Good afternoon, my name is SC and I am the ..... 

It is a pleasure to be here to talk with you about the Rotary Peace Fellowship program – we believe it is a very unique program and a major force for peace with the over 930 program alumni working in peace related fields in over 100 countries.

Today we will talk briefly about the Rotary Peace Program as a whole, then get into a little more detail about the Peace Centers and program offerings. We will also give you an idea of the achievements of the program overall and share some examples of what several of our alumni are doing.

As Rotary representatives to the UN, you have the ability to share this great opportunity with your UN contacts. Over the past year we’ve seen increased interest from UN HR units in sharing this information with their staff/networks.
The Rotary Peace Centers program was established in 2002 with a vision of creating sustainable peace, by building networks of peacebuilders and community leaders dedicated to preventing and resolving today’s global conflicts.
• To serve this vision, Rotary has developed unique partnerships with 7 leading universities who host our Rotary Peace Centers.

• The goal of the centers is three-fold: to empower, educate, and increase the capacity of peace builders through rigorous academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities made possible through Rotarians, program alumni and various peace related organizations world-wide.

• Through this fellowship experience, fellows build the skills needed to act as leaders and catalysts for peace and conflict resolution in their communities and across the globe.
Currently there are 6 Rotary Peace Centers at seven universities. Five of which offer master level degrees in a range of disciplines related to peace and security:

• In the US, there is a joint program at Duke University and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The other centers are located at the University of Bradford, England,
• Uppsala University in Sweden
• International Christian University in Japan
• The University of Queensland in Australia

There is also a center at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand which hosts our 3 month certificate in peace and conflict studies.
Up to 100 Rotary Peace Fellows are selected annually to earn either a master’s degree OR a professional development certificate.

The two programs were created to offer both aspiring younger professionals as well as experienced professional with varied educational opportunities to further their careers in peace and conflict resolution.

Each year, 50 fellows are assigned to an MA program which lasts anywhere from 15-24 months depending on the university.

Rotary also selects up to 50 fellows to participate in the 3 month certificate program which takes place twice annually.
To qualify both MA and certificate applicants must be proficient in English, have excellent leadership skills and show a clear commitment to peace and conflict resolution.

MA applicants must have a BA degree plus 3 years of full-time relevant work experience. Proficiency in a second language is also preferred.

The certificate program requires a strong academic background and at least 5 years of full-time related work experience.
MA fellows benefit from a variety of offerings:

• Each center builds on the strengths of the university and offers its own customized curriculum and field-based learning opportunities that examine peace and conflict through various frameworks.

• Fellows at Rotary Peace centers are enrolled regular graduate students yet enjoy the advantage of connecting with a cohort of diverse peace fellows.

• At Duke, for example, there are currently 20 fellows from 18 different countries.

• Each program is supplemented by a 3 month applied field experience that is self-designed and fully funded.

• And finally, fellows are frequently exposed to experts in peace and conflict resolution and have the opportunity to participate in an annual seminar hosted by the university and local Rotarians.
Certificate fellows benefit from an 8 week intensive classroom study with 20-30 guest lectures from around the world.

Additionally, there are 2 week-long group field studies

The certificate program is a unique opportunity for mid-level professionals to retool and return to their peace work upon graduation.
The Rotary Peace fellowship is one of the most generous and comprehensive fellowships of its kind.

The average MA fellowship is approximately 80K whereas the average certificate fellowship is around 11k.

Covered expenses include tuition, room and board, travel, an applied field experience as well as conference funding.
You might wonder what peace fellows do after graduating from one of the centers.

There are a total of 936 rotary peace fellow alumni

95% of the alumni have reported their work updates to the Rotary Foundation.

Of those, 94% are working in areas related to peace and conflict prevention and resolution
This map shows the approximate distribution location of Rotary Peace Fellows working in over 100 countries.
What see is that about....

38% work for NGOs

20% work for government agencies

16% are working in research/academia, or pursuing PhDs in peace related fields

7% work specifically for UN agencies (that equates to 65 fellows)

8% are teachers/professors

And Now I’d like to share just a couple examples of peace fellow alumni working within the UN:
Mwila Chigaga is a graduate of the Peace Center at Duke University.

Following her fellowship she took a position with the UN International Labour Organization and for 9 years has been serving as the Senior Regional Gender Specialist for the African region.

She is also a proud member of the Board of Widows with Strength International – an org that assists women globally who have been made widows by war, HIV, and other causes.

* Spoke at Rotary convention in Sydney 2014
Path spent part of his childhood doing forced labor in a Khmer Rouge camp. The experience left him determined to help his country heal from the years of brutality in which 2 million Cambodians died. He is now chief of a UNICEF field office in Cambodia where he manages 6 programs improving access to education, health care, and training for employment for millions of women and children.
Erinma Bell is CEO for the Community Alliance for Renewal of Inner South Manchester, England (CARISMA). CARISMA provides peace and conflict resolution workshops and projects for youth, which are helping raise awareness and build positive relationships in the community. And her work is paying off – in four years firearm offenses in the area have dropped by more than 90 percent.

The group has developed a peace tool kit, helped create PeaceFM radio station, organized Peace Weeks, and opened up communication between young people and police.
And finally, Arnoldas has dedicated his 10-year career at the European Union ensuring it’s a better one. As the external policies adviser to European parliament president, he’s working on a special mediation mission aimed at improving relations between the EU and Ukraine.
The application process is a collaboration between applicants and their local Rotary district.

Applicants begin the process by accessing the online application – which goes live on 1 December each year.

Applicants must also reach out to a Rotary district to request an interview and endorsement which is a requirement for consideration.

Applicants submit the online application to their district by 31 May and districts then send the endorsed applications to TRF by 1 July.

Between July and October, the Rotary Peace Centers Committee, composed of appointed Rotarians and university representatives, screens applications and selects fellowship finalists.

In November all applicants are notified of the results. Finalists then apply to the university for acceptance.
So how can you help us share this opportunity within your own networks?

Think about your network and who might benefit from learning about the fellowship. This could be undergraduate programs at universities, NGOs, socially minded corporations, and Rotarians and Rotary alumni. If you’re willing to facilitate and introduction via email to any of these contacts we’d welcome the opportunity to connect with them and share information on the program or even set up a conference call.

We can also provide you with fellowship announcements, brochures, and other promotional materials if you’re willing to share directly. I have some brochures available today in EN but you can also order these free of charge on shop.rotary.org.

You can always join us on our Facebook or linkedin pages or sign up for the Peace in Action newsletter that is sent out every other month

If you’re interested in Rotary’s involvement with peace projects you can visit the Rotarian Action Group for Peace website and consider joining a network of Rotarians working towards building peace
That concludes our presentation and we’d like to now open it up for any questions you might have.
Questions?