

**Twenty Years of Building Peace: Rotary Scholar Alumni
of the University of San Diego Kroc School of Peace Studies**

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Our Rotary District 5340 has had an informal partnership with USD's Kroc School of Peace Studies since the founding of the School; Rotary and USD cosponsored a US-Mexico Peace Forum at the School's three-day inauguration in November 2001. It is an active relationship with many District-wide events in the Kroc School's facilities: District Assemblies, co-sponsored Peace Forums, Rotary Model UN trainings and conferences, grants workshops, and special events (e.g., trainings, Big West Rotaract Conference, Polio Panel) and the School's outreach to the District (e.g., sending faculty and staff speakers to Rotary Club meetings, invitations to Kroc School special events).

In 2010 the Kroc School was one of 50 universities invited by The Rotary Foundation to submit letters of interest for becoming a Rotary Peace Center; 35 universities replied. TRF requested that 15 of them submit full proposals. USD's Kroc School did so and was one of five semi-finalists selected for a site visit in March 2011. Uppsala University in Sweden was selected to become a Rotary Peace Center.

Perhaps the most consequential relationship between our District 5340 and the Kroc Peace School has been the financial partnership supporting one or more international graduate students in the Master's Program every year since its inception, a total of 34 students from 21 developing countries. The impact of these alumni is set forth later in this proposal.

Let's take a look at what we have recently learned about the careers and achievements of many of the Kroc School graduates over the past 20 years.

Beginning with 2002's first cohort of Peace & Justice Studies students at USD's Kroc School of Peace Studies, Rotary District 5340 has helped to support one or more Rotary Scholars in each annual cohort. Of 34 Rotary Scholars to date, 33 have completed their MA degrees (one is currently enrolled). In Fall 2022, Steve Brown and Cynthia Villis emailed a detailed survey to 27 Rotary Scholar alumni to learn more about outcomes and achievements resulting from their education at KSPS.¹ Twenty of 27 Rotary Scholar alumni replied in great detail, a significant 74% response rate for individuals who were enrolled at the Kroc School over a 20-year span.

Here are brief profiles of thirteen of those 20 alumni respondents, in chronological order².

Saba Kidane (Eritrea)

Saba's dream was to return to Eritrea and found a Peace and Justice program at the (now defunct) University of Asmara. Upon graduating in the KSPS first cohort (2003), Saba found that it was not safe for her to return to Eritrea. Instead, she is co-founder of the first independent media organization to broadcast news and information about Eritrea via satellite: ERISAT (Eritrean Satellite Television), now in its fourth year of broadcasting ([ww.erisat.org](http://www.erisat.org)).

¹ As of this writing valid email addresses have not been identified for six of the 34 students.

² Seven additional Kroc Rotary Scholar profiles are available (not included here to keep the document brief).

For the past 31 years, Eritrea has been and is a country with no constitution, no elections, no Congress, and no independent media. Media plays a significant role in the democratization process.

In just four years ERISAT has informed, empowered, and inspired Eritreans in-country and around the world. ERISAT is accessible in the Middle East and North Africa, Greater East Africa. ERISAT viewers are all over Eritrea, including Asmara, Massawa, Mendefera, Barentu, Tesseney, Akordat, Kerene, Adi Keihe, Dekemehare, Dubarwa, Sawa, Assab, Senafe, and Aala. There is a Short Radio Program to reach the army and rural areas of Eritrea, and to counter the frequent power cut offs by the Eritrean government.

ERISAT is available in Sudan (Khartoum, Kassala), Uganda (Kampala), South Sudan (Juba), Ethiopia (Addis Ababa, Mekelle, Adwa, Samara, Berhaley), Saudi Arabia, Angola, Rwanda, Kenya, Egypt, Yemen, and Djibouti.

The question of ERISAT accessibility inside Eritrea is hard to gauge. A tweet from Eritrean Minister of information regarding satellite dishes in Eritrean cities <https://twitter.com/hawelti/status/943035590865539074?lang=en> Every household with a satellite dish and TV has access to ERISAT programs. Information sent from within Eritrea is that people are tuning in to ERISAT television and other diaspora-based satellite radio (e.g., Erena). Dated research performed before ERISAT's founding estimates potential viewership: <https://akademie.dw.com/en/impressive-reach-in-eritrea/a-41567784>

The former US Charge d'affaire Steven Walker responded positively to Saba's recent invitation to be a keynote speaker; that speaks positively about his view regarding ERISAT. The US Embassy in Asmara shared his speech on ERISAT (translated in Arabic and Tigrinya) on the Embassy's Facebook page. His keynote speech live from Asmara is groundbreaking and gave hope and optimism to Eritreans inside and outside the country that Americans care for Eritreans and the oppression they endure.

Kioi Mbugua (Kenya)

A Fulbright Scholar, a Rotary Scholar, and graduate of the second KSPS cohort in 2004, Kioi first applied his Master's degree skills as a resident researcher for the Security and Information Center in Nairobi, Kenya, training and facilitating peacebuilding workshops in several Districts including one conflict-prone District bordering Ethiopia. He developed peace education materials for the government of Kenya. He trained police at the Kenya School of Government, and trained peace and civil society organizations working in Somalia. He facilitated mediation and reconciliation programs in the most conflict-prone areas of Kenya.

Since 2012 Kioi has distinguished himself as an applied peace and security researcher for The International Peace Support Training Center in Nairobi. He conducts peacebuilding research projects in Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi. He trains other peacebuilders in conflict analysis and prevention, theories of conflict, security sector reforms, governance for peace and security, elections and conflict, rule of law, conflict in Africa, and the Africa Peace and Security Architecture.

Kioi believes his core competency skills are writing, editing, peace and security research and training, especially in the area of East Africa. He has conducted analysis of conflict, and of institutional legislative and policy implications for peace and security, including gender analysis.

Through his writing and editing publications distributed to eight countries (Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi) Kioi has an average readership of 500 annually for the past ten years (outreach to 5,000 individuals). His training, supervision, and consultancy activities reach many more: Training an average of 500 individuals each year for the past 10 years (5,000), with each trainer training 10 others in turn (total outreach 75,000 people).

Kioi and Yohane Masara (profile below) were enrolled and graduated in the same Kroc cohort (2003-04).

Yohane Masara (Tanzania)

A Fulbright Scholar and a Rotary Scholar, Yohane graduated from KSPS in 2004 and obtained a Master of Laws degree at the University of Dar es Salaam in 2006. Soon after he became private secretary to the Attorney General of Tanzania.

Yohane rose through various ranks in the Office of Tanzania's Attorney General, where he served for 20 years. As of February 2021, Yohane became the Principal Judge of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), appointed by the Summit of EACJ Heads of State and Governments. He also still serves as a Judge of the High Court of Tanzania (since January 2019, named by the president of Tanzania). His portfolio includes hearing and determining various law cases (civil, criminal, land, probate, labor, corporate, matrimonial) and determining appeals, applications, and revisions arising from lower courts.

Prior to these appointments, Yohane served in Tanzania's Civil and International Law Division, representing the Government in matters for and against the government. As the Acting Director of Contracts and Treaties, he provided legal advice on Government contracts and negotiations of International Treaties and other legal texts. He supervised over 20 State Attorneys and Law Officers and participated in negotiations and vetting of procurement and other bilateral or mutual contracts and agreements for the Government.

Yohane served with the Kriegler Commission, Kenya, as its Counsel – an international commission of inquiry established by the Government of Kenya to inquire into all aspects of the 2007 general elections, with particular emphasis on the presidential election.

He participated in the negotiations and drafting of the Protocol for the Establishment of the East African Community (EAC) Common Market and its Monetary Union Protocol. He negotiated for the admission of the Republic of South Sudan to the EAC. He serves on several taskforces and committees.

Tumaini Minja (Tanzania)

A Fulbright Scholar and a Rotary Scholar, Tumaini was in the third KSPS cohort to graduate (2005). Initially he worked with the UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). In 2010 he began studies at the University of York in the UK; working remotely he completed a PhD in Politics and Human Rights in 2022. The focus of his work is South Sudan. He expects to work in Sudan for some time.

Tumaini works with the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) as a Human Rights Officer. He is based in Bor, Jonglei State, the epicenter of post-independence conflicts in South Sudan. One of the most difficult parts of the work for Tumaini is missing his family; the positions available are largely non-family. Another difficulty -- due to the current crisis in South Sudan -- is that activities on the ground are largely non-family positions, and these professionals are separated from their families for long periods of time.

Ali Hersi (Tanzania)

Graduating in 2006 in Peace and Justice Studies, and a Fulbright Scholar and Rotary Scholar, Ali Hersi is currently Saferworld's Somalia/Somaliland Country Director. He is a program development and management professional with over 20 years' experience in leadership, program design and implementation in national and International NGOs.

Ali has managed diverse multimillion dollar programs in the areas of emergency relief and rehabilitation, peacebuilding and conflict resolution, and food security and livelihoods in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. He has supported various research and public policy engagements in the Greater Horn/EAC, national and country levels. These have included Futures work and Scenario Planning in Kenya, Somalia, East Africa Community, and Mozambique.

Ali has welcomed three former classmates from the Kroc school when he resided in Kenya, where they also met his family.

Quiwan Zhao (China)

Quiwan Zhao spent her first six years after graduating in 2009 as legal representative for Habitat for Humanity in Shanghai, China. Raising \$1.5 M from individual donors, corporate social responsibility divisions, and foundations, she oversaw the management of poverty alleviation housing programs in eastern and northern China, which successfully rebuilt or renovated 150 houses for underprivileged groups. The project mobilized more than 300 volunteers to join community builds. It served as a model for the Shanghai government to invest in and implement across Districts.

She went on to apply her skills in program management, government relations, and advancement to China's education sector for NYU Shanghai and YCIS Shanghai.

Quiwan estimates her direct service to underprivileged groups with Habitat for Humanity was over 100 people. In education, her supervision and training of direct service providers, in addition to consulting and writing/blogging, reaches over 500 people.

Ghulam Ishaq Hassan (Afghanistan)

Graduating in 2010, Gulam Ishaq Hassan focuses his peacebuilding work on children affected by armed conflict. He began working with this population in Afghanistan in 2011, including child soldiers. He recently moved to Sudan, working as a UNICEF child protection specialist with this same population of traumatized children. Ishaq estimates that he has provided direct service to hundreds of individuals in his career since 2010.

Alex Ouma (Uganda)

Graduating in 2011, Alex Ouma is the Rotary Scholar alumnus who has worked on the ground in the greatest number regions and countries.

He has 13 years' experience in development and humanitarian programming in the conflict and post conflict settings, in end-to-end project management including identification and design, setup, implementation, control, and transition. He has a deep proficiency across stakeholder engagement, risk management, process improvement, and business continuity. Alex has been recognized for directing highly qualified teams, coaching for them to enhance their skills. He has an extensive knowledge of the UN system and its programming approaches.

After graduation Alex began as a program officer for Human Rights, Peacebuilding, and Governance in North and East Uganda. After implementing the desired structure and programs there, he became a conflict and reconciliation officer in Search for Common Ground. In Kampala Alex developed conflict mapping, peacebuilding, and conflict transformation in Kampala's most conflict-prone regions, ensuring alignment with other peace building and development initiatives.

Alex trained and led a team of four staff in Mindanao, Philippines as part of the Nonviolent Peace force. They organized six joint initiatives that convened Christian and Muslim communities to foster reconciliation and social cohesion. Alex helped monitor ceasefire violations in the Philippines and trained both armed and non-armed actors on human rights and international humanitarian law.

For three years In South Sudan Alex was project manager for World Vision International. Among other activities he promoted women's participation in local governance. This involved dialogue meetings between community, county government, and state ministries to identify community priorities and needs. Once that was facilitated, Alex directed the formation and operation of development committees in local governance, who facilitated consultations and advocacy for resource allocation and improved delivery.

Alex worked for the Norwegian Refugee Council in Mazar City, Afghanistan, designing early warning systems and contingency plans, and establishing conflict prevention and peace building mechanisms for the protection of civilians. This involved meetings with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, UNHCR, UNICEF, and protection cluster members to coordinate the protection of civilian activities. Alex also engaged in risk mapping and conflict assessments to develop relevant strategies for early response for the protection of civilians.

Alex worked with Care International in South Sudan as a gender-based violence project manager. This program was implemented in seven counties and involved workforce planning processes, including recruitment of staff, managing a team of 15, and driving their performance and innovation through close coaching.

After setting up three donor-funded peace and conflict projects for USAID and Mercy Corps in Nigeria, Alex now works for UN migration in Juba, South Sudan. He is a community engagement officer, enhancing community resilience and local governance. Simply put, he leads the community engagement strategy via technical guidance to 40 community outreach assistants in 10 counties, ensuring their alignment with government and donor priorities. He has designed and implemented the World Bank-funded Enhancing Community Resilience and Local Governance Project in 10 counties (\$22.5M).

Alex writes: *My Kroc School academic program broadened my understanding of the nature of conflict worldwide, the different strategic interventions required, peacebuilding dimensions, and the challenges that post-conflict societies often face.*

Jean Mendieta Jimenez (Mexico)

A 2014 graduate, Jean Mendieta Jimenez is a practitioner and consultant in peacebuilding, transitional justice, and community development. She is a skilled facilitator and researcher with experience in participatory research, building local capacities for social transformation, and fostering social dialogue.

Jean is the director and co-founder of *Acto Creativo: Social Transformation Lab - Consulting, Research and Training Services*. She has been at the core of assisting with recovery from violence in Mexico with resilience and healing initiatives funded by Notre Dame, the Ford Foundation, Loyola University of the Pacific in Mexico, the Archdiocese of Acapulco, and Catholic Relief Services Mexico.

Jean was hired by **Rotary International's partner** the Institute for Economics and Peace, and Universidad de las Americas Puebla to co-facilitate the workshop "Good government and low levels of corruption" at a Positive Peace conference for young people in May 2017.

Regarding the participation of Rotary Scholars from 21 countries in the Kroc School's academic programs, Jean writes:

Many of the US students lacked experience in conflict settings – not all, some had experience on the ground and offshore in fragile and conflict settings. Their presence added objectivity, strong conceptualization, and creativity to class discussions. Most people coming from conflict settings like me have a hard time imagining ways to break the cycles of violence, because of the hopelessness and fear we come with. We students from abroad test the concepts and frameworks presented in the program and their applicability in real conflict and violent settings. We inject reality into the program, bring more complexity to the classroom.

Naumana Suleman (Pakistan)

Naumana Suleman graduated in 2015 and found particular value in her Peace and Justice Studies program's emphasis on strategic peace building, human rights situations/violations, and use of International human rights laws/ mechanisms.

Returning to Pakistan, her activities there include project and program design, outreach, training, and research in human rights, peacebuilding, conflict analysis and resolution. For the past three years Naumana has served as South Asia Coordinator for Minority Rights Group International, after she spent 13 years as project coordinator and manager, researcher, trainer, and facilitator for the national Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace.

From 2012 – 2015, Naumana was an advisor to UN Women Pakistan (the first minority woman member to this UN civil society advisory group). She has written and addressed audiences extensively on the topics of violence and discrimination against women of religious minority backgrounds in Pakistan, freedom of expression and religion in Asia, local approaches to preventing violent extremism in Pakistan, and developed the idea/was part of the team that worked on Pakistan's first ever study of the conditions of religious minority women in Pakistan. She led a global internet freedom program focusing on freedom of expression and religion in nine Asian countries: Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Vietnam. <https://www.bytesforall.pk/publications> (2017)

Naumana has written extensively, reports which can be found in the Library of Congress, Heidelberg University, various research publications, and the UN, In English and Urdu, focusing on hate speech, international human rights, forced conversions and marriages, biased education issues and human rights mechanisms. She has spoken extensively on the same topics at conferences in London, Bangkok, Canada, Thailand, South Korea, Taiwan, Pakistan, Brussels, and Geneva.

During her scholarship year, Naumana's mother survived one of the suicide attacks on two churches in Yuhannabad in 2015.

Yishak Tefferi (Ethiopia)

Graduating in 2016, Yishak Tefferi returned to South Sudan and resumed his work with the UN Mission in South Sudan. With his new Master's degree the UN Mission moved Yishak to South Sudan headquarters where he supported the Mission's human rights monitoring investigation and reporting.

Yishak was then promoted to lead the rapid investigation and conflict related violation team of the Human Rights Division of the UN Mission in South Sudan. He contributed greatly to the investigation of major human rights incidents and the drafting of public reports that helped the Mission to conduct evidence-based advocacy for the protection of civilians.

When multiple threats of violence occurred against Yishak and his wife, the UN relocated him to New York to ensure his safety. He worked with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York for six months covering incidents in the Central Africa Republic and Libya.

Since April 2022 Yishak works in the Protection of Civilians team of the Department of Peace Operations in New York. The group is working on six UN Missions with the Protection of Civilians mandate. Yishak remains focused on South Sudan, Sudan, and the Central Africa Republic.

Veronica Musa (Argentina)

Beginning her Master's program in Peace and Justice studies in 2018 and graduating in 2020, Veronica continued her peacebuilding work with a summer UN internship on drugs and crime in Vienna (2019). She was a consultant to the same UN office in 2020, developing region-specific content and teaching materials for modules on organized crime in East and South African countries.

Veronica is Senior Consultant with the Consilium Group Advisors in Washington DC (via telecommute) on gender, peace, and human rights. Her last assignment with them was a final external evaluation of the OMCT's global program "Civil Society United Against Torture".

Beginning July 2021, Veronica is the Founder and Director of the Public Interest and Human Rights Law Clinic for the Catholic University of Salta, Argentina, which has a wide range of influence in northern Argentina. She is also the Coordinator of its Peacebuilding Center.

Nurjamal Shadieva (Kyrgyzstan)

Having completed her program, the newest Rotary Scholar alumna Nurjamal Shadieva has identified and applied for her ideal position: to be a specialist in the Institute for Strategic Studies in the government of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Institute is a think tank that presents draft laws to the Kyrgyz Republic Parliament.

As a result of her academic program Nurjamal has developed her intervention design on how governments can best address ethnic conflict as a government, ultimately affecting grassroots efforts. She reports that her coursework has helped her to develop both the intervention and strategic steps in its implementation.

More specifically Nurjamal looks forward to promoting Uzbek minority rights in the Kyrgyz Republic, ensuring their greater representation in the country's Parliament. One of the draft laws she intends to introduce regards the recognition of the Uzbek language as official, as Uzbeks make up 17% of the population of Kyrgyzstan.

In closing, Steve Brown and Cynthia Villis look forward to sharing information about this program and its alumni in 25 minute presentations to Rotary clubs in our District 5340.

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