

2014 Hawkinson honorees

The power of peacemaking in our world

By Jon Siess, Chair, Board of Directors

It is a great honor to introduce to you — the Foundation's stakeholders — those individuals who have been selected for Hawkinson annual awards.

Five outstanding students will receive 2014 Hawkinson scholarships, selected from a pool of 47 applicants. Read their stories in this publication, and you will no doubt share our admiration for their determination and accomplishments.

Mel Duncan, co-founder of the Nonviolent Peaceforce, will receive this year's Hawkinson Honorary Award, a non-monetary recognition given to veteran peacemakers. Mel was willing to accept this award only if it was on behalf the Peaceforce's civilian protectors at work in troubled areas around the world. And so, we honor the work of Mel and more than 200 peacekeepers who make up this remarkable organization.



In an interview, Mel said this award was particularly meaningful to him because he heard Vince Hawkinson preach at Grace University Lutheran Church many years ago — a memory directly linked to his vision for the Peaceforce. "In his sermon, Vince talked about the death of his daughter," Mel recalled. "His point was that we can never take away the pain of others but we can be present to it. I've always remembered that. **Today being present with people in conflict may be the most valuable thing we can offer them.**"

In celebration of Vince's enduring spirit and the power of peacemaking in our world, please join us at the Annual Awards Presentation on October 5. Hear the inspiring stories of our recipients and chat with them personally during the fellowship hour afterwards.

Finally, our thanks go to all who have supported the Foundation with faithful financial contributions. Despite our name, the Foundation is not endowed. It is only through your generosity that our efforts to encourage future peacemakers can be sustained.



Honorary Award recipient Mel Duncan, fourth from right, visits with Nonviolent Peaceforce staff and local partners in the South Sudan.

Jacobson Scholar Sudip Bhandari uses the story of Anne Frank in educational programs in his native Nepal.

You are invited to 2014 Annual Awards Presentation

Sunday, October 5

2:30 p.m. Gathering | 3:00 p.m. Program

4:30 p.m. Reception

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

1660 W County Road B | Roseville, MN 55113

2014 Honorary Award

for contributions to peace and justice
Mel Duncan, co-founder of the
Nonviolent Peaceforce, on behalf of NP's
nonviolent civilian protectors.

2014 Hawkinson Scholarships

5 outstanding students working for peace & justice

*RSVP by September 22 by calling 612-331-8125
or email hawkinsonfoundation@gmail.com.*

Students who have demonstrated a deep commitment to peace and justice...

2014 Hawkinson Scholarship Recipients

Sudip Bhandari is the 2014 Jacobson Scholar, which recognizes the top Hawkinson scholarship recipient each year.

Sudip Bhandari, 23, grew up during the Nepali Civil War (1996-2006), both a witness to and victim of Maoist violence.

Forced as a child to flee his home village with his family, he vowed to one day work for justice in Nepal. His plans took shape at St. Olaf College, where he first learned the true story of the Holocaust, a part of history suppressed in Nepal, and the country's misrepresentation of Hitler as a transformative leader who had united Germany following World War I. Inspired by the example of fellow Nepali Subhash Ghimire, a 2009 Hawkinson scholar, he worked closely with St. Olaf professor Kristina Thalhammer to create the the Anne Frank Project Nepal, which uses the story of Anne Frank and the Holocaust to educate Nepali youth about the importance of speaking out for human rights and standing up for justice. In the summer of 2011, despite government restrictions on freedom of speech, Sudip was able to reach more than 2,300 middle and high school students and donate hundreds of Holocaust-related books to their schools by maintaining the educational nature of the project. Sudip's message focused on the dangers of devaluing people based on religion, race, sex, class or political affiliation, including ways to resist the country's oppressive caste system, a largely taboo subject.

For these efforts, Sudip received an Outstanding Educator Award by the Anne Frank Center USA, a \$10,000 Davis Projects for Peace grant and the support of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. He returned to Nepal in the summer of 2012 to teach more students and to build a permanent resource — the Anne Frank Peace Library in a rural low-caste village. He also lobbied the Minister of Education in Nepal to officially include the Holocaust and Anne Frank in history textbooks.

His long-term plans include graduate education in public health, specializing in violence epidemiology, which focuses on strategies to prevent youth violence. In the meantime, he will use his scholarship to help establish an Anne Frank school to educate future generations of Nepalese about peace and justice.

Professor Kristina Thalhammer of St. Olaf's Department of Political Science wrote: ***"Despite his youth, Sudip has become an outstanding educator and is making a real difference in the ways teachers and students in Nepal look at history and their own future."***



Sudip Bhandari
St. Olaf College



Here, Sudip is teaching students at a Nepali high school about Anne Frank and the Holocaust.

"In a world ridden with violence and injustice, we have to look for opportunities to forge peace and resolve conflicts. The Hawkinson Foundation scholarship is an incredible support for my endeavors in Nepal to foster a culture among youth that embraces human rights and democracy."

— Sudip Bhandari



Sudip wrote a new curriculum that includes the Holocaust and Anne Frank. He is shown here presenting it to the national director of curriculum in Nepal.

Uzoma Abakporo, 28, a native of Nigeria, is enrolled in the School of Public Health's master in public health administration and policy program at the University of Minnesota. Drawing on his personal experience bringing health care to an isolated region in Nigeria, he is focusing his studies on addressing health disparities in Africa due to race and socioeconomic status.



*Uzoma Abakporo
University of Minnesota*

In 2010, following graduation from the College of Medicine at the University of Lagos, Uzoma volunteered with Nigeria's National Youth Service Corps in an extremely underdeveloped area that lacked any modern health care services and was fraught with violence and ethnic division. Bringing together community heads of rival groups, small business owners, market women representatives and other stakeholders, he succeeded in building consensus around health care and led efforts to bring basic medical services to the area. Based on the framework established by the project, the clinic has remained functional and staffed by primary care physicians.

Uzoma plans to return to Nigeria after completing his master's degree to establish a non-governmental organization aimed at renovating and equipping primary health care centers in underserved areas of Sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, he intends to be an advocate at the federal government level for policies to improve access to care for underserved populations.



Uzo Abakporo is pictured at the far right during his service on the medical team of the National Youth Service Corps of Nigeria in 2010.

In 2014, Uzoma served as a volunteer and organizer at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum in the Twin Cities, and is a member of the Health Disparities Working Group at the University of Minnesota.

Donna McAlpine, associate professor and director of the Masters in Public Health Program in Public Health Administration and Policy, wrote: ***"Uzo has brought to our program a keen awareness of the problems faced by people in low-income communities where even the most basic health care is lacking and a recognition that health, political and community stability are intertwined...I am confident he will be a leader in global public health."***

"Identifying a common goal and facilitating cooperation between people with differing opinions towards achieving it is an effective strategy towards establishing peace and justice."

— Uzoma Abakporo

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 and click on "Scholarships" or email hawkinsonfoundation@gmail.com



Scott DeMuth
University of Minnesota

“The scholarship will help me to pursue C. Wright Mill’s goal of translating personal troubles into public issues, and public issues into the terms of their human meaning.”
— Scott DeMuth

Scott DeMuth, 27, is currently a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Minnesota, focusing his studies on issues affecting Native Americans, especially the Dakota Communities. He graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 2009 and earned a master’s degree in sociology from the University of Minnesota in 2012.

Scott’s research interests explore the intersections of law, health and social movements with a particular focus on their implications for social justice for Native American communities as well as broader racial and economic disparities. He is a board member of Oyate Nipi Kte, an organization dedicated to the revitalization of Dakota language and traditional life. Through this organization, he helped develop the Dakota Akicita Teca (New/Young Warriors) Scouting Program, a language and cultural program engaging youth in hands-on learning about Dakota culture.

He has served as an indigenous evaluation consultant for the Ain Dah Yung Center that provides support services to American Indian youth and families in the Twin Cities. He is also developing curriculum for the Dakota language immersion school, the Bdote Learning Center.

Scott’s dissertation focuses on the impacts of indigenous language revitalization and social movements for land reclamation, and how these processes have the potential to reduce the high rates of suicide in Native American communities.

David Pellow, Don A. Martindale professor of sociology at the University of Minnesota, wrote: **“Scott has abundant experience with activism in Native communities that he will draw from as he continues to do his research and community work. I am confident he will produce results that are of high scholarly and public value.”**



Scott, at left, pictured here with a teen enrolled in the Akicita Teca Scouting program, helped develop the program, which engages youth in hands-on learning about Dakota culture.



Marie Garza
Metropolitan State
University

Marie Garza, 34, a community activist in West St. Paul and Maplewood, MN, hopes to become a police officer and one day run for public office. She earned an A.S. degree in criminal justice/law enforcement at Century College in White Bear Lake, and plans to use her scholarship to earn a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice at Metropolitan State University.

Marie characterizes her whole life as a struggle for peace and justice. She grew up in a household with domestic violence, poverty and illiteracy, and draws on those experiences in her efforts to promote greater cooperation and understanding between the Latino community and law enforcement in addressing domestic violence.

As a single mother, she joined the West Side Safety Council, helping neighbors navigate the criminal justice system. She created Liz’s Daughter, a nonprofit organization that provides ongoing domestic violence awareness, prevention and education in the Twin Cities. A focal point is its Brides March Against Domestic Violence (inspired by a woman murdered on her wedding day) that goes to the Minnesota capitol each year as an active protest against domestic violence. She worked for the passage of the Crittenden/Schneider law to establish a domestic violence offender registry (named in memory of two police officers killed while responding to domestic disturbance calls) and serves on the DFL Latino Caucus, directing resolutions and endorsements that help move forward both native and immigrant Latino communities.

Jill Garcia, a Latino leader and former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, wrote: **“Marie is passionate about justice in all its forms. Her personal experience with poverty, racism and violence drives her goal to impact the lives of young Latinos in ending these problems.”**



Atlese Robinson
Augsburg College

Atlese Robinson, 21, is a senior at Augsburg College, where she is majoring in theater. A playwright, poet, and educator, Atlese describes herself as “a young artist who is a product of triumph,” using personal experiences as a starting point to bring awareness to the oppressions she and others face. Her artistic background includes the Penumbra Theatre’s Summer Institute and the St. Paul Central High School’s Central Touring Theater. During high school, she wrote a poem highlighting racial inequalities within the school system and, with others, performed the poem for groups of teachers and administration in the St. Paul Public Schools.

At Augsburg, she has served as arts and entertainment editor of *The Echo* newspaper, and regularly contributes thought-provoking articles and editorials to all sections of the newspaper. She has performed her original spoken word as part of Augsburg’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation.

On campus, she is a core volunteer at Campus Cupboard, a food shelf for Augsburg students, and is a voice for students facing issues of hunger and homelessness. She is active in Augsburg’s Pan-Afrikan Student Union and LGBTQIA student services.

Sarah Meyers, assistance professor of theater arts at Augsburg College, wrote: ***“In everything she does, Atlese is committed to public discourse about issues that are pressing in our world and passionate about fighting injustices based on gender, sexuality, race, religion and class. She is a brilliant, generous, passionate activist who deserves to be recognized for her incredible commitment to peace and justice.”***



Atlese performed an original spoken word at the Martin Luther Convocation at Augsburg College.

“(Part of) this award will be used to help me get a step closer to my first professional reading of my first one-act play that examines the present oppressive ideologies that have caused the disproportionate amount of rape and sexual abuse of people of certain genders and sexual identities.”

— Atlese Robinson



Honoring her late mother, Marie started *Liz’s Daughter*, a nonprofit that sponsors an annual Brides March Against Domestic Violence at the state capitol. Marie is pictured at far left at the podium. Police and peace officers also attend the event.

“Having received this scholarship has given me the opportunity to turn my dream into a reality. I am committed to bring attention and awareness to domestic violence and other injustices in my community. The Hawkinson Foundation has provided me with the support and encouragement that I need to keep doing the work I was meant to do” — Marie Garza

2014 Hawkinson Honorary Award

Mel Duncan: co-founder of the Nonviolent Peaceforce, on behalf of its nonviolent civilian protectors.



Mel Duncan

"Behind Mel's cherubic face and beneficent visage lies the brain of an organizational genius, and countless thousands of lives are better because of his efforts for peace."

– Arvid "Bud" Diken, a 2008 Honorary Award recipient who nominated Duncan for this year's honor.

A native of Iowa, Mel Duncan grew up in a family that valued hard work, education and giving back to the community. His first job was selling sweet corn – at age 5 – and every penny he earned over the years that followed went towards college. He enrolled at Macalester College in 1968 in the midst of the Vietnam War and became drawn to organizing and advocacy on a number of social issues. After studying the nonviolence of Jesus and Gandhi in college, he resigned from the Selective Service System and returned his draft card.

While working at a center for people with disabilities in the years after college, he helped organize Advocating Change Together, the first self-advocacy group in the U.S. for people with developmental disabilities. He went on to serve as executive director of the Minnesota Jobs for Peace Campaign. In 1987, with future Sen. Paul Wellstone, he co-founded the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action (which later merged to become TakeAction) to work on economic and social justice, the environment and human rights. In the early 1980s, he volunteered as a peacekeeper on the border of Nicaragua during the Contra war. He also helped organize Wellstone's 1990 senate campaign.

As a Bush Foundation Fellow in 1997-98, Duncan studied grassroots organizing and spirituality at the Center for Creation-Centered Spirituality in Oakland, CA, where he began to develop his vision of a global peaceforce. Working with like-minded co-founder David Hartsough, they inaugurated the Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) in 2002, and soon sent the first peaceforce to Sri Lanka, site of a 20-year civil war.

"I accept this award on behalf of our peacekeepers, who are living and working in violent and challenging situations. It is they who need to be honored."

– Mel Duncan

Since then, the organization has conducted civilian protection operations in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Guatemala, the South Caucasus and South Sudan. They currently have over 200 people in the field from 25 countries. In 2007, NP was granted Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Today, Duncan serves as NP's director for advocacy and outreach, focusing his attention on advancing unarmed civilian protection initiatives at the United Nations.

Duncan has received the 2006 Distinguished Citizen Award from Macalester College and the 2007 Pfeffer International Peace Prize from the Fellowship of Reconciliation. In 2008 he was named one of "50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World" by *Utne Reader*. Duncan and his wife, Georgia, have eight children and live in St. Paul.



Mel connects with Nonviolent Peaceforce partners in Mindanao in the Philippines.

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.

For a list of previous Honorary Award recipients and for more information on the award, please go to hawkinsonfoundation.org.

2013-14 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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*Join us October 5
and get inspired!*

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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the next generation of peacemakers!**



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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.

Contact us!

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