In early September, His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, the fourteenth Dalai Lama and 1989 Nobel Peace Prize winner, and local religious leaders of diverse faiths gathered in Bloomington, Indiana, to dedicate the Chamtse Ling Temple at the Tibetan Cultural Center. Located just south of the university, the interfaith temple strives to “be a place where people of all faiths and all cultures can gather together to plan deeds of compassion and wisdom rather than acts of violence and war.” The temple, open to the public, is directed by IU professor emeritus of Tibetan studies at IU Bloomington, Thubten Norbu, eldest brother of His Holiness.

With several thousand people attending and watching on closed-circuit television, the day-long event included the dedication, ribbon-cutting, and invocation ceremonies performed by the Buddhist leader; speeches and gifts presented to the center by seven Bloomington religious leaders; musical performances; and a panel discussion featuring young students from area schools.

Among the most renowned of the invited guests was former world champion boxer Muhammad Ali, a United Nations Messenger of Peace, a Muslim, and a long-time advocate of world peace and poverty relief around the world. He participated in the ceremonies, in the afternoon discussions, and at the tree-planting ceremony outside the temple. Other guests included Columbia University professor and Buddhist scholar Robert Thurman; Judy O’Bannon, wife of the late governor, Frank O’Bannon; and U.S. Representatives Julia Carson and Baron Hill.

To honor the spirit of this interfaith gathering and draw the interest of young people from Bloomington area schools, the Office of International Programs and Deborah Hutton, outreach coordinator for the Center for the Study of Global Change, worked with the Tibetan Cultural Center and community organizations to host an arts competition through which students could express their own dreams and personal commitment to peace. Reflecting the meaning of the temple’s name, “field of peace and compassion,” the title of the competition was “Let Peace Begin with Me: I Make a Difference—Youth Essay, Poetry, Photography, and Art Collaborative.”

Of the applicants, four teenagers were honored by being present at the ceremonies and participating in the afternoon discussions, where their contributions were read and they discussed their views of peace with other peace leaders, who included Jetsun Pema, sister of His Holiness, and Muhammad Ali’s daughter, Hana Ali, speaking on behalf of her father.
The Fulbright research grant will allow Ghetu to spend 10 months to conduct interviews with archivists and other professionals and to assess the state of some of the country’s archives. She will be working closely with a number of Romanian professionals and academic archivists, including Ioan Dragan, national archives director in Cluj and archive researcher at Babes-Bolyai University.

“I’m not sure exactly what I’m going to find,” Ghetu said. “A Romanian manual of archiving practice that is currently being used there is dated all the way back to the 1970s.”

The Society of American Archivists has given Ghetu some materials to donate to the archival program at Babes-Bolyai University, Ghetu’s host institution during her Fulbright studies. Ghetu has also been asked by Dragan to organize a conference on American archival studies for students interested in history and archival practices.

Last year, Ghetu was named a Midwest Archives Conference Louisa Bowen Memorial scholar, a title and award for archivist graduate students that includes a $750 stipend and a one-year membership to the regional professional society. Ghetu credited several SLIS faculty with her success and with helping her to prepare for her work abroad.

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