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CENTER ON PHILANTHROPY AND CIVIL SOCIETY
ANNOUNCES THE
2015 SENIOR INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

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The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society at the CUNY Graduate Center is pleased to welcome seven new Senior International Fellows to our professional development program for Third Sector decision makers from around the world. The Senior International Fellows Program (SIFP) complements the original Emerging Leaders component of the Center’s International Fellows Programs which targets young Third Sector scholar-practitioners from around the world.

This year’s Senior Fellows will focus on the roles for citizens in creating sustainable and self-reliant community philanthropy organizations – engagement, empowerment, ownership, networks; engaging youth and young adults in the work of meeting current local challenges; giving circles as a form of fund mobilization and local engagements; and impact investing as a tool for effective local grantmaking.

The Fellows, who are at the Center from March 2 to March 27, 2015, are: Bernadette Clair Dolley (Port Elizabeth, South Africa); Joanna Catherine Fultz (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada); Sandy Houston (Toronto, Ontario, Canada); Trang Kelly (New York, New York; from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam); Florencia Roitstein (Buenos Aires, Argentina); Inna Vladimirovna Starchikova (Odessa, Ukraine); and Rita Thapa (Kathmandu, Nepal).

In addition to writing papers, Fellows will participate in seminars on US and international voluntary-sector activities in comparative perspective; learn about the work of key agencies through readings and site visits; and meet with leading nonprofit representatives and scholars in the field.

The incoming group brings to 198 the number of International Fellows participating since the program’s inception in 1989. The 2015 Senior Fellows will join an international network of researchers and practitioners from 63 countries who are working in the fields of philanthropy and civil society.

This year’s Senior Fellows bring an impressive array of skills and experience to the program.
Bernie Clair Dolley, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Bernie’s professional life has been the development sector for the past 27 years. Bernie is founding director of Ikhala Trust, a community grantmaking organisation that supports small community-based organisations operating in the Eastern Cape Province, but with most of its work being deeply rural. In addition she serves as director of the Imizi Social Housing Association; advisor on the Committee for Just1Hour (a volunteer movement); and member of North Star Future Scenarios Team at Northern Areas People’s Development Initiative (NAPDI). Prior to founding Ikhala in 2002, Bernie worked in administration and public relations at the Urban Foundation; at the Early Learning Centre as a fundraiser; and started a new development office for the Catholic Church in Port Elizabeth in 1998.

Bernie says, “I am passionate about community-driven development and believe emphatically that everyone can do something with the gifts and talents and skills they have. Our role as practitioners is to assist in unlocking these in people who feel trapped and helpless in their situations.” During the program, Bernie plans to explore the role of community philanthropy in development.

Joanna Catherine Fultz, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Joanna comes to the Center with over six years of professional experience with the Winnipeg Foundation in a range of capacities including grantmaking, developing and overseeing community engagement initiatives, program and stakeholder management, strategic planning and communications-related work. She is currently Community Grants Associate at the Foundation.

Joanna says, “I am passionate about strengthening the community and the relationships between the organizations and individuals co-existing within it.” Joanna plans to focus her research on ways to engage diverse, upcoming generations of philanthropists in the work of community foundations.

Sandy Houston, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

For over fifteen years, Sandy has been President and CEO of the Metcalf Foundation, a leading private foundation engaged in helping Canadians imagine and build a just, healthy and creative society. Sandy has been instrumental in the establishment of a number of Canadian not-for-profits, including Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation of which he was founding chair. He is currently the chair of Community Food Centres Canada, and is a member (and immediate past chair) of the boards of Philanthropic Foundations Canada, the Tides Canada Foundation and the Toronto Community Foundation. He serves as advisor to a number of charitable organizations, including CivicAction, the Mowat Centre for Policy Innovation and Imagine Canada.

Prior to joining Metcalf, Sandy was a founding partner in 1994 at Stitt Feld Handy Houston, the first law firm in Canada to specialize in Alternative Dispute Resolution. Prior to 1994, Sandy practiced civil litigation at the leading Canadian firm of Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt. He also worked as a special assistant to the Ontario Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the Minister of Financial Institutions. Sandy is currently investigating social impact investing as a tool for effective local grantmaking.
Trang Kelly, New York, New York, United States (from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)

Trang is an independent consultant and a student in the doctoral program in social welfare at the Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College, The City University of New York. She has spent the past 19 years assisting children in crisis in Vietnam. Trang's work has raised awareness in international forums about the plight of Vietnamese street children, children facing trafficking, and children with HIV/AIDS. In keeping with her lifelong commitment to social issues, Trang has worked with government ministries, international NGOs, and multilateral agencies such as UNICEF and ECPAT to develop programs that assist children in need. She is a representative of the Pacific Rim Institute for Development and Education (PRIDE) at the United Nations Headquarters. Trang organizes cultural and social activities in the Vietnamese community in New York City.

As a Hearst Fellow at the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, Trang plans to conduct a case study of a Vietnamese civil society organization, to examine its use of social networks as a vehicle for organizational sustainability at different stages of its history.

Florencia Roitstein, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Florencia has been committed to social development for the last 25 years in various capacities at a range of institutions around the world. Florencia is currently the founding director of ELLAS, a program aimed at promoting women's philanthropy in Argentina. In addition, she is a professor at the School of Management of San Andrés University in Buenos Aires, Argentina and works as a consultant for the World Bank, the UNDP and for private sector projects in Latin America. Prior to joining the University of San Andrés, Florencia was Argentina’s Under Secretary of State for Sustainable Development (2006–2008), a researcher at INSEAD Business School, and a professor of corporate social responsibility at ESSEC Business School in France.

While living in the United States (1989 to 1995), Florencia was a program coordinator at a community-based organization in Williamsburg and program director for International Planned Parenthood Federation in New York City. During the course of her career, she has worked at all levels, from grassroots to international policy-making, addressing the challenges of social and sustainable development. Florencia is exploring models and best practices for adapting women's giving circles that benefit women and girls in emerging economies.

Rita Thapa, Kathmandu, Nepal

Rita Thapa has over thirty-five years of experience as a feminist educator and community activist. She founded and led Tewa (September 1995 – June 2001), the Nepal Women's Fund, and Nagarik Aawaz (July 2001 – November 2009). Besides, she has been one of the key women behind the founding and grounding of WEAN (1988), Shantimalika (2003) and Sankalpa (2006/7).

Rita is a past board member and Chair of the Global Fund for Women, USA, and served on the Executive Board of the Urgent Action Fund, USA. She was named an Ashoka Fellow (1997-98), Dame Nita Barrow Distinguished Visitor at the University of Toronto (2002), and was nominated as one of the 1000 peace women around the globe. She served on the Executive Board of the South Asia Women’s Fund (SWAF), the Global Fund for Community Foundations (2009-2014), and currently represents Tewa on the Foundations for Peace international network. During the program, Rita is documenting the activities and achievements of the multi-year Sampanna Campaign to raise funds with reference to challenges, opportunities and lessons learned.
Inna Starchikova, Odessa, Ukraine

Inna Starchikova has been working in the Third sector since 1997. She started her career as a karate coach for children of refugees and needy families, and managing a network of programs aimed at HIV/AIDS prevention, development of youth leadership and public participation for children and youth in the five largest cities in Ukraine. For five years, Inna worked at the Center for Local Government Research (CELOGORE) and managed the evaluations of local governments. Since 2004, Inna has been working at Charity Fund “Moloda Gromada” whose mission is to support special purpose programs for children and youth. The recent tragic events in Ukraine have influenced her work in charity and philanthropy sector.

Eager to find the best solutions for conflict transformation in divided communities, Inna is focused on helping to improve the work of community foundations in Ukraine. Her planned research during the program is to study the role of place-based philanthropy and youth engagement in conflict prevention and transformation.

Generous program funding for the 2015 Senior International Fellows Program is provided by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation with additional support from The Winnipeg Foundation, Metcalf Foundation, University of San Andrés, Centro de Estudios de Estado y Sociedad (CEDES), Friends of the Fellows and program alumni from around the globe.

The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society is dedicated to strengthening philanthropy and civil society through education, research, and leadership training, and our alumni are working to strengthen cultures of philanthropy world wide. Their efforts have supported the establishment of a variety of new organizations and new programs – from social funds and community foundations in Mexico, Uruguay, Egypt, Indonesia, Bermuda, South Africa and Turkey to network and service organizations in Poland and Russia; from philanthropic centers in India and Ukraine to a Masters Program in Nonprofit Management South Korea. They also bring their learning and passion about civil society organizations to bear on their work with government and the business sector. Since 2000, the Fellows Program has focused special attention on strengthening community philanthropy organizations with the goal of helping communities mobilize local resources to address local needs while thinking about long-term growth and strategies. We invite you to visit the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society’s website at www.philanthropy.org.

The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society is based at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY). The Graduate Center’s (GC) mission is to prepare the next generation of scholars for careers in the academy, cultural institutions and public service, to carry out advanced research and scholarship, and to increase public understanding of pressing matters of local and global significance. Approximately 4,500 students are enrolled in forty doctoral and masters programs, sustained by a wide range of financial support. Recognized for its scholarly leadership across the humanities, sciences and social sciences, the GC is also a platform for influential public intellectuals, who, through the GC’s public programs, inform and enliven debate, and enrich the cultural life of New York City. Visit www.gc.cuny.edu for further information on the Graduate Center.