

THE PEACEBUILDER UPDATE

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A publication of the
DAMBACH FELLOWSHIP FOUNDERS' COUNCIL



HOMECOMING PARADISE

NEWS FROM OKLAHOMA
STATE UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL
OF GLOBAL STUDIES



DAMBACH
FELLOWSHIP
FOUNDERS'
COUNCIL



HELLO

Welcome to the fourth 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.

In this issue we lead off with a synopsis of an interview we conducted with Chic and provide you a link to the interview to view for yourself. It's only about 25 minutes long and you will hear from Chic his latest thinking about the state of peacebuilding around the world today. On page three you will get a brief review of Oklahoma State University's School of Global Studies where the Dambach Peacebuilder Endowment is housed. It serves as a summary of the significant events for 2024. On page 5 we introduce you to the Alliance for Peace, a nonprofit and nonpartisan network of 250+ organizations working in 181 countries to prevent and reduce violent conflict and build sustainable peace. Please take a moment and become familiar with this international peace network. Lastly, from the world of former Peace Corps volunteers on page 6, we bring you merely an introduction to the nearly 650 books these returned volunteers have written about their experiences in over 85 countries. Check them out from your local library.

We welcome your feedback which you can send to:

info@dambachpeacebuildercouncil.org

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CHIC DAMBACH

WHAT'S HE THINKING THESE DAYS

Readers of the **Peacebuilder Update** have indicated their desire to hear more from the honoree of the Dambach Fellowship, Chic Dambach, about his life of service and what he thinks is the state of peacebuilding around the world today. Earlier this month Jim Troxel of the Dambach Fellowship Founders' Council interviewed Chic who shared his journey towards peacebuilding. He discussed the concept of peace and its various forms, including peace activism, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. He also differentiated between negative peace, which is the absence of violence, and positive peace. Next, he discussed the concept of a culture of peace, which is a cultural understanding that it's never okay to use violence to achieve one's objectives.

Chic then related the progress made in reducing global hunger, poverty, and war since World War II. However, he expressed concern about a recent resurgence of violence and the potential for a return to war but optimism about the future, emphasizing the importance of service and working together for the common good. He encouraged young people to consider a life of service. Chic also shared his hopes for the graduate students supported by the Dambach Peacebuilder Fellowship at Oklahoma State University. He urged them to do what they can to make life better in their communities and beyond.

To view the entire 28-minute interview, [click here](#).

Websites of interest:

- [Dambach Peacebuilder Endowed Fellowship Fund](#)
- [Chic's own website](#)
- [Chic's Ted Talk "Why Not Peace"](#)
- [Oklahoma State University's School of Global Studies](#)

YouTube videos of interest:

- [Introducing the Dambach Peacebuilder Fellowship](#)
- [Interview with Chic Dambach | Building Peace Generation by Generation](#)
- [Interview with Clinton Wuanka, First Dambach Fellow](#)
- [Interview with Stephanie Hassan, Second Dambach Fellow](#)

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HOMECOMING PARADISE

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES



The Dambach Peacebuilder Fellowship Program is for the benefit of the students at Oklahoma State University's School of Global Studies (SGS), recently dubbed "OSU Global".

SGS is thriving, drawing students from around the world to study public diplomacy, global crisis management, global trade, or development and leadership. Since its inception, more than 600 students have graduated from the program, representing 30 countries. They currently have students from 10 countries in addition to the US: Bangladesh, China, Germany, Ghana, Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Tanzania, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Kingdom and Venezuela.

After the fall semester, OSU Global graduated seven of their students who each earned a Master of Sciences degree. The 7 are:

- Jonas Aschenbrenner (*Germany*)
- Tom Clark (*Scotland*)
- Murray Gauld (*Scotland*)
- Nikki Moua (*Oklahoma*)
- Rhett Rollins (*Oklahoma*)
- Ellie Scheaffer (*Oklahoma*) who is currently is in Tajikistan on a Fulbright Scholarship
- Maria Espinosa Senderos (*Mexico*)



This academic year OSU Global celebrated its 25th anniversary. This event coincided with the 75th anniversary of the initiation of the Point Four program of the government of the United States, now called the USAID (United States Aid for International Development) program. Former OSU president William Bennet was the initiator of Point Four during the administration of the US President Harry Truman. Students and faculty at OSU Global celebrated these two events this past fall on several occasions marking their importance.

- SGS held a reception on October 24, 2024, in their campus courtyard complete with birthday cake and free t-shirts featuring our 25th Anniversary Logo.
- During the university's annual Homecoming, always a big deal at OSU and this year was no exception, SGS hosted a tailgate for alums and current students before the football game on November 2, 2024.
- SGS also participated in the Sea of Orange Homecoming Parade that morning. SGS Patrons Wes and Lou Watkins and Dean Randy Kluver rode in an antique car behind a group of SGS students and staff who were wearing their 25th Anniversary t-shirts and handing candy to thousands of parade-goers.

Speaking of Wes Watkins, the former Congressman from Oklahoma, for whom the Watkins Center is named which serves as the home of the School of Global Studies, he recently allowed SGS to take some of the artifacts from his time in public service and make them available in a public display. OSU Global honored Wes Watkins by re-creating his Congressional Office in the West Hall of the Wes Watkins Center (just outside the Center for Trade Development). More than 100 of Wes's friends and family attended the reception announcing the exhibit including US Senator James Lankford from Oklahoma.

Finally, SGS Dean Randy Kluver and Associate Dean Jami Fullerton are pleased to announce that faculty members Dr. Marten Brien and Dr. Amy Malek were granted tenure as of September 13, 2024. Dr. Malek is an Anthropologist who studies human migration, specifically the Iranian Diaspora. She earned her PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), CA, in Anthropology. She is the Director of the Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies program at OSU. Dr. Brien is a historian of twentieth century Latin America by training and has been faculty in Africana Studies, Latin American Studies, Anthropology, Political Science, Global Studies, and Fire and Emergency Management Administration. He received his Doctor of Philosophy in Social and Political Sciences at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands in 2011. Fullerton says, "We are extremely pleased to have them on the permanent faculty of the School of Global Studies, and we extend our heartiest congratulations to them."

A THUMBNAIL

ALLIANCE FOR PEACE



“Because peace doesn’t just happen. We build it.” That’s the motto of the nonprofit organization known as the Alliance for Peacebuilding. They believe that while conflict exists everywhere, one does not have to accept that violent conflict is inevitable. The Alliance for Peacebuilding’s (AfP) robust, committed, and growing community proves that building peace is possible in faraway places and in neighborhoods just down the street. AfP is building and advancing the peacebuilding field to center peace within policies, programs, and laws, as well as in social norms, relationships, and narratives, through their new field-building strategy.

The Alliance for Peacebuilding is engaged in:

- Accelerating collective action through collaboration and exchange;
- Advocating for policies, laws, and funding to advance the peacebuilding field;
- Developing an evidence base and standards of practice for better policies and practices and aligning the field on shared approaches; and
- Shaping new narratives to develop and amplify effective peacebuilding messaging.

Widespread violent conflict and fragility represent one of the most complex, urgent challenges facing the world. Today, there are **more active conflicts than during World War II**. In 2025, an estimated **305 million people** will need humanitarian assistance due to violent conflict, weather-related and environmental emergencies, and other crises. The peacebuilding community is navigating a dramatically evolving conflict landscape, with **declines in social cohesion and trust, environmental degradation, and rapid technological evolution driving unrest**.

The Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP), named by the FAS Research and Porticus Foundation as the “**number one influencer and change agent**” among peacebuilding institutions worldwide, is an award-winning nonprofit and nonpartisan network of 250+ organizations working in 181 countries to prevent and reduce violent conflict and build sustainable peace. AfP cultivates a network to strengthen and advance the peacebuilding field, enabling peacebuilding organizations to achieve greater impact—tackling issues too large for any one organization to address alone.

Liz Hume is the current Executive Director of AfP and is a conflict expert and has more than 25 years of experience in senior leadership positions in bilateral, multilateral institutions and NGOs. She has extensive experience in policy and advocacy and overseeing sizeable and complex peacebuilding programs in conflict-affected and fragile states in Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa.

To learn more about the Alliance for Peacebuilding, visit their website [here](#).

BOOK CLUB

DISCOVER THE BOOKS WRITTEN FOR AND / OR ABOUT THE PEACE CORPS



According to the website, [Peace Corps Worldwide](#), over 650 books have been published by or about the Peace Corps with stories from 87 different countries. Here are some of the most recent.

- **A Million Miles: My Peace Corps Journey**, [Jody Olsen](#), 2024: The University of Utah Press.
- **Blue Yodel**, [Eleanor Stanford](#) (Cape Verde 1998-2000), (poetry). 80 pages. 2024: Carnegie Mellon University Press, Paperback.
- **A Peace Corps Lawyer in Paradise: The Pacific Islands—Past, Present, and Future**, [Donald Tiffany Bliss](#) (Micronesia 1966-68). Self-Published, 2024; 275 pages.
- **Falling Seven Times**, [Mark Wentling](#) (Honduras 1967-1969), Togo 1970 - 1973). 318 pages. 2024: Archway Publishing.
- **Fiddler on the Roof of Africa**, [Derek Lowstuter](#) (Ethiopia 2010-12). 277 pages. December 2024: Spring Cedars Publisher.
- **My African Anthology**, [Robert Gribbin](#) (Kenya 1968-70). 351 pages. 2024: Independently published, Paperback: ISBN-13: 979-8335491563.
- **Other Rivers: A Chinese Education**, [Peter Hessler](#). 464 pages. 2024: Penguin Press.
- **The Emerging Cooperative Economy**, [E.G. Nadeau](#) (Senegal 1970-72), 246 pages. 2024: Peace Corps Writers Imprint, Kindle and Paperback.
- **The Small Dish**, [Ronald N. Dube](#) (Niger 1964-66). 2024: Mindstir Media, 20 pages. Reading age: 4-12 years.
- **When the World Calls: The Inside Story of the Peace Corps and Its First Fifty Years**, [Stanley Meisler](#) 188 pages. 2011: Beacon Press.

New books are announced as they are published at [Peace Corps Worldwide on Substack](#)

To see a (nearly) complete list of books by Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and/or their experiences, or to see books about the Peace Corps, [click here](#).

For more information about the organization, Peace Corps Worldwide, [click here](#).

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. We hope you wish to join us in helping change the world by contributing to the **Dambach Peacebuilder Endowed Fellowship Fund**. You can click [HERE](#) to do so, or mail a check made payable to the Oklahoma State University Foundation; attn.: Harlie Perry, 400 So. Monroe, Stillwater, OK 74074, USA. Include "Dambach Peacebuilder Endowed Fellowship" in the memo line.



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gena koc