrepreneurship again after her studies in order to continue developing the SMILE association (Services et Missions Intergénérationnels en Lien avec l'Etudiant).





## Salomé JARNOUEN

### **Reflections**

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My name is Salomé Jarnouen, I am 25 years old. I come from Rennes, a city located in Bretagne in the west of France. I graduated from an engineering school in 2020 and currently work as a web developer. I am a member of the Rotaract club of Rennes. I am actively interested in helping women to be better included and recognized in the IT field.

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who took part in organizing this seminar. I would also like to thank Lois and Ed who welcomed me in their home. They were very keen to share their experiences and point of views, and to learn more about me and my culture. I feel blessed to have been able to spend time with them and will forever be grateful.

When I applied for the Rotary Intercountry Committee, I thought I would learn about positive peace and how to improve my skills in leadership dialogue, in a theoretical way. I realize now that the concept of positive peace has to be approached in a human way. The seminar was divided into two parts, which was really interesting as it allowed us to be seamlessly introduced to multiple concepts.

During the first part we learned about negative and positive peace as well as the 8 pillars of positive peace. It was fascinating to understand how peace can be enforced in every level and institution of a society. I also realized how cautious we need to be, as sometimes working on one pillar without thinking of the impact on other pillars can unbalance peace instead of improving it.

The second part was more focused on leadership dialogue and was mostly presented as exercises and group talks. We had to express our opinions and to practice active listening. It was an intense and sometimes difficult experience as we talked about sensitive and intimate subjects. Ultimately, I feel like the facilitators brought us to a place where we ended up learning by ourselves.

This week in North Carolina gave me the opportunity to learn more about the US culture, to meet incredible human beings, and to understand that you can create strong connections with people in a very short time when put in the right conditions. Attending this seminar changed my perspective on dialogue and understanding of others point of views, especially when it comes to polarizing subjects. In a world that can feel violent and anxious, this pocket of peace gives me hope and strength to keep applying positive

peace in every aspect of my life.

## Salomé JARNOUEN

IT engineer - Web development

0 06.21.29.33.23  
✉ salomejarnouen@gmail.com  
📍 Rennes



### » EXPERIENCE

Now	IT engineer - Full-stack web development   LIksi   Rennes
November 2022	> Project in an international context, communication fully in english > Conception and development of an application to create and automate technical support requests > Project management
November 2022	IT engineer - Full-stack web development   Astrix   Rennes
September 2021	> Project in an international context, communication fully in english > Conception and development of a healthcare web application > Project management
September 2021	IT engineer - Full-stack web development   AVENTIEL   Rennes
September 2020	> Conception and development of various web application > Project management
August 2020	Internship followed by professional contract - Full-stack web development   AVENTIEL   Rennes
September 2019	> Conception and development of web applications used for internal organization of the company
July 2018	Internship in Information System Security Department   GROUPE SEB   Lyon
June 2018	> Contribution to setting up the department communication, in order to introduce a new mechanism to the system security
July 2017	Internship - Development of unit tests   ASI   Rennes
June 2017	> Development of unit tests for an existing web application

### » EDUCATION

2020	Master's degree in IT engineering, Information Technology specialty   École Supérieure d'Ingénieurs de Rennes (ESIR)
2017	Intensive study course (two years) preparing for the French "Grandes écoles"   Université de Rennes 1
2015	High school diploma, physics and chemistry specialty   Lycée Émile Zola, Rennes

### » LANGUAGES

- > French - native speaker
- > English - fluent
- > Chinese - beginner

### » MISCELLANEOUS

- > Language travels : one month in Florida, USA and one week in Shandong, China
- > Crochet, reading
- > Interest in geopolitics



## Mali JUWARA

### **Reflections**

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When I first learned about the title of the seminar, I asked myself “Positive Peace huhh... is there anything such as Negative Peace?”. Through first my research on the net about Positive Peace then further with this seminar I actually came to gasp fully this concept.

Thanks to the presentations and workshops with Michael & Patricia, I now understand that positive peace does not mean the absence of war & conflict, unlike negative peace, but rather a more structural process. It takes into account the attitudes of individuals and institutional frameworks that can contribute to societal peace. The key definition that stayed with me is that Positive Peace is a systemic and conflict prevention mechanism. We, as part of society, as institutions, as groups or even as individuals, can each contribute to a piece of the puzzle that promotes positive peace.

Another phrase that stuck with me, is one that a fellow participant mentioned, that the 8 pillars of positive peace are like a “Terrible Beauty”. When looking to build sustainable peace, one should not only concentrate on working on only one of the pillars, but also take into account how the pillars are negatively or positively correlated. The leadership through dialogue workshops were so impactful. It felt like doing a group therapy, for lack of better words, with good willed people. We shared our similar and conflicting points in such a respectable environment. It made it easier to voice our opinions, but most importantly understand the participants with contrary positions. What amazed me is how two participants with similar opinions were on opposing sides when it came to taking a stance on an announced statement. The exercise of taking a stance with announced statements showed us how the world expects us to take a position just based on a single statement. How context and lived experiences impact the stance we take and often we judge a person’s stance without taking those into consideration.

The exercise that stuck to me the most was “the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> person dialog”. Having to tell another person’s story after actively listening to them tell it and using the pronoun “I” instead of “him/her” put us truly in their shoes, and we got to experience real empathy. This is an exercise I think that can be applied to all relationships (personal or work) at all levels (individual or group).

I would like to end by really thanking the organizers Bart & Jean-Marie for giving us this opportunity, my host family for their hospitality and making me fall in love with Durham, our presenters for taking their time to share their knowledge with us in such

an interactive way and creating a safe space to share, and last but not least my fellow participants for all the beautiful moments shared and being part of this beautiful cocktail. This experience I will forever cherish and will try on my level to use the tools learned during this seminar. Let's keep creating and looking for "Pockets of Peace" in our communities in our own ways.



# MALI JUWARA

IT RISK CONSULTANT

## Profile

Consultant in IT internal control and IT Audit on SAP with a double specialization in Corporate Finance and Information systems management.

## Experience

- SAP AUTHORIZATION & GRC CONSULTANT**  
WIZYA, Paris | 08.2021 - Present
  - SAP IT Consultant for French multinational integrated energy and petroleum company
  - SAP consultant for French multinational advertising and public relations company
- IT RISK CONSULTANT**  
KPMG, Paris | 01.2021 - 07.2021
  - IT audit and Remediation of IT control deficiencies for a car manufacturing group
- IT INTERNAL CONTROL CONSULTANT**  
Saint Gobain, Paris | 12.2019 - 12.2020
  - Project manager for the development and deployment of an internal control tool for the group
  - IT audit assistance to the group affiliates
- TRADE FINANCE INTERN**  
Menara Capital, Paris | 01.2019 - 06.2019
  - Investment project analysis (ROI, payback period...)

## Education

- MS AUDIT AND INFORMATION SYSTEM**  
Skema Business School, Paris | 09.2019 - 11.2020
  - Specialization in information systems management
  - Thesis: The role of auditing in Integrated Reporting
- M2 IN CORPORATE FINANCE**  
QMNEs Education, Paris | 09.2018 - 06.2019
  - Exchange program for 2nd Year of Masters
- EDUCATION/COURSE NAME**  
Groupe ISCAE, Casablanca | 09.2016 - 06.2019
  - N.1 Business School in Francophone Africa
  - Thesis: Impact of banking regulation on Trade Finance

## Additional activities

- Past President Rotaract Paris La Défense
- Volunteer in Forward for You

## Skills

### Linguistic

English  
French  
Italian  
Chinese



### Soft

Communication  
Team work  
Adaptability



### Technical

SAP Auth/GRC  
Microsoft Office  
Power BI



## Interests

- Travelling**  
Description of the interest
- Cooking**  
Description of the interest
- Reading**  
Description of the interest

## Contact

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- mailto:mali.diallo.juwara@gmail.com
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mali-baba-juwara/>



## **Yasmine ORIF**

### **Reflections**

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*"Si vis pacem, para bellum"* is a Latin proverb meaning *"Prepare for war if you want peace"*. Following this example, is a sustainable peace possible?

This seminar enabled me to understand the foundations of sustainable peace, in particular through the eight pillars of positive peace. Among these pillars, acceptance of the

rights of others, a free flow of information and a low level of corruption are necessary foundations; each country must work towards these eight pillars, through actions consistent with the objectives. It requires courage, time, and willpower, but it is possible. It is this hope that we must communicate to those around us, to our families, friends, and entourage, as ambassadors for peace and hope. Above all, and before any political initiative, we are all responsible for building this peace, through communication and education. Teach our children, and others, kindness, benevolence, and smiles. Smiling is the first act of peace, it puts people at ease, creates a pleasant atmosphere and relaxes. It's about creating a virtuous circle around us. I'm convinced that many people don't smile or aren't kind because they've suffered; showing them that there are kind and caring people can only prove them they are on the wrong way.

During this seminar, I learned some important notions about peace: forgiveness, which is essential for moving forward, and which doesn't necessarily mean forgetting events. But also, that there's a difference between our feelings, what we intuitively think of as the building blocks of peace, and the facts and figures.

Conflict resolution tools were also taught during this workshop: for example, putting ourselves in the other person's place to understand what they're going through and what they're feeling. Telling another person's story, using the "I", is a powerful tool for experiencing empathy. I'm convinced that if everyone uses such elements, we'll make great strides in understanding others. This would help combat hatred, rejection, and exclusion. Such courses should be offered in schools, as the open-mindedness they bring will go a long way towards consolidating sustainable peace.

In conclusion, even if everything remains to be built, especially in view of the current geopolitical situation, let's not forget to refocus on essential values, the foundations of peace: benevolence, respect, and love. As Patricia SHAFER, a speaker at the seminar and someone I greatly admire, said: "Make an upset a set-up".



#### « Head of a training center »

Master's Degree in Management with experience in professional and academic training.

Yasmine ORIF  
Aix-en-Provence  
06 46 49 87 55  
yasmine.orif@gmail.com  
Driving Licence

#### Competencies

Fluent english and arabic

Mastery of pedagogical techniques

Outreach skills

Implementation and monitoring of KPIs

Management

Recruitment techniques

Integration of new collaborators

Business negotiation

Analysis and synthesis skills

Autonomous

Dynamic and reactive

Rigorous and organized

Formations

M.S "Entrepreneurship and Innovation",  
Toulouse Business School,  
2013

Master's degree in  
Accounting and Financial  
Audit, IAE Lille, 2011

Licence degree in  
Management, eHEC, 2010

Hobbies

Œnology

Rotaract's membership

Membership of an  
association for  
animals' protection

#### Professional Experience :

##### **HEAD OF THE TRAINING CENTER ADONIS, AIX-EN-PROVENCE**

From January 2013

- Needs' analysis and prospect orientation,
- Recruitment and follow-up of students (30 students),
- Recruitment and management of the trainers' team (20 persons),
- Organization and management of courses (schedules, absences, delays, transcripts, quality monitoring...),
- Relations with the funders (National Agency for Employment, municipalities...)
- Business development (participation in trade fairs, student and professional forums, etc.) and links with partners.

##### **TEACHER IN SEVERAL BUSINESS SCHOOLS**

March 2013 – December 2010

- Implementation of the training course « In-store Sales Consultant » : Sales Techniques, Merchandising, Stock Management...
- Teaching of the following units: Business Communication, International Communication, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Marketing, Advertising, Market Studies...

##### **ADVERTISING CONSULTANT, ALLEGORIE TV**

November 2014 – March 2015

- Conception of Advertising Campaigns for TOTAL, Hamoud Boualem, SOFICLEF...
- Conception of the new corporate identity charter for the Forum des Chefs d'Entreprise (FCE);
- Support of Ministry of Water Resources for its participation to the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Council in South Korea;
- Organization of FIKRA Conference in 2015 (series of conferences and exchanges of ideas about different innovative themes, with international speakers).

##### **ADVISOR IN SOCIAL WELFARE, VITTAWI, TOULOUSE**

September 2013 – May 2014

- In charge of Market Research, Customer follow up;
- In charge of Brand Communication in student fairs and exhibitions.

##### **RESPONSIBLE FOR CUSTOMER SATISFACTION, EDF, TOULOUSE**

May 2012 – December 2012

- In charge of the implementation and monitoring tools for collecting customer satisfaction;
- Complete achievements (from the definition of need to the proposed areas for improvement) of satisfaction surveys to professional and individual customers;
- Pre-launch tests on representative samples offers;
- Analysis of customer dissatisfaction and suggestions for improvement;
- Animation of a cross network practices satisfaction within EDF.



**Jean-Marie POINSARD, Yasmine ORIF & Françoise POINSARD**



## Claire RABATÉ

### **Reflections**

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The question I was asked more times than I can count before I went to the ICC Positive Peace seminar, is: what would you be doing?

Frankly at the beginning I didn't really know what to answer. What I had in mind was that I was going to maybe be able to discuss conflict resolution, incorporating the notion of peace into leadership or maybe even deal with some United Nation cases. Anyhow I knew that I was going to be able to meet a whole new crew of amazing people, don't we have to be, to want to take part in this adventure?

I was also excited to visit a country I'd never been to before. To finally discover the United States through the eyes of the locals and not just through TV series or documentaries. To have a real experience. It may also have been an opportunity for some American participants to discover that the show « Emily in Paris » might have romanticized a tiny bit the way we leave in France.

The least I can say is that I definitely was not disappointed. I believe I have lived one of the most, if not the most, beautiful human experience in my life so far. I know that from the point of view of a young woman of 21, it doesn't seem to matter much, nevertheless, believe me when I say that anybody should take a chance in this journey. It was an honor to be able to be part of this incredible program, to be able to represent my country and the community I come from. In the end it only feels like the beginning of a new adventure. One that will perhaps lead me to the Rotary peace fellow path. We still don't have any French representative in that field, that must be changed.

Even if I have been a proud member of the Rotaract for almost five years now, I had the impression to discover a whole new facet of this community. I discovered that we could actively work for this cause as an everyday job and not only just as an association. And I thought I knew what I wanted to do with my future! New horizons seem to be opening up for me.

Now I can answer that question I mentioned at the beginning of this reflection. What we have done at this seminar is to promote peace while discovering a new definition of it. We have determined that peace is not defined simply by the absence of conflict. No, it is much greater than that. Peace can have so many facets. There is as much 'peace' as there are human beings on this planet. We were able to explore these

different forms of peace among the seminar participants, and although some of us came from the same country, for most of us the definition remained very personal.

However, we also need to stop and focus on the definition of « positive peace ». It serves the interests of our states and our societies. Today it is what, it seems to me, will enable us to move forward. It is what we need to carry forward into the future. It is what I would be delighted and duty-bound to pass on. This is what I would do now.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Jean-Marie Poinsard and Bart Cleary, but also to the entire ICC organization, the speakers, and the whole Rotary International organization for the existence of this seminar and for its consistency.

With my best regards,

Claire Rabate





Serious, dynamic,  
committed, organised

### Studied courses

- Business and Company Law
- International Law
- Competition Law
- Contract Law
- Comparative Legal systems
- Civil Law
- Introduction to Economics

### Community life



### Hobbies



### Contact details

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# Claire Rabaté

Master Student in Business Law

### Education

Master Law degree, Business law specialising in wine and vine law

- 2023 to 2024 - 1st year - University of Bordeaux, Pessac (33)

Law degree international curriculum, French law, English law with distinction "Bien":

- 2022 to 2023: 3rd year - Erasmus at the University of Trento, Italy
- 2020 to 2022: 2nd year - University of Bordeaux, Pessac (33)
- 2019 to 2020: 1st year - University of Bordeaux, Pessac (33)

Baccalaureate in Economic and Social Sciences - International Option section: English (OIB)

- 2019 - Assomption Sainte Clotilde High School, Bordeaux (33)

Participation in the MUN (Model of United Nations)

- 2019 - Assomption Sainte Clotilde High School, Bordeaux (33)

Participation in the INOMUN (International North Model of United Nations)

- 2018 - Montebello High School, Lille (59)

### Work Experience

Private tutor - Self-employed, 2019 to present day

- Preparation of course materials (all levels)
- Organisation of language activities (all levels)

Assistant - "Füss Traductions" Agency, Summer 2022, 2021, 2018

- Translation of administrative documents (birth and death certificates, etc.)
- Translation of legal documents

Intern - Firino-Martell Law Firm, Summer 2017, 2019

- Drafting of formal notices
- Search for documents and supporting legislation
- Observation of judgements
- Observation of criminal hearings
- File classification

### Skills

Languages :

- English (mother tongue)
- French (mother tongue)
- Spanish (level: B1)
- Chinese (level: A2)

IT skills :

- Word, Excel and Power Point
- Canva



## **Pablo RIBERA-FERRER**

### **Reflections**

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Participating in the Positive Peace and Conflict Resolution Seminar has been an eye-opening experience. The insights gained during this seminar have been profound, challenging my perspectives and providing valuable lessons that extend beyond the classroom. The main message that resonated with me throughout the seminar was the importance of “not putting people into boxes”.

The seminar emphasized the idea that individuals are complex, multifaceted beings whose identities, beliefs, and experiences cannot be categorized. Instead of reducing people to stereotypes or generalizations, we should strive to understand the uniqueness of each person. This notion was addressed through several activities and discussions, which encouraged us to engage with one another on a personal level.

One of the central themes of the seminar was the role of Positive Peace Index (PPI) as a bridge to unify society and people from different cultures. The PPI framework shifted our focus away from the act of violence itself and encouraged us to measure the strength within institutions of each communities and other factors related with economic and social stability. This approach was very effective since it led us appreciate that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but a proactive effort to build societies where the rights and dignity of all individuals are respected.

Working with participants from different cultures and backgrounds reinforced my idea that diversity is necessary for addressing complex issues, and our guided discussions showed us the importance of empathy and open dialogue in conflict resolution. This Seminar has left a lasting impact on me and I am willing to improve my community by making a good impact in my private and professional life. Therefore, I am really grateful for being given this opportunity and having met incredible people along the way.



**Pablo Ribera Ferrer**

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Alicante, 03006  
+34 63278906  
pabloriberaferrer@gmail.com

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**Additional info**

**EXPERIENCE**

Driving license: B  
Gender: Male  
Date of birth: 17/06/2001  
Place of birth: Alicante  
Nationality: Spanish

**ALMUNI**  
Award to the 'Best delegate of the WTO'  
Aug 2019 - Apr 2020  
Alicante  
I have participated in a UN General Assembly simulation in the ALMUN 2020 edition in the University of Alicante. I was part of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee representing the country of Indian Republic, in which we had to discuss each countries position and reach a resolution about antidumping and plastic pollution measures.

**PERSONAL**  
**QUALIFICATIONS**

I am currently during the last semester of my career in International Relations in the University of Alicante. In these years of my studies I have been acquiring knowledge and skills about International Law, Conflict mediation, Project Management, Geopolitics in different regions such as: Middle East, Mediterranean, Asia and America region, Economics and Sociology. Therefore, I would love to continue learning about how can they be applied in order to make a positive impact in the world in which we live.

**Exchange on behalf of the Rotary Club in the USA 2017-2018**  
Aug 2017 - Jun 2018  
US, Jennings (Illinois)  
I have studied during 8 months in the US in an exchange student program held by the Rotary Club Program.  
During my stay:  
I did several volunteering activities such as:  

- Helping clean nursing homes
- Packaging and collecting food
- Selling gift baskets to collect money

And I attended to conferences each month, where I had to tell my experience to the rotarians of the Rotary club and I listened to many of the social project proposals that the members did.

**IT SKILLS**

Social media Management  
Office Package (Word, Excel, Access)

**Tennis teacher**  
Jun 2017 - Jun 2020  
Alicante  
-Jardines, High school tennis  
-Alicante, Swimming particular  
Former competitive tennis player until the age of 15.  
Private tennis teacher for all ages since 2017.

**LANGUAGES**

English	C1
Spanish	Native speaker
French	A2

**EDUCATION**

International Relations Degree  
University of Alicante  
Sep 2019 - Oct 2023  
I am currently finishing my last semester as a student in International Relations.

Pablo Ribera Ferrer

+34 63278906

pabloriberaferrer@gmail.com



## **Hugo RICHIR**

### **Reflections**

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Before starting I'd like to thank every actor of our Positive Peace Seminar. It was such an Inspiring Cross-Cultural Journey between 20 American and 10 French students.

I had the privilege of attending this Positive Peace seminar, where I delved into the intricacies of this multifaceted concept and experienced its real-world application through engaging with 10 French and 20 American students for a week. This immersive experience was truly enlightening, demonstrating the power of Positive Peace. The diverse group brought together distinct perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences, creating a dynamic environment for profound learning and personal growth. Through engaging discussions and collaborative activities, we were able to explore the various dimensions of peace and how they manifest differently in our respective cultures.

Positive Peace, as I learned during the seminar, encompasses more than just the absence of conflict. It embraces the principles of justice, equality, and social cohesion. It acknowledges that peace is not a passive state, but rather an active process that requires the participation of all members of society. It places emphasis on the development of a society's infrastructure, the promotion of human rights, and the cultivation of a culture of inclusivity and respect. In essence, Positive Peace is a comprehensive framework that seeks to build a resilient foundation for sustainable peace and prosperity.

The week was a remarkable experience that exemplified the principles of Positive Peace. One of the most striking aspects of this cross-cultural experience was the realization that, despite our differences, we shared a common desire for a more peaceful world. So now it's up to us to make our world a better place!

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Hugo Richir is a young leader and CEO of its own start-up company called vEdge. Son of the co-founder of the major European Virtual Reality exhibition, he grew up surrounded by immersive technologies. He is a graduate of the prestigious French engineering school called "Arts et Métiers ParisTech". Today, he is partnering with a Californian company called Matterport and a Hong Kong company called Visionaries 777.

Those partnerships allow him to work with global industrial groups and help them start their digital transformation with technologies such as Augmented Reality and 3D scanning.

Involved from a young age in the Rotary International activities, Hugo started his journey with a Rotary Summer Camp in Izmir, Turkey. Fond of new adventures, he continued with a Rotary Youth Exchange Program in South Korea for a year. Recently he participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards of Rennes and co-founded the Rotaract Club of Laval. Hugo is very involved in the local Rotary community especially with his sponsor Rotary Clubs.



**Laure GUIBERT, Pablo RIBERRA FERRER, Cameron TERRY,  
Hugo RICHIR, Anna BÉJA, Spriha MANJIGANI & Manon GAROT**



## Elodie VILLENEUVE

### **Reflections**

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My name is Elodie Villeneuve, I come from Vendée in France. I am 25 years old and I work for an accountant firm. In Angers where I live now, I am the President of the Rotaract club David d'Angers. I grow up with the values of the Rotary, so when I had the chance to join a Rotaract Club, it was

inevitable. I appreciate the new experiences during my life, so the Positive Peace Seminar was a chance to realize a new one.

When I decided to apply at this seminar, I didn't know anything about Positive Peace. I thought that peace was when a country is not in war. Now I realize that is more than this! We learned that the Positive Peace is defined as the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies. It is a set of 8 different factors related together. The most important thing that I remembered it is that Positive Peace can be helpful for creating a World more peaceful. From now, I want to develop more my knowledge about Positive Peace and share what I learned during this seminar.

This experience also allowed me to realize the chance that I had in my life. Listening to the different stories of the participants was amazing and enriching! The sharing that we lived was incredible. The seminar took place in respect and listening to each other. We had the chance to have a wonderful group! Even in my craziest dream, I never thought that I would live an experience like that. In just one week we learned to discover each person of this group. I think we are a group of people with different characters but complementary. So, it was a real match between us! I am sure this seminar wouldn't have been the same without these people, so I would like to say thank you to this group!

I want to finish this reflection by thanking Rotary for allowing me to realize this seminar. I would also like to thank Bart, Jean-Marie and Peggy for taking care of us during this week of this seminar. They allowed to us to live an amazing experience in the USA. I also had the chance to be welcome by Anzor and Kim, two sweet hosts, so thanks to them.



# ELODIE VILLENEUVE

## ACCOUNTANT

### WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Baker Tilly - Angers | Junior Accountant**

September 2021 - Present

**ADEME - Angers | Management controller**

September 2019 - September 2021 - Work Study Contract

**Crédit Mutuel - Fontenay Le Comte | Bank hotess**

July - August 2019

**Crédit Agricole - Vendee's Coast | Bank Hotess**

July - August 2017 and 2018

### VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

---

**Rotaract Club - Angers | Treasurer**

Since January 2023

**EARL VILLENEUVE Jean - Vendée | Communications Manager**

Since June 2020

**Volunteer during dance show - Vendée**

During ten years

### EDUCATION

---

**Mbway School - Angers | 2019-2021**

MBA Management and Finance

**Université d'Angers - Angers | 2016-2019**

Licence of economics and management

**Lycée Notre Dame - Fontenay le comte | 2014-2016**

Scientifical baccalaureat

### PASSION

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- Danse
- Reading
- Cooking
- Sea and boat
- Past time with my friends and

### LANGUAGES

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- French
- English
- Spanish



## FRENCH PARTICIPANTS



## Positive Peace Seminar Participants



Mary  
ABI-KARAM



Kala  
BHATTAR



Emma-Katherine  
BOWERS



Julia  
BULINSKA



Sebastian  
FARRIS



Jamian  
GANDY



Lexia  
GIANOPOULOS



Sara  
HOLLEY



Daisy  
LEON



Spriha  
MANJIGANI



Madison  
SINGS



Trinity  
SMITH



Cameron  
TERRY



Ashmi  
TRIVEDI



Salim  
UQDAH



Ella  
WESTERBURG



Kianna  
WRIGHT

## American Section Reflections & Biographies



## Mary ABI-KARAM

### **Reflections**

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At the USA-France ICC Positive Peace Seminar, organized by Rotary International and the Institute of Economics and Peace, I had the remarkable opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogues with French delegates. Despite our cultural differences, these interactions unearthed surprising similarities that transcended borders, highlighting

the universality of our shared quest for peace. This exchange, in particular, underlined the irrefutable importance of mutual understanding and the value of finding common ground to foster global peace and a more livable world.

The heart of the seminar lay in the dialogue sessions, where we gathered in a room to learn the art of active listening. Through this process, we delved into intimate aspects of one another's lives, exposing the human faces behind our professional titles. It was a truly touching experience, emphasizing the role of empathy and open-hearted communication in advancing the cause of peace. This exchange noted that the journey towards global harmony starts with recognizing our shared humanity.

The seminar provided invaluable knowledge about the metrics of peace and how to measure it effectively. The Institute for Economics and Peace played a role in expanding my knowledge about the intricacies of different strategies institutions can employ at various levels, local, federal, or state, to promote peace. Understanding how various pillars of peace connect to form the sturdy foundation of a livable world was enlightening. It highlighted the interconnectedness of factors such as education, economic opportunity, social equity, and governance in pursuing positive peace.

In conclusion, the USA-France ICC Positive Peace Seminar was a transformative experience that reinforced my dedication to making the world a more livable place through the pursuit of peace. From my academic endeavors as a peace war and defense major to my personal experiences as an Arab grappling with the conflict in my home region and my involvement in public speaking extracurriculars, this seminar added a valuable layer to my understanding of our complex world. By learning to listen, embracing cultural diversity, and comprehending peace metrics, I now possess a more robust toolkit for contributing to a world where peace reigns supreme. The importance of such initiatives cannot be overstated, as they provide the foundation for global cooperation and the betterment of humanity as a whole.

## BIOGRAPHY

Mary Abi-Karam is a passionate advocate for a more peaceful and equitable world. Growing up in South Florida, where diverse cultures intermingle, Mary was exposed to a rich tapestry of humanity that ignited my passion for international relations and global affairs. Her journey towards peace began at American Heritage in Plantation, Florida, where she graduated in 2023. Her academic achievements earned her recognition as a National Merit Commended Scholar, reflecting her early dedication to excellence.

In the professional realm, Mary has explored her passion for international law through a legal internship at Swickle & Associates, PLLC. She learned to navigate the intricate legal world, assist clients, and develop invaluable problem-solving skills here. Her dedication to education and mentorship shines through her experience as a Debate Camp Instructor at NSD Flagship, a summer camp counselor at Camp St. Thekla, and a high school Model UN coach; she has mentored students in public speaking, critical thinking, and the art of debate, emphasizing the role of sharing knowledge with future generations and furthering her mission to foster understanding and effective communication.

She has worked with CARE International, a global nonprofit, to fight global poverty and assist those in need, focusing on women and girls. Mary co-founded a CARE school chapter, using her platform to address critical issues such as vaccine access, gender equality, and food poverty. Her efforts included lobbying influential representatives and organizing the first CARE Youth Leadership Summit, furthering her mission to create a more just and compassionate world.

Today, Mary is at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, pursuing a double undergraduate major in Peace, War, and Defense and Philosophy and a minor in PPE. In her free time, she is engaging in creative writing and listening to Pitbull (she even met him in Miami!). Mary also actively engages in Mock Trial, Speech and Debate, and Model UN, which allow her to delve into intricate international relations topics, seek innovative solutions, and immerse herself in researching global issues. She aims to study national security and counterterrorism, where she will work to make her war-torn home region, the Middle East, a more peaceful place for her family.





## Kala BHATTAR

### **Reflections**

In the world we live in today, where violence is constantly exhibited on a daily basis, peacebuilding and conflict resolution skills are more important than ever. Following the aftermath of the Holocaust, many global voices cried “never again,” yet today there are so many ethnic conflicts and acts of genocide around the world. Many people, due to the constant coverage on mass media and social media, have become desensitized to violence and human suffering as well. This is why the US- France Inter Country Committee Peace building seminar sponsored by the Rotary has been necessary to learn how to mediate between polarized groups, how to help create positive peace within communities, and how to have meaningful conversations around complex, controversial topics with compassion, confidence, and clarity. This seminar had many themes, but the three that stand out to me are culture, community, and communication.

Beginning with culture, the idea of this seminar was to bring together bright minds working within the field of peace and human rights from France and the United States in order to engage in a cultural exchange to learn from one another. We learned more about what life is like within each of our countries, compared and contrasted policies examining what works and what does not. Although we were officially representing two nations, there was so much diversity in the room that other nations, through the participants lived experiences like Spain, Armenia, India, Poland, to name a few, were represented as well. This seminar lasted four days but I left feeling culturally enriched and more informed about other cultures than a semester long course on cultural literacy.

Another theme that comes to mind as I reflect on this seminar is community. We were all a group of strangers when we met, yet we were able to create a beautiful community and create lifelong friendships with one another. On the last day, the Gala Dinner was a bittersweet moment, and many of us made plans to see each other soon. This was partly due to the amazing people that attended this conference and their ability to forge strong, meaningful relationships with others. Still, it is also a result of the four days of intense conversations we had, moderated, and guided by Rotary members Patricia, Michael, Linda, and Laurie. As Patricia said, we were able to peel back each other’s layers gently throughout the many exercises we engaged in - such as the 3rd to 1st person communication - that challenged us to view the world through someone else’s viewpoint, leading to both empathy and sympathy toward that person’s lived experiences.

Finally, the biggest theme that comes to mind reflecting on this seminar is communication. The second half of the seminar focused on effective communication skills, where we began the section with some goals for what we wanted to be able to do by the end of the segment. Even though we had a day and a half to accomplish our impressive list of goals, following intense conversations through different styles of communication, we were able to meet those goals and gain so much more than we had anticipated. All of us were able to open up our minds and hearts, embrace the vulnerability, and share our very personal experiences and positions on controversial topics without feeling judged. This is a powerful accomplishment, especially when you consider it was among complete strangers that had only been together for four days. It instilled within me a certain sense of hope that I can have these difficult conversations with people in my own community but also gave me a sense of confidence that I would be able to help moderate others who may want to engage in such conversations, just as Linda and Laurie did with our group. I learned how to engage in effective communication but also how to moderate these conversations among others.

Overall, this was such an enjoyable experience, where I met some fantastic people who were so inspiring, made some incredible connections for my future goals, and left with a sense of confidence that IT IS possible to have a more peaceful world, where I have the tools necessary to help start making those changes I want to see in the world.



## BIOGRAPHY

Kala Bhattar is an undergraduate senior in the process of securing her Major in Political Science and with a double Minor in International Relations and Human Rights at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). She has worked with the Institute for Human Rights (IHR) at UAB since fall of 2021 as an intern blog writer and has also been helping with some of the research projects and events conducted by the IHR.

She has also moderated a panel discussion for an IHR sponsored event with Aja Barber on the intersectionality between colonialism, fast fashion, and climate change. Bhattar has moderated a conversation with Dr. Bernice King at the International Peace Conference held in Birmingham, Alabama in May 2023. Additionally, Bhattar has been serving her local community as a member of the Friends of the Locust Fork River (FLFR), an organization focused on keeping the environment clean and spreading environmental awareness throughout the community. She has been a volunteer at FLFR since Fall of 2021, and, has been advising the FLFR team as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Leader since Spring 2022.

Bhattar chose to work for the IHR because she is passionate about helping promote and protect the basic human rights of everyone in her community and around the world. As a blog writer, she has written on topics of both domestic and international importance, such as issues of food insecurity and homelessness in the United States, but also has captured the broader struggles of people around the world, especially in her series on Environmental Justice. The IHR has been an important platform for Bhattar to spread awareness about contemporary issues and has introduced her and prepared her for many opportunities that have assisted her in pursuing her academic goals.

Email: [kala19@uab.edu](mailto:kala19@uab.edu)



## Emma-Katherine BOWERS

### Reflections

It was a true pleasure and privilege to participate in the USA-France ICC Peace Seminar. As an alumnus of NewGen Peacebuilders, I have maintained a constant engagement with and interest in peacebuilding throughout the formative years of my education. The

opportunity to attend this seminar, especially given my personal ties to France, was immediately of interest to me. I am a strong believer in the importance of convening people from diverse backgrounds for learning and thought leadership, and this peace seminar absolutely delivered on both fronts.

I was particularly engaged by the frameworks for peace problem-solving and the deep dive into the Institute of Economics and Peace's (IEP) indices. Through the process of mapping problems and solutions against the Eight Pillars of Peace, I had the opportunity to deeply discuss the individual experiences of different attendees in their local communities and lives. This experiential exchange was a wonderful chance to establish greater empathy and understanding across cultural lines, both internationally and regionally. Empathy is a critical component of change, and the personal ties from the seminar have already proved to be a true asset to us all for our current and future peacebuilding endeavors. Additionally, the Eight Pillars of Positive Peace challenge us to look beyond the mere absence of conflict to see deeper indicators of human thriving in our communities. Given the prevalence of violence and war in the news, it is critical that we remind ourselves that peace extends far beyond ceasefires, and that we continue to strive for such in the world.

I was also fascinated by our conversations around the IEP indices for Global Peace, Positive Peace, and Global Terrorism, amongst others. I frequently use IEP data in my research as a university student and greatly valued the opportunity to learn from Michael Collins, Executive Director of The Americas for IEP. I gained understanding of how the indices are constructed as well as their strengths, limitations, and usages. I was also interested to discuss certain cases of countries ranking contradictorily on the Global Peace and Positive Peace Indices, prompting a greater investigation of how we measure and contextualize peace to account for diverse factors. This familiarity with and knowledge of IEP indices has already informed my research on economic resilience since the seminar concluded.

Beyond the content that we covered, one of the most critical aspects of the seminar was the relationship-building which occurred. Attendees spanned nationalities, regions, professions, and languages, which made our connections especially meaningful. In addition to building cultural understanding and empathy, each of us has expanded our network of fellow peacebuilders through this seminar and now has the capacity to scale projects and amplify our impacts in new ways moving forward. Thank you, Rotary and Intercountry Committee, for this deeply meaningful opportunity

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Emma-Katherine is a fourth-year student at UNC Chapel Hill pursuing a degree in Global Studies with minors in Conflict Management and Music. She will graduate Phi Beta Kappa as a member of the honors college and a recipient of both the Morehead-Cain and Coca-Cola Scholarships. Emma-Katherine has a background in education and climate, venture capital, conference planning, grant funding, emergency management, consulting, and conflict resolution, all of which have informed her diverse interests and leadership at and beyond UNC. Her engagement with peace and conflict studies traces back to her initial participation in NewGen Peacebuilders as a high school sophomore in 2016 and has continued throughout her academic and extracurricular career. She is also passionate about music, language learning, and social impact. Most recently, Emma-Katherine's passion for social impact and positive peacebuilding led her to Casablanca, Morocco, where she worked for an impact-investing venture capital firm over the summer. In her free time, she enjoys singing, traveling, painting, and backpacking.



**Lexia, Trinity, Emma-Katherine, Marine, Salomé & Jamian**



## **Julia BULINSKA**

### **Reflections**

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What an incredible four days it has been! I'll forever cherish the memory of that first night when we were all strangers meeting for the first time, to the final evening at the Gala, where it felt like we were saying farewell to our dearest friends. The bonds we created in such a short span of time were not only a result of the

knowledge we acquired but also the opportunity to put that knowledge into practice. Each communication exercise challenged our perspectives, and with each activity, we peeled back our layers, opening to one another. It was a truly transformative and eye-opening experience.

After the seminar I kept thinking that if we could achieve this in just four days, what sets us apart from those in positions of power who struggle to attain peace? I've come to realize that it all begins with our relationship with ourselves. I've concluded that when we find inner peace, we can radiate peace to our surroundings therefore building strong human connections that, to me, are at the center of peace building.

### **Biography**

Julia Bulinska is the Director of Education and Workforce Development at International House and leads all education projects in the organization.

Julia is an immigrant from Poland who has nearly 10 years' experience in teaching English Language Learners in the Charlotte – Mecklenburg area across all ages and varied cultural backgrounds. In 2013, she began her journey with International House, and throughout this time, she has fulfilled multiple leadership roles within the organization.

Outside of fulfilling her responsibilities as a Director of Education and Workforce Development, she dedicates her time to the Polish School of Charlotte teaching young Polish American citizens her native language, Polish.

In her free time, she advocates for the immigrant community by being a keynote speaker on the topic of immigration and freedom.



## Sebastian FARRIS

### Reflections

To describe my experience at the positive peace seminar in one word: Revealing. Whether intentional or not, the seminar was a fascinating series of experiments in social anthropology. I was impressed at the diversity of thought showcased within these experiments. No two individuals approached the

“Mayoral Body” task the same way - Everyone had their own unique interpretation of the positive peace framework’s scope, utility, and compartmental importance. Despite these variations in interpretation, all participants were still able to quickly and efficiently come to consensus about the framework, collectively agree on an issue to pursue, and analyze said issue through various lenses, all within the span of thirty minutes. The efficiency among groups was incredible to witness – I hope that my colleagues find paths into positions of power, for I firmly believe that the ability to work so efficiently among such a thought diverse population is a trait desperately needed among our world’s leadership.

Hearing from the IEP, specifically about Michael Collins’ work in Columbia, I was granted new tools to add to my peacebuilding shed. My personal philosophy is that leadership & solutions from “outsiders” are temporary – As we say in my family, *The camel’s nourished hump will wither away when the fattened caravan trots forth without him*. In my view, the positive peace framework is a useful tool to start the dialogue of change for peace among those who may ensure its permanence. Using this framework, we can guide others through the process of identifying vulnerabilities in their own communities, discovering the underlying reasons for these weaknesses, and ultimately developing *home-grown culturally conscious* solutions. In essence, I consider the framework best utilized to teach others how to lead their own communities. Even if the ‘outside’ leader has a perfect solution to a problem, the ‘inside’ leaders must come to that solution conclusion for themselves for any chance at longevity of peace.

The simulations on conducting productive lines of dialogue made me proud of my fellow participants and confident in their successful futures. It takes serious confidence to commit to a minority opinion in front of the judgement of an ever-observant crowd, and moreover to defend that opinion with clarity and collectedness. I was quite impressed to see that every single participant confidently took a minority side at least once during the “agree/disagree” exercise, a testament to the humble self-confidence of this cohort.

To my peacebuilding cohort: Pursue passions. Let us take the tools of peace acquired here and make a genuine effort to apply them to our diverse areas of influence, to create real goal driven change. Let passion, mission, guide the way. *In an ever-shifting desert, the merchant wanders blind without compass or star.*

## Biography

Sebastian Farris is a double major in Russian Language and Culture and Peace War & Defense at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is passionate about fighting all forms of human trafficking and is interested in law enforcement & national security career paths. Sebastian currently works for the Russian Flagship Program at UNC as a language tutor and recruitment ambassador. Through the Flagship Program, Sebastian was selected for a Fulbright fellowship to study in Kazakhstan during summer 2022.

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/sebastian-farris-0b4a26186](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sebastian-farris-0b4a26186)



**Anna BÉJA & Sebastian FARRIS**



## **Jamian Gandy**

### **Reflections**

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My experience at the USA-France Inter-Country Committee (ICC) session in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was nothing short of transformative, enlightening, and deeply enriching. At the heart of our journey was the exploration of each collaborator's role locally, nationally, and globally in creating a more harmonious world.

The bonds of camaraderie that blossomed among the delegates were profound and emblematic of the importance of such endeavors. Rotary International, Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), and Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center, through their instrumental roles, crafted a platform where diverse voices could engage in constructive dialogues. These organizations played a central role in fostering an environment where meaningful exchanges transpired, helping us broaden our horizons and perspectives.

Effective communication emerged as a common theme that supported our many discussions. Conveying our thoughts respectfully and precisely was essential, but storytelling and active listening were equally emphasized. Lina Low and Laurie Smolenski led incredible exercises that allowed us to share our stories and experience one another's journeys firsthand. As we navigated complex topics and conversations, my peers and I witnessed the transformative potential of communication that transcends linguistic and cultural boundaries. I will carry the tools Linda and Laurie taught me into my personal and professional life and thank them for their contributions.

Esteemed guest speakers elevated our journey with profound insights that resonated deeply, fortifying our commitment to global harmony. This experience broadened my understanding and rekindled my belief in personal growth for a better world. It solidified my resolve to contribute to a more compassionate and inclusive world through collaboration and understanding. My heartfelt thanks to all, especially Patricia Shafer and Bart Cleary, for making this invaluable experience possible. Through such gatherings, we can collectively work towards a brighter future.

## BIOGRAPHY

Jamian Gandy, a Birmingham, Alabama native, shines as a dedicated Political Science major at Auburn University maintaining a 4.00 GPA. His unwavering presence on the Dean's List and dialed coursework, including Organization Theory, Constitutional Law, and Public Administration, reveal his focused persona. Jamian's mission to effect change by connecting people and providing service through the intricacies of law is his driving force. Working at TitleCore, he aims to master land use and real estate law. His rigorous academic diligence seamlessly extends to leadership roles as President of Kappa Alpha Pi and VP of Engagement & Student Success at Circle K, emphasizing his relationship-building, inclusivity, and path-making abilities. His attributes include effective communication, adaptability, and intangible prioritization. Guided by a compelling vision and fueled charisma, Jamian Gandy seeks to connect and empower individuals according to their purpose to impact society together.



Jamian GANDY & Sara HOLLEY



## Lexia GIANOPOULOS

### Reflections

The four days of the Intercountry Committee Peace Seminar at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill introduced me to new perspectives, stories, and an overall outlook on achieving peace in our world. Over the past few days I felt inner peace. I entered a place of kindness with like-minded individuals who helped me

to gain knowledge and a new perspective of conflicts in our world. Through working with Ms. Patricia Shafer of New Gen Peacebuilders and Mr. Michael Collins of The Institute for Economics and Peace, participants gained knowledge about peace and conflict. My biggest take away from this portion is that conflicts are not only wars, but rather that conflict also occurs on the community level in so many ways such as environmental issues and food insecurity.

One of my favorite exercises we completed was the identity cards. One night we all had “homework” to go home and complete a series of questions about ourselves. The next day we gathered in small groups to share our stories. Two questions my group decided to discuss were “What is your peace song?” and “What is one thing you fear in life?”; While these seem like simple questions that could lead to a short conversation, our discussion led to insights and connections that made me feel less alone in the world. Even though my group members were from Spain and France, we were able to recognize what we shared, which was a love for dancing... We played our peace songs aloud and danced together on the balcony. We share the fear of never truly fulfilling our destiny, concerned that there may be an undiscovered greatness in the world. We also connected on the point of gratitude as we discussed the influence that being grateful can have on the world around us. Though we are from different parts of the world, socioeconomic backgrounds, and age groups we found a common ground in our shared concerns for overall life.

For the second portion of the seminar we focused on leadership dialogue. I look forward to bringing back some of the tactics to implement in my community. I thoroughly enjoyed the chance to share vulnerabilities with my peers. I believe that an important part of the peace building journey is to connect with those who are you trying to serve. A large part of connecting with the community you serve is knowing how to bring them to a common ground, and I feel that the third to first person conversation exercise helped us practice this necessary skill.

I would like to send my sincerest gratitude to all the American and French participants. I would also like to thank Rotary International as well as all of the individual Rotarians and clubs who made this opportunity possible! Thank you to Mr. Bart Cleary, Ms. Patricia Shafer, Mr. Michael Collins, Ms. Linda Low, Ms. Lori Smolenski and everyone else who played a role in bringing all of us together for this incredible opportunity.

## Biography

Lexia Gianopoulos has done work in the peacebuilding field in multiple areas of concern which include environment, youth homelessness, food insecurity, mental health and refugee transitions. She has trained, interned and mentored with NewGen Peacebuilders. Lexia has also been a leadership delegate at the Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders sponsored by the Center for Creative Leadership and Rotary International. She is humbled to have been chosen as the "Outstanding Student Philanthropist" from AFP Charlotte for 2022. Lexia graduated from Community School of Davidson and is now attending Furman University for Broadcast Journalism and Psychology.



**Mali JUWARA, Marine ALLIONE, Manon GAROT, Lexia GIANOPOULOS & Spriha MANJIGANI**



## Sara HOLLEY

### **Reflections**

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otherwise.

The first part of the seminar highlighting the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) reminded me to think about world issues through a holistic lens. It is easy to fixate on what is wrong with the world because of negativity bias and the finding that global peacefulness has, in fact, deteriorated over the last decade, according to the 2023 Global Peace Index. However, seminar leaders Patricia Shafer and Michael Collins encouraged me and my fellow participants to think critically about the United States and France, using the eight Pillars of Positive Peace as a point of reference. The Pillars reminded me that although a number of injustices pervade society, every country possesses strengths and positive characteristics that can be harnessed toward peacebuilding. I also appreciated the emphasis that Patricia and Michael placed on providing communities with tools to facilitate their peacebuilding efforts, rather than trying to fix others' problems oneself without seeking input.

The second part of the seminar about dialogue was a uniquely touching experience. I was taken aback by how emotional I felt sharing my experiences and hearing other participants' stories. The activities served as a powerful reminder of the importance of not only telling my own truths, but also listening carefully while others are expressing their truths. When another participant shared my story as her own, I felt so heard because she remembered specific details that I had nearly forgotten myself. I left this portion of the seminar feeling like I knew a lot more about the other participants and seminar leaders Laurie Smolenski and Linda Lowe.

Many thanks for including me in this event. I am glad to have had the chance to learn and listen.

### **Biography**

Sara Holley is a digital marketer at Red Hat, the leading provider of enterprise open source software. She strives to build campaigns that deliver the right message to the right people at the right time. She is an active member of associate-led internal communities — namely, the Climate Change Community of Practice and Red Hat Asian Network.

Before joining Red Hat, Sara graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2021 with a B.A. in media and journalism and a minor in entrepreneurship. While at Carolina, she held leadership roles in TEDxUNC and the student campaign that brought an Asian American Center to campus.

Sara is based in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she was born and raised. She enjoys riding roller coasters with her three younger siblings, watching trivia shows with her parents, and incorporating movement into her lifestyle whenever she can.



**Sara HOLLEY & Sebastian FARRIS**



## **Daisy LEON**

### **Reflections**

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The Rotary Positive Peace Seminar was thought provoking, I had no idea what to expect coming in, but I was pleasantly surprised. I met an incredible group of diverse, like and different minded people who challenged my thoughts. I appreciate every person I met through the seminar and I made meaningful connections. Our Rotarian speakers made excellent conversations related to positive peace. I really appreciated the dialogues we participated in as it gave us new insight on how to approach difficult conversations with positive peace in mind. I look forward to using the techniques I learned in everyday life.

Not only did I learn new techniques to improve productive and meaningful conversations, but I learned so much from my peers as well. We all went in with positive and open minds which in turn helped us have difficult and raw conversations. I'm truly thankful for all the positive connections I made, and I look forward to staying in contact with my French and American friends. I want to thank the Rotary for allowing me to participate in this impactful seminar.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Daisy Leon is the Program Coordinator for UNC Charlotte's Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (IC CAE). She is also the advisor for the Security and Intelligence Studies minor and concentration at UNC Charlotte. She holds a M.S. in Criminal Justice & Criminology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.



## **Spriha MANJIGANI**

### **Reflections**

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I feel so fortunate to have been a part of this Intercountry Committee. In such divisive times, it has been difficult to understand how to bridge gaps and achieve efficient progress, but this experience was a beautiful “pocket of peace”, so to speak. It was fascinating to see the contrast in perspective that the French delegates had, regarding not only our respective countries, but also the world. I find it beautiful that neither country brought a homogenous group. Both brought groups from vastly different backgrounds, with each person bringing such unique experiences that informed their nuanced stances on a number of things we discussed.

Firstly, I think it's incredible how the Institute for Economics and Peace has found a way to quantify a seemingly abstract concept, such as positive peace. This work is especially important because it legitimizes this progress for those that don't formally study it. Even for someone such as myself—who has known about the realm of peace work for almost 4 years now—it feels revolutionary in broadening the scope and impact of positive peace work.

The leadership dialogue portion of the seminar was equally as enriching. As we learned in the IEP portion, peace initiatives often warrant on-the-ground work between communities, much of which involves effective conversation. I loved hearing the stories of each of my peers, told in such heartfelt and honest ways through the third-to-first-person exercise. In the words of one of my American peers, by starting with a blank slate, you give a story the worth it deserves.

I am so lucky to have been able met all of these wonderfully intellectual and kind people and am forever grateful for this experience.

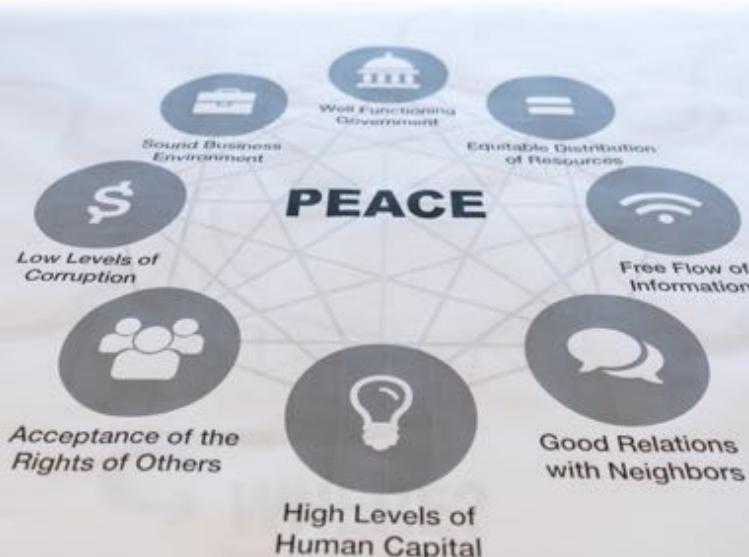
### **BIOGRAPHY**

Spriha Manjigani is a first-year student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She first began work in peacebuilding as a freshman in high school, completing her NewGen Peacebuilders certification in the spring of 2020. After hosting a seminar on the need for and importance of foster care through the pandemic for her concluding peace project, she wanted to find ways to bring her community together through the pandemic. She co-founded a Wisteria Magazine, a print and digital collective working to uplift underrepresented stories through art and writing. Understanding how central storytelling is to helping us all understand each other despite our different ideologies,

identities, and perspectives, this magazine has offered a platform for teenagers and young adults internationally, garnering submissions from South Africa, India, the UK, Malawi, and more. She hopes to pursue her bachelor's degree in health policy and management from UNC's Gillings School of Public Health, hoping to find a way to help rural communities get more accessible healthcare.



**Peter KYLE, Laurent NICHOLAS & Spihra MANJIGANI**





## Madison SINGS

### BIOGRAPHY

I am Madison Sings, the current Watershed Outreach Coordinator for Asheville GreenWorks and an MPA student at Western Carolina University. My passions include environmental justice and taking care of people in need. With my job at GreenWorks, I can do both. I can advocate for an equitable environment for all and help disadvantaged

individuals impacted by climate change. My advocacy work started as a NewGen Peacebuilder in 2017 and has continued to this day."

### Madison Sings

Positive Peace Seminar Attendee

**Work Experience**

 Asheville GreenWorks  
Watershed Outreach Coordinator  
April 2023 to present (6 months)

- Manage the rivers and roads program.
- Coordinate workday requests.
- Advocate for environmental justice in Western North Carolina.
- Write appropriate grants related to my program area.
- Attend and engage in Asheville City Council and Buncombe County Commissioner meetings.
- Oversee volunteers and lead GreenWorks' StreamKeeper Program.
- Manage the Adopt-a-street city program.

**Education History**

Bachelor of Environmental Science  
Institution: Warren Wilson College  
Year of Graduation: 2022

Masters of Public Administration  
Institution: Western Carolina University  
January 2023 to present

**Volunteer Work and Interests**

Martial Arts Instructor  
Blue Ridge Taekwondo

Aviary Caretaker,  
WNC Nature Center

**Contact Info**

[linkedin.com/in/nams](https://linkedin.com/in/nams)

- madisonsings13@gmail.com
- (704) 614-5616

**Relevant Skills**

- Peacebuilder
- Active Listener
- Passion about equitable change



## Trinity SMITH

### Reflections

The biggest takeaway I received from the Positive Peace Seminar is that peace doesn't have to be grand, like stopping wars and solving world hunger, but it can actually be something small in your own community. When I signed up for the seminar, I was

honestly unsure of how much I would have to say since I had no experience in peacebuilding or any experience in politics. I wasn't really sure how to bring peace to the world as a business major, but I was eager to try to learn, nonetheless.

From our amazing speakers like Patricia Shafer and Michael Collins, I was able to learn how to measure peace in spaces, and how peace levels conduct our business, friendships, and lifestyles. The ability to quantify peace and step back to see the world on a bigger scale was wonderful, and it not only helped me view my own country differently, but to see our relationships with others. Speakers Laurie Smolenski and Linda Low helped us to put that new knowledge into action, teaching us ways to facilitate these hard conversations, especially with cross cultural differences. Understanding peacebuilding is one thing, but learning how to apply it was the best way to begin to start putting it into motion.

One of the unexpected takeaways were the friends I made along the way—I now can say that I have around 30 new friends who I feel like I could share anything with. It was truly sad after our four days were over; I felt like I was saying goodbye to friends I had known for years. I am forever grateful for the experiences and love that was shared during those quick four days. What a wonderful partnership that Dr. Cleary and Mr. Poinsard have created between the United States and France, and I am so unbelievably thankful to have been a part of this experience. I will continue to create pockets of peace in my days and promote friendship and understanding as well as I can.

## BIOGRAPHY

Trinity Smith is a junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill studying Business Administration and French. She was recently accepted into the Kenan-Flagler Undergraduate Business Program in the Spring of 2023 as well as being selected for the Edmund B. Ross III merit scholarship endowment in the Fall of 2023. Trinity could not have made it to UNC without the generosity of Rotary. In her senior year of high school, she received the first ever Gate City Rotary Club scholarship which provided a recurring scholarship to an institute of higher education. This scholarship introduced her to Rotary, and she became a Paul Harris Fellow in the Summer of 2021. At UNC, she is heavily involved with the Rotaract Club and when she is not focused on her studies, she can be found working with the local Rotary clubs to build a better community. This past summer, she was able to intern abroad in Paris, France, where she gained firsthand experience in international business and saw global problems up close. Now after returning to the U.S., her intentions of pursuing an international job have only intensified and she looks forward to where her multinational mindset brings her.



**Trinity SMITH, Jean-Marie POINSARD, Emma-Katherine BOWERS, Ashmi TRIVEDI**



## Cameron TERRY

### Reflections

I have much to say about the Rotary ICC Positive Peace Seminar. In a few sentences, it brought me in contact with valuable ideas and potential life-long connections. This seminar showed me what it means to work in the realm of peacebuilding, an entirely abstract field in my head previously. It has helped me realize that whether it be through research or direct work with an organization like the Institute for Economics and Peace, I want to be involved. It has made me rethink how I approach peacebuilding personally and professionally, and I am excited to use what I have learned in the next years of my masters program and beyond. I plan to use the eight pillars of positive peace for my masters thesis, which will be looking at positive peacebuilding in the island of Ireland. I also look forward to possibly working with Rotary in the future. All in all, this seminar has been a pivotal moment for me as a young professional. It has set me on a path I didn't realize I would find myself on but one I can see now moves me in the right direction. Any chance I have to pay this forward to the organizations and people involved, I will not hesitate.



**Mary ABI-KARAM & Cameron TERRY**

## BIOGRAPHY

My name is Cameron Terry and I'm from Statesville, NC. I graduated from the North Carolina School of Science and Math and NC State for my high school and undergraduate degrees respectively. It was during my time studying at these institutions where I found my academic passions for foreign language and international relations but also where I discovered my inner desire for adventure and new challenges. These desires are expressed through my hobbies of rock climbing, Brazilian jiu jitsu, playing guitar, and spending time in France where I met my girlfriend of one year. All of these experiences have led me to UNC where I hope to deepen my current understanding of the aforementioned topics and expand the boundaries of my knowledge to include all things currently unfamiliar. Looking forward to what this seminar has to offer!





## Ashmi TRIVEDI

### **Reflections**

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When it comes to countries, there are a very few who share a deep connection to one another. Two of some of the oldest democracies in the world have forged a longstanding alliance and friendship, built on the foundation of our shared values: securing human rights, democracy, and justice. These nations are the United States and France, whose friendship grows

stronger and stronger throughout the years—both diplomatically and socially. In October of 2023, this U.S.-France relationship continued to blossom but amongst a new demographic: youth as drivers of change and builders of peace. The Rotary USA-France Inter Country Committee Positive Peace Dialogue and Seminar gathered fifteen French delegates and eighteen American delegates from various backgrounds, perspectives, and journeys of life to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Duke-Rotary Peace Center with a week full of examining positive peace frameworks, the Institute for Economic and Peace's 8 Pillars of Peace, case studies on conflict prevention and mediation, and intrapersonal dialogues. Being the youngest delegate at the conference, I was able to interact with a wide range of individuals including working professionals, undergraduates, and graduate students, and found there was nothing but a warm, welcoming community of fellow peacebuilders. With my own experiences in combating inequities in our healthcare and public health systems, independent research investigations into health disparities and social determinants of health, and peacebuilding work in supporting the mental health of immigrant and refugee youth and nutritional literacy, I was able to connect with a diverse group of thinkers who shared my interests and others who were eager to learn different viewpoints.

We began the seminar with interactive workshops to build peace concept maps to investigate drivers of peace and violence and we ended up with discussions on religious and cultural tolerance through legal channels, environmental and nutritional justice issues regarding food waste, and how to empower marginalized youth in political participation throughout our educational systems. It was fascinating to see that both French and American participants face similar challenges among the public health sector, but by taking a step back from our own “bubbles,” both parties gained new perspectives on possible methodologies and solutions to solve the same problem in a dynamic way.

I found it quite beautiful that all of us share 99.9% of our DNA. It is this 0.1% variation that represents 12 million base pairs, which explains differences among individuals. In other words, it is this 0.1% that makes us unique. But often this is used to alienate perspectives, divide us rather than unify us, or simply foster preconceived notions,

stereotypes, and labels, that leads us to forget we are intrinsically unified with that 99.9%. Through the “Third to First Person” dialogue exercise, participants learned our partner’s story and identity by answering and asking the question: When have you faced adversity or a challenge of your identity and what did you do about it? After sharing responses, our partners then recited our story to a bigger group, but instead of speaking from a third person point of view, we instead embodied our partner by reciting the story using “I.” This was a breakthrough. If we as humans simply choose to truly listen to each other, most of the misunderstandings, violence, and conflict would subside, as this activity allowed us to fully step into the minds, hearts, and souls of each other.

Thus, I have made it my life's goal to find commonalities in our differences by connecting my passion for peace and public health, and I hope to continue this passion in university and beyond. Throughout this seminar, I ascertained that peace and health are intrinsically connected and requires understanding systemic causes and addressing health disparities to mitigate conflict and build peace. Listening leads to healing which leads to peace.



## BIOGRAPHY

Ashmi Trivedi is a lifelong learner, activist, and peacebuilder from Charlotte, NC. After earning her NewGen Peacebuilders certification, Ashmi lead a group of students and founded a peace project, Project Unity, a peer-to-peer organization dedicated to supporting the mental health of immigrant and refugee youth by fostering a sense of belonging, improving English language skills, and building unity across different backgrounds. In addition, she is an active member in Rotary District 7680 Peace, Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution (PCPR) Committee, intern at NewGen Peacebuilders working on initiatives to support peace project development across the world, and is experience in diversity, belongingness, equity, and inclusion work by enacting positive policy changes and programs in her school community.

She enjoys hiking and visiting National Parks, leading as the Editor-in-Chief of her school newspaper and President of her school's Varsity Model United Nations team, and cooking new international recipes.

Ashmi is passionate about using dialogue, collaboration, and peacebuilding frameworks such as Galtung's Triangle of Violence and the IEP's 8 Pillars of Peace to bridge communities together, address societal issues, and craft innovative solutions particularly in public health and health equity realms. She believes that the solutions to global issues start with local action.





## Salim UQDAH

### Reflections

I had zero expectations about the Rotary Positive Peace Seminar when I was first approached to attend in August 2023. The seminar would be pleasant and, at worst, mildly jarring due to my age difference from many of my co-participants. The October 7th, 2023 tragedy in Israel and Gaza fell upon the world and shifted my

perspective. My dread of the developing conflict and lives lost strengthened my newfound resolve to provide additive value to the seminar while learning as much as I could. It was an act of resiliency, and much as it was an insatiable hunger to do better and make this flawed world a better place.

During the conference, I found a group of good-natured stewards of this precious jewel we call Earth, ranging from ages 18 to 80, trying their hardest to reconcile the loss we jointly felt through action. We learned about the Global Peace Index and the Positive Peace Index, the difference between peace capability and volatility. We together imagined how to embody the Pillars of Positive Peace through policy. We learn about opportunities to further our education through the Rotary Peace Fellowship, the Positive Peace Academy, and the Geneva Peace Week. I began understanding the through line between my work as a mediator handling interpersonal and workplace disputes and the seemingly intractable problems plaguing our nation-states.

All the teachings from the talented Michael Collins and Patricia Schafer were salient and moving, but the connections forged from the facilitated dialogue struck me to my core. My fellow participants' pastimes, trials, and triumphs highlighted the persistent stressors and concerns of the Western world. The uncertainty of job mobility, status, self-acceptance, economic insecurity, belongingness, or inner peace were unifying struggles transcending typical barriers of closeness into alchemical and potent. We were amid a genuinely glorious experience that has reinvigorated a world-weary soothsayer like me.

After this seminar, I know three things. Generations under me will have the tenancy and the savvy to devise solutions to these impossible situations. We, as elders, owe them their wisdom, not condescension, blockades, or pity, to hasten their accomplishments in ways we cannot dream of. Lastly, and most importantly, a coalition of diverse, well-meaning individuals strive and yield bountiful virtue that the world can't even comprehend. I now know what Paul Harris meant when he said, "Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world, it will be known by the results it achieves."

## BIOGRAPHY

Salim Uqdah is a Neutral for Miles Mediation and Arbitration Panel and owns Uroboros Mediations, a dispute resolution company in Charlotte.

His credentials are:

1. NCDRC Certified Mediator - Superior Court & Family Financial Mediator Clerk of Court, Special Proceedings, Estates & Guardianship,
2. Georgia Registered Neutral - General Civil Mediation & Domestic Relations Mediation
3. CDC Certified Divorce Coach,
4. FINRA Securities Arbitrator,
5. Approved Mediator for the US Federal Court Western District of North Carolina,
6. Collaboratively Trained Neutral Facilitator,
7. NC OSHR Employment Mediator,
8. NCIC Mediator.

He opened his own business, Uroboros Mediations, in 2018 and worked diligently worked at Mecklenburg County Courthouse for three years. Salim graduated from High Point University with a BS in Psychology and a BA in Political Science in 2013. Also, Salim graduated from Central Piedmont Community College's Post Baccalaureate Paralegal Program with honors and received the Outstanding Student Award in Paralegal Technology in 2015.

Salim combines perseverance, passion, and empathy to achieve hard-won successes and constantly diversifies his skills, talents, and network. He is among a few Advanced Practitioners of the Association of Conflict Resolution Academy of Family Mediators in North Carolina. He is a member of the NC Association of Professional Family Mediators. Also, Salim is a North Carolina Certified Paralegal and eDiscovery Advanced Specialist. In addition, he is a member of the Dispute Resolution Council

for the North Carolina Bar Association (NCBA), is an active member of its Race and Equity Committee, and is the Co-Chair of the Section Pro Bono Committee. Salim is on the Board of Directors for Care Ring and Playing for Others. Locally, Salim served on the Mecklenburg Justice Access Initiative Dispute Resolution Committee, is the President of Business Networking International (BNI) Charlotte Achievers, a member of Mecklenburg County Bar's newly formed Dispute Resolution Section, and is a member of Pauli Murry LGBT+ Bar Association and the Carolinas LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

As a Social Entrepreneur, Salim attempts to find new ways to innovate to increase social harmony and goodwill within his immediate communities. He is the managing partner of the Dispute Resolution Group (DRG) alongside his business partner Amy Cox Gruendel, which provides dispute resolution consulting services and dispute system design to organizations looking to innovate.



**Ella WESTERBURG, Daisy LEON, Jamian GANDY, Salim UQDAH  
Lexia GIANOPOULOS & Julia BULINSKI**



## Ella Westerburg

### Reflections

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On the first full day of the seminar, Patricia said something that struck me. She said something like this: "I don't believe in the saying 'it's a small world.' I believe the world is very big, but we come to swim in the same channels." She said we were all there because something had brought us together – our shared interest and hope of making the world a better place.

I thought about this idea throughout the seminar, how beautiful it was that peace had brought us together, and no matter what, we had this in common.

I write this reflection as I am slowly re-entering the world post seminar, unraveling the information I learned and placing it in front of me for further examination. This week was my first experience in the world of peace building. I knew I would be challenged intellectually, but was not aware of how vulnerable I would be asked to be. Due to the environment of trust created at the seminar, I felt comfortable talking about my own experiences with a group of people I had just met. I was honored to be trusted with fellow participants' stories, understanding that we each brought a new perspective to a subject.

I leave this seminar with a genuine feeling of hope. Despite learning facts about conflict and violence and discussing heavy topics, I now feel equipped with tangible and realistic tools for building peace. In my mind, I can imagine the way forward. I also leave with a sense of relief to know I am not alone in my hope for peace. I now understand peace can be built in many ways, such as from the bottom up, and even one person or a small group can enact systemic change. Instead of thinking in broad terms, I now think in specifics, searching for a root problem and identifying how it can be addressed. I feel empowered by the tools taught during the seminar, and I see peacebuilding as an attainable practice. I am thoroughly grateful to have been part of this seminar with my fellow participants, Rotary members, and facilitators, and will hold this experience forever in my heart and mind.

### BIOGRAPHY

Ella is originally from Fort Mill, South Carolina. She currently lives in New York City where she is a senior anthropology major at Hunter College. She works as a professional dancer and has eighteen years of training. She enjoys spending time outdoors with a book, tending to her houseplants, and playing with her dog, Emmett.



## Kianna WRIGHT

### Reflections

The eight pillars of Peace from the Institute for Economics and Peace allowed me to unpack potential solutions that would impact the United States in a Political, Social, and Emotional aspect. Peace, as the foundation of the Eight Pillars and the Institute for Economics and Peace, is a desired trend that is needed for cultures that target humans as capital. Examples

that impact high levels of human capital, such as the GDP (gross domestic product) per capita, forced me to dissect a long-term change that impacts the excluded community of low socioeconomic populations and groups.

With hopes of finding a long-term solution, I analyzed the process that was presented at the USA-France ICC Positive Peace Seminar, and an epiphany consumed me with thoughts about how to gather the results as a potential solution to solve the impact of high levels of human capital which is also known as the GDP per capita. Firstly, I understood that the acceptance and respect of others provide a result that will tackle gender inequality. Thus, causing an impact on attitudes, institutions, such as civil services, and structures, such as life expectancy and income. With a desire burning in my belly to close the gap of the high levels of Human Capital, factionalized elites continue to receive access to multiple economic and communal resources that the United States Government and the Good Neighbors, the United States have a relationship with, impacts the level of corruption and equitable distribution of resources within the communities.

Coming into the conference my prior knowledge understood that knowing that a need for free flow information to educate those who lack resources in a low socioeconomic community, creates an overall improvement to internet connectivity and quality of processing information. Creating internet connectivity also produces a sound business environment through space, time, and place which overall impacts the equality in population groups. As a strengthened economic condition, the production of a shift in conditions on how formal institutions strengthen economic conditions.

To have the equality of population groups impacting positive peace overall, the demonstration of political stability and upholding the rule of law at a high quality reflects the relations that the United States has with other countries must always be valued and reviewed at the highest quality. It is a must and a high desire to have a harmonious relationship that can be understood and accepted across multiple moral and ethical platforms, such as religious, ethnic, and cultural groups. Each positive cross-

cultural, ethnic, and religious interaction, internal and external impacts peaceful resolution and the journey to reaching the goal of peace.

As an attendee of the USA-France ICC Positive Peace Seminar in North Carolina, I have learned that dissatisfaction and civil unrest impact the confidence of citizens. Impacts such as dissatisfaction and civil unrest led to corruption, unequitable opportunities, and a decline in the improvement and productivity of citizens. With a push, desire, and call to action to improve the state of the globe, the eight key pillars of peace will allow the development of peace across multinational transactions. Thus, setting a solid foundation to accomplish peace, hope, love, and prosperity holistically.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

In 2019, I earned my Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies with a Minor in Health from the University of Houston.

Benefiting from internships with the S.H.A.P.E Community Center broadened my exposure to systematic methodologies that are currently in place that are preventing ideological perspectives of global peace. I have acquired the essential skills of systematic research, analytical thinking, and information evaluation. Most prominently, S.H.A.P.E Community Center has provided me with insight into sustaining peaceful structures and attitudes within the social, economic, and political on local and national levels. I graduated at the top of my class and was privileged to be the first and only student in my department to graduate with a degree in African American Studies from the University of Houston. While studying African American Studies, I collected data that provided insight into analyzing the Afro-Diasporic people.

After graduating from the University of Houston, I was selected to attend Prairie View A&M University. I studied sociology within the program and developed an appreciation of the interactions of Diasporic people. My professors, Dr. Royster, Dr. Cambrice, and Dr. Lorenzo, also, contributed to my understanding of grasping concepts umbrellaed under sociological analysis through economic methodologies.

Now that I have graduated with my master's from Prairie View A&M University, I have learned that the lectures provided techniques that have helped me develop innovative methodologies that target local and national socioeconomic levels. Apart from studies, I have conducted research for the State of Black Women, the Association of Black Sociologists, the Southern Political Science Association, and the Western Social Science Association. These experiences have strengthened my public speaking, leadership, and research skills.



AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS WITH CERTIFICATES



AMERICAN & FRENCH PARTICIPANTS 2023



## **Closing Ceremony & Remarks**

**Madame la consule honoraire de France, Past Rotary International Director, District Governor and Governor-elect, Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, dear participants to this 4<sup>th</sup> Positive Peace Seminar organized by the USA-France Intercountry Committee.**

As this 4th seminar has come to an end, I would like to say a few words. First of all, to the host families you have done a superb job taking such great care of these French students. You have hosted them as if they were part of your own families so be greatly thanked for what you have done. Indirectly you have actively participated to the success of this USA-France ICC seminar. My second thank you will be for the facilitators who made the success of this seminar by the quality of your interventions. I personally highly appreciated your presentations, you Patricia, with whom I have been actively working with in the past, and Michael Collins, who is not here tonight, as well as Linda and Laurie.

Now you, the participants, both American and French, I want to thank you for your very active participation which highly made this 4th edition such a great success. I would also thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your comments discussions active participation and great ideas that you developed all along these 3 days. You have made all of us grow. You made all of us grow top a little bit. We are now all grown up.

Our goal, with Bart, at the beginning of this seminar was to make sure that when leaving North Carolina, you will keep in mind all these attitudes that you developed during this seminar: Respect of others, listening to others, attitude of forgiveness ... all of those in your personal and professional life will be such a “plus” and advantage for your personal behavior.

This will be the best reward for both of us Bart and myself, because you will be the one making a better future for our world. And keep in mind whenever you have a question or something to ask please don't hesitate, as we always will be there to help you, if necessary. And obviously peace will be a major objective for the coming years. So, I wish you my best for all of you to make your dreams come true.

Our President Gordon says, “You are the ones who are going to bring hope in the world”. And keep in mind Saint Exupery in ‘le petit prince’ who wrote:” this is with the heart that one can see rightly, what is essential is invisible to the eye.” Bonne chance à vous , good luck to you.

**Jean Marie Poinsard  
Président section française CIP France USA**

## GALA CEREMONY PHOTOS







## **SPECIAL NOTES & PRE-SEMINAR PHOTOS**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO PEGGY DUHAMEL FOR ARRANGING HOST FAMILIES FOR THE FRENCH PARTICIPANTS AND TRANSPORTING THEM TO THE VENUES, LOIS DELOATCH FOR HAYTI HERITAGE CENTER TOUR AND TO LYLE SHEPARD FOR ARRANGING TOURS IN RALEIGH, NC.**



### **ARRIVAL AT RALEIGH-DURHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

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Yasmine ORIF  
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Marine ALLIONE



Guide, Lyle SHEPPARD & Laure GUIBERT



Peggy DUHAMEL & Manon GAROT



French Participants in front of Museum of Science, Raleigh, NC



**LOIS DELOATCH & HAYTI HERITAGE CENTER, DURHAM, NC**



**Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Durham, NC**



**Peggy DUHAMEL with French Participants a Duke Gardens**



**French Participants at Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Durham, NC**

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