



An exciting year lies ahead of us

Dear Fellow Fulbrighters,

I AM HONORED AND EXCITED about commencing my role as President of The Fulbright Association Inc.

We are fortunate to have in place a dedicated and hard-working Board of Directors who I know will make every effort to make even more meaningful your experience as a member of the Association. Steve Reilly began his duties in January of this year as our new Executive Director – Steve is full of some amazing ideas for future projects and collaborations, which I know will make the Association even more exciting. Our staff, consisting of Director of Membership, Sarah Sears, and Grant/Chapter Relations Director Shaz Akram, provides a pillar of strength for the Association and our office in Washington, D.C.



I would like to express my personal gratitude for the guidance of our outgoing President, Patricia Krebs, and for Mary Ellen Schmider who served as our Executive Director in 2012, a difficult transition year.

I'm excited about many new ideas that you will be learning about in the coming months. Thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes,

John Vogel, President

2013 DEADLINES FOR CHAPTERS TO REMEMBER

February 8 Creating and Building Connections Small Grants

March 1 Annual Reports due

April 19-21 Chapter Leadership Training

May 15 Tax filing

June 30 OME reports

July 31 OME 2013-2014 Grant applications due

August 30 OME

Grant announcements

October TBA Annual Conference

November International Education Week



From the Executive Director

I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO LEAD the Fulbright Association into a new era and very grateful to the Board for their confidence in hiring me. I have dedicated my life to international education and cultural exchange, having lived on four continents and traveled to approximately 50 countries, and advocating at every opportunity on behalf of the Fulbright program. As most of our readers can relate, my Fulbright (Sweden, 1998) was a life-changing experience and I am excited for the opportunity to pay it forward.

Fulbright alumni are among the world's brightest innovators, pioneering problem solvers, and generous educators, each of whom is changing the world in their own way. I left an organization I co-founded and worked tirelessly to grow for over 12 years with hopes of helping to transform the Fulbright Association into a significant agent of positive change in the world.

The collective intelligence, breadth and depth of experience, entrepreneurship and passion for global affairs are more significant in our community than any other in the world. We are hoping to introduce new initiatives that will connect our alumni and members of the Association like never before to help compound our impact globally.

I am excited for the future of our Association and look forward to seeing what we can do together.

Stephen Reilly, Executive Director

Have something newsworthy? email shaz.akram@fulbright.org

INTRODUCING MARY KIRK

New Director of Academic Exchange Programs at State Department

IN SEPTEMBER, 2012, Mary E. Kirk was selected as the new Director of the Office of Academic Exchange Programs in the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. She comes to State Department with extensive experience and leadership in the international education/exchanges field.

Ms. Kirk previously served at the Institute of International Education (IIE) for over 20 years, including as Executive Director of the Fulbright and Academic Services Division, Vice President for Student Exchanges and most recently Senior Counselor for Academic Exchanges. She also led IIE's efforts to establish offices in

east and central Europe after 1989 and, from 1992 to 1995, served as IIE's Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Eurasia, based in Budapest and Moscow. Prior to joining IIE in 1989, Ms. Kirk served as a program officer at IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board) for the Graduate Student/Young Faculty Exchange Program with the then-USSR Ministry of Higher Education.

Ms. Kirk holds degrees in history from Harvard and Oxford University (Somerville College).

As the Director of the Office of Academic Exchange Programs, Mary Kirk is responsible for directing the worldwide



Fulbright Program for students and scholars and overseeing other key State Department academic exchange programs, including the Critical Language Scholarship Program, Study of the U.S. Institutes, and the Global Undergraduate Exchange Program.

Pay it forward—We need your support

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

As a private, nonprofit organization you can imagine the challenges we face in terms of funding, staff time and resource allocation. There are many contributions you could make to help us accelerate our impact and the value we provide, including:

» Membership

Most our members are alumni of the Fulbright program. What many may not know, however, is that one **does not** need to have received a Fulbright award in order to be a member of the Association. Membership is open to friends of Fulbright, universities and other institutions which share a common vision for promoting mutual understanding between people around the world. Please encourage friends, family or others who share a common vision for the world to join. Point them to our website www.fulbright.org, post a comment on Facebook, Twitter or other social networking platform to help us spread the word. The cost is

MOST ALUMNI AGREE their Fulbright experience changed their lives, provided invaluable global perspective, and set them on a path to personal and professional success. As individuals, Fulbrighters represent some of the world's greatest minds, influencers, academics, and leaders. Imagine if we could compound their impact by connecting members of our community who share mutual interests, common goals, work in a given field, or simply share a passion for contributing to making the world a better place. This was Senator Fulbright's vision and we want the Fulbright Association to 'pay it forward' for generations to come.

We are working on some new initiatives to introduce better, more consistent communications with our members, web-based platforms for information sharing and networking, program development to help support those working on important projects, partnering with our international counterparts for maintaining easier global connections, and telling the stories of Fulbright more effectively to ensure the program lives forever. In order to move toward these goals, we need your support on many levels.

only \$50 per year, a small price to make a huge contribution to making a positive impact on the world.

» Donations

With a limited resource base and big ambitions (especially moving forward,) our ability to grow, connect our community and make a positive impact globally is reliant on the generous contributions of our members. Please consider donating to the Association in any

amount you are able to help us forward our collective goals. All contributions are 100% tax deductible. [Please Click Here to make a contribution.](#)

» Volunteer

We are starting to work on some unique new initiatives and our small staff could never keep up. We would love to hear from anyone willing to help out and contribute to our shared vision moving forward. Please contact Shaz Akram at

shaz.akram@fulbright.org

if you are interested in getting involved.

» Innovation

Though our community represents some of the world's brightest and best, we are only few in the FA office so we need your input. What can we do to better service the FA community? What initiatives can we introduce, projects could we support, or innovative ways of having a greater impact in the future? We want to hear from you. Please reach out to us to share your thoughts at info@fulbright.org.

You will also have the assurance that your membership dues and donations support the one and only, Department of State endorsed Fulbright alumni organization dedicated to advocating, protecting and promoting Fulbright exchanges. Your participation is crucial to making sure that the Fulbright Program continues for current and future Fulbrighters. We can't do it without you.



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ALABAMA CHAPTER

27th Annual MLK Breakfast in Birmingham welcomed international Fulbrighters



BY BEVERLY HAWK

ALABAMA CHAPTER MEMBERS Carl Egan (Russia 2003), Nicole Harper (Slovenia 2007-2008), Rosemary Fisk (Hong Kong 2011), Tom McGuire (Ireland 2008), Stacey Nickson (Specialist Program 2012), and Beverly Hawk (Kenya 1994, Malawi 2001, Morocco FSSP 2006) welcomed Fulbright visitors from Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Egypt, India, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, and Swaziland at the 27th Annual MLK Breakfast in Birmingham.

They were joined by parents and students from the Digital Learning Spaces after-school pro-

gram founded and directed by Andrea Simmons of the Benjamin Green Housing Community.

The breakfast brought together 2,300 people from different walks of life celebrating the legacy of Dr. King, and it is the oldest MLK breakfast in the nation, pre-dating the national holiday.

After the breakfast, participants visited the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the 16th Street Baptist Church to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights events that took place in the city. Visitors had the opportunity to meet many Civil Rights Veterans and learn personal stories of American history.

EASTERN NEW YORK STATE CHAPTER

Fulbright scholars make global impact

BY SARAH VISTOCCO

THE EASTERN NEW YORK State Chapter of the Fulbright Association recently celebrated Siena College students, professors and alumni who have received the prestigious, government-funded award.

Siena alumnus **Michael Murphy** '75, Ph.D. began the Chapter ten years ago after completing his time with the Fulbright Program at the Czech Academy of Sciences.

The event brought generations of Fulbright recipients and hopefuls together to share stories, advice and to create a deeper understanding of the organization's mission.

Matt Grimes '12 recently received a Fulbright Scholarship for an English teaching assistantship that he plans to complete in Argentina this March. As a Fulbright recipient, Grimes joins a list of Siena alumni and professors who are among 7,500 applicants chosen for scholarships globally each year.

Fulbright recipients apply their skills as teachers, researchers and students during their time abroad. Professor Emeritus of Marketing and Management **Terry Curran**, Ph.D. received a Fulbright grant to teach at the Graduate School of Environmental Studies at Seoul University in Seoul,

South Korea and has returned to South Korea three more times for conferences and speaking tours.

Professor of Sociology **Duane Matcha**, Ph.D. received two Fulbright Scholarships; one for work in Vilnius, Lithuania, and the other to work at Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland, where he taught a course called sociology of aging and health care systems. Matcha did not let his experience end abroad. "All of my work now back here requires an international focus. With every course I teach, students have to look at it with an international point of view."

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

For the Fulbright Association. Please make your donation to the Annual Appeal today! You can donate online at <http://www.fulbright.org/donations/>

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While touring the Capital and Hall of Justice, alumni and visiting Fulbrighters met with legislators, a Supreme Court Justice and the Lt. Governor.

Tibetan students share their American experience

THE FULBRIGHT ASSOCIATION'S National Capital Area Chapter board members, Rachael Aldridge and Susan Milner hosted a dinner for eight Tibetan graduate students in January. The students, all Tibetan refugees living in India, are all participants in the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' "Tibetan Scholarship Program" (TSP).

The TSP is administered through a cooperative agreement with The Tibet Fund in New York. The Tibetan Scholarship Program is available to Tibetans living in India, Nepal and Bhutan, with the goal of fostering mutual understanding. Students are enrolled in two-year master's degree programs or one-year non-degree programs at U.S. universities.

The evening featured great conversation, shared experiences, and very "American" food: corn cheddar soup, pizza, salad, homemade chocolate chip cookies and tea.

For Rachael and Susan, learning about the tightly knit and highly organized Tibetan exile community (largely housed in India) with its educational and health systems and quasi-government, was fascinating. Watching them demonstrate traditional Tibetan dance, to music played over a cell phone, was also quite fun!

Two of the students shared their story of how they had fled Tibet (at great personal risk) when they were 12 and 4 years old, respectively. Listening to these experiences was quite moving.

Memorable experiences for alumni and Fulbright visitors in the Pacific Northwest

BY RICHARD THORTON

IT WAS THE YEAR 2000 when a small group of dedicated alumni, who wanted to share the unique opportunities of the Pacific Northwest, established the Great Puget Sound Chapter.

With assistance from the national office and OME grants, the chapter's aim has always been to offer events that enhance our visitors' experiences and build our alumni membership.

Every year the chapter begins with an annual **pot luck dinner**, where alumni bring dishes from the countries where they had their Fulbright award. Visiting Fulbrighters often bring dishes from their native country, resulting in a wonderful ethnic variety. Visitors introduce their families and tell of their activities while in the United States. Fulbright alumni also summarize their Fulbright awards. These exchanges often act as a catalyst for forming new friendships and mentoring opportunities between the visitors and the alumni.

Each year we schedule events that provide opportu-

nities to explore the beauty of the Pacific Northwest. The Cascade mountains are less than an hour away so we scheduled a late spring **hike near Snoqualmie Pass**. Further to the north we walked in the tulip fields during the **Skagit Valley Tulip Festival**. One popular recent activity for our visitors and alumni was a guided **lunch cruise on Elliot Bay** to view downtown Seattle's waterfront.

We also provide opportunities to experience our local cultural heritage. We observed Native American culture with a **visit to Tillicum Village** to have a salmon lunch and enjoy a program of native dance. This spring there will be a **guided tour of the Hibulb Cultural Center**, organized by the Tulalip Native American Tribes. There was also a guided tour of Seattle's International District and the **Wing Luke Museum** that honors early Asian and Pacific Islander immigration. To experience the African American heritage we attended the Christmas pageant "**Black Nativity, A Gospel Song Play**" and at another time, a

tour of the Northwest African American Museum led by a Fulbright alumna.

Also, we had a conducted **tour of the Boeing Plant** in Everett to watch commercial jet planes being assembled in the world's largest building as measured by volume.

We encourage our Fulbright alumni to lead events, such as a board member used his expertise on a tour of the **Washington State Capital** in Olympia. On the bus trip down from Seattle he reviewed the legislative process that informed visitor and alumni alike. While touring the Capital and Hall of Justice we met with legislators, a Supreme Court Justice and the Lt. Governor. Time with government leaders gave us an opportunity to promote the Fulbright experience.

Our chapter has an active group of board members and advisors who share in the planning and organization of each event. Each year we strive to provide memorable experiences for everyone, offering opportunities for our visitors to strengthen their friendship with alumni.

Iowa Chapter leads Fulbright Association Chapters in membership growth

BY SARAH SEARS

THE IOWA CHAPTER OF THE FULBRIGHT Association came out on top for the inaugural membership contest. The membership contest, which will become an annual event, recognizes the chapter that had the highest growth in new members.

The 2012 contest measured new membership growth from October through early December, but going forward will be measured on the calendar year. Iowa, the 2012 winner, will receive five times their annual rebate for their new members,



Alexandra Johnston

recognition in the e-newsletter, and two free registrations for their chapter leaders to the 2013 Fulbright Association Annual Conference in Washington, DC.

As **Alexandra Johnston**, President of the Iowa Chapter, says, "For a 3-year-old chapter this gives us an incredible boost in confidence, commitment, and energy. It shows we have a dynamic population of Fulbright alumni in Iowa who appreciate our past three years of outreach and enrichment and who expect great things from us in the future."

How did this chapter make it happen? As Johnston explains, there were four activities they engaged in to encourage growth and member retention:

- **Brought hard copies of membership forms** to every event and constantly encouraged non-members to join;
- **Brought hard copies of an informational flyer** about the purpose and focus of the chapter, including listing of past and future events, to distribute to alumni who attended their fall events;
- **Sent out an email to every non-member** on their list to let them know about the chapter (with informational flyer attached) to a) check for a working email address and/or update contact info and b) inform them about the membership drive and invite them to join by deadline;
- **Sent out email to 'members'** to check their membership status and ask them to please consider re-joining if they had lapsed.

With these best practices established, the Iowa chapter was able to grow their new membership by 21.3%. Working hand-in-hand with the national office, they were also able to identify lapsed members and ask them to rejoin the Association.

Details on the 2013 Membership Contest will be forthcoming to chapter leaders, but all are encouraged to reach out to prospective members and get them to join today!

CHICAGO CHAPTER

Gil-García gets Sarelas award

BY ELIO LETURIA

THE CHICAGO CHAPTER established the Dee Sarelas Service Award to honor a Fulbrighter whose service to the community and to the Fulbright ideals is outstanding.

Last December, during the third edition of the award, **Dr. Ana Gil García**, a professor at Northeastern Illinois University was given the honor.

Gil García shared with the audience her memories of Dee Sarelas, a Fulbrighter to Greece who started the Chicago Chapter years ago. She eloquently explained the efforts of Sarelas in bringing together the Fulbright community in Chicago.

"I am deeply honored to get



this award," Gil García said.

Gil García, who was also president of the Chicago Chapter during 2007 and 2008, had come back from a visiting professorship in Egypt where she continued her efforts with the Book Partnership program, an initiative that donates books to schools and universities around the world, which she started five years ago.

MID-FLORIDA CHAPTER

A Warm Fulbright welcome

BY BARBARA MELÉNDEZ

"I AM SO AMAZED AT the large turnout and the diversity of the audience," said Darlene DeMarie, associate professor of educational psychology, as she looked around the crowd that filled the University of South Florida's School of Music's lobby.

"And seeing all the students gathered around the Fulbright table is even better than I had hoped."

She organized a presentation of a one-woman show, "Crush Hopper," followed by a dialogue, discussion and reception. The fundamental message throughout was the importance of cross-cultural understanding, adding the benefit to connect with the Fulbright program.

As the president of the Fulbright Association's Mid-Florida Chapter, DeMarie also had the honor of hosting the organization's new national Executive Director Stephen Reilly on his first official engagement outside of Washington, D.C.

Also an alumnus of the Fulbright program, Reilly praised the program as "nothing short of awesome. It changed my life," he said in his brief opening remarks. He welcomed the opportunity to "celebrate what Fulbright can do," and informed the audience that joining the Fulbright Association is open to everyone, not only Fulbright Scholars.

USF President Judy Gen shaft and USF Provost Ralph Wilcox made it back from the Board of Governors meeting in Gainesville just in time to see the main event, the play written and performed by **Mandisa Roeleene Haarhoff**.

The star, whose name is a combination of Xhosa and Afrikaans, captivated the audience in the next hour with a "journey of identity" she experienced growing up amidst the conflicting stresses of her combined Black, White Afrikaans and so-called "coloured," meaning "mixed race," heritage in post-Apartheid South Africa.