

You are invited to  
**2012 Annual  
Awards  
Presentation**

**Sunday, October 14**

3:30 – Hors d'oeuvres  
4:00-5:30 – Program

St. Michael's  
Lutheran Church  
1660 W County Road B  
Roseville, MN 55113

**2012  
Honorary Award**

for contributions  
to peace and justice  
**Steve Clemens**  
Minneapolis



**2012 Hawkinson  
Scholarships**

to 5 outstanding  
students working for  
peace and justice

**RSVP by October 1  
by calling 612.331.8125.**

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*What the Foundation is about...*

## *Building hope for a more peaceful world*

*By Mary Halvorson  
Chair, Board of Directors*

It is our pleasure to introduce the 2012 honorees of the Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation. Once you read about them, I feel certain you will share our enthusiasm for what they represent — a spirited and determined commitment to building understanding, peace and reconciliation in our often troubled world.

Steve Clemens, our 2012 Honorary Award recipient, is truly a personification of that commitment. He has devoted his life to standing up for peace and human dignity, risking arrest and imprisonment in the process. He joins the ranks of a truly amazing group of veteran peacemakers who have been honored with this award over the past 24 years. Read about Steve on page 6.

Our five 2012 Hawkinson Scholars are impressive in the breadth and depth of their contributions and dedication to peacemaking. We know you will enjoy getting acquainted with these remarkable people. Read about them beginning on page 2.

Over the past year, the Hawkinson board of directors has been working to strengthen the Foundation on several fronts. We have expanded the board, welcoming two new members — Carrie Carroll and Jon Siess. We are also now working with a fundraising consultant and are working on plans for the long-term sustainability of the Foundation.

We mourn the passing on August 31 of the Rev. Verlyn Smith, former pastor of Grace University Lutheran Church and a founder of the Hawkinson Foundation. A lifelong peace and justice activist, Smith received the 2010 Hawkinson Honorary Award and served on the Foundation's board for many years. He will be greatly missed.

Looking forward, we must increase the numbers of those who embrace and support our unique mission. We ask your help in this task by sharing the good news of the Foundation with your family, friends and community network. With your continued support, the Foundation will continue to create hope for the future and for our world. We thank you.



*During a peace mission to Iraq, Steve Clemens stopped to view destroyed Soviet tanks.*



*Hawkinson Scholar Karen Van Fossan (far left) has organized a number of peace efforts in North Dakota.*

# 2012 Jacobson Scholar

*Emily Springer is the 2012 Jacobson Scholar, which recognizes the top Hawkinson scholarship recipient each year.*

**Emily Springer**, 28, Minneapolis, is a PhD student in sociology at the University of Minnesota. She graduated from Minneapolis South High School in 2002 and earned a B.A. at Ohio State University with a dual major in International Studies and African Studies. She went on to earn a master's degree in International Education Policy at Harvard University, specializing in East Africa.

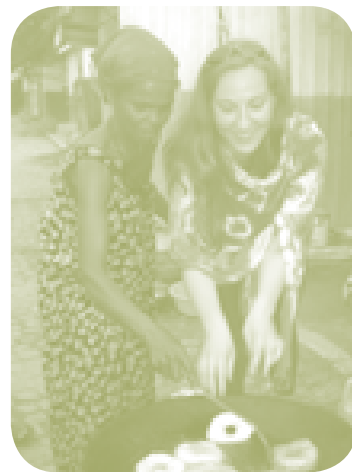
In high school, Emily worked to support the East African people who were attending her school and living in her city. This commitment has continued throughout her educational career. She has served as a volunteer tutor, a leader of teacher training and evaluation, and a technical advisor at Dire Dawa University in Ethiopia. At Dire Dawa, she developed programs to promote the success of female students and also chaired the committee that developed the institution's five-year plan to ensure quality education.

Emily's dissertation focuses on women's empowerment in Tanzania and the social worlds of female small farmers. After completing her degree, she plans to return to East Africa to serve as a professor in East African public universities.

Ronald Aminzade, professor of sociology at the University of Minnesota, wrote of Emily: "Emily is a superb and experienced teacher and a gifted leader...Through her work as a mentor, teacher trainer, educator and administrator, she has made important contributions to peace and justice."



*Emily Springer*  
University of Minnesota



*Alemnesh, an African friend of five years, teaches Emily how to make bombolinos.*



*This summer Emily returned to Ethiopia to explore possible dissertation topics and sites. Here, colleague and friend Fete Demmelash is shown with Emily on their way to an informal discussion with women farmers about their ideas regarding women's empowerment.*

*"Opportunities like this scholarship help committed individuals to find support from and share positive energy with like-minded scholars in this essential work. There are few similar resources in Eastern Africa and it is my intention to use this award to recognize and assist Ethiopian and Tanzanian women who are movers and shakers for social development in their communities. Through initiatives like this, we can grow transnational networks of solidarity as we work for peace and justice to be realized." — Emily Springer*

**Karen Van Fossan**, 43, Bismarck, ND, is a Master of Divinity student at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities where she is enrolled in the Justice and Peace Studies program. She earned a B.A. in English with a Women's Studies minor at Northern Illinois University in 1991. She holds a master's degree in Somatic Counseling from Naropa University.



*Karen Van Fossan  
United Theological  
Seminary of the  
Twin Cities*

Karen moved to North Dakota as a VISTA volunteer to address violence against women on college campuses. In 2003, at the height of the war in Iraq, she led the North Dakota Peace Coalition in a successful effort to pass a resolution by the North Dakota legislature to promote peace in Iraq. As president and spokesperson for the coalition, Karen was subjected to hate mail and threatening calls. She learned to bridge the gap between strongly opposing sides by finding common ground for consensus.

In the years since then, Karen has worked as a community advocate, peace activist and counselor for at-risk teens. In an effort to develop a deeper approach at building community, she plans to enter parish ministry after completing her studies at United.

North Dakota State Senator Tim Mathern wrote this of Karen: "Karen by religious beliefs and work experience demonstrates her belief in the intrinsic value of life. Her involvement in education, social services and religious activities all point to promoting peace in relationships and the world."

**"We face a crisis of spirit in North Dakota. Almost daily, we lose another acre of farmland, prairie stream, stretch of wild habitat that all life depends on, for the promises made by energy giants. As I collaborate with farmers, artists, First Nations environmentalists, and other strong neighbors, I see that many of us in North Dakota feel called to turn this crisis around; we only need to find one another."**

— Karen Van Fossan



*Karen (center) led a protest of fracking for oil in North Dakota, an environmentally destructive process.*

## HAWKINSON SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

Hawkinson Scholarships are awarded annually to high school seniors, undergraduate or graduate students who are residents of or currently attending school in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota or Wisconsin.

To qualify, applicants must have demonstrated a commitment to peace and justice through at least one of the following:

- Completed a specific peace and justice project;
- Were courageous in pursuing their convictions about peace and justice;
- Displayed ongoing commitment to, and leadership in, a peace organization;
- Served as a role model for others in moving church or society into new realms of thought and practice regarding peace and justice.

In addition, applicants must demonstrate how the use of the award money for study, an internship, or a special project will deepen their personal commitment to peace and justice and will promote peace and justice for others. A personal interview is required. Scholarships are awarded without regard to religious affiliation.

**To apply, go to [hawkinsonfoundation.org](http://hawkinsonfoundation.org) and click on "Scholarships" or email [info@graceattheu.org](mailto:info@graceattheu.org).**



Tamara Hayes  
Eastern University

**Tamara Hayes**, 33, St. Paul, is enrolled at Eastern University in Philadelphia where she is pursuing a master’s degree in International Development. She is a graduate of Central High School in St. Paul and earned a B.S. in psychology with a concentration in cross-cultural communications at North Central University.

Tamara has spent the past six years living and working in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the Mennonite Central Committee. Much of her recent effort has centered on a community of people living with HIV on a mountain close to Addis.

“These are whole families who are stigmatized by this virus,” she says. “Having lost their place in the community and feeling rejected and condemned even by God himself, they have come to Mt. Entoto to seek a cure for their curse. They are Ethiopian Orthodox Christians and either have faith that the holy water on that mountain will cure them or expect to die there.”

Tamara and her Ethiopian friends helped empower the people on the mountain to create a fair-trade jewelry business, a school for children, a health clinic and housing. Now the jewelry company employs over 100 women and is being turned over to an Ethiopian businesswoman to continue the work. Tamara plans to build her skills to continue this type of outreach. She is using her scholarship to help fund her studies.

Daniel Leonard, Mennonite Central Committee Country Representative, wrote of Tamara: “Tamara has a strong work ethic and a deep commitment to the poor. She brings a passion for meeting immediate needs as well as addressing root causes of poverty and injustice.”



Tamara Hayes spent six years in Ethiopia working with families affected by HIV.

“Since their work is not often rewarded financially, people working at issues of peace and justice struggle to find the resources to pursue higher education. This scholarship is investing in practitioners of peace and social justice in a way that allows them to have more to offer in terms of building capacity with partners in the developing world.”

— Tamara Hayes



In Ethiopia, Tamara and her colleagues helped local residents create a jewelry business, a school, health clinic and housing.



Rahsaan Mahadeo  
University of Minnesota

**Rahsaan Mahadeo**, 30, Minneapolis, is enrolled at the University of Minnesota pursuing a doctorate in sociology. He earned a B.A. in psychology/sociology at the University of Rhode Island and an M.A. in sociology at the University of Massachusetts-Boston.

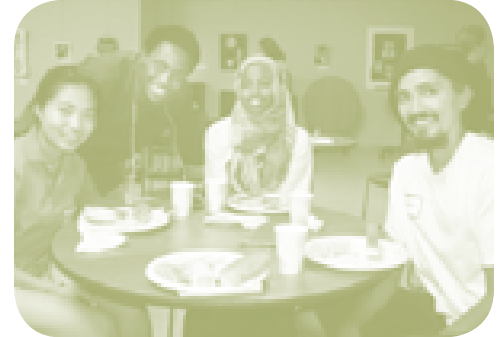
On the East Coast, Rahsaan spent seven years as a counselor working directly with youth and families deeply entrenched in urban American poverty and violence. He experienced through his work the culture of what he terms the “fast life” among many poor, urban youth and is making the study of that culture the focus of his doctoral work.

“The perception of violence as an impending and inevitable threat has enduring implications for the way one envisions his/her future,” he says. “I intend to explore the extent to which such fatalistic beliefs derive from obstructed pathways to success due to structural forces (e.g. discrimination, violence) beyond one’s control...The impetus behind the majority of my efforts in life lies in a personal desire to witness social equality.”

He currently volunteers with Urban 4-H in North Minneapolis, working with two groups of youth with separate missions. Silence the Violence Crew attempts to educate others about the principles of non-violence. E³ (Educate, Enlighten, Empower) focuses on ending stigma and discrimination.

Jeylan Mortimer, professor of sociology at the University of Minnesota, wrote of Rahsaan: “I believe he merits this scholarship because of his strong commitment to peace and justice, and his intention to dedicate his career and life to the amelioration of the life chances of inner city youth of color.”

**“Much of the work towards nonviolent means of progress begins with our attunement to what Gandhi and King call our ‘internal violence of spirit.’ I wish to continue helping young people develop a greater awareness of their emotional thresholds in order to avoid aggressive action. I also remain intent on helping young people refrain from interpreting any acts of kindness as warranting suspicion of ulterior motives. I hope to help such youth see that assumptions hamper discovery and that goodness does exist.” — Rahsaan Mahadeo**



*This past summer, Rahsaan served as a small group facilitator on topics related to discrimination at the Unity Urban Summer Teen Justice Camp in Minneapolis.*



Sarah Fries  
College of St. Scholastica

**Sarah Fries**, 29, Duluth, MN, is enrolled at the College of St. Scholastica pursuing a master’s degree in Management and Business Administration with focus on health care leadership and organizational development. She earned her bachelor’s degree at the University of Minnesota-Duluth majoring in Women’s Studies, Political Science and International Studies.

During her undergraduate years, she served as a volunteer intern at PAVSA, an agency that supports victims of sexual assault. PAVSA began a training program for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) in Duluth and hired Sarah as the program coordinator. Sarah trained and supervised nursing staff and oversaw enhancements including 24 hour availability, an extended protocol to cover victims under 13, improved electronic records and preservation of evidence. Sarah led a community team including emergency room staff, doctors, prosecutors, police, social workers and counselors from local colleges to develop anonymous and deferred reporting options for victims. The program has been used as a national model for other communities.

Candace Harshner, executive director of PAFSA, wrote of Sarah: “Sarah is one of the most hard-working, persistent and motivated individuals I have ever known. She is that person who will consistently go the extra mile to create a safer and more responsive community.”

**“I am particularly grateful for the recognition on the part of the Hawkinson Foundation of the necessary work in women’s health, including addressing issues of violence against women, access to reproductive healthcare, and eliminating healthcare disparities. Personally, this scholarship is a reminder to me that we are not in it alone – although we may have different issues we are focusing on, there are many people committed to fighting the obstacles that stand in the way of a peaceful and just world. Although it is true that one person can make a difference, the odds are much better when there are many people working for what is right.” — Sarah Fries**

# 2012 Hawkinson Honorary Award

## *Steve Clemens: A life devoted to faithful civil disobedience and nonviolent action in the cause of peace*

Veteran peacemaker and activist Steve Clemens of Minneapolis has been on the front lines of social protest for more than 35 years. He has risked arrest numerous times and gone to prison as a result of his convictions, sustained by his faith and a community of supporters.

Born in Pennsylvania of Mennonite heritage, Clemens was raised as an evangelical Protestant. He attended Wheaton College in Illinois, where he returned to his Anabaptist roots after registering as a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War. "I kept hearing the tapes in my head of Jesus saying 'love your enemies,' " he said. After a Black Power symposium and a summer working with Philadelphia street gangs, he became increasingly influenced by radical thinkers. "I quickly went from being a conservative Republican to a radical," he recalls. "I never stopped at liberal."

Following college, he performed his voluntary alternative service with Mennonites helping poor black families in the Mississippi Delta and later in Washington, D.C. as a staff member with the Mennonite Central Committee's Peace Section office. During that time, he joined the anti-war movement and was arrested at the White House – the first of more than 30 arrests that he would experience over the ensuing decades as a result of peace and justice activism.



Steve Clemens



Steve planted trees in Afghanistan with Afghani friends.

In 1975, he moved to southern Georgia to be part of an intentional Christian community, Koinonia Partners, centered on values of nonviolence, racial reconciliation, simple living, and service to others. During his 16 years with the community, Clemens participated in numerous vigils, actions and protests related to a wide range of social justice issues, resulting in several arrests, convictions and jail time.

In 1990, he and his wife, Christine Haas, and their two sons moved to Minneapolis and became part of the Community of St. Martin and active in Minnesota's peace community. As part of protests of weapons manufacturer Alliant Techsystems, he was arrested and acquitted in jury trials in 1997, 2003 and 2004.

*"Peacemaking is not just for people who are willing to go to jail. There are many different styles and we need to appreciate all of them. If I didn't have a community of supporters in solidarity with me, I couldn't do the risk-taking that I do. I never do jail time alone; I do it knowing there's a community with me."*

– Steve Clemens

In 2002, before the U.S. went to war in Iraq, he traveled there as part of the Iraq Peace Team, speaking to more than 65 groups after the trip. Clemens traveled to Egypt and Jordan in 2003 in a peacemaking/reconciliation effort with Muslim families, and spent three months in prison in 2006 due to trespassing at the School of Americas in Fort Benning, GA. He is active in the Iraq & American Reconciliation Project and traveled to Afghanistan in 2011 as part of an international peace delegation. He plans to return to Iraq in 2012 as part of a good will delegation.

Besides numerous instances of direct action, Clemens has led workshops, led trainings, and spoken extensively on active nonviolence and the Biblical basis for peacemaking. His blog, Mennonista (<http://mennonista.blogspot.com>), is often reprinted in area publications. In 2009, he received the Minnesota Peacemaker of the Year Award from the Minnesota Fellowship of Reconciliation.

## HAWKINSON HONORARY AWARDS

Selected annually, the Hawkinson Foundation Honorary Award is given to an individual or individuals who have made a long and significant contribution to the causes of peace and social justice. Nomination forms are reviewed each spring and recipients selected by the Foundation's board of directors. Honorary Award and scholarship recipients are recognized at the Annual Awards Presentation each fall. To nominate a candidate for the Honorary Award, call 612-331-8125 or email [info@graceattheu.org](mailto:info@graceattheu.org).

## HAWKINSON HONORARY AWARDS — 1988-2011

- 2011** Charles "Chuck" Lutz  
**2010** James Siefkes  
Carol and Ken Masters  
Verlyn Smith  
Mary Lou Nelson  
**2009** Jack & Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer  
Dr. Helmut & Rotraut  
Diefenthal  
**2008** Arvid "Bud" Dixen  
Rhoda Gilman  
Betsy Raasch-Gilman  
**2007** Lowell & Carol Erdahl  
**2006** Ralph & Kay Hilgendorf  
Marie & John Braun  
**2005** Luther Granquist  
Gene & Mary Lou Ott  
**2004** Donald Irish  
**2003** Brigid McDonald  
Jane McDonald  
Kate McDonald  
Rita McDonald  
**2002** Eleanor & John Yackel  
**2001** Lynn Elling  
**2000** Marv Davidov  
**1999** Joseph Schwartzberg  
**1998** Larry Cloud Morgan  
**1997** Louise Pardee  
**1996** Eleanor Otterness  
**1992** Arthur & Martha Sternberg  
**1991** Joel Mugge  
**1990** Stanley & Martha Platt  
**1989** Marianne Hamilton  
Polly Mann  
**1988** Mulford Sibley

## 2011-12 Donors to the Hawkinson Foundation for Peace & Justice

We extend our sincerest appreciation to the following individuals for their generous support of the Hawkinson Foundation and its efforts to honor and encourage area peacemakers. We apologize for any errors or omissions that may have inadvertently occurred. Please report them by calling 612-331-8125.

- |                                  |                                  |   |
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Grace University Lutheran Church  
324 Harvard Street SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Visit our web site at  
[hawkinsonfoundation.org!](http://hawkinsonfoundation.org)

## *Our Mission*

To perpetuate the work and spirit of Vincent L. Hawkinson, the Foundation seeks to:

- **Honor individuals** who have made significant and sustained contributions to peace and justice,
- **Award scholarships** to students who have demonstrated a deep commitment to peace and justice, and
- **Publicize the activities** of honorees and scholarship recipients so that others are encouraged and inspired to action for peace and justice.

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For more information about the Hawkinson Foundation, go to [hawkinsonfoundation.org](http://hawkinsonfoundation.org), call 612-331-8125 or email [info@graceattheu.org](mailto:info@graceattheu.org).

## *Your donation helps the next generation of peacemakers!*

Hawkinson scholarship recipients are making astonishing contributions to the world, locally and abroad. Your gift provides funds for the Hawkinson Scholarship Program, which encourages the next generation of peacemakers. Read about this year's class of Hawkinson Scholars in this publication and join us by making a tax-deductible contribution.

*Donate online at:*  
[hawkinsonfoundation.org](http://hawkinsonfoundation.org)

*Or send your check to:*  
(made out to the Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation)

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