

# A UNIQUE COLLABORATION

EMORY UNIVERSITY + THE CARTER CENTER



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“We share the Carter Center’s commitment to waging peace, fighting disease, and building hope. These tenets mean as much today as they did when we launched our partnership 35 years ago. The Emory community looks forward to many more years of spirited collaboration as together we seek a compassionate and just world.”

—Claire E. Sterk  
President, Emory University

“Emory University and The Carter Center must cherish their joint commitment to humanitarian principles and the use of knowledge to improve the human condition. Together—through education, research, and action—we can alleviate suffering, enhance freedom and democracy, and advance human rights.”

—Ambassador (Ret.) Mary Ann Peters  
Chief Executive Officer, The Carter Center

IDEAS + ACTION

PRESIDENT + PROFESSOR

SCHOLARSHIP + PRACTICE

CONFLICT + RESOLUTION

REAL TIME + DATA

POLICY + EQUITY

PREVENTION + CONTROL

INTERNS + INSIGHT

PEACE + HEALTH

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On the cover (clockwise from upper left):

As Sanne van den Bergh (left), field office director, looks on, President and Mrs. Carter review a polling station checklist in Cairo, Egypt, during the 2012 elections. Credit: The Carter Center/D. Hakes.

Siti Sarah Muwahidah, the 2016–2017 recipient of the ELMO Initiative Graduate Fellowship, with Jason Carter, chair of the Carter Center Board of Trustees. Muwahidah is a doctoral student in Emory’s Graduate Division of Religion concentrating on religion in West and South Asia. Both have utilized ELMO in their work. Credit: Emory Photo/Video.

Along with Lauren Kent-Delany, who manages the Carter Center’s intern program, election observer Dominique Dieudonne (right) talks to voters during 2010 polling in Côte d’Ivoire. Credit: The Carter Center/D. Hakes.

Women in Nepal. Rachel Harmon, while an Emory political science doctoral student, received pre-dissertation funding from the Institute for Developing Nations to use ELMO in the study of trafficking of women and girls at the India/Nepal border. Credit: Free for Life International/S. Weeks.

Independently, Emory University and The Carter Center are profound forces for good. Together, our reach has saved, or changed for the better, the lives of people in need throughout the world.

Unions between nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions are rare in part because they are not easily made: even when philosophies mesh, the timing must be right. Immediate response to the 2015 Ebola epidemic, for example, involved Emory infectious disease specialists, religious scholars, and social scientists, along with Carter Center staff who, on the ground in Liberia, facilitated cooperation between the local population and outside experts. Sometimes, though, timelines for university research and funding to address the root causes of such a crisis can feel long to an NGO engaging world events in real time.

After leaving the White House, US President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter decided to commit themselves to the advancement of peace and human rights. They sought a partner and, in 1982, saw in Emory University an institution whose values they shared. In conversation with then–Emory President James T. Laney, they became convinced that the center they hoped to build could draw on the university’s unique resources and serve the world in remarkable ways.

In the early years, key individuals connected the work of The Carter Center to academic life at Emory. Jointly appointed center fellows such as Robert A. Pastor, in the Department of Political Science; William H. Foege, in the Rollins School of Public Health; Frank S. Alexander, in the School of Law; and others established direct connections between the center’s humanitarian work and scholarship at Emory. In 2006, the alliance gained further strength when President Carter and then–Emory President James Wagner founded the Institute for Developing Nations to encourage ties between Emory faculty and students and Carter Center programs.

To the immense pride of both institutions, the partnership between Emory and The Carter Center now marks its 35th year. During that time, both institutions have grown and transformed the landscapes of higher education and NGOs—all while addressing some of the most challenging global problems. Coordinated work on the part of The Carter Center and Emory has resolved conflict, advanced democracy and human rights, prevented disease, and improved mental health care. This collaboration has fostered a community of scholarship and practice that has had an impact far beyond our institutions.

Today, the connections remain strong. We succeed together because we bring complementary strengths. Like any good marriage that endures, each side still looks to the other with confidence and respect.

The Carter Center recognizes that universities today provide an increasingly rare space for the open, civil, and critical exchange of ideas—across disciplinary, institutional, and national boundaries. Indeed, President Carter has reflected that part of the reason for choosing Emory was that he believed he would always have a platform for speaking his mind. Similarly, many Emory faculty and students have benefited from having real-world, real-time opportunities for applied research and hands-on experience in helping The Carter Center carry out its mission.

The members of the Emory University–Carter Center community are grateful to the Carters for setting a course befitting the ideals of both institutions. Yet most members of the community do not realize how broadly the collaboration has enhanced teaching, scholarship, and service through both the university and the center.

The stories told in this publication reveal some of the contributions. Many more stories could be told. As the past 35 years are celebrated, an equally bright, productive future can begin. It is hoped that all associated with the two institutions will join in and continue the good work.

# The Carter Connection

by Paige Parvin

“I knew that the center would be unique,  
because it was to be  
a partnership between a former  
US president with enormous energy and  
a university on the rise.”

—Steven Hochman  
Director of Research, The Carter Center

Of all the notable scenes one is likely to encounter on the Emory University campus—helicopters touching down atop medical facilities, Buddhist monks in crimson robes chatting on mobile phones, film crews shooting major stars on the Quad—few are more captivating than the caravan of SUVs that signals a visit by a former United States president.

Since he joined the faculty as a University Distinguished Professor 35 years ago, President Jimmy Carter has been a steady presence at Emory—fielding questions from first-year students at his annual Town Hall, holding regular luncheons with small groups of faculty and staff, meeting monthly with the university president over breakfast, and appearing in classes and special forums during the fall and spring semesters. “I’ve taught in all the schools at Emory,” Carter says. “It has kept me aware of the younger generation, their thoughts and ideals.”

When Carter returned from Washington, D.C., to his home state of Georgia in 1981, the former peanut farmer with a Naval Academy degree in engineering had a wide range of options for how to shape his post-presidential career. With offers from a number of universities, public and private, he chose to partner with Emory—a decision that he made with his wife, Rosalynn.



*On What Would Be the One Word  
to Describe the US*

“Searching. We are searching now for the essence of what makes America great and how to get along with other people who have an equal voice in what the future holds.”

—TOWN HALL, 2014



*Above: A 2012 Emory event sponsored by the Institute for Developing Nations and the Center for International Programs Abroad, billed as “A Conversation with President Jimmy Carter.”  
Credit: Emory Photo/Video.*

*Left: President and Mrs. Carter take notes at a polling station in Kathmandu, Nepal, in 2008.  
The Carter Center has monitored more than 100 elections. Credit: The Carter Center/D. Hakes.*

He remembers how then-Emory President James T. Laney convinced them “that he had a moral and ethical vision for the university that we could share and help to advance.” In addition, Carter says, “I wanted to speak to the students in a very frank way on controversial issues of the times, and I felt Emory would give me that opportunity. Since I have been a professor at Emory, I have always been able to speak without restraint.”

In September 1982, from an office on the tenth floor of the Robert W. Woodruff Library, he launched The Carter Center, the organization whose work has consumed him and Rosalynn for more than three decades. Created in partnership with Emory to promote human rights and improve the human condition, the center

would pursue conflict resolution as a special mission. President Carter placed few limits on the future agenda, choosing complex problems as the first to address: Middle East peace, international security and arms control, and health policy.

“I knew that the center would be unique, because it was to be a partnership between a former US president with enormous energy and a university on the rise, and nothing like that had ever been tried before,” says Steven Hochman, director of research and the first person Carter asked to join him. “However, no one imagined exactly how The Carter Center would develop.”

Now located just three miles from Emory, The Carter Center has blossomed into a thriving organization that reaches around the world. To help support democratic governments in countries where they are nascent or threatened, the center’s peace programs have made it a pioneer in election observation, monitoring 105

national elections to help ensure the citizens’ collective will. Programs in conflict resolution, human rights, and global access to information respond to challenges from multiple continents. The China Program and the Latin American and Caribbean Program bring special expertise to broad issues of peace and leadership.

The center’s health programs are deliberately focused on preventable diseases that have been neglected or overlooked by other major health organizations. As a recognized world

leader in the practices that can achieve eradication and elimination, the center fights Guinea worm disease, river blindness, trachoma, schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, and malaria in Hispaniola. The center also works to improve access to mental health care worldwide.

The partnership between Emory and The Carter Center has kept pace, weaving a richly complex and robust network of connections between the two organizations. Many of the center’s experts have taught at Emory, and both faculty and students regularly participate in the center’s work. The connections have involved every school. The center also directs an intensive

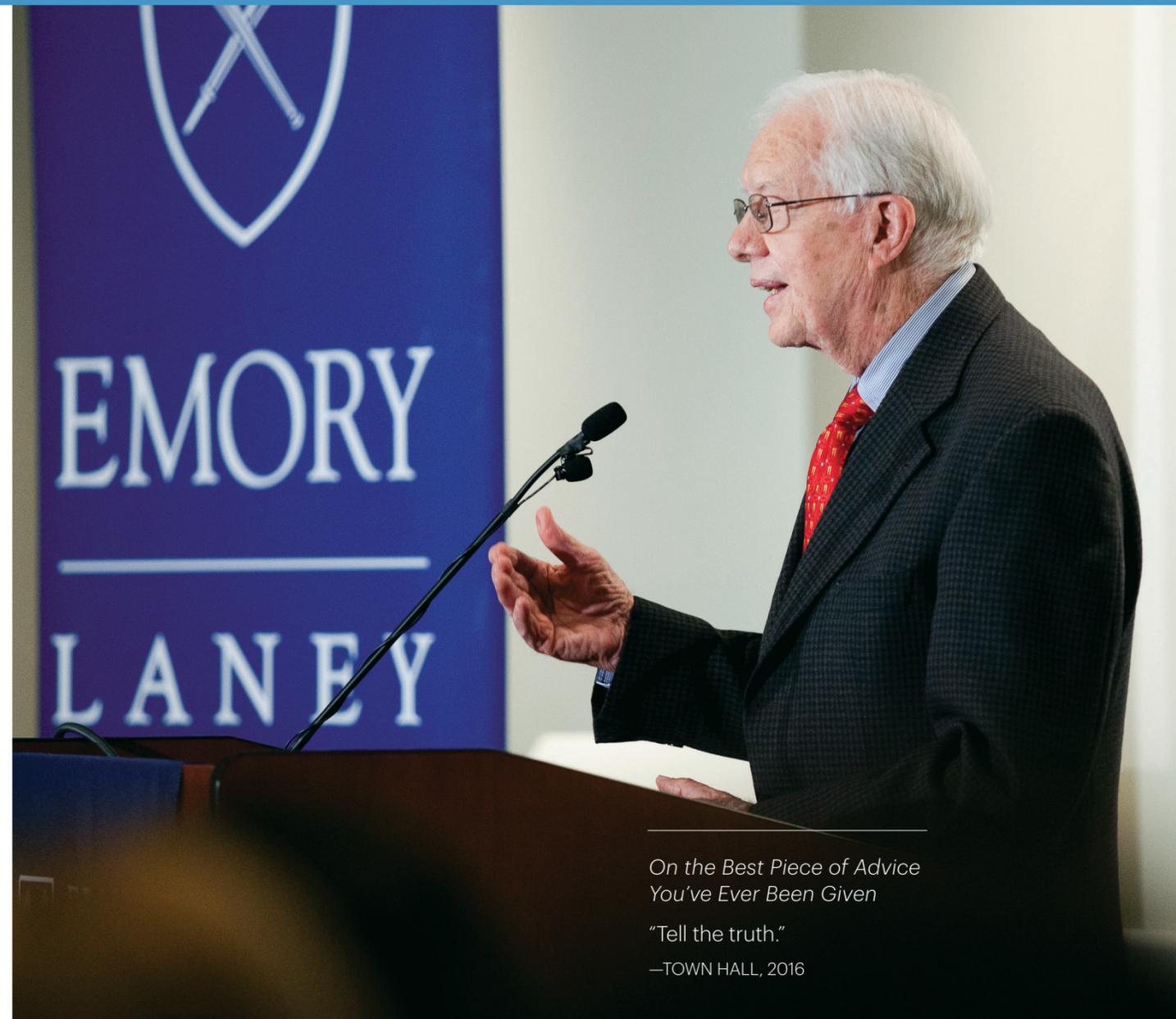
internship program that has given hundreds of Emory students the enviable opportunity to participate in its humanitarian efforts directly.

In 2001, the Lillian Carter Center for Global Health and Social Responsibility (then the Lillian Carter Center for International Nursing) was dedicated by former School of Nursing Dean Marla Salmon and President Carter. Named for Carter’s mother, “Miss Lillian,” the center serves as the focal point for the school’s international nursing and midwifery work and facilitates the many domestic service-learning programs that focus on vulnerable populations. The faculty and students have worked with The Carter Center on mental health and public health training around the world.

*On the Future of a Divided America*

“We have to remember that our country is resilient. We have always had, down through history, the ability when we make serious mistakes—like slavery, or segregation, or the failure to let women have the right to vote—we’ve always had the ability to correct our mistakes.”

—TOWN HALL, 2016



*On the Best Piece of Advice You’ve Ever Been Given*

“Tell the truth.”

—TOWN HALL, 2016

Above: President Carter delivers a university lecture in 2013, sponsored by IDN and the Laney Graduate School. Credit: Emory Photo/Video.

Left: On a 2007 trip to Ethiopia to review the Carter Center’s health programs, President and Mrs. Carter are welcomed with flowers by a local girl. Credit: The Carter Center/L. Gubb.

Carter and then-Emory President James Wagner founded the Institute for Developing Nations (IDN) in 2006 to encourage Emory faculty and student engagement with the developing world as well as collaboration with The Carter Center. Overall, the IDN has supported 56 student experiences, including four graduate fellowships for students across academic units, and it has hosted more than 80 lectures, workshops, and conferences. In fall 2015, at a special forum as part of President Carter’s Emory teaching program, six Emory graduate students discussed their IDN-sponsored research publicly with him.

One of them, Abidemi Fasanmi, a student in the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, commented on the honor of speaking with the president and went on to say, “One of the things that amazes me is the rapt attention he gave to each participant and his command of detail. I was also intrigued by how much he knew about almost any topic you can

think of from health to development, politics, human rights, and economics. When I am in my 90s, I want to have made the mark he has made in so many lives.”

Dean Lisa Tedesco of the James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies notes how privileged the Emory community is to have access to a former US president. “The research university has a unique responsibility to apply our work to solve global problems,” notes Tedesco. “Our strength is our partnership. Having President Carter as a University Distinguished Professor helps Emory reshape the role of higher education in international development. Our long partnership with The Carter Center has allowed us to build a strong bridge to work on global action across disciplines, not in silos.”

When Carter received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2002, leaders across the university greeted the news with pride. Laney, after leaving the Emory presidency to become US ambassador to South Korea, had recommended Carter to the Nobel committee in 1994. “It could have come earlier, and it would have been eminently justified,” Laney said. “But now it is a grand capstone of his life and career for which we all rejoice.” William Chace, Emory president

*On the Most Important Issue for a US Presidential Candidate*

“I would say that the new president should resolve in his or her heart: I will keep my country at peace, and I will be a champion of human rights.”

—TOWN HALL, 2015

at the time, attended the ceremonies in Oslo and remarked, “This native son of Georgia has advanced, in many different ways, a vision of healthy understanding among the nations and people of the world. He served his country well as president, but he is now being recognized for all that he has so superbly done since that

presidency.” Carter himself is always quick to credit the partnership with Emory for some measure of the center’s 35 years of accomplishment.

In 2016, Carter, Laney, and Wagner gathered onstage at The Carter Center to reflect on the impact of the relationship and look to the future.

Wagner described the profound impression made on him when he met both Carter and Laney before his official arrival at Emory. Two years later, he noted, he and his wife, Debbie, traveled to Africa with the Carters to bet-

ter understand the Carter Center’s work—a trip that further strengthened the partnership. “I think part of the Carter Center’s success has been its focus,” Wagner said. “It is interested in making a difference, not just making a statement.”

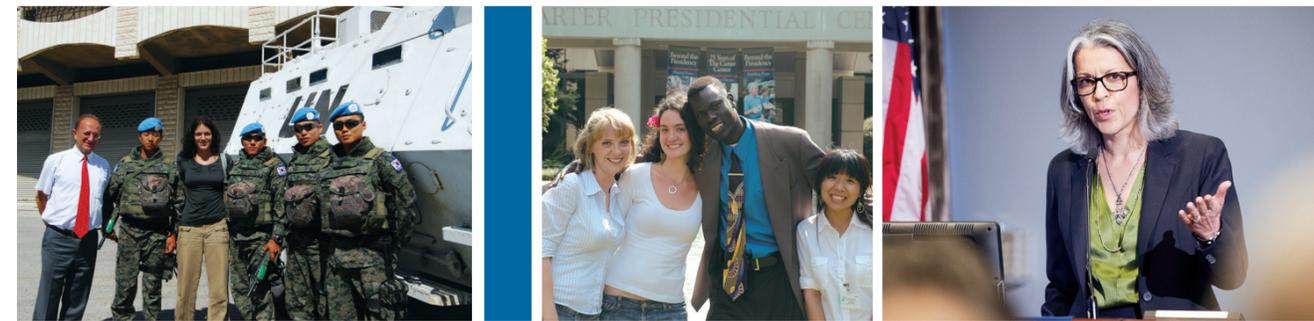
Says Vice Provost for Global Strategy and Initiatives Philip Wainwright, “From my time as an Emory College student when The Carter Center opened its doors on the top floor of Woodruff Library in the early 1980s, I have seen Emory become much more global in its outlook and in the scope and impact of its work. The university supports research projects around the world, hosts students from many countries, and sends its students to study and do field work wherever global problems challenge us. The Carter Center has played a major role in bringing that international outlook to the university, especially through the inspiration provided by President Carter.”

“The relationship between Emory and The Carter Center is permanent and it’s virtually indestructible,” Carter said. “I have personally gotten more out of this partnership than Emory has. It has made the time since my presidency the best time of my life.”

*The story of the Institute for Developing Nations (IDN) is one of going beyond academic disciplines and institutional boundaries. It has involved thinking in new ways about the intersection of higher education and development by connecting research to action, engaging stakeholders beyond the university, and strengthening learning opportunities in connection with the real-time work of The Carter Center.*

## The Institute for Developing Nations’ Important Role

*In 2005, President Carter took then-Emory President James Wagner to Mali, Nigeria, and Ethiopia to visit Carter Center projects in health, education, economic development, and democracy. They already were talking about how Emory could engage more with The Carter Center in the developing world. This trip moved their discussions to a new level as they considered how to inspire Emory researchers and students to address the problems they were witnessing.*



*Left to right: Hrair Balian (in white shirt), director of the Carter Center Conflict Resolution Program and instructor for the course Advanced International Negotiations at Emory School of Law. The image dates to 2009, when Balian was in Lebanon to do election monitoring. He is pictured with UN peacekeepers patrolling the border with Israel. Credit: The Carter Center. Carter Center interns from the summer 2007 class pose in front of the Jimmy Carter Library. Credit: The Carter Center; former IDN Director Sita Ranchod-Nilsson. Credit: Emory Photo/Video.*

A year later, IDN was launched as a university-wide effort to advance interdisciplinary, action-oriented scholarship on development. With that in mind, IDN concentrated on three areas.

**Problem solving.** IDN engages a wide range of development issues, including gender-based violence, human rights, water insecurity, peace building, civil society, climate-change adaptation, and rule of law. Although the issues and geographical locations have shifted through the years, IDN’s vision remains to bring together practitioners and scholars to solve problems.

**Enhancing graduate education.** IDN provides support for graduate student research opportunities aligning with the research and programmatic agendas of the Carter Center’s peace and health programs. Through IDN funding, graduate and professional students gain invaluable learning experiences in the field, working with Carter Center staff. Project areas since 2012 include human rights, NGO management, and health education and promotion (Atlanta); gender-based violence and mental health (Liberia); malaria, trachoma, and field research technology (Ethiopia).

**Strengthening capacity.** Drawing on Emory faculty and graduate student expertise, IDN works closely with the Carter Center’s in-country partners to develop and implement projects and programs to bolster civil society, higher education, and empowerment for women and youth.

IDN’s current initiatives provide good examples of these connections. The Prospects for Peace in Sudan and South Sudan series, organized with the Carter Center’s Conflict Resolution Program, supported efforts to find opportunities for practical collaboration between the two countries, including support for research on complex social identities and peace building. And, in collaboration with the Carter Center’s Democracy Program, IDN’s Common Indicators for Democratic Elections initiative has supported a series of workshops—the next slated for spring 2018—bringing together scholars and practitioners from election-support organizations to develop consistent methods to assess the quality of democratic elections.

“IDN will continue to grow as a creative space that engenders innovative ways of engaging scholarship and practice.”  
—Sita Ranchod-Nilsson

The IDN benefited from the leadership of Sita Ranchod-Nilsson, who served a decade as director before stepping down in 2017. Ranchod-Nilsson was both clear-eyed and optimistic, saying, “As I consider past challenges in the field of development, I am acutely aware of the tasks before us. Nonetheless, IDN will continue to grow as a creative space that engenders innovative ways of engaging scholarship and practice.” The interim director, Dabney P. Evans, is a Rollins School of Public Health professor who combines expertise in public health and human rights. She notes, “With changes under way at Emory and The Carter Center, this is an opportune time to envision IDN’s path forward.”  
» Susan M. Carini

## The Jimmy Carter Professor

Joseph Crespino, a professor in the Department of History, Emory College, was named the first Jimmy Carter Professor in 2014 and is an expert in 20th-century American political history and Southern history since Reconstruction.

It was during research for his first book, *In Search of Another Country: Mississippi and the Conservative Counter-revolution*, that he was first exposed to the archives at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

“I was seeing what an amazing resource this was, and I couldn’t believe that no one was teaching a class out of these archives,” says Crespino, who developed the course to expose undergraduates



*Above: Joseph Crespino, the first Jimmy Carter Professor, and President Carter discuss “Political Leadership in Changing Times” at an interdisciplinary forum in March 2017. Credit: Emory Photo/Video.*

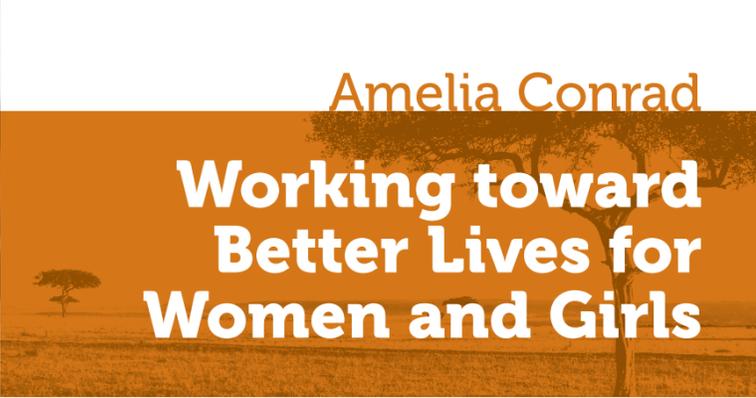
to the archives and to a presidency that happened before they were born. Crespino says the senior seminar class uses the Carter presidency as the basis to study the political culture of the 1970s, a time when economic and political changes on a national scale were reflected in Carter’s election to the presidency.

“Students work on the paper all semester, and then in the last class President Carter comes and they are able to talk to him about the research and ask great questions,” he says. “It is an unprecedented opportunity for students to combine archival research with the oral history of [President Carter] reflecting on that research.” Although some topics are well covered,

sometimes a student will research a topic that leads President Carter to reflect more deeply on a particular issue. “There are a number of instances in which students have chosen off-the-wall topics that spark President Carter’s memory and then they have amazing exchanges,” Crespino says.



Hrair Balian (left) and Tom Crick (right) lead students in lively discussion during their Advanced International Negotiations seminar at Emory School of Law. Credit: Emory Photo/Video.



## Amelia Conrad Working toward Better Lives for Women and Girls

Amelia Conrad at the 2015 IDN event "Graduate Education and Global Development: A Conversation between University Distinguished Professor Jimmy Carter and Graduate Students." Credit: Emory Photo/Video.



## How Peacemakers Work Advanced International Negotiations at Emory School of Law

Students in the Advanced International Negotiations seminar at Emory School of Law might feel a bit more pressure than your average students. The reason? They have some pretty high-powered instructors.

The course was designed in 2003 by Emory Law professor Paul Zwier and Matt Hodes, former director of conflict resolution at The Carter Center. Since then, Hrair Balian, Hodes's successor, and Tom Crick, the Carter Center's associate director of conflict resolution and adjunct professor of law at Emory, have made additional contributions to the course.

The seminar examines complex, multiparty international negotiations—including disputes between nations regarding borders, territories, and rights to natural resources.

### Negotiations on the rocks

Third-year law student Anne Jun chose to examine a centuries-old stalemate between South Korea and Japan over the Liancourt Rocks, a nearly uninhabitable island almost equidistant between the countries. As early as the 17th century, South Korea laid claim to the small island in the East Japan Sea that it refers to as Dokdo and Japan calls Takeshima. Japan says that it annexed the territory in 1905, a claim South Korea refuses to acknowledge.

"Both sides are adamant on this; there are public campaigns in each country, and people are very pas-

sionate about this issue," Jun says. "Both countries should want to resolve this because Korea and Japan could be allies, especially in light of the surge in Chinese power."

### Experience makes the best teachers

"The course was designed to give students both an in-depth look at how peacemakers work in the midst of conflict and also the legal implications of that work," says Zwier. Richly benefiting from the course readings, simulations, and experiences of the instructors and other staff at The Carter Center, students develop negotiation and mediation skills, including prenegotiation strategy planning, negotiation style, and dealing with deadlock, as well as learning how a mediator facilitates conflict resolution.

"The course was designed to give students both an in-depth look at how peacemakers work in the midst of conflict and also the legal implications of that work."

—Paul Zwier  
Professor, Emory School of Law

Says Zwier, "There is just no substitute for the learning that goes on with Hrair Balian and Tom Crick. For example, when Hrair Skyped into the class from Beirut last semester to describe the Syrian group reaction to a Russian proposal, it was priceless. Or when Tom Crick describes waiting for Joseph Kony, a notorious leader of the LRA [Lord's Resistance Army], in a village in Sudan to try to negotiate his surrender, the students really start to learn the hard practicalities and risks involved in the Carter Center's work for peace."

"Understanding the mediation paradigm allows future negotiators to look for benefits for each party rather than a zero-sum approach to negotiation," he says.

Students bring their own experiences that enrich and enliven the class. Zwier cites the examples of a Chinese student advocating for China to negotiate between Israel and Palestine and Nigerian students endeavoring to understand the curse of oil on Nigeria. As Zwier aptly sums up, "The scenarios vary from semester to semester so that they are as close to 'live' as possible. This helps to make the challenges more realistic."

» Maria Lameiras

Former Carter Center graduate assistant Amelia Conrad, a 2016 graduate of the Laney Graduate School, says she decided on a career in international public service while a junior in high school.

As a teenager living in small-town Iowa, two experiences shaped her thinking. Working on the Barack Obama campaign during his first primary season opened her eyes to the world of politics, community organizing, and social justice. Then, traveling to rural Mexico to assist with a weeklong service project through Rotary International got her interested in working internationally.

As an undergraduate political science and international development double major at Tulane University, Conrad refined her interests, learning how power structures and geopolitics play a critical role in the history and ongoing struggles of developing nations. She came to Emory for graduate school, enrolling in the Master's in Development Practice (MDP) Program. Its focus on applied skills and the opportunity for summer international practicums impressed her. She was attracted by the chance to study with faculty who had experience in gender-related programming and ties to CARE and The Carter Center, two major global NGOs in Atlanta.

"My focus in graduate school was on acquiring additional skills and experience to enhance my ability to work toward better lives for women and girls internationally," she says.

Senior lecturer Kristin Phillips, of the Department of Anthropology and the MDP Program, taught Conrad in qualitative and participatory research methods—a class that, says Conrad, "has continued to inform my thinking."

### Applying skills in the field

Conrad spent her first summer practicum with a multidisciplinary Global Health Institute team in two cities in Ethiopia, conducting a medical chart review and designing and implementing an evaluation of two of the country's first sexual-assault-response clinics. In summer 2016, she continued two years of work with the CARE Pathways Program in Atlanta by traveling to Malawi to work with the Malawi Pathways team, assisting with gender analyses and leading an assessment of the ongoing drought's impact on the farmers and communities.

"Both these experiences gave me an incredible opportunity to apply skills I had learned in the classroom in real-world settings," she says, "helping me to recognize both the opportunities and limitations of work in this field and some of the disconnects between theory and practice."

It was on a backpacking trip in Tanzania during her MDP practicum that Conrad received her chance to connect with The Carter Center. The MDP Program director, David Nugent, emailed her to ask if she

might be interested in working with the center and its Global Access to Information (ATI) Program. She was.

Since 1999, the Global ATI Program has worked in partnership with governments and civil society organizations. "At times," Conrad says, "this has taken the form of supporting the improvement, passage, and implementation of an access-to-information law. However, when legislation is not practical or possible, the Global ATI Program has adopted creative solutions and continued to strengthen the capacity of local actors to enhance access to and utilization of public records."

Laura Neuman, director of the Global ATI Program, says she selected Conrad because of the experience and training in monitoring and evaluation Conrad received through Emory. She assigned Conrad to conduct an evaluation of the previous 15 years of Global ATI work in five countries—Jamaica, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Mali, and China. During the year-long project, Conrad developed an instrument for interviews and a system for evaluation. "Her efforts already have had an impact and they will influence the program's future development," says Neuman.

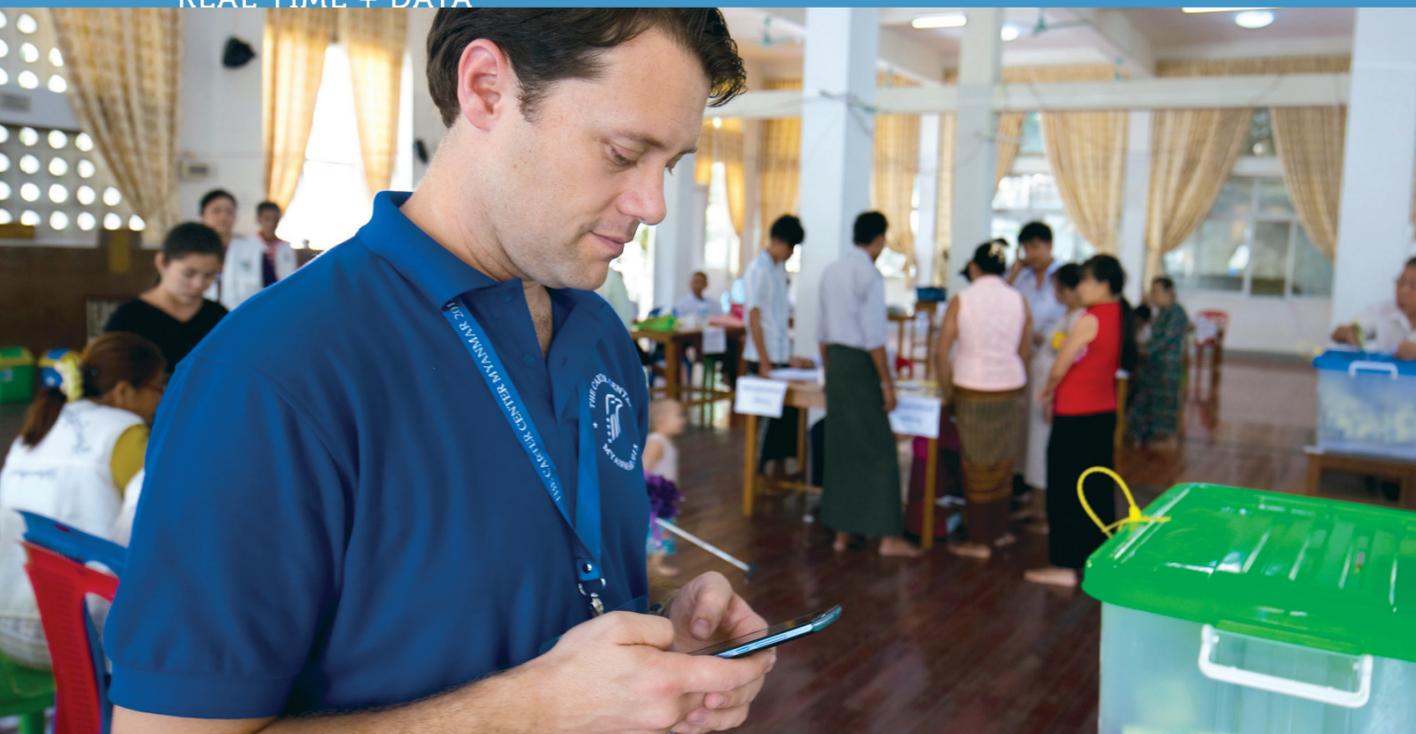
"I would like to continue to be involved in working for gender equality, perhaps working in the field internationally."  
—Amelia Conrad

### To be continued

Today, Conrad is a research assistant with the international division of the consulting firm JBS International. Although planning to learn as much as she can in that role, she says, "I would like to continue to be involved in working for gender equity, perhaps working in the field internationally, and would consider a PhD focused on these issues later on."

Her high school self would be proud.

» Jane Howell



Jason Carter, chair of the Carter Center Board of Trustees and grandson of President and Mrs. Carter, enters information about a Myanmar polling site into a smartphone running ELMO. Carter's observations were transmitted to the center's in-country headquarters in real time, allowing for quick data aggregation. Credit: The Carter Center/R. Borden.

## A Shared Tool—A Shared Purpose

There is Elmo, and then there is ELMO. This is not the story of the former—the furry red monster with the falsetto voice. It is rather the tale of the latter—an open-source, data-collection, and reporting system developed to improve the Carter Center's election-observation efforts.

ELMO debuted during elections in the Cherokee Nation and Liberia in 2011 and has been used by Carter Center missions since then. Carter Center Board of Trustees Chair Jason Carter used the tool in Myanmar's fall 2015 election—a complicated affair in which 90 political parties participated and hundreds of thousands of Rohingya, an oppressed Muslim-minority population in the country, were removed from the voter rolls. As Carter acknowledged, "The military . . . put their thumb on the scale of the electoral process. . . . But—within that flawed framework—all of the political parties, including the main opposition, participated."

Given the challenging situations that many foreign elections present, ELMO is a powerful tool. With observers transmitting their findings in real time, a richer picture emerges of an unfolding election, allowing observation missions to determine more quickly if an election is credible. Moreover, ELMO can be used for data collection in other areas as well.

To broaden the scholarly and practical applications of the tool, the Laney Graduate School, The Carter Center, and the Institute for Developing Nations agreed to do two things: to contribute funds for ELMO Initiative Graduate Fellows, who each serve an academic year, and to provide funding for those wishing to use ELMO for predissertation fieldwork in developing countries.

### Big data, not bulging suitcases

Grant Buckles was the first fellow in 2015–2016, and he laughs at the irony that he did not have ELMO to ease his burden during fieldwork. A political science doctoral student in Laney Graduate

School, Buckles studies opposition parties in nondemocracies, with a focus on the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. At one point, during fieldwork in South Africa, he ended up dragging home two suitcases full of paper surveys.

From the moment that he began working with The Carter Center in fall 2015, when refinement of the tool was continuing, Buckles was a convert. As he notes, "ELMO is specifically for areas with poor communications infrastructure, places with sporadic internet or cellular access."

Beyond contributing to the ongoing development of the tool, fellows agree to hold three informational/training sessions a year to introduce Emory students and faculty to ELMO. According to Buckles, graduate students are the ideal population to use ELMO, given that they have a smaller research budget and professional network when conducting fieldwork than faculty. Nonetheless, the 2016–2017 fellow, Siti Sarah Muwahidah, a doctoral candidate in the Graduate Division of Religion, indicates that faculty members are intrigued by the possibilities of ELMO as well.

Observes Buckles, "I do purely academic research. Working at The Carter Center helped me factor in the perspective of practitioners. I thought about how my work could contribute to their work and to broader groups that do election monitoring. Each side can learn from the other." *» Susan M. Carini*

"I do purely academic research. Working at The Carter Center helped me factor in the perspective of practitioners. . . . Each side can learn from the other."

—Grant Buckles, former ELMO Initiative Graduate Fellow

## Rebekah Stewart Schicker A Carter Center Project That Altered a Career

Rebekah Stewart Schicker presenting her research at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in November 2014.

While pursuing a dual master's of science in nursing and public health at Emory, Rebekah Stewart Schicker learned about an opportunity to conduct malaria research with migrant populations in Ethiopia alongside epidemiologist Greg Noland at The Carter Center.

"I was interested in doing something with mobile populations because that is what I had tried to focus my coursework on at Rollins [School of Public Health]," Schicker says. "The Carter Center has been supporting malaria control and elimination in Ethiopia since the mid-2000s, and they've made substantial progress as a country."

One of the areas where a higher incidence of the disease was being reported was a vast area of farmland in the country's northwest, where large groups of migrant farmworkers travel during the agricultural season.

### Two theories about malaria's hold on a region

"The question was whether this group of people was more exposed to malaria or if they had less access to health care or health resources than the rest of Ethiopia when they got infected," Schicker says. "We wanted to know if we could find out more about this population to see if they have more malaria than we were seeing in the rest of the population."

When she joined the project, members of the Carter Center team suggested that she reach out to the Institute for Developing Nations for funding. "Because it was within the specifications of what they support, and because I was a graduate student, it was a natural fit," Schicker says. She traveled to Ethiopia in June 2013 and spent nine weeks leading the research project "from start to finish."

"With the help of Greg and the team in Ethiopia, I designed the survey and the sampling strategy. I came up with the protocols and tried to visit all of the areas where the survey took place to get buy-in from the stakeholders," Schicker says.

The team then trained local data collectors who were Ministry of Health personnel and nurses from other regions in Ethiopia who spent two weeks in the field administering the survey, as well as rapid testing all those who participated for malaria and anemia. Those who tested positive for malaria were treated, while those with anemia were referred to the nearest health center.

### Answers from a well-designed study

"These workers weren't traveling as far as we thought or crossing as many administrative lines," Schicker says.

The prevalence of malaria in this group was about 12 percent higher than in most of the rest of the country—a major finding. Looking



for differences in the group's conditions, the study focused on sleeping arrangements and a lack of preventive measures.

Based on the findings, the research team held brainstorming sessions with Ministry of Health personnel, professionals at health centers nearby, and Carter Center Ethiopian staff to figure out how to help the farm workers, for whom traditional preventive measures were not suitable.

Says Schicker, "One idea was doing treatment testing when people come in to work and providing treatment at that time through health posts during the in-and-out migration of the workers. Another was providing farm owners with treatments they could give employees if they became sick, because the farmlands are vast, making it hard to access health care. Another idea was to secure the large housing units shared by workers with some sort of netting over the whole thing or even trying to provide workers who were sleeping outside with nets."

These recommendations were conveyed to the Ministry of Health and the malaria program in Ethiopia.

Currently, Schicker is an epidemic intelligence service officer with the Influenza Division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For several months during the 2015 Ebola epidemic, she was an Ebola-response clinician with Partners in Health.

"When I think about the work I want to do, I'd like to reposition it back toward working with migrant populations, including US migrant populations," she says. "The opportunities I have had to expand my work through living in Atlanta and working at The Carter Center and with the CDC have definitely changed the course of my career."

» Maria Lameiras

"The opportunities I have had to expand my work through living in Atlanta and working with The Carter Center and the CDC have definitely changed the course of my career."

—Rebekah Stewart Schicker



# Advancing Mental Health: Mrs. Carter's Signature Program

by Janece Shaffer

"I am not aware of any university in the country that has within it an organization specifically and actively dedicated to improving lives globally, nationally, and locally."

—Benjamin Druss  
Rosalynn Carter Chair in Mental Health

*Left to right: 2000, Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy at The Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Credit: The Carter Center. 1999, Rosalynn Carter visits Abriendo Puertas, an Annie E. Casey Mental Health Initiative for Urban Children, in Miami. Credit: The Carter Center.*

It's 4:30 in the morning, early spring 1970, and a young Rosalynn Carter stands outside an Atlanta cotton mill as the shift changes. She is there handing out campaign brochures to the mill workers about her husband, Jimmy, and his aspirations to be the next governor of Georgia. A woman comes out of the mill—heavy with exhaustion and covered in lint. Mrs. Carter greets her, "Good morning. I hope you are going to go home and get some rest." The woman responds, "Well, Mrs. Carter, I hope I can get [some] too because I have a mentally ill daughter at home. My husband's salary doesn't allow me to have good help for her, so we do the best we can."

That afternoon, unable to stop thinking about that mother, Mrs. Carter gets in a receiving line to surprise her husband, shake his hand, and ask him what so many would soon ask her on the campaign trail, "What will you do about mental health in the state of Georgia?"

His answer: "We're going to have the best program in the country, and I'm going to put you in charge of it." Thus began a 45-plus-year commitment to improve the lives of those dealing with mental illness in Georgia, the country, and ultimately around the world.



Soon after taking office, Governor Carter established the Commission to Improve Services for the Mentally and Emotionally Handicapped, to which he appointed Mrs. Carter. She worked on it for four years, volunteering in hospitals and learning about the issues. When she became First Lady of the United States, she made the advancement of mental health her priority, providing leadership for the President's Commission on Mental Health and helping to bring about passage of the 1980 Mental Health System Act.

After leaving the White House, Mrs. Carter continued making inroads, turning to the Emory Department of Psychiatry for help in launching the annual Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy in 1985. Once the permanent facilities of The Carter Center opened, the symposium moved there from the Emory campus, and the Carter Center Mental Health Program began under Mrs. Carter's leadership. The program works to promote awareness about mental health issues, inform public policy, achieve equity for mental health care comparable to other health care, and reduce stigma and discrimination against those with mental illnesses.

## Flying high with a new director

Through the years, the program has been supported by a mutually enriching, dynamic relationship with Emory that has spurred innovation and cross-collaboration. The engagement has included the Emory departments of psychiatry and psychology, the Rollins School of Public Health, and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing.

Eve Byrd is the newly appointed director of the Mental Health Program and remembers meeting the Carters. She was 22 years old, at Emory to pursue a second bachelor's degree—this one in nursing. "It was announced that President Carter was coming to speak at the School of Nursing. I was president of the Student Nursing Association, and I got to introduce him. I almost couldn't get through it. This was a man I had looked up to all my life."

Byrd got through both the introduction and the nursing program. She went on to earn her nurse practitioner's license and a master's in public health at Emory. As a graduate student, she regularly attended Carter Center events, where the former First Lady made a powerful impression on her. She could not imagine then that she would be tapped to be director of the Mental Health Program under Mrs. Carter's direction.

## Journalistic support

A major accomplishment of the program is the Rosalynn Carter Fellowship for Mental Health Journalism, which works to reduce stigma and discrimination by developing a cadre

of professional journalists who are knowledgeable about mental health. In the past 21 years, close to 200 journalists have participated from the US and selected nations around the world.

Emory faculty advisers recently helped assess the results attained by the journalism fellows. According to Rebecca Palpant Shimkets, program associate director responsible for the journalism fellowships, "As a result of our evaluation, we know that one in seven Rosalynn Carter Fellows impacts public policy in some way."

## Fitting fuss about Druss

As the first Rosalynn Carter Chair in Mental Health at Rollins, Benjamin Druss serves on the Mental Health Taskforce and Journalism Advisory Board.

Academia, he says, is the three-legged stool of research, training, and real-world service. "The Carter Center has played a role in all three at Emory," he explains. "I am not aware of any university in the country that has within it an organization specifically and actively dedicated to improving lives globally, nationally, and locally."

# Control, Elimination, Eradication

*When The Carter Center, Emory, and the CDC join forces, new possibilities emerge*

by Paige Parvin

Trachoma, caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*, is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness, affecting millions of people in communities that lack access to clean water and sanitation.

Like most neglected tropical diseases, it's not a sickness that you catch from the sheer bad luck of an isolated exposure. It's an opportunistic bacterial infection that slips a foot in the door and then hangs around just because it can—taking full advantage of hands that can't get thoroughly washed, clothes that can't be machine-laundered, and low-humming flies that can't be kept away from the eyes for more than a few seconds. Left untreated, the infection keeps coming back, leading to scarring and inward turning of the eyelid—a painful condition called trichiasis—that eventually leads to blindness.

In 1988, the International Task Force for Disease Eradication was created at The Carter Center to evaluate disease control and prevention and the potential for eradication. Scientists and international health organizations have identified eight diseases that potentially could be eradicated: Guinea worm (dracunculiasis), poliomyelitis, mumps, rubella, lymphatic filariasis, cysticercosis, measles, and yaws.



Left to right: Carter Center staff member Kelly Callahan shares photos with a group of boys during a trip to Ghana in 2010. Credit: N. Farese. Rosalynn Carter greets schoolgirls suffering from schistosomiasis in Nigeria in 2007. Credit: The Carter Center/L. Gubb.



Five years later, that task force became the first international body to decide that it was scientifically feasible to wipe out blindness caused by trachoma—although not to eliminate the infection or the microbe itself. And since 1999, the center's Trachoma Control Program has worked with the Mali and Niger National Trachoma Programs to implement the WHO SAFE strategy—surgery, antibiotics, facial cleanliness, and environmental improvement.

Kelly Callahan oversees the program, working in partnership with the ministries of health in six African countries to treat more than 37 million people annually. Like many of her colleagues at The Carter Center and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Callahan earned an MPH from Emory's Rollins School of Public Health and has remained an active alumna, returning to lecture in classes and mentoring Rollins students.

During nearly 20 years with The Carter Center, Callahan also has led public health efforts in some of the most difficult parts of the world, including southern Sudan, where she operated from Nairobi, Kenya, to manage three Carter Center health programs—Guinea worm disease

elimination, river blindness control (now elimination), and trachoma control—in more than 6,000 villages in an active war zone. During that time, she was responsible for the distribution of more than 9.2 million personal water filters and served as an elected representative to the UN umbrella organization Operation Lifeline Sudan. Callahan was named director of the Trachoma Control Program in 2014.

“When I look at the maps of active trachoma prevalence, we have made significant progress over the years,” Callahan says. Her goal is to increase the work to prevent the long-term, recurring trachoma infections that can lead to blindness through community education about facial cleanliness and environmental improvements such as building latrines to reduce the fly population.

Callahan recently visited a surgery camp in Ethiopia where free eyelid surgery is provided to correct trichiasis. “A grandmother was holding her grandchild while the mother had surgery on both eyes,” she says. “It perfectly represented past,

Left to right: 2008, a health worker distributes azithromycin to treat trachoma in Ethiopia. Credit: The Carter Center/P. Emerson. A student displays the results of his schistosomiasis test in the Ndinjor community of Nigeria. Credit: The Carter Center/T. Saater. Mrs. Carter meets community members in Tingoli, Ghana. Credit: The Carter Center/L. Gubb. President Carter comforts a Ghanaian girl as she has a Guinea worm removed. Credit: The Carter Center/L. Gubb.



current, and future. In the past we had performed surgery on the grandmother. Currently we were taking care of the mother. And the child should not need surgery in the future.”

### Targeting elimination

The disease onchocerciasis—more commonly known as river blindness—is endemic to 37 countries in Africa and Latin America, with some 99 percent of cases in Africa. About 120 million people worldwide are at risk for river blindness, which is transmitted by black flies that breed near fast-moving waterways. When they bite humans, these flies can pass along small thread-like parasites, which mate and send thousands of microfilaria into the skin and eyes—causing intense itching, skin rashes and, in the worst cases, blindness.

Thanks to collaborative efforts led by The Carter Center, the disease has been eliminated from four of the six countries affected in Latin America through twice-a-year, community-based treatment with the medicine Mectizan (ivermectin), which is donated by Merck in an agreement partially coordinated by the Task Force for Global Health, an Emory partner. In Africa, health officials have mostly sought to control

river blindness by reducing the number of cases. But the success of semiannual mass drug administration in Latin America has raised hopes that the disease can be eliminated from some African countries as well.

One of the most hopeful is Moses Katarwa, a native of Uganda who now is equally at home at Emory and The Carter Center. Katarwa was working with the River Blindness Foundation in 1996 when the center absorbed the organization and added the disease to its global health objectives. Leaders helped him earn a master of public health at Rollins, where he is now an adjunct professor of epidemiology, as well as senior epidemiologist for the Carter Center’s river blindness, lymphatic filariasis, and schistosomiasis programs. He received Emory’s Sheth Distinguished International Alumni Award in 2005.

Katarwa has used his knowledge to tap into community kinship structures, train local volunteers, and dramatically increase the number of people treated with Mectizan. “Incorporating kinship groups in treatment efforts for onchocerciasis is the cheapest and most convenient way to serve vulnerable groups such as the elderly and children, because members of kinships do not require monetary incentives as a condition for providing services to their kinsmen,” he says.

Carter Center leaders hope that Uganda’s ambitious goal of elimination by 2020 will pave the way for other African countries to follow suit.

Program director Frank Richards joined The Carter Center after spending 23 years at the CDC Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria and the Epidemic Intelligence Service. Richards also has served on the Emory School of Medicine faculty as associate clinical professor of pediatric infectious

disease and continues to teach in both the schools of medicine and public health as an adjunct faculty member.

“Moving from control to elimination is a crucial turning point in the fight against river blindness,” Richards says. “Once elimination becomes the goal, it is no longer business as usual. A program and its partners must ratchet up interventions.”

### Countdown to zero

President and Mrs. Carter first learned about Guinea worm disease, the gruesome parasitic infection in which worms emerge from people’s skin, in 1986. The Carters, after thorough study of the affliction, became convinced that The Carter Center should lead a campaign to eradicate this neglected disease from the world.

The center’s partnerships with the CDC and Emory made eradication a highly ambitious but realistic goal. Along with the Carters, three individuals with Carter Center, CDC, and Emory links have been the heroes and leaders of this effort. William H. Foege directed The Carter Center and led its health programs when the eradication program was launched. Donald R. Hopkins was then deputy director of the CDC, but he helped design the initiative and in 1987 came to The Carter Center to lead it. In 1992, Ernesto Ruiz-Tiben joined the center to direct the Guinea Worm Eradication Program and has been the backbone of the effort since. He too came from CDC with more than 27 years of experience as a commissioned officer of the US Public Health Service.

Foege, Presidential Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Health at the Rollins School of Public Health, has been a longtime advocate of institutional collaboration. As a CDC epidemiologist, he learned the value of collaboration from his work in the successful campaign, for which he devised the strategy, to eradicate smallpox in the 1970s. President Carter appointed him director of the CDC in 1977 and then, in 1986, when Foege left government service, Carter convinced him to join The Carter Center as its executive director. Foege also served as the founding director of the Task Force for Child Survival (now the Task Force for Global Health). After stepping down in 1992 as Carter Center executive director, Foege continued to work with the center from Emory, the Task Force for Child Survival, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where he served as senior medical adviser from 1999 until 2001.

Like Foege, Don Hopkins has won international acclaim for a distinguished career at CDC, The Carter Center, and Emory, where he has taught

in the Rollins School of Public Health. From Foege’s Presidential Medal of Freedom to Hopkins’s MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship, they have been honored at the highest levels. Hopkins followed Foege as the head of health programs at The Carter Center. Stepping down in 2016, Hopkins continues as special adviser to the Guinea Worm Eradication Program.

Thanks to their combined efforts, as well as involvement of the World Health Organization and others,

“The Carter Center health programs have pioneered eradication, elimination, and control of neglected tropical diseases for more than a quarter century. We have seen, time and again, that people at the grassroots level can improve their own lives dramatically when they have access to the appropriate tools and knowledge.”

—Ambassador (Ret.) Mary Ann Peters  
CEO, The Carter Center

the incidence of cases of Guinea worm disease has been reduced from an estimated 3.5 million in 1986 to 25 in 2016. The disease is poised to become only the second in history to be declared eradicated, following smallpox in 1980. And it will be the first to be eradicated due to behavioral changes rather than a vaccine.

The program relies on Carter Center staff and interns, Emory public health students and alumni, ministries of health in endemic nations, and trained local volunteers to help track every infection and to lead community-based intervention practices so that residents filter the parasite from their drinking and cooking water.

“The need to engage villages respectfully in addressing their health problems is one of the most important lessons of the Guinea worm eradication campaign,” says Hopkins.

In November 2016, the Carter Center health programs celebrated a milestone—assisting with the distribution of 500 million doses of donated medication to combat five neglected tropical diseases in 14 countries in Africa and Latin America.

“The Carter Center health programs have pioneered eradication, elimination, and control of neglected tropical diseases for more than a quarter century,” says Ambassador (Ret.) Mary Ann Peters, the center’s CEO. “We have seen, time and again, that people at the grassroots level can improve their lives dramatically when they have access to the appropriate tools and knowledge.”

# Public Health Training Initiative

In the late 1990s, a landmark partnership between The Carter Center and the Ethiopian government created a system to expand health care access for some 75 million inhabitants, especially those in rural settings.

When the program began in 1997, Ethiopia had one of the lowest life expectancies in the world and one of the highest infant mortality rates. By working with seven Ethiopian universities and the government’s ministries of health and education, the efforts to broaden access to critical care services achieved remarkable success. Today, professionals trained through the program serve 90 percent of the population.

The Carter Center in 2007 organized a conference with nine African countries to discuss lessons learned and best practices. That led Sudan and Nigeria to request similar assistance. In those countries, according to the World Health Organization, a similar health care workforce crisis exists, with particular emphasis on services for mothers and children. In 2014, five-year engagements began with both countries.

During the past several years, the center partnered with Emory’s Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing to refine the pedagogical skills of health educators as well as develop, adapt, and standardize midwifery and community health

worker curricula to increase the number of skilled health professionals in child and maternal health. Beyond the important focus on the care of women and children, Seseni Nu, associate director for special health projects, says, “Ultimately, this work has implications that are larger. The goal is to strengthen the countries’ health care systems overall.”

As with all Carter Center projects, the aim is self-sufficiency—for control to reside fully in the countries themselves. To that end, the governments of Nigeria and Sudan will take full ownership and institutionalize the lessons of the Public Health Training Initiative throughout their target communities.



## Nicole Devereaux

# Changing Habits, Changing Minds

Nicole Devereaux (center) with a study team in Lalibela, Ethiopia.

Long-term, hard-to-shake cultural practices and beliefs can play a role in spreading disease—even when people are desperate to wipe it out. That’s true of trachoma, the bacterial eye infection that the Carter Center’s Trachoma Control Program and an alliance of partners hope to eliminate by 2020.

To change habits regarding trachoma, Devereaux worked with the Carter Center’s Ethiopia office to collect and analyze data for sanitation and hygiene education.

Nicole Devereaux, an MPH student at Emory’s Rollins School of Public Health, spent summer 2015 working with the center’s Ethiopia office collecting and analyzing data for sanitation and hygiene education. Trachoma is prevalent mostly in Africa and the Middle East, in isolated communities lacking basic hygiene, clean

water, and adequate sanitation. It spreads easily from person to person via eye-seeking flies, hands, and clothes. Ethiopia has the highest known prevalence of trachoma in the world, and its Amhara Regional National State has the most cases in the country.

In February 2015, the Trachoma Control Program piloted a study in the region to evaluate opportunities to better address facial cleanliness and environmental improvement, two arms of the WHO-recommended SAFE strategy. Devereaux joined the study in June to conduct final data collection and analysis. Households in 10 Amhara zones were surveyed, with focus groups conducted among teachers, students, and community leaders.

### Encouraging new practices

The survey found that Amhara schools did not discuss trachoma in curriculum materials before fifth grade, and teaching about hygiene and sanitation was limited as well. Traditional community

beliefs held that smoke, dust, and crying were causes of trachoma, which residents tried to treat with harmful practices such as eyelash plucking and eyelid cutting.

Although those surveyed reported washing their faces as part of their daily home hygiene routine, many said they sometimes skipped washing their face at the end of the day because they were too busy or too tired. What’s more, a cultural stigma toward being “too clean” endured among community members, especially women, who were thought to be negligent in their household duties if they appeared too clean.

Outside of personal habits, the lack of soap and clean water were structural barriers to better hygiene. Yet the study found widespread understanding about the health benefits of using latrines and washing one’s face regularly.

### Creating teaching tools

Each of these findings confirmed the need for a comprehensive educational approach to trachoma. The Trachoma Control Program staff presented the survey information at a workshop for Amhara education officials, teachers, principals, and health care workers. They discussed the toll trachoma takes on communities and stressed the need for new teaching materials revised to address sanitation and hygiene. The program staff sought the educators’ feedback on developing grade-specific lesson plans as well.

The school district now uses supplementary educational materials created specifically for it by The Carter Center, in partnership with regional health and education officials. However, many teachers would like to see the materials included in the school system’s basic curriculum. They believe including this would go a long way toward eliminating the hygiene issues and other behaviors that contribute to the ongoing prevalence of trachoma.

This would be a major improvement, but students also need access to clean latrines and clean water to put proper practices to use—a problem that will require the efforts of government officials and community leaders to solve.

The Carter Center continues to revise the materials as well as develop appropriate visual aids to accompany them. Incorporating Devereaux’s analysis into the materials has ensured that each misconception and barrier she noted was addressed.

» Stacey Jones

# Q & A

with Carter Center Board of Trustees Member Terry Adamson

*Adamson earned a BA from Emory University, a JD from the Emory School of Law, and spent a year as a fellow in the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government. He is the vice president for global law affairs at the Boeing Company and previously served as chief legal officer, senior adviser to the president and CEO, and head of international publishing at National Geographic Society. He has been a member of the Carter Center Board of Trustees for 24 years.*

*Paige Parvin facilitated a conversation with Adamson about his service.*



*How did you first encounter The Carter Center and how did you come to serve as a member of the board of trustees?*

It was because of Emory that I first met Jimmy Carter in 1964. I was a high school senior, and he was a 39-year-old state senator. My Calhoun, Georgia, high school debate team had won Emory’s Barkley Forum that year. Emory’s legendary debate coach, Glenn Pelham, was also in the state senate. Pelham had a knack for ceremony and brought our debate team to the Capitol for a resolution marking this success, and he introduced us to Carter. President Carter doesn’t remember that, of course.

More than a year later, I invited Carter to Emory to speak to the Young Democrats, all 30 of whom showed up. He was then running for Congress but soon after switched to the race for governor. During the 1966 election, I was state youth chair for one of his opponents, former Governor Ellis Arnall, a fact President Carter has never forgotten and about which he has often reminded me. Carter placed a close third in the original primary. Arnall lost the Democratic Primary in a runoff to Lester Maddox. When Carter successfully ran for governor in 1970, I was a reporter for the *Atlanta Constitution*. Carter wasn’t perceived as the front-runner then, so I—the greenest reporter on the beat—often covered Carter’s campaign. Carter believes that I was on the wrong side then too, given that the *Constitution* favored his opponent. He won that election handily.

During his presidency, I served as an assistant to Griffin B. Bell, the attorney general. I had been one of his law clerks on the old Fifth Circuit after Emory Law.

On October 5, 1981, Jimmy and Rosalynn asked me to represent them in what became a highly visible dispute with the *Washington Post* over a false item in a gossip column, which ended very well for the president’s interests. That morphed and led into many legal and other matters for the Carters during the next 36 years, including the creation and evolution of The Carter Center itself.

All of this has been, for me, a labor of love. I’ve always considered any contribution I could make to The Carter Center and Emory as a payback for all I owed to both, though my debt only grows.

The Carter Center complex was dedicated on October 1, 1986, and already many ties between Emory and the center had formed. The center’s programs evolved around the general philosophy of addressing real problems impacting people in thematic areas that the Carters always have cared about.

The opportunity to help formalize the Emory-Carter Center relationship occurred after Jim Laney retired and Billy Frye became interim president of Emory. Frye proposed that we formalize the relationship prior to the arrival of a new Emory president. I represented the Carters and the center, and Joe Crook, then Emory’s general counsel, represented Emory. We were part of a larger dialogue that occurred among a group of Emory trustees such as Ben Johnson, Brad Curry, Conley Ingram, and others, along with some of the center’s key actors, such as Charlie Kirbo, John Hardman, Bob Lipshutz, Dan Lee, Bill Foege, and of course Billy Frye and the Carters.

The result was the creation of The Carter Center as an entity that is a part of Emory University, uniquely governed by a group of Emory-appointed and Carter Center-appointed trustees, but operating from the beginning and ever since as one board. From the beginning, I have been privileged to be one of those members. The center has benefited by the many years of leadership of the Carters, chief executive officers such as John Hardman and now Ambassador Mary Ann Peters, key leaders of Emory such as Jim Wagner, Ben Johnson, and Brad Curry, as well as so many esteemed Emory leaders who also became leaders of The Carter Center by virtue of their role as members of the board of directors. As a result, important, effective, and notable programs in peace and democracy, mental health, and public health care have grown and met with much success. The center also has had effective fundraising to run its ongoing operations and programs, as well as a great story to build a significant endowment. The Carter Center-Emory alliance is a marvelous partnership.

*What about the work of The Carter Center inspires you?*

Every aspect. Every member of the board, management, and staff of The Carter Center is an inspiration. Every story they tell about what they do and how they overcome the many obstacles to improving people's lives are visionary and heroic.

*What is the work itself like? Is it a complete departure from your professional career, or is it related; and, if so, how?*

I've always felt that my day job and the work of The Carter Center have been complementary. Jimmy and Rosalynn have always been helpful to me in everything I have asked. I've gone on a number of trips over the years with the Carters, most frequently to China and Japan. One by-product has been the opportunity to meet significant leaders in these countries. I don't believe it a coincidence that National Geographic was able to make inroads in China after meeting President Jiang Zemin with the Carters.

I always have tried to find ways, if possible, for my professional work to benefit them and the center. I hope there are many examples of that.

But to cite just one: some years ago, President and Mrs. Carter agreed to come to National Geographic to speak to our first meeting of all of our international partners and an annual meeting of all the photographers. Their coming was then huge for me and National Geographic.

In an attempt to make the visit worthwhile for the Carters, I secretly invited their grandson, Jason Carter, who was finishing his two-year Peace Corps assignment in South Africa, to come to Washington and surprise them. The Peace Corps cooperated and the surprise worked. Jason did an eloquent, moving, and funny dinner speech, beginning in Swahili.

The room was filled with ambassadors. The head of National Geographic's book division was present and approached Jason about doing a book about his Peace Corps experience. It was published by National Geographic and called *Power Lines*. We organized a mammoth book-launch event, and President and Mrs. Carter came back to National Geographic with Jason to promote the book. It is a matter of great pride for the Carters, and me, that Jason now chairs the board of The Carter Center.

*Are there specific experiences or anecdotes that come to mind when you consider your experience with The Carter Center?*

There are many, of course. Some old memories are especially poignant: for example, the chance to work with Warren Christopher on his dedicatory speech in 1986 at the center about the challenge and opportunity for additional public service by former presidents. Or the serendipity of being present when a close friend of President Carter, Tadao Yoshida, then the head of YKK, came for a meeting and said he wanted to contribute a Japanese garden to the center. I mentioned as an aside a famous Japanese gardener, Kinsaku Nakane, whom I had met in 1975 through a fellow Luce Scholar in Japan. Nakane subsequently was commissioned to build, with his son Shiro, the important garden that adorns the grounds of the center today.

*What Carter Center initiatives or programs have you engaged with during your time on the board?*

There are many. As examples, I've enjoyed the China Program, built on President Carter's strong standing in China arising from normalized relations with the US and friendship with Deng Xiaoping. I've worked with the transparency programs in the peace field, which has even had positive impact in authoritarian countries such as China. The Mental Health Program, championed by Rosalynn, has been extremely important, especially in training journalists about reporting on mental health issues. There have been times I have been involved in human rights issues. I was interested and involved to some extent in the engagement in Nepal to hold fair elections when the Maoists were in control of the government.

*Ideally, what do you envision for the center's future?*

The Carter Center has become a great and respected institution. Its fabric always has been inspired by the Carters, but as an institution it can and will continue with effective programs around its cardinal principles, even without their personal involvement. Its governance structure with Emory is sound and mutually beneficial to both institutions. The center's mission is well established, it has a tradition of effective leaders, and the center has a solid financial base on which it may continue to evolve and provide effective programs to benefit people around the world—all based on the values embedded deeply by the founders, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter.



View from the Japanese garden at The Carter Center, Atlanta, Georgia. Credit: The Carter Center.

## Robert Shannon

# Stopping Violence against Women and Girls in West Africa

Robert Shannon meets President Carter at the 2015 IDN event "Graduate Education and Global Development: A Conversation between University Distinguished Professor Jimmy Carter and Graduate Students." Credit: Emory Photo/Video.



Whether in our homes or in our nations, the violence that stems from conflict must be reckoned with before discernible progress can be made to alleviate poverty, food scarcity, and other worldwide threats to public health.

### Defining a role for men

Freedom from violence—domestic or state-sponsored—is a human right. Robert Shannon, a 2016 graduate of Emory's Laney Graduate School, worked to make that point by helping participants in the 2016 Human Rights Defenders International Forum in Accra, Ghana, consider an intersectional approach—one that combines feminist and human rights theory—to countering faith-based ideas that perpetuate inequality and gender-based violence against women and girls. A graduate intern, he worked with former IDN Director Sita Ranchod-Nilsson and Danielle Taylor, Carter Center program associate for human rights, as a gender consultant to the conference.

Before pursuing a master's in development practice (MDP) at Emory, Shannon worked in Ghana on and off for two years. Ranchod-Nilsson thought this experience made him a good fit to support the conference. "My background in looking at men's issues of gender, violence, and development, and how that perspective can inform work done for violence against women in West Africa—the human rights forum theme—were all contributing factors to my involvement," he says.

The MDP Program requires students to undertake two practicums in their area of interest with an organization of their choosing. Shannon's interests lie in democracy and conflict. His first practicum was a project in Sri Lanka to reduce intimate partner violence and human rights abuses in marginalized Tamil communities on tea plantations. However, he got two for one with this internship. "I was aware of IDN and the work they do with The Carter Center before starting the MDP, and they were the places I really wanted to work," he says, adding, "Danielle and the rest of the Human Rights Program staff represented a huge wealth of knowledge and experience that I was able to tap into to understand better how to do thoughtful work."

### One man makes the trip of a lifetime

The human rights forum, an ongoing initiative of The Carter Center, was convened in December 2015 with West African partner orga-

nizations. Chaired by former President Jimmy Carter, it brought together more than 60 scholars, activists, and religious leaders. Shannon assisted Ranchod-Nilsson in facilitating a workshop on Women in Leadership with political, media, religious, and human rights thought leaders from around West Africa.

To achieve gender equality, Shannon says, "We must consider the unique needs of men and boys and women and girls and the ways in which those needs intersect." Realizing the complexities of gender and intersectionality as well as thinking about complex power relations can work toward facilitating change.

"These approaches need to leverage the relationships of men and women in different contexts and understand ways in which both groups can be allies for one another," he adds.

This doesn't mean that looking at both groups separately isn't worthwhile. You can still look at men and women as distinct "actors who have their own needs and issues that should be addressed," he says.

Shannon's work on the forum cemented his desire to do future work with The Carter Center. He had that opportunity the following summer, when he was able to work with the Mental Health Program in Liberia.

» Stacey Jones

"I was aware of IDN and the work they do with The Carter Center before starting the MDP, and they were the places I really wanted to work."  
—Robert Shannon

# Knowledge Leaders:

## *Carter Center Interns Share an Interest in the Public Good*

by Jane Howell and Stacey Jones

From the Carter Center's founding in 1982, Emory students have engaged as interns in its programs and activities. Educational Programs evolved to include students and recent graduates from other higher education institutions. The experience extends "far beyond the areas of research and analysis by combining interns' academic studies with practical application," says Lauren Kent-Delany, director of the center's Educational Programs.

Thirty-five years later, more than 3,000 interns and graduate assistants have had the opportunity to advance peace and health worldwide while exploring potential careers. The program draws from across the globe, but Emory remains its largest source. Here is what some recent Emory interns have experienced.

### Patrick Toure

Patrick Toure—a 2016 graduate of Emory College—produced research documents during his Carter Center internship, including an overview of China's interests in the Sahel region of Africa, an analysis of rebellions and peace agreements in Mali, and a description of the political climate of Togo. He also helped draft an article on Africa-China-US tripartite cooperation and provided daily news updates on Mali, Sudan, and South Sudan, as well as China's involvement in Africa.

Toure says his internship allowed him to connect theory and practice by performing substantive work in his areas of interest. "I experienced essential aspects of diplomacy. I observed high-level officials identifying avenues for collaborative action," he says. "I expanded my understanding of key transnational issues inhibiting peace and security in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as in the Sahel, and understood how security and development are interconnected."

Today, he works as an intern at the UN Refugee Agency in Geneva, in the External Relations Unit within the Regional Bureau for Africa. There, he is helping to plan and implement Africa Shares, an advocacy event aiming to alter the narrative surrounding displaced populations in Africa. Toure recently began a master's degree in international development.

### Kate Nelson

"My internship came at a particularly challenging time," says Kate Nelson, who received a master's in public health from Emory in 2016, "as West Africa was struggling with the Ebola epidemic." As a result, her job responsibilities as an intern in the Carter Center's Access to Justice in Liberia Program quickly grew to include monitoring, evaluating, and documenting community-based strategies to combat Ebola.

Today, she is serving as a Community Health Improvement Project volunteer in the Peace Corps in a rural Zambian village. She develops, implements, monitors, and evaluates community-based programs focused on malaria, HIV/AIDS, and maternal and child health/nutrition. She is also a liaison between the Ministry of Health, NGOs, and the area's Rural Health Center.

"Due to my work during the Ebola epidemic, I'm well-versed in evaluating grassroots programs and identifying gaps where partners can synergize efforts," she says. "The research skills I developed at The Carter Center have enabled me to design evidence-based interventions and recommend national policies based on research, especially in my work with Zambia's National Malaria Elimination Center."

After her Peace Corps service, Nelson plans to continue pursuing a career within global health.



Left to right: The Carter Center's summer 2011 interns visit Mrs. Carter (center) in Plains, Georgia. Credit: The Carter Center.

The Carter Center's summer 2016 interns flank President Carter (center), also in Plains. Credit: The Carter Center.

### Matt Hilgendorf

As an Office of Gift and Estate Planning intern at The Carter Center, Matt Hilgendorf—a 2013 graduate of Emory College—had a primary responsibility to develop a set of recommendations to optimize planned-giving marketing campaigns. According to Hilgendorf, it was an invaluable experience that gave insight into how a nonprofit runs its operations.

"I had many opportunities to meet staff from all different departments, whether programs, communications, or fundraising, and learn from presentations on topics as varied as the Syrian civil war and eradication of neglected tropical diseases," he says. "And, it was a truly incredible experience to learn from both President and Mrs. Carter. Their passion for their work,

knowledge, and experience—and their willingness to share that with the interns—are some of my most cherished memories from my time at The Carter Center."

Hilgendorf's internship helped him get a job in the Office of Planned Giving at CARE and then go on to study international affairs at the Fletcher School of Tufts University. "My internship provided knowledge and experience in both the broad challenges facing international development and what the day-to-day at an international development organization looks like," he says.

The impact of his Carter Center internship on his career path will always be felt. "On my life path," he says, "it was food for the soul!"

### Tye Tavaras

It's not often that living abroad turns you into a witness to history. But that's just what happened to Tye Tavaras—a 2009 graduate of Emory College—who was studying in the Middle East during the 2011 Arab Spring. That experience made an internship in the Carter Center's Conflict Resolution Program, with its emphasis on the Middle East, an attractive proposition for her and one that would put her international studies major and Arabic minor to good use.

"During my internship, I primarily focused on tracking and analyzing political, social, and economic events in various countries during the Arab Spring," Tavaras says. She also assisted with a

compilation of Arab-Israeli peace agreements and in the creation of a briefing book for an assessment mission to Libya.

After receiving an MA in international human rights law from the American University in Cairo and serving as a Carter Center intern, Tavaras earned a JM with a focus on international law from Emory School of Law in 2013. She then came back for two years to The Carter Center as a program associate in the Democracy Program. In August, she once again returned to the Emory campus in the role of the university's assistant director of Global Strategy and Initiatives.

## Nandi Vanka

Nandi Vanka—a 2015 graduate of Emory College—found out about the Carter Center internship program from her Emory professors. The undergraduate double major in international studies and French studies recently had decided to focus her scholarship on human rights and African politics. “I was drawn to the center’s emphasis on implementing nonduplicative programs, its commitment to addressing pressing issues, and the humility with which President and Mrs. Carter lead the organization,” she says.

As a senior, she interned with the Democracy Program on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) team, translating government documents and correspondence, conducting research, and tracking the country’s political climate and electoral calendar. She also traveled to Guyana, where she assisted election observers on the ground.

Vanka, who now works full time with the Democracy Program’s DRC team, says, “Interning with this team helped to deepen my interest in human rights, African politics, and nonprofit work.”

Eventually, she intends to pursue a graduate degree, perhaps in public policy for international development. In the meantime, she continues to grow in her position at the center, practicing her French-language skills and starting the study of Arabic.

## Lucas Buyon

Lucas Buyon—a 2015 graduate of Emory College—came to Emory as an undergraduate already interested in its affiliation with The Carter Center. “I wanted to gain experience working in the global health field, and the center’s focus on neglected diseases really interested me, as it’s an area few other organizations are focusing on,” he says.

He got his wish. His first project as an intern was working on a policy paper detailing the center’s efforts to control river blindness and its contribution toward meeting the UN’s Millennium Development Goals. These eight goals addressed issues stemming from extreme poverty and human rights violations around the world. Buyon’s second project was a program evaluation report of the center’s trachoma initiative, a project he continues to work on as a master’s degree candidate at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University.

His internship gave him a better idea of what the on-the-ground work of NGOs and a career in global health would look like, says Buyon, who completed his master’s degree and began a PhD program in biological sciences at Harvard in July. “It was an incredible experience, both from a learning and career development perspective,” he adds. “The definite highlight was traveling to Plains, Georgia, with President Carter.”



President Carter observes vote counting in Liberia in 2005. Credit: The Carter Center/D. Hakes.



Clockwise from upper left: Interns march in the Plains Peanut Festival. Nandi Vanka assisted with Guyana elections. President Carter shares stories from his childhood with Carter Center interns. Peter Blair served as an intern in the Carter Center’s Conflict Resolution Program in 2009 and later joined the center’s election mission in Guinea. Credit: Contributed by P. Blair. Owen McDougal in the field with the Democracy Program. Credit: The Carter Center. Interns from 2010 visit the restored campaign headquarters in Plains. Credit: The Carter Center. Emory student Noah Selman (third from right, along with fellow interns) interned in fall 2015. Credit: The Carter Center.

# Restoring Liberia

*The road back from two civil wars*

by Susan M. Carini

A simple sign in the Monrovia fish market, erected in April 2003 by the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace, might have said it all. It read: “The women of Liberia say peace is our goal, peace is what matters, peace is what we need.”

By August of that year, with Charles Taylor’s resignation from the presidency, peace finally was in sight for the besieged Republic of Liberia, which somehow had withstood two civil wars in the space of 13 years. Two hundred fifty thousand lives were lost, and the conflict left the economy in ruins.

In the face of this devastation, The Carter Center, according to Tom Crick, associate director of the center’s Conflict Resolution Program, was asking itself, “How can we lend our shoulder to the wheel?”

### Strengthening the rule of law

The Carter Center long has been involved in Liberia and, as a result of Emory's partnership with the center, faculty and students also have helped the country reestablish itself. During the first civil war, The Carter Center was involved in peace meetings and observed the 1997 election that brought Taylor to power. After the second civil war, from 1999 to 2003, the center—along with the Liberian government and citizens—has worked extensively to consolidate peace.

Tom Crick has focused his efforts on Liberia for many years. As an Emory doctoral student in political science, Crick used to monitor news from Liberia as a Carter Center intern. Later, he joined the center staff, participating in peace meetings and election monitoring.

Crick has worked with the access to justice project since its inception in 2006. Following the civil war, he notes, "The justice system was almost completely broken and the question was, 'Where can we begin?'"

It is unusual for The Carter Center to stay in a country as long as it has been in Liberia; however, as Crick observes, "We have achieved considerable traction

with legal professionals and find that demand continues to be driven both by communities and the government."

One marker of success is the number of cases opened by community justice advisers the center has trained—a group that Crick calls "shade-tree lawyers." With skills in basic law and mediation, they have heard more than 11,000 cases since 2009, more than half of which have come from women. Indeed, the largest cohort has been younger women, a historically marginalized sector who now can make their voices heard about family and employment issues.

### One man's hope

The Carter Center recognizes the importance of Liberians having central roles in putting the country on a better path. One such person is Pewee Flomuku, an award-winning Liberian photojournalist who in 2014 was named chief of party for the Carter Center's Liberia Office and has worked for the center for 12 years.

Before joining The Carter Center, Flomuku chronicled his country's civil war. The fighting, he says, "affected my family just like all other families in the country. We endured separation, deaths, sickness, displacement, and loss of property."

Flomuku oversees the Conflict Resolution Program's access to justice project and coordinates with other center programs in Liberia, including the Access to Information Program and the Mental Health Program. As chief of party, he establishes and manages relationships with the Liberian government, donors, NGOs, UN agencies, and other partners for the access to justice project. Asked about his hopes for his country, Flomuku responds, "I pray that Liberia will shine once more and again find its rightful place among the community of nations."

### Taking on gender-based violence

After President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf took office in 2006—the first democratically elected woman from the African continent—the Liberian government developed the National Action Plan on Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence. Progress included a tougher rape law,

a criminal court dedicated to rape trials, the use of techniques to protect survivors' identities in court, and a specialist prosecution and investigative service for sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV).

As promising as it sounds, the new law did not result in many SGBV cases being tried in court. Judges were in short supply, and coordination among the police, prosecution, judiciary, and corrections was sporadic at best.

### Help from a new partner

Early on, the access to justice project needed to address SGBV in order to bring justice and healing to the country's women. In 2008, Crick decided to collaborate with Emory's newly created Institute for Developing Nations (IDN) through what came to be called the Working Group on Gender-Based Violence in Liberia. It included Crick and Flomuku along with Paul Zwier, an Emory Law professor; Sita Ranchod-Nilsson, then-director of the IDN; Pamela Scully, professor of women's, gender, and sexuality studies as well as African studies; Laura Quaynor, a doctoral student in education; and colleagues from the University of Liberia.

The Working Group set out to investigate the root causes of SGBV in Liberia and identify best practices for addressing the problem in postconflict contexts. In March 2008, the group spent 10 days in Liberia meeting with women and women's leaders, representatives of national and international NGOs, lawyers, government officials, groups of traditional women, Liberian academics, representatives of the UN Mission in Liberia and the security sector, and students.

In June of that year, IDN and The Carter Center hosted an international conference to share the Working Group's findings and recommendations. That collaboration laid the groundwork for Emory faculty and students to focus on peace building in Liberia.

### The Africanist who had to get her bearings

Despite a strong background in women's and human rights, and being an accomplished Africanist and a member of the antiapartheid movement in her native South Africa, Scully wondered at first how much she could contribute.

The Working Group visited Cuttington University in Suacoco, Liberia. There to discuss the changing laws around sexual violence, the Working Group was met by an overflow crowd in the chapel—many of them women. Given that emotions were running high, the organizers decided to defer to cultural norms and conduct discussion with the sexes separately.

Moving to a space outside the chapel, the women members of the Working Group were surprised when just a few women joined. "To be a woman in Liberia," says Scully, "meant to be an older woman with status—married." Moreover, even the older women weren't that eager to talk

about the issues, thinking them a breach of protocol. "In that way," Scully warns, "it is possible to think you are having a good conversation, but in fact you are not."

"That very experience," she says, "is what led me to organize a workshop the next

year. I wanted to put these issues on the table." And so, a year later with support from IDN, Scully organized a workshop in Liberia designed to engage experts in multidisciplinary discussions on legal and policy issues that impact women's rights and security. It involved Liberian women working with NGOs, feminists from South Africa who had been involved with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and academics from the US—all in an effort, as Scully describes it, "to do development differently," to include "the people who are driving development," and to make everyone an equal partner in the discussion of SGBV. Out of

"To be a woman in Liberia meant to be an older woman with status—married."

—Pamela Scully, professor. Emory University



In 2009, partnering with Liberia's Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Traditional Council, and the Ministry of Gender, The Carter Center held workshops on strengthening rule of law and expanding women's role in governance.

# Peace of Mind

As it set about picking up the pieces, the Liberian government wanted The Carter Center as a partner.

According to Thomas Bornemann, past director of the Carter Center Mental Health Program, "The economy and social fabric of the nation were shredded. We had skeptics even in our own ranks at home saying, 'There's no there there.'"

The country's challenges were fierce, to be sure, but the program that The Carter Center developed, with critical help from Emory, was up to the task. Benjamin Druss, a professor in the Rol-

lins School of Public Health's Health Policy and Management department, played a key role in the program's design and development. Druss is Emory's first Rosalynn Carter Chair of Mental Health.

Three key components of the strategic plan enacted under President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf were to train a sustainable mental health workforce, implement the national mental health policy and plan, and reduce stigma and empower Liberians with mental illness and family caregivers. The Carter Center signed on to help, starting work in 2010.



Key to the training was to partner with the Ministry of Health and the Liberian Board of Nursing and Midwifery so that, by 2015, 150 nurses and physician assistants would achieve national credentialing as specialists in mental health.

Elizabeth Downes, associate clinical professor in Emory's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, assisted in creating the Mental Health Clinician licensing exam. Additionally, she has cotaught the teaching-skills



module to Liberian students, an essential "training of trainers" aspect of the curriculum.

Janice Cooper—a Liberian with a doctorate in health policy from Harvard University—heads the Carter Center's mental health program in Liberia and holds an adjunct faculty position at the Rollins School of Public Health. Under Cooper, the program exceeded its goal, training 166 mental health clinicians. It also went beyond expectations with regard to coverage: the



hope was to have services in 70 percent of the country. Instead, says Bornemann, "we have 100 percent coverage and a minimum of three workers in every county."

The Carter Center helped to facilitate the drafting of Liberia's first law to improve health care for people with mental illnesses and prevent discrimination against them. The Ministry of Health submitted the bill, and the House of Representatives passed it in May 2017. Rosalynn

Left to right: Benjamin Druss, Elizabeth Downes, and Janice Cooper, each of whom has contributed to the improvement of health for the citizens of Liberia. Druss and Downes: Emory Photo/Video. Cooper: The Carter Center.

Carter voiced her congratulations: "The impact of this Mental Health Act to improve the health and lives of Liberians cannot be overstated."

In February of this year, the center also joined in the launch by the Ministry of Health of a five-year Mental Health Policy and Strategic Plan. The policy mandates that mental health needs to be integrated into the primary health system and that services be confidential and free.

that discussion came a follow-up conference back in Atlanta supported by IDN, and a special issue of the journal *Peacebuilding and Development*, which Scully edited, in spring 2010.

**Dispute resolution in a new context**

The Working Group's visit to Cuttington University also marked a turning point for Zwi. "I will never forget," he says, "when we split off with the young male students from Cuttington. Pewee [Flomuku] was leading the discussion. I found his technique for advocating for a changing role for women in Liberia to be a disarmingly effective way of starting the process of getting his fellow Liberians to examine their attitudes. It made me realize that 'outsiders' would be less effective than Liberians at leading any changes that might occur in their attitudes."

**From student to 'expert'**

With funding available through IDN and the Global Health Institute Field Scholar Awards, Scully and Rob Stephens—a professor of global health—advised a multidisciplinary team of students who studied different aspects of SGBV. They were Sabrina Karim, a political science doctoral student; Rosalyn Schroeder, an MPH student at Rollins School of Public Health; and Erin Bernstein, also a Rollins MPH student.

As part of the multidisciplinary team, Karim worked with the Liberian National Police and UN Peacekeep-

ers. She spent many hours among both camps talking to individual police officers and also mounted a survey in association with The Carter Center, involving more than 600 individuals, on how group dynamics changed when women were integrated into these forces.

Now an assistant professor in government at Cornell University this fall, Karim has become, says Scully, "the Liberia expert," recently coauthoring the first book on female peacekeeping. "Everything that I have been involved in since that time has a Liberia focus in some way. It touches every part of my research," Karim says.

**The 'who' and the 'what'**

Erin Bernstein came to Emory with an interest in sexual violence in humanitarian settings. As she and her colleagues prepared for the fieldwork, Bernstein was struck by the fact that "through a global policy lens, Liberia appeared to be doing very well, with its first female president and a national action plan on women, peace, and security. How, I wondered, did that really translate on the ground?"

In the survey they devised, Bernstein stressed the importance of meeting with community leadership and incorporating their feedback. "There was," says Bernstein, "a real demand for accountability, so you had to think about who you are, what you were doing, and what you were getting out of it."

The fieldwork in Liberia was Bernstein's first research experience. She is now with Deloitte doing global health consulting. "I have learned to talk," says Bernstein, "about research results in a way targeted to those who need to use those results, whether they are women in communities, policy planners, or donors. I attribute that skill to my time in Liberia."

EMORY UNIVERSITY + THE CARTER CENTER

"We formed a marriage with Emory, and it's worked out quite well. We're very proud of the new relationship, which is . . . destined to grow as the years go by. We have increasing access to a tremendous academic institution with research and a reservoir of knowledge and experience that's equal to any in the nation. On the other hand, Emory has access to an organization that is extremely active in dealing with the very subjects that are taught there."

—Jimmy Carter  
 Founder, The Carter Center  
 1996



Left to right: Participants at the Conference on Gender-based Violence in Liberia. In early 2008, Pewee Flomuku with Liberian girls. Credit: The Carter Center/J. Hummel. A sign in Liberia's capital signaling change. Tom Crick (front row, green shirt) and Pewee Flomuku (far left) with Carter Center staff in Liberia for community education event on rights under the law. Credit: The Carter Center.

# A UNIQUE COLLABORATION

