

THE PEACEBUILDER UPDATE

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DAMBACH FELLOWSHIP FOUNDERS' COUNCIL



MEET “COWBOY”
CLINTON WUANKA

THE FIRST AWARDEE
OF THE DAMBACH FELLOWSHIP



HELLO

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the ***Peacebuilder Update***, a publication of the Dambach Fellowship Founders' Council. We intend for this newsletter to keep you apprised of news about the Dambach Peacebuilder Fellowship housed at Oklahoma State University's School of Global Studies.

The Council has endowed a fellowship to enable the School's graduate students to engage in meaningful studies to enable them to follow in the footsteps of our honoree, Chic Dambach.

Each issue will include an update on what the Fellows are engaged in and will keep you informed on OSU and its Global Studies program in general. We also intend to have a piece from Chic himself on his views of the state of peacebuilding around the world.

We welcome your feedback which you can send to:
info@dambachpeacebuildercouncil.org

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MEET “COWBOY” CLINTON WUANKA

THE FIRST DAMBACH FELLOW AWARDEE

Cowboys in America are revered; a symbol of both the Old West and ruggedness on the frontier. Across the Atlantic Ocean, though, in the small West African country of Ghana, the word has a different meaning. In a culture where family means sticking together, working alongside each other at the farm, the idea of up and leaving to go on the path of a cowboy is revealed.

So, when Clinton Wuanka was called “Cowboy Clinton” in school growing up, it was an insult. But Clinton embraced it. To him, it was a badge of honor that he wore proudly. It all started with an orange T-shirt. How that shirt arrived in Clinton’s small town of Dzolo Gbogame in the southeastern part of Ghana leads to the story of Clinton’s grandfather: Denqueh.

Denqueh Wuanka was a former staff member of Operation Crossroads Africa which was designed to facilitate service projects in African countries each summer. It was a predecessor to the Peace Corps in that region. For nearly 30 years, Denqueh served as its director where he coordinated the projects of volunteers, usually students, who offered to construct buildings and provide education. In 1972, when its founder died, Operation Crossroads Africa dwindled, sending Denqueh back to his village of Dzolo Gbogame where he farmed with his grandchildren, including Clinton.

One Saturday afternoon in 2000, Clinton – 6 years old at the time - and his family were cultivating their cocoa system when his grandfather received a message that they had visitors back at their house. When they arrived home to find 10 individuals waiting to greet his grandfather whom they had met over the years through the Peace Corps and came to volunteer in the area. One of the visitors, a graduate of Oklahoma State University (OSU) named Anaya gave an orange T-shirt emblazoned “Oklahoma State University” to Clinton. OSU claims it is America’s “Brightest Orange.”

Clinton learned from Anaya that people at OSU were called Cowboys and Cowgirls. Therefore, Clinton wanted to be known as “Cowboy”. From that day on, Clinton developed a passion for OSU. “I would always tell everyone around me that one day, I would go to Oklahoma State University,” he said.

Receiving an education past junior high school was not popular in Clinton’s hometown at the time as it was felt someone’s time could be better spent on farming. Clinton’s friends mocked him for his college dreams, people in the community told him he was going crazy and his parents told him it was impossible. In Dzolo Gbogame, the highest level of education usually is junior high school.



But Clinton was one of five students in his class of 47 who received admission to senior high school. At a new school with new people, he introduced himself as Cowboy Clinton Wuanka and again he was mocked.

After he completed high school, Clinton attended the University of Cape Coast (UCC) in Ghana to obtain his bachelor's degree in 2020 and then served his year of mandatory national service in the Parliament of Ghana. With his new job came access to a good phone, a laptop and a paycheck. He said to himself, "Now it's time for the Oklahoma dream to begin." He began looking for sectors of Ghana lagging behind that he could use education to improve. He landed on the topic of international trade policies.

He typed 'international trade at Oklahoma State University' on his laptop and the first result was OSU's School of Global Studies. Amazed by the variety of programs available, Clinton reached out to the academic programs coordinator and sent in his application. Eventually he was notified by OSU of his admission with a nonresident tuition reduction award. Waiving that portion of the tuition for international students helps a lot and it got Clinton a visa to come to the United States.

24 years after receiving his orange OSU T-shirt and now a first-year graduate student at OSU, Clinton plans to complete his master's degree, work for an international nongovernmental organization (NGO) and then return to Ghana.

"We are so fortunate to have Clinton studying in our program," said Dr. Randy Kluver, associate provost and dean of OSU Global. "Not only does he bring a fresh perspective to our classes from his life in Ghana, his lifelong desire to study at OSU reminds us and our students as to the immense privilege of working, and studying, at OSU."

"When I look at where I'm coming from, I am truly blessed that I've been able to get this far," Clinton said.

CHANGING THE WORLD

OSU'S SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES PREPARES STUDENTS TO ADDRESS GLOBAL ISSUES



Oklahoma State University has an international legacy going back to the 1950s, but the current School of Global Studies (SGS) is much younger – formed in 2018.

In 1998, the school was founded and known as the School of International Studies, but in 2018, when Dr. Randy Kluver became the dean, the school changes its name to the SGS, hired full-time faculty and restructured the curriculum.

Now, it offers a Master of Science degree in Global Studies with four focus areas: (1) global business and international trade, (2) public diplomacy and global communication, (3) global leadership and development, and (4) global disaster and crisis management. SGS also offers two graduate certificates in global issues and international disaster and emergency management as well as overseas the undergraduate minor in international studies.

In global business and international trade, students can study the policies and the political and legal structures that surround global trade and economic development. In global leadership and development, they can also learn about global challenges and develop skills to enable them to be leaders in addressing humanitarian and social issues.

In the area of global communication and public diplomacy, students learn skills and theories that prepare them for careers requiring an understanding of the global communication environment. And in global disaster and crisis management, students are prepared in those areas to work for government and nonprofit organizations.

School of Global Studies Graduate Curriculum Tracks

**Global
Business
and
International
Trade**

**Global
Leadership and
Development**

**Global
Communication
and Public
Policy**

**Global Disaster
and Crisis
Management**

Dr. Jami Fullerton, associate dean for SGS, said the master's program tries to keep 50-60 graduate students enrolled, including half domestic and half international students. Currently, the program has students from approximately 10 countries."

The theme of our program is 'How will you change the world?'" Fullerton said. "It is not an area studies program. It is not a political science program. It is about solving world problems and addressing global issues. So, we try to prepare our students to go out in the world and fix problems facing our world, such as in the environment, with refugees and trade." Fullerton stressed the program focuses on issue themes, not regions.

Graduate students are required to complete a thesis or an internship to earn their degree. The program helps students find internally oriented internships, some with the U.S. Department of State and others with international NGOs and multinational companies.

"The Dambach Peacebuilder Fellowship was established to honor Chic Dambach's long career in international peace-building and diplomacy. We at OSU are very proud of our alum and Chic's story is one that will inspire new generations of students."

Dr. Randy Kløver



A THUMBNAIL

LAWYERS WITHOUT BORDERS



The first Dambach Peacebuilder Fellow was awarded to Mr. Clinton Wuanka of Ghana, located in the Western Sub-region of Africa. A part of his graduate studies at Oklahoma State University's School of Global Studies is participation in an internship with a domestic or international NGO (non governmental organization). Chic Dambach was able to arrange Clinton to work for a summer with Lawyers Without Borders.

Lawyers Without Borders is a US-based not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to advance global rule of law, build capacity and integrity in the world's justice sectors and support transitions and development. Its objective is to develop programs and materials that improve access to justice guided by a mandate of neutrality and independence.

Lawyers Without Borders (LWOB) is an independent, neutral organization with no political alignments and adheres to the highest ethical standards when working on projects and operating within foreign countries. They operate worldwide with activities governed from the US-based headquarters.

LWOB works closely with lawyers, judges, and members of the law enforcement community around the world to fulfill its mission through:

- Trial advocacy training programs for lawyers, judges, magistrates, prosecutors, public defenders and law enforcement.
- Cultivating lawyer skill sets to create effective human rights strategies in developing sectors.
- Conducting neutral observation of trials, conflict scenarios, and detention facilities.
- Developing and delivering programming that builds capacity and technical assistance in developing regions and regions emerging from conflict or contemplating transition.
- Designing educational materials for a broad range of stakeholders, including local communities, NGOs, potential victims and justice sector actors.

LWOB's funding sources include foundation and government grants, financial and pro bono support from international law firms, corporations, and NGOS as well as private donations.



Robin R. Taylor, Executive Director, LWOB

For more information about Lawyers Without Borders, go to their website:
<https://www.lawyerswithoutborders.org/>

A PEACEBUILDING FRAMEWORK

BY CHIC DAMBACH



“I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Historically, warriors and conquerors have been revered and honored with monuments. Yet, given a choice between being at war and being at peace, virtually everyone everywhere would prefer peace. When children get into fights, we don't give them guns or grenades to see who can prevail by wounding or even killing the other. It would be stupid. When neighbors have disputes, they don't plant landmines to mark the borders. It would be stupid. Corporations don't drop bombs on their competitors. That would be stupid.

If violence is stupid at home, in our communities and in commerce, why do we honor it as noble and heroic at the nation-state level? It makes no sense. At any level, the use of violence to advance any cause is not reasonable, rational, or acceptable.

If war is stupid, as Eisenhower asserts, why does it persist? I would suggest it is because we have yet to establish adequate alternatives to resolve major, large-scale disputes, and we allow the root causes of violence to fester. In the US, we also allowed the ridiculous myth that war is good for the economy to persist and influence policies. (Research by the Institute for Economics and Peace and many others prove, beyond dispute, that war is an economic drag costing economies billions and trillions of dollars. As the Global Peace Index illustrates, the correlation between the most peaceful countries and the most prosperous is almost absolute.)

Since some still seem inclined to resort to violence, civilized societies need sufficient police and military capacity to deter and repel adversaries, but a preferable framework has emerged. We call it peacebuilding – active development and implementation of attitudes, systems, structures, and institutions that enable nations and societies to resolve disputes and conflicts without resorting to violence.

Peacebuilders and peacebuilding institutions can be found within governments (local, state, national), in international institutions (UN and regional) and non-government organizations (NGOs). At the core, they promote trust and mutual respect among societies and cultures, and they facilitate dialogue rather than combat when disputes arise. They also seek to address the root causes of violence – corruption, economic disparities, ideological incompatibility, etc. More importantly, peacebuilders advance the conditions of peace – good governance, low levels of corruption, respect for the rule of law, free press, etc.

Over the years to come, the Dambach Peacebuilding Fellows will help advance the peacebuilding concept and framework in communities and societies worldwide. The donors to the fund are themselves peacebuilders as well. Thank You!

To view Chic's website, go to: <https://exhaustthelimits.org/>



DAMBACH FELLOWSHIP VIDEOS

AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE

To keep you entertained as well as informed about the Fellowship we have listed five videos on our YouTube channel for you to check out.

“Introducing the First Dambach Fellow Awardee, Clinton Wuanka” gives the viewer a chance to get to know Mr. Wuanka from Ghana, how he came to OSU, what he’s learning at the School of Global Studies, his summer 2023 internship at Lawyers without Borders and his plans for after graduation. Interviewed by Chic Dambach. *January 2024. 25 minutes.*

“Trailer” – for those who only have a short amount of time, this five minute video gives you a snapshot of Clinton Wuanka and his summer internship. *January 2024. 5 minutes.*

“Introducing the Dambach Peacebuilder Fellowship” was produced by the Council for prospective donors and friends of the Fellowship and of Chic himself. It goes into Chic’s career and then explains why OSU was chosen to house the Fellowship. This video is a great place to get an overview of the fellowship. *Summer 2022. 16 minutes.*

“Announcement of the Dambach Peacebuilder Fellowship” encapsulates the event where the Dambach Fellowship was made public. It features the OSU Provost, Dr. Jeanette Mendez and the Dean of OSU Global, Dr. Randy Kluver. The then-chair of the Dambach Fellowship Founders’ Council, Keith McGlamery, shares how the fellowship got started. *March 2022. 45 minutes.*

“Global Briefing Series: Building Peace Generation by Generation” is an interview of honoree Chic Dambach by Hank Hankla of the Founders’ Council held at Oklahoma State University’s School of Global Studies. It’s a great summary of Chic’s beliefs and vocation. *March 2022. 53 minutes.*

To see our entire catalogue of relevant videos, go to our channel.

The **Dambach Peacebuilder Endowed Fellowship Fund** was established by the **Dambach Fellowship Founders' Council** in honor of our contemporary **Oklahoma State University** alumnus, **Charles F. "Chic" Dambach**, whose dedication to the work of **Peacebuilding** has had a significant impact on the lives of people worldwide. If you wish to help change the world by contributing to the **Dambach Peacebuilder Endowed Fellowship Fund**, you can do so by your choice of the methods below.

Click here to donate online OR mail a check.

Include "Dambach Peacebuilder Fellowship Fund" in the memo line and send to:
Oklahoma State University Foundation,
Attn: Harlie Perry | 400 S. Monroe; Stillwater, OK 74074



Your gift will help OSU to help students to pursue careers that contribute to building global peace. The generosity of donors makes it possible for the dreams and aspirations of our students to be realized.



Dr. Randy Kløver, Dean, OSU GLOBAL



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- Connie Kantzer (deceased)
- Keith McGlamery, Charlottesville, VA
- Gene Reid, Powell, OH
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newsletter designed by:

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "rena koc".